

Trinity Glossary

Webster's Dictionary

Acolyte	One who assists the clergy in a liturgical service by performing minor duties
Alms	Charity; money or food given to relieve the poor
Altar	Table on which the Eucharistic elements are consecrated or which serves as the center of worship or ritual; the high altar is usually on the top/east side of a church
Apse	A projecting part of a church that is usually semicircular in plan and vaulted
Captain	Leader for a team of ushers
Celebrant	Priest officiating at the Eucharist
Chancel	Part of a church containing the altar and seats for the clergy and choir; our eastern portion of the building
Clerestory	An outside wall of a room or building that rises above an adjoining roof and contains windows; gallery shaped area of stained glass windows
Clergy	Group ordained to perform pastoral or sacerdotal functions in a Christian church
Communion	Christian sacrament in which bread and wine are partaken of as a commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ; the act of receiving the sacrament
Congregation	An assembly of people who gather for worship and religious instruction; a religious community
Consecrate	To effect the transubstantiation of Eucharistic bread and wine; to devote irrevocably to the worship of God by a solemn ceremony
Cruciform	Forming the shape of a cross
Doxology	A liturgical expression of praise to God
Elements	The bread and wine used in the Eucharist ceremony
Eucharist	Communion ceremony
Guild	An association of people with similar interests (e.g., flower guild, usher guild)
Hymnal	Book containing a collection of church hymns
Lady Chapel	Private place of worship on the left/north side of the church
Liturgy	A rite of body of rites prescribed for public worship
Narthex	Enclosed entrance to the church by the main front door; the vestibule entryway leading to the nave of the church; portico/porch of an ancient church

Nave	The main part of the interior of the church; the long narrow central hall of a cruciform church that rises higher than the aisles flanking it to form a clerestory
Oblation	The act of making a religious offering of the Eucharistic elements to god; holy gift offered at an altar
Offertory	The period of collection and presentation of the offerings of the congregation at public worship
Ordain	To invest officially with ministerial or priestly authority, as by the laying on of hands
Parish	A local church community composed of the members of a Protestant church, committed to one pastor
Parishioner	Member of a parish
Pastor	Clergyman serving a local church or parish; spiritual overseer
Pastoral	Relating to spiritual care or guidance of a congregation
Pews	Benches with backs fixed in rows in a church
Protestant	Christian not of a Catholic or Eastern church; Christian denying the universal authority of the Pope and affirming the Restoration principles of justification by faith alone, the priesthood of all believers, and the primacy of the Bible as the only source of revealed truth [Webster's]
Rite	A prescribed form or manner of governing the words or actions of a ceremony
Sacrament	Formal religious act that is sacred as a sign or symbol of a spiritual reality; believed to have been instituted or recognized by Jesus Christ (e.g., Eucharistic elements)
Sacristy	Room in church where sacred vessels (i.e., cups & bowls) and vestments (i.e., robes) are kept; where clergy puts on vestments
Sacerdotal	Relating to priests or priesthood
Slype	Narrow passage between the transept and house of the dean of the chapel; the walkway towards the classrooms and parish hall
Transept	The side wings of the church, to the left/north and the right/south; the areas perpendicular to/crossing the area between the nave/west and apse/east
Transubstantiation	The miraculous change by which the Eucharistic elements of bread and wine at their consecration become the body and blood of Christ while keeping only the appearance of bread and wine
Usher	Church servant who has the care of the doors of the church; one who escorts people to their seats; handle emergencies
Vaulted	Arched dome structure of masonry forming a ceiling or roof