

ALL SAINTS TERMINOLOGY 101

ALPHABETICAL ▪ UPDATED NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Italics indicate information that applies to All Saints Church specifically.

All Saints Church

All Saints Church, Pasadena is a 3500-member urban Episcopal parish, known for its long history of taking stands on social justice issues. Located in Pasadena, California, it is part of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles. A history of the parish, its rectors and highlights of the parish's social activism can be found on All Saints' Wikipedia page, here:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Saints_Episcopal_Church_\(Pasadena,_California\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Saints_Episcopal_Church_(Pasadena,_California))

815

The nickname of the national headquarters of the Episcopal Church, as their offices are located at 815 Second Ave in New York City. See Episcopal Church Center.

A

Acolyte

In contemporary Anglicanism, a general term which covers not only servers, torchbearers, and lighters of candles but also crucifers, thurifers, and banner-bearers.

Advent

The first season of the church year, beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continuing through the day before Christmas.

Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols

See Lessons and Carols

Advent Wreath

A circle of greenery, marked by four candles that represent the four Sundays of the season of Advent. An additional candle is lit as each new Sunday is celebrated in Advent. The candles may be blue, purple, or lavender, depending on local custom. Some Advent wreaths include a white candle in the center known as the "Christ Candle," which is lit on Christmas Eve.

Alb

A long white garment with narrow sleeves, which is the basic garment worn by ordained and lay ministers at the Eucharist and at other church services.

All Hallows' Eve

The evening of October 31, which precedes the church's celebration of All Saints' Day on November 1.

[All Saints' Day](#)

Commemorates all saints, known and unknown, on November 1. All Saints' Day is one of the seven principal feasts of the church year, and one of the four days recommended for the administration of baptism.

All Saints Church commemorates All Saints Day on the Sunday following November 1 with a solemn requiem mass, including the presentation of the memorial book that holds the names of people meaningful to our parishioners who have died since the last All Saints Day. This list is called the Necrology.

[Altar](#)

The structure, also known as “the Lord's Table,” “the Holy Table,” and “the Table,” where the offerings are presented and the elements of bread and wine are consecrated in the Eucharist.

[Altar Guild](#)

A volunteer group of the parish whose ministry is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the parish. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services, and clean up afterwards.

[Ambulatory](#)

A sheltered place in which to walk, such as a gallery of a cloister or the outside aisle of a church. It may also be a passageway behind the altar used for a procession.

At All Saints, the ambulatory is an out-of-sight passageway that runs behind the Chancel, with doors into the sanctuary through the Baptistry and the Chapel, and a door to the outside opposite the vesting room.

[Anglican Communion, The](#)

Churches in communion with the See of Canterbury throughout the world. Member churches exercise jurisdictional independence but share a common heritage concerning Anglican identity and commitment to scripture, tradition, and reason as sources of authority. Unity and cooperation in the Anglican Communion are encouraged by the assembly of Anglican bishops every ten years at Lambeth Conferences.

[Anglicanism](#)

Anglicanism is a worldwide family of churches which share a common theological heritage and polity. This way of life is the system of doctrine, and approach to polity of Christians in communion with the See of Canterbury. The term derives from the word which, in a variety of forms, refers to the people of the British Isles, and especially the English. Anglicanism reflects the balance and compromise of the via media of the Elizabethan settlement between Protestant and Catholic principles. Anglicanism also reflects balance in its devotion to scripture, tradition, and reason as sources of authority. Until the present century, Anglicanism was largely defined in terms of its English origins and preservation of the language and customs of English-speaking peoples. For example, the Episcopal Church and the various Anglican churches in the British colonies retained their English heritage through a common language, Prayer Book worship, and an episcopal polity. At the end of the nineteenth century, however, Anglicanism began to take on a new identity. The

national churches that derived from the Church of England became more conscious of their own identity while remaining in communion with the See of Canterbury. They also retained a common Anglican theological and ecclesial identity.

[Anthem](#)

Choral setting of sacred vocal music set to scriptural or liturgical texts, or texts congruent with them. “Anthem” is an Anglicized form of the word “antiphon.”

[Archbishop](#)

A bishop with administrative and disciplinary authority over other bishops. In the Anglican Communion, an archbishop is the chief bishop of a province. The term is not used by any bishop in the Episcopal Church, where the chief bishop is known as the “Presiding Bishop, Primate, and Chief Pastor,” or simply as the “Presiding Bishop.”

The current Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in America, as of November 1, 2024, is The Most Reverend Sean W. Rowe.

[Archbishop of Canterbury](#)

In the Church of England, the Archbishop of Canterbury is the "Primate of all England and Metropolitan" of the ecclesiastical province of Canterbury in southern England. In addition to a palace at Canterbury, the Archbishop of Canterbury also has a residence at Lambeth Palace in London.

[Ash Wednesday](#)

The first of the forty days of Lent, named for the custom of placing blessed ashes on the foreheads of worshipers at Ash Wednesday services. The ashes are a sign of penitence and a reminder of mortality, and may be imposed with the sign of the cross. Imposition of ashes at the Ash Wednesday service is optional.

[Ashes, Blessed](#)

Ashes blessed for use on Ash Wednesday as a sign of penitence and a reminder of mortality. The Old Testament frequently mentions the use of ashes as an expression of humiliation and sorrow. Ashes for use on Ash Wednesday are made from burned palms from the previous Palm Sunday services.

[Aspirant](#)

A person seeking ordination as a deacon or priest, or a person who desires to be admitted to a religious order. When an aspirant has received approval from the diocese to begin seminary or other required training, he or she becomes a postulant.

[Atrium](#)

The term was used to describe the covered court in front of the main doors of a church or basilica. People entered the church through the atrium.

At All Saints, the atrium is the covered area between the back of the rectory (office building) and Sweetland Hall.

B

Bacon, J. Edwin (Ed) (JEB)

The Reverend Dr. Ed Bacon is Rector Emeritus of All Saints. He served as the ninth rector of All Saints from 1995 until May 1, 2016. He currently lives near Birmingham with his wife Hope Hendricks-Bacon.

Baptism

This is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body, the church. God establishes an indissoluble bond with each person in baptism. God adopts us, making us members of the church and inheritors of the Kingdom of God.

Baptismal Covenant

The rite of Christian initiation contains a series of vows, made by all present.

Baptistry, or Baptistry

The liturgical space where the font is located for the celebration of baptism. The Baptistry may be a portion of the church set aside for baptisms, a side chapel, or a separate building.

The Baptistry at All Saints is the area on the north side of the sanctuary, adjacent to the North Transept.

BCP

See Book of Common Prayer, The

Beloved Community

The Beloved Community is a vision of a society based on justice, love, and reconciliation, originally articulated by philosopher Josiah Royce and popularized by Martin Luther King Jr.

All Saints is working toward becoming a Beloved Community.

Benediction

A blessing pronounced by a bishop or priest at the conclusion of a worship service. In a general sense, it may refer to any prayer that closes a meeting or gathering.

Berkeley Divinity School

One of eleven Episcopal seminaries in the U.S., affiliated with Yale University in New Haven Connecticut.

Bishop

One of the three orders of ordained ministers in the church, bishops are charged with the apostolic work of leading, supervising, and uniting the church. Bishops provide Christian vision and leadership for their dioceses.

Bishop Coadjutor

Assistant bishop with the right of succession upon the resignation of the diocesan bishop.

Bishop Diocesan

The bishop in pastoral charge of a diocese.

The Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Los Angeles is the Right Reverend John Harvey Taylor, who will retire in 2026. The Bishop-elect who will follow Bp. Taylor is the Reverend Antonio Gallardo, elected at the Diocesan Convention in November, 2025.

Bishop Ordinary (of a diocese)

A diocesan bishop, as distinct from a suffragan, assistant, or coadjutor bishop.

Bishop Suffragan

A suffragan bishop is an assisting bishop who does not automatically succeed a diocesan bishop. A suffragan bishop may be elected bishop or bishop coadjutor.

Bishop-elect

A presbyter elected to the episcopate but not yet ordained and consecrated (as a Bishop). The term may also apply to a person who is already a bishop in one jurisdiction, who has been elected to another jurisdiction, but who has not yet been officially recognized and invested with authority in that diocese.

Bishop, Provisional

A bishop authorized to serve a diocese whose own bishop is unable to fulfill that ministry due to disability or judicial sentence.

Bishops, House of

See House of Bishops.

Bloy House

See Episcopal Theological School at Claremont (Bloy House).

Book of Common Prayer, The

Official book of worship of the Episcopal Church. The BCP provides liturgical forms, prayers, and instructions so that all members and orders of the Episcopal Church may appropriately share in common worship. Anglican liturgical piety has been rooted in the Prayer Book tradition since the publication of the first English Prayer Book in 1549.

Book of Occasional Services, The (BOS)

The services and texts of the BOS are available for “occasional” pastoral and liturgical needs of congregations.

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Burt, John Harris

The Reverend John Burt served as the 7th rector of All Saints Church from 1957-1967. In 1964, Rev. Burt joined Martin Luther King, Jr. at a rally in Los Angeles – the only white person on the dais – to speak for racial justice.

C

Calendar of the Church Year, The

The calendar orders the liturgical year of the Episcopal Church by identifying two cycles of feasts and holy days: one dependent upon the movable date of Easter Day and the other dependent upon the fixed date of Christmas, December 25.

Canon

The word is derived from the Greek kanon, a “measuring rod or rule.” It has several different meanings in the church:

- 1) [Scripture] The canon of scripture is the list of inspired books recognized by the church to constitute the Holy Scriptures.
- 2) [Church Law] Canons are the written rules that provide a code of laws for the governance of the church. The canons of the Episcopal Church are enacted by the General Convention. Canons of the Episcopal Church may only be enacted, amended, or repealed by concurrent resolution of the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops at General Convention. The canons of the Episcopal Church are organized by titles or sections concerning Organization and Administration, Worship, Ministry, Ecclesiastical Discipline, and General Provisions.
- 3) [Ecclesiastical Title] A canon may be a member of the clergy on the staff of a cathedral or diocese. A canon on a cathedral staff assists the dean, and a canon on a diocesan staff assists the bishop. Members of the clergy and laity have at times been made honorary canons of a cathedral in recognition of significant service or achievement.
- 4) [Liturgy] The canon designates the fixed portion of the Great Thanksgiving or the prayer of consecration at the Holy Eucharist, including the institution narrative. The canon does not vary with the liturgical season.
- 5) [Church Music] A musical composition, with a note-for-note imitation of one melodic line by another that begins one or more notes later than the first, also known as a round. The Hymnal 1982 includes a section of rounds and canons (Hymns 710-715).

Canonical Residence

Clergy serving under the jurisdiction of a diocese are canonically resident in that diocese.

Canterbury

The city in southeastern England that became the ecclesiastical center for England and, eventually, the Anglican Communion. The Benedictine monk Augustine founded the church in Canterbury on his mission from Rome in 597. From there Christianity spread throughout England. Canterbury has had a preeminence from the beginning of the English church.

Cantor / Cantrix

A singer who sets the pitch and leads the liturgical singing of psalms, canticles, anthems, and other sung texts. Cantor is a male, Cantrix is a female.

Cassock

A long, close-fitting garment with narrow sleeves worn by clergy and other ministers. Cassocks are typically black but also may be blue, gray, or red. Bishops may wear purple cassocks.

Cathedral

A church that contains the diocesan bishop's seat or throne. The cathedral is the principal church of the diocese.

CDO Personal Profile

A form that provides personal and professional information for deployment of Episcopal clergy and lay professionals. The profile is intended to present a concise summary of the skills and experience of each person registered in the deployment system. It is used to match individual skills and talents with opportunities for ministry in the Episcopal Church

Celebrant

The bishop or priest who presides at the Eucharist, at baptism, and at other sacramental and liturgical occasions such as the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, Ministration to the Sick, and Thanksgiving for the Birth or Adoption of a Child. The celebrant leads the community's celebration of these liturgies and rites.

Centering Prayer

A method of quiet meditation in which a single symbolic word is used as a point of focus, as a sign of one's willingness to wait on God and be available to God's presence.

Chalice

The cup for the wine that is consecrated and administered at the Eucharist.

Chancel

Area of the church set apart for the altar, lectern, pulpit, credence table, and seats for officiating and assisting ministers. It may also include the choir. The chancel is typically raised somewhat above the level of the nave, where the congregation gathers.

Chancel Rail

Low railing or lattice work that separates the chancel from the nave in a traditionally designed church.

Chapel

A building or structure for worship that is not a church. Chapels may be found in public institutions, such as schools and hospitals. Chapels may also be found on private property in residences or estates. A chapel may be a separate building, a room within a larger building, or an area set apart in a larger church or cathedral. A chapel has its own altar.

At All Saints, the Chapel is on the south side of the sanctuary, adjacent to the South Transept.

Chaplain

A person who serves a chapel, or exercises a non-parochial ministry.

Chasuble

The sleeveless outer vestment worn by the celebrant at the Eucharist.

Choir Loft

A gallery set aside for the seating of the choir and placement of an organ and other instruments.

At All Saints, the choir loft is at the rear of the Chancel.

Choirmaster

A musician who provides training and leadership of a choir.

All Saints' Choirmaster is Weicheng (pronounced way-chung) Zhao.

Christendom

Christianity, or Christians collectively, or the regions where Christianity is the dominant faith ("the Christian world").

Church Deployment Office Personal Profile

See CDO Personal Profile.

Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP)

One of the eleven Episcopal seminaries accredited by the Association of Theological Schools, located in Berkeley, California.

Church of England

The Episcopal Church derives much of its doctrine, discipline, and worship from the Church of England.

Before the sixteenth-century Reformation in western Europe, the Christian church in a given country or region was customarily described as the church of the region, such as the Gallican Church, the Spanish Church, the English Church (Lat. ecclesia anglicana), or the Church of England. After the Reformation, the English national church continued to be called the Church of England, but it repudiated the supremacy of the Pope. It retained, however, its ancient episcopal polity. By the 1534 Act of Supremacy, King Henry VIII became "Supreme Head of the Church of England," and by the 1559 Act of Supremacy, Elizabeth I became "Supreme Governor of the Church of England," supplanting the Pope. To this day the Church of England is episcopal in polity, with the sovereign, who still bears the Elizabethan title, as its legal administrative head.

The Church of England is divided into the Province of Canterbury and the Province of York. The Archbishop of York is the Primate of England and Metropolitan, and the Archbishop of Canterbury is the Primate of all England and Metropolitan. The Province of Canterbury consists of thirty-one dioceses and the Province of York consists of fourteen dioceses.

Church, The

The community of faith headed by Christ, the body of Christ in the world.

The National Episcopal Church is also often referred to as The Church.

Clergy, Members of the

Persons in holy orders, ordained for the ministry of bishop, priest, or deacon. The Episcopal Church canons (laws) concerning ordination for these ministries are equally applicable to men and women.

Clerical

Of or concerning the clergy. For example, a clerical collar is a collar worn by a member of the clergy.

Clericalism

A pejorative term that indicates a condescending attitude by one or more members of the clergy, an exaggerated deference to the clergy, or an inappropriate concentration of power in the clergy. It also can indicate inappropriate influence of the clergy in secular matters.

Clericals

Distinctive clothes worn by clergy that make the wearer identifiable as a member of the clergy. For example, a black shirt with a white clerical collar identifies the wearer as a member of the clergy. Clericals are clothes that may be worn in secular contexts, unlike vestments, which are worn only for worship.

Clericus

A meeting of clergy. It is often a meeting of clergy in a locality or deanery.

All Saints is in Deanery 5 of the Los Angeles Diocese. When the clergy of Deanery 5 gather, the meeting is called Clericus.

Clerk (Vestry)

The clerk or secretary of the parish records minutes of the vestry meetings. These minutes are approved by the vestry and kept in the permanent records of the parish. The clerk may or may not be a member of the vestry.

All Saints' clerk is Kathy Onoye.

Cloister

A covered walk in a convent, monastery, college, or cathedral, typically with a wall on one side and a colonnade open to a quadrangle on the other.

At All Saints, the walkway from the front door of All Saints' main office to Regas House, and then right along the length of Regas House, ending at the Baptistry door of the church, is a cloister.

Columbarium

A room or building with niches for funeral urns to be stored.

Compline

A simple office; the last of the four services in the Daily Office (BCP, p. 127). It is descended from the night prayers said before bed at the end of the monastic round of daily prayer.

Confirmation

The sacramental rite in which the candidates "express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop" (BCP, p. 860).

At All Saints, we typically have an adult confirmation class each year, as well as a confirmation program for youth, entitled Seekers.

Congregant

A member of a congregation.

"Congregant" and "parishioner" are synonymous at All Saints.

Consecration

To set something or someone apart for a sacred purpose. The bread and wine of the Eucharist are consecrated at the Great Thanksgiving, and "the consecration" often means the consecration of the Eucharistic gifts.

Contemplation

A form of mental prayer in which meditation and petition give way to quiet adoration of the mysteries of God.

Cross

The instrument of Jesus' death and the central symbol of the Christian faith, especially in terms of love, generosity, and sacrifice.

At All Saints we use a Jerusalem cross instead of a traditional cross. See Jerusalem Cross.

Crucifixion

Death by nailing or binding to a wooden cross. The practice began in the ancient east and was common among the Romans as punishment inflicted on slaves and certain non-Romans. The practice was abolished by Constantine.

D

Daily Office

Use of daily prayers to mark the times of the day and to express the traditions of the praying community. Traditional in Judaism and in Christianity.

Dalmatic

The distinctive vestment of deacons in the western church. It may be worn at any liturgy in any season.

Deacon

Deacons are members of one of three distinct orders of ordained ministry (with bishops and presbyters (priests)). In the Episcopal Church a deacon exercises “a special ministry of servanthood” directly under the deacon's bishop, serving all people and especially those in need.

Dean (Cathedral, Seminary, College, Deanery)

At a cathedral, the dean is the clergy member in charge, although the cathedral is the official headquarters of the bishop. Assisting clergy at a cathedral have the title "Canon." At a seminary, the dean's function is like that of the president of a college or university.

Deanery

1) Geographical section or area within a diocese. A dean presides at meetings of the lay representatives and clergy of the deanery.

All Saints is in Deanery 5 of the Los Angeles Diocese.

2) House where a dean lives. See Dean (Cathedral, Seminary, College, Deanery).

Deposition

1) In canon law, a deposition is a sentence that removes or deposes a bishop, priest, or deacon from the ordained ministry. A member of the clergy who is deposed is entirely banned from the sacred ministry, not merely changed from one order to another.

Deputies, House of

See House of Deputies.

Deputy

Each diocese, area mission, and the Convocation of the American Churches in Europe is entitled to not more than four ordained representatives in the House of Deputies. They must be presbyters (priests) or deacons, and canonically resident in the diocese. Each diocese, area mission, and the Convocation of the American Churches in Europe is also entitled to not more than four lay persons in the House of Deputies. These lay persons must be confirmed adult communicants in good standing in the diocese, but not necessarily domiciled in the diocese. These clergy and lay representatives are called deputies.

Diaconate (Order of Deacons)

Once fallen into disuse as an inferior order used mainly as a stepping stone to the priesthood, the diaconate (order of deacons) has been restored in the Anglican, Roman Catholic, and several Protestant churches. In the Episcopal Church, the diaconate is a full order equal to the presbyterate (order of priests) and the episcopate (order of bishops), and it plays an important role in many dioceses and congregations. As commonly used, the term refers to those ordained deacon as a permanent vocation. Those ordained deacon as a preliminary step toward ordination as a priest, as required by canon law, are called “transitional deacons.”

Diocese

The territorial jurisdiction of a diocesan bishop. The term also refers to the congregations and church members of the diocese.

Diocese of California

Originally the only diocese in California, today it consists of the following counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo. The diocese has been divided four times over the years, in 1874, 1879, 1895, and 1910. Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, is in this diocese.

Diocese of Los Angeles

The Diocese of Los Angeles consists of the following counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Santa Barbara, and Ventura. The General Convention of 1895 voted to divide the Diocese of California and establish a new diocese in Southern California called the Diocese of Los Angeles. In 1973 the General Convention voted to divide the new diocese and establish the Diocese of San Diego.

The Cathedral Center of St. Paul, Los Angeles, the diocesan center, was dedicated on Oct. 22, 1994.

Discernment

The process through which people determine if they are truly called by God to be ordained as either a priest or a deacon.

Dismissal

The Eucharistic liturgy is ended by dismissing the people.

Doctrine

The term is from the Latin docere, “to teach.” It means teaching or instruction in the most general sense. In a theological context the word carries the implication of belonging to a school of thought or a body of believers.

Dogma

A principle or set of principles laid down by an authority as incontrovertibly true. In the context of religion, it is the definitive teaching of a church or denomination which is to be believed by the members of the church or denomination.

E

Easter

The feast of Christ's resurrection. Easter Day is the first Sunday after the full moon that falls on or after March 21.

Easter Eve, Easter Even

The Saturday before Easter. In the early church, it was a day of fasting and preparation for the Easter Vigil. There is no celebration of the Eucharist on this day, in accordance with church tradition.

Easter Vigil

The liturgy intended as the first (and arguably, the primary) celebration of Easter in the BCP. It is also known as the Great Vigil. It takes place in the evening on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter.

Eastertide

As used in English-speaking churches, "tide" is an old word meaning a festival and its season. Eastertide refers to the Easter season. Another term for this season is the Great Fifty Days.

Ecclesiastical

Of or pertaining to the church.

Ecumenical, Ecumenical Theology

The term is derived from the Greek *oikoumenē*, "inhabited world." Ecumenical refers to the wholeness of the church. Ecumenical theology is theology especially concerned to recover visible unity for the whole church in the world.

Elevation of the Elements

The lifting up of the Eucharistic elements (bread and wine) for adoration at the concluding doxology of the Eucharistic prayer. This gesture identifies the bread and wine with the sacrifice of Christ.

Ember Day Letter

Every postulant or candidate for holy orders in the Episcopal Church is required by canon to report to the bishop four times a year, during the Ember Weeks. The report must be made in person or by letter, and must include reflection on the person's academic experience as well as personal and spiritual development.

Epiphany Season

A season of four to nine weeks, from the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6) through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. The length of the season varies according to the date of Easter.

Epiphany, The

The manifestation of Christ to the peoples of the earth. The winter solstice was kept on January 6 at some places during the first centuries of the Christian Era. In opposition to pagan festivals, Christians chose this day to celebrate the various manifestations, or "epiphanies," of Jesus' divinity.

Episcopal

- 1) Concerning the Episcopal Church. Used in this sense, the adjective "Episcopal" is always capitalized. For example, "The Episcopal liturgy will be used at the wedding." Similarly, "The Episcopal priest attended the ecumenical gathering."
- 2) Concerning a bishop or bishops. Used in this sense, the adjective "episcopal" is not always capitalized. For example, an episcopal ring is a ring worn by a bishop as a sign of the bishop's office. See *Episcopalian*.

Episcopal Church Center

The national headquarters for the Episcopal Church, located in New York City. It includes the executive offices of the Presiding Bishop. It is the place where the fiduciary responsibilities for the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society are carried out; a focal point for the work of General Convention; a center for ecumenical and interfaith engagement; and a contact point for international and national agencies.

Episcopal Church, The

The Episcopal Church in the United States of America is sometimes called ECUSA. The Episcopal Church is a province of the Anglican Communion.

A conference of three clergy and twenty-four lay delegates met at Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland, on Nov. 9, 1780, and resolved that "the Church formerly known in the Province as the Church of England should now be called the Protestant Episcopal Church." On Aug. 13, 1783, the Maryland clergy met at Annapolis and adopted the name "Protestant Episcopal Church." At the second session of the 1789 General Convention, Sept. 29-Oct. 16, 1789, a Constitution of nine articles was adopted. The new church was called the "Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America" (PECUSA). The word "Protestant" noted that this was a church in the reformation tradition, and the word "Episcopal" noted a characteristic of catholicity, the historic episcopate.

The church has grown from thirteen dioceses to more than one hundred dioceses. It is divided into nine geographical provinces. It is governed by a bicameral General Convention, which meets every three years, and by an Executive Council during interim years. The General Convention consists of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies. The two top leaders of the church are the Presiding Bishop, who is also called Primate and Chief Pastor, and the president of the House of Deputies.

Over the years there were numerous efforts to change the name of the church and to drop the word "Protestant." The 1967 General Convention voted to add a preamble to the Constitution, which states, "The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, otherwise known as The Episcopal Church (which name is hereby recognized as also designating the Church)...." The title page of the 1979 BCP states that the Book of Common Prayer is "According to the use of The Episcopal Church."

Episcopal Divinity School (EDS)

An Episcopal seminary affiliated with Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

Episcopal Theological School (ETS)

Predecessor to Episcopal Divinity School. The school was founded at Cambridge, Massachusetts, by a group of prominent Boston businessmen in 1867 to be a place of preparation for holy orders and an Episcopal presence at Harvard University.

Episcopal Theological School at Claremont (Bloy House)

A diocesan seminary located on the campus of the School of Theology in Claremont, California. The school is affiliated with the Diocese of Los Angeles, and the Bishop serves on its board. The school offers a joint M.Div. program with the School of Theology at Claremont.

Episcopal Visitation

A bishop's official pastoral visit to a congregation of the diocese. Canon law requires every diocesan bishop to visit every congregation in his or her diocese at least once every three years. The canonical purposes of a visitation are for the bishop to examine the condition of the congregation, oversee the clergy, preach, confirm, preside at the Eucharist, and examine parochial records. The BCP also assumes that the bishop's visitation will be an occasion for baptism, and that the bishop will preside.

Episcopalian

A member of the Episcopal Church. The term is used as a noun, not as an adjective. The term can be applied to a member of any church under the leadership of bishops. See Episcopal.

Epistle

Literally, a letter, the name was given to the first of the two New Testament readings in the Eucharist.

Eucharist

The sacrament of Christ's body and blood, and the principal act of Christian worship. The term is from the Greek, "thanksgiving." The Eucharist is also called the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, the Divine Liturgy, the Mass, and the Great Offertory. In the BCP, the entire worship service is entitled the Holy Eucharist.

Eucharistic Elements

Bread and wine that are consecrated in the Eucharist.

Eucharistic Prayer

The prayer over the bread and wine at communion. It is also called The Great Thanksgiving.

Eucharistic Vestments

Traditional liturgical garments worn at the celebration of the Eucharist.

Evening Prayer

One of the principal Daily Offices.

[Evensong](#)

Since the late middle ages “evensong” has been the popular name for vespers (from the Latin vesperis, “evening”), the Evening Office of the western church.

[Executive Council of the Episcopal Church](#)

The national body that administers the program and policies adopted by the General Convention.

F

Fast

Fasting is abstaining wholly or partially from all or certain foods, for physical or spiritual health.

Father

Honorific title used by some male priests.

Feasts of the Church Year

The calendar of the church year includes two cycles of feasts and holy days. One cycle is based on the movable date of Easter Day, and the other is based on the fixed date of Christmas Day, December 25. The principal feasts of the church year are Easter Day, Ascension Day, the Day of Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, All Saints' Day (November 1), Christmas Day, and the Epiphany (January 6).

Font

The term comes from the Latin *fons*, “spring of water,” and designates a receptacle for baptismal water. The term also refers to any particular style of type face.

Foot Washing

The washing of feet was a menial act of hospitality in the Old Testament. It was often performed for guests by a servant or the wife of the host. The Gospel of John (13:1-17) records that Jesus washed the feet of the disciples at the Last Supper. The foot-washing has been associated with the Maundy Thursday liturgy since the seventh century in Spain.

Forum, The

- 1) *A tiered meeting room for 300+ people, designed for speakers or presentations, located downstairs in Regas House.*
- 2) *The name of the Adult Education offering at the 10:15 hour on Sunday mornings that typically takes place in the room called the Forum.*

Frontal

Covering for the front of an altar, often made of silk or brocade cloth and matching the liturgical color of the season of the church year.

G

General Convention

The national legislative body of the Episcopal Church. It consists of a House of Bishops and a House of Deputies. The Convention meets every three years. The Houses meet and act separately, and both must concur to adopt legislation.

The General Convention alone has authority to amend the Prayer Book and the church's Constitution, to amend the canons (laws) of the church, and to determine the program and budget of the General Convention, including the missionary, educational, and social programs it authorizes.

General Theological Seminary, The

The oldest continuously operating seminary of the Anglican Communion and the first seminary founded by the Episcopal Church. It is located in New York City.

Good Friday

The Friday before Easter Day, on which the church commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus.

At All Saints the staff typically works just a half-day on Good Friday. We have a 3 hr. worship service from noon to 3:00pm, and an evening Tenebrae service at 7:30pm.

Gospel

The English word "gospel" (from Anglo-Saxon godspell) or "good news" translates the Greek euaggelion. Originally in Christian usage it meant the good news of God's saving act in Jesus Christ, focused on the cross and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:1-11). The gospel in the Episcopal liturgy is the final reading from Holy Scriptures taken from the canonical gospels at the Eucharist.

Gospel Procession

In many places, it is customary to have a gospel procession to the place of reading. A procession may include several persons-the reader, two candle bearers, a thurifer, and, if needed, someone to hold the gospel book.

Grace

God's love freely given to humanity for salvation.

Great Thanksgiving

Title used by the BCP for the Eucharistic prayer, the central prayer of the Eucharist. It is also known as the prayer of consecration.

Great Vigil of Easter

See Easter Vigil.

Guild Room

A meeting room just inside the doors to Regas House. It opens to Sweetland Hall on the north end and into Regas House lobby on the south. It has a row of windows that open onto the cloister.

H

Holy Days

In a general sense, a holy day is any day set apart for special observance because of its significance for faith.

Holy Orders

The ordained ministries of bishops, priests (presbyters), and deacons. Canonical provisions concerning ordination to these three orders are equally applicable to men and women in the Episcopal Church.

Holy Saturday

The Saturday after Good Friday, which recalls the day when the crucified Christ visited among the dead while his body lay in the tomb. The Great Vigil happens on Holy Saturday. In the Episcopal Church, there is no Eucharist on Holy Saturday.

Holy Water

Water that has been blessed for religious and devotional use. It may symbolize purification, blessing, dedication, and renewal of the baptismal covenant.

Holy Week

From early times, Christians have observed the week before Easter as a time of special devotion.

Homilist

The person who preaches the homily or sermon.

Homily

See Sermon.

Host (Eucharistic)

The consecrated bread of the Eucharist.

House of Bishops

This second house, along with the House of Deputies, of the General Convention is composed of all bishops, active and retired, of the church. It meets concurrently with the House of Deputies during General Convention, and also holds yearly meetings between conventions.

House of Deputies

The House of Deputies is the oldest of the two Houses of General Convention. It has equal numbers of clergy and lay deputies selected by the dioceses of the church.

Huddle Room

A small meeting room on the first floor of Regas House.

I

Imposition of Ashes

As part of the Ash Wednesday service, ashes may be imposed on the heads of participants, typically by inscribing a cross on the forehead, as a sign of mortality and penitence.

Incense

A fragrant smoke given off when certain woods and solidified resins are burned or heated. Incense was widely used in Judaism and other cultures of the ancient world as a means of sacrifice, purification, and veneration. It is used in the Episcopal Church on specific Holy Days, including All Saints Sunday.

Inclusive Language

Spoken and written language that intentionally avoids word use that is needlessly gender-specific or exclusive. Inclusive language also means the use of male and female imagery and metaphors in a balanced way to express the truths we know of God.

All Saints uses inclusive language regarding gender and also referring to God.

Intercession

Prayer for another or others. Also known as prayers of the people.

Intercessor

One who prays on behalf of another or others. May indicate one who leads the prayers of the people, which are prayers of intercession.

Interment

Burial; the placing of the body of a deceased person in a grave.

Intinction

Administration of the consecrated bread and wine of the Eucharist at the same time, typically by dipping the bread in the wine and placing the moistened host in the mouth.

All Saints no longer offers Intinction due to sanitary reasons.

Inurnment

To place ashes after cremation in an urn; to place an urn with ashes in a niche or other resting place.

Parishioners can be inurned in a niche in the All Saints Columbarium.

J - K

[Jerusalem Cross](#)

The Jerusalem cross consists of a large center cross with four smaller Greek crosses (a cross with four equal arms, similar to a plus sign) in each quadrant.

[Junior Warden](#)

See Wardens of a Parish.

[Kanuga Conference Center](#)

The conference center is a mountain resort area, located at Kanuga, North Carolina, near Hendersonville.

[Kinman, Michael D. \(Mike\) \(MDK\)](#)

The Reverend Mike Kinman served as the tenth rector of All Saints Church from November 1, 2016 to July 7, 2024. The Rector Search Committee had some confusion about which number the new rector would be so search materials referred to the eighth rector, but historic files determined Rev. Kinman to actually be the tenth rector of All Saints Church.

L

Labyrinth

In the literal sense, a labyrinth is a connected set of passages or path in which it is easy to get lost. In the church, a prayer labyrinth is “simply a place to walk and pray. It gives you the freedom to walk around while focusing your mind on God – and not worry about getting lost. It contains a single walking path to the center and then back out again. It has many turns but, unlike mazes, does not have dead ends. In Christian usage, the purpose of the labyrinth is personal and spiritual transformation. Labyrinths have a long history, both inside and outside the church, and can be found all around the world.” (Grace Chapel, Lexington, MA)

All Saints has a Labyrinth Ministry that cares for our labyrinth and provides opportunities several times during the liturgical year for parishioners to walk the labyrinth.

Laity

The people of the church. Generally refers to those who have not been ordained.

Lambeth Conference

The first Lambeth Conference met in 1867, marking the occasion when the various churches of the Anglican Communion began to be conscious of themselves as a single family of churches.

Lambeth Palace

The London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury for seven centuries.

Last Rites

Sacramental ministry to a dying Christian, which may include confession and absolution, laying on of hands, anointing (extreme unction), and communion.

Last Supper

The term “Last Supper” does not appear in the New Testament. It is used to refer to the supper that Jesus ate with his disciples on the evening before his crucifixion.

Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM)

Lay person licensed by the bishop to administer the consecrated elements of the Eucharist.

Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV)

Lay person licensed by the bishop to administer the consecrated elements of the Eucharist outside of the church. A LEV takes the elements to homes and hospitals to give the Eucharist to parishioners who are ill or cannot come to church.

Lay Ministry

The term refers to the many ways the laity of the church live out their baptismal covenant.

Lay Preacher

A lay person licensed by the bishop to preach.

Learned, Leslie E.

The Reverend Leslie Learned was the fifth rector of All Saints Church, serving from 1908-1936.

Learning Center (LC)

A large room on the top floor of Regas House that can be completely opened for large groups, or sectioned into six small rooms. Kindergarten through fifth grade Sunday School is held in the Learning Center, as are programs for youth at Wednesday Youth Group.

Lectern

A bookstand or reading desk that holds the book used for reading scripture in public worship.

Lectionary

An ordered system for reading the Holy Scriptures at the Eucharist and the Daily Offices. It is usually presented in the form of a table of references for the psalms and readings for the various days of the liturgical year, although it may be a separate book containing the actual texts of the readings.

Lectionary Cycle

The Lectionary in the BCP and other contemporary lectionaries use a three-year cycle, referred to as Years A, B, and C. The new cycle begins on the First Sunday in Advent.

Lector

A lay person trained in reading scripture who is appointed by the clergy person in charge of the congregation to read lessons or lead the prayers of the people.

LEM

See Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM)

Lent

Early Christians observed “a season of penitence and fasting” in preparation for the Paschal feast. The season now known as Lent (from an Old English word meaning “spring,” the time of lengthening days) has a long history. The fast of forty days is in imitation of Christ’s fasting in the wilderness. Lent extends from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays.

Lesser Feasts and Fasts, The (LFF)

A collection of proper collects, lessons, and psalms for the Eucharist on each of the weekdays of Lent, weekdays of Easter season, and each of the lesser feasts of the church year.

Lesson

A selection of scripture read in a church service. It is also known as a lection or a reading.

Lessons and Carols

An evening service All Saints offers on the second Sunday of Advent. In the warm ambience of the candlelit church, the choir offers motets, carols and canticles of intense, mystical beauty. The rector or priest-in-charge offers a meditation.

Letter of Transfer

A certificate of membership, typically used when a member of a congregation in the Episcopal Church moves to another congregation.

LEV

See Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV)

Litany

An intercessory prayer including various petitions that are said or sung by the leader and fixed responses by the congregation.

Liturgical Colors

"Liturgical Colors" in Episcopal worship signify our place in the Church Year:

- WHITE, the color of Jesus' burial garments, for Christmas, Easter, and other 'feasts' or festival days, as well as marriages and funerals.
- PURPLE/VIOLET for Advent (or ROYAL BLUE) & Lent (or UNBLEACHED LINEN).
- RED is used in Holy Week, the Day of Pentecost, and at ordinations.
- GREEN is used during Epiphany and the 'Ordinary Time' after Pentecost Sunday.

Liturgy

The church's public worship of God. The term "liturgy" may refer to the rites or texts that order the church's worship. It may indicate in particular the Eucharist, which is also known as the Divine Liturgy.

Lord's Prayer, The

This prayer of Jesus was given to his disciples as an example of how they should pray.

Lord's Table

The altar, also known as the holy table.

M

Magnificat

This song of praise, also known as “The Song of Mary,” is from the account in Luke 1:46-55 of Mary’s visit to her relative Elizabeth when Mary was pregnant with Jesus and Elizabeth was pregnant with John the Baptist.

Martyr

The term comes from the Greek word meaning “witness,” which referred originally to the disciples and apostles who “witnessed” the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Later it came to mean those who had witnessed to their faith in Jesus by their suffering and those who died during persecution since it meant witnessing to the greatest degree possible.

Mass

A term for the Holy Eucharist. It is primarily used by Anglicans, Roman Catholics, and Lutherans.

Matins

An early morning worship service, the first of the canonical hours.

Maundy Thursday

The Thursday in Holy Week. It is part of the Triduum, or three holy days before Easter.

All Saints typically has a foot washing service on Maundy Thursday evening.

Meditation

The practice, usually in silence, of fixing attention on a specific word, phrase, image, sound, or text.

Minister

One who shares in the ministry of the church. The ministers of the church are lay people, bishops, priests, and deacons.

Miter, or Mitre

Liturgical headgear and insignia of bishops and other prelates.

Monastic

A person who devotes his or her life to religious vows and who lives in community (in or associated with a monastery) or as a solitary.

Most Reverend, The

Indicates an archbishop or primate.

N

Narthex

An entry space, foyer, or anteroom of a church between the door and the nave.

Nave

The place in the church building for the congregation. It is between the sanctuary and the narthex (entry of the church building).

Necrology

A list of deaths.

Each year on All Saints Sunday, All Saints Church publishes the necrology with names of all who are meaningful to parishioners who have died since the previous All Saints Sunday.

Niche

A shallow recess, especially one in a wall, to hold an urn or other object.

O

Oblation

In the broad sense, oblation refers to any offering – money, bread and wine, self, soul and body – made at the Eucharist. The people's offerings are presented to the deacon or celebrant and placed on the altar for consecration.

OCC Conference Room

A conference room with a large round table that sits up to 15 people. It is located in the OCC trailer behind the office building.

OCC Trailer

The trailer, located behind the office building on the edge of the playground, the originally housed the Office for Creative Connections offices and conference room. Now it houses the IT department in the office space, along with the OCC Conference Room at the west end.

Offering, Offerings

Gifts presented at a church service or other gathering. At the offertory, prior to the Eucharistic prayer, representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the celebrant.

Office for Creative Connections (OCC)

A gift to the city of Pasadena from All Saints Church in 1984. Its purpose was to serve as a facilitator to help solve important issues faced by the people of Pasadena; identifying needs, assets and opportunities, assessing barriers, and bringing people and organizations together to work on creative solutions.

Officiant

The person who leads the church service.

Orders, Holy

Ordained persons in the church. All baptized persons are members of the church and called to ministry. Some members of the church are ordained as bishops, priests, and deacons. These members of the church are in “holy orders.”

Ordination

A sacramental rite of the church by which God gives authority and the grace of the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by bishops to those being made bishops, priests, and deacons.

Ordination of Women

In 1976 the General Convention approved the ordination of women to the priesthood and the episcopate in the Episcopal Church. Such ordinations began on January 1, 1977.

P - Q

Palm Sunday (The Sunday of the Passion)

The Sunday before Easter at which Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and Jesus' Passion on the cross are recalled.

Parish

A self-supporting congregation under a rector, as opposed to a mission or other congregation under a vicar.

Parish House

A church building or house that may provide space for the parish office, clergy and staff offices, classrooms, choir rehearsal room, and meeting rooms. It may also include a chapel, a nursery, a kitchen, a library, or storage space. The parish house is typically a separate building from the church that is near the church.

The Parish House at All Saints is called Regas House, named in honor of George F. Regas, the eighth rector of All Saints.

Parish Meeting

A meeting of the members of a parish. The by-laws of the parish generally require an annual parish meeting and state the qualifications to be a voting member of the parish.

All Saints refers to this meeting as the Annual Meeting. It typically takes place in February. At this meeting, the parish elects the new vestry class, and receives reports from the rector, the senior warden, and a financial report from the chairperson of the Finance Committee.

Parish Register

The formal record of the various official acts in a parish church, such as baptisms and marriages.

Parishioner

A member of a parish.

“Congregant” and “parishioner” are synonymous at All Saints.

Parochial

Concerning a parish.

Parochial Report (Annual Report)

This report is the official data-gathering instrument of the Episcopal Church. Each parish or congregation files this report annually with the diocesan bishop.

Paschal Candle

A large candle that symbolizes the risen Christ. Also called the Christ candle.

Pastoral Care

The ministry of caring at the heart of the church's life.

Pastoral Letter

From the Latin “*littera pastoral*”, the original definition was an official letter addressed by a bishop to all members of the diocese.

Peace, The

A liturgical exchange of greeting through word and gesture. It is a sign of reconciliation, love, and renewed relationships in the Christian community. It is initiated by the celebrant, who says, “The peace of the Lord be always with you.” The people respond, “And also with you.”

Pentecost

The term means “the fiftieth day.” The term is used in the New Testament to refer to the coming of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost, shortly after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. Christians came to understand the meaning of Pentecost in terms of the gift of the Spirit. The Pentecost event was the fulfillment of a promise that Jesus gave concerning the return of the Holy Spirit. The speaking in tongues, which was a major effect of having received the Spirit, is interpreted by some to symbolize the church's worldwide preaching.

Petition

The form of prayer in which one asks God for divine grace or assistance.

Pew

A long bench, typically with a back, for congregational seating in church.

Pilgrimage

A journey taken with a religious or devotional intention.

Plate (Offering)

Undesignated or “loose” offering of money (as opposed to pledged money) that is among the gifts presented at the offertory.

Pledge

A commitment to give one's time, talents, and money as an expression of faith and a personal response to God's generosity. Parish members are encouraged to make an annual stewardship pledge.

Postcommunion Prayer

A prayer of thanksgiving after communion that also seeks God's help for Christian service.

Postulant (Holy Orders, Monastic)

One who tests a vocation such as a vocation to an ordained ministry or the religious life. Postulants for holy orders seek ordination as deacon or priest. The length of postulancy varies.

Prayer Book

See Book of Common Prayer, The (“BCP”).

Prayers of the People

The BCP uses the title “Prayers of the People” for the general intercessions in the Eucharist.

Preacher

The one who preaches the sermon. In some Protestant churches, the term is used as a title for a member of the clergy. See Preaching.

Preaching

The event and act of proclaiming the Word of God through a sermon or homily.

Presbyter

See Priest.

Presentment

This is a formal allegation of a canonical offense by an ordained person.

President, Presider (liturgical)

The BCP uses the word “celebrant” to describe the priest or bishop who presides at the Holy Eucharist. The word “officiant” is used to describe the minister, lay or ordained, who presides at the Daily Offices. Most contemporary liturgical books use “president” or “presider” for both.

Presiding Bishop

Chief Pastor and Primate of the Episcopal Church.

The current Presiding Bishop is The Most Reverend Sean W. Rowe.

Priest

A person ordained to the Priesthood. “The ministry of a priest or presbyter” is “to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as pastor to the people; to proclaim the gospel; to administer the sacraments; and to bless and declare pardon in the name of God” (BCP, p. 856). The term “priest” is more frequently used than “presbyter” in the Episcopal Church.

Priest-in-Charge

A priest under contract to serve a parish for a set length of time, typically up to three years. A Priest-in-Charge is often appointed by the Bishop to lead a parish during a transition time between rectors, often with specific goals related to stability and preparation for a new, permanent rector. The Priest-in-Charge holds all the responsibilities and authority of a Rector and is eligible to be called as Rector at the conclusion of the contractual period via mutual consent between the priest and the congregation.

The Reverend Tim Rich is currently the Priest-in-Charge at All Saints Church through 2027, to prepare the congregation to call their 11th Rector.

Priesthood of All Believers

Fundamental doctrine which affirms that all baptized Christians share the eternal priesthood of Jesus.

Primate

The chief bishop in an Anglican Province is called a primate. In the United States, the Presiding Bishop serves as “Chief Pastor and Primate.”

Pro-Cathedral

A church named by a diocesan bishop to serve as a cathedral but which remains under the governance of the vestry and dean. It is used as a cathedral for diocesan purposes, but without the formation of a legal cathedral organization and without a cathedral chapter.

St. John's Pro-Cathedral near downtown Los Angeles serves as both a parish church and the cathedral church of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles.

Processional Cross

A cross or crucifix mounted on a pole that is carried in a procession by an acolyte or server.

Proper

Variable parts of the Eucharistic liturgy and the Daily Office that are appointed for a particular day according to the season or occasion. The term also refers to the numbered Sundays during “ordinary time” between Pentecost and Advent; i.e. Proper 5, Proper 28, etc.

Provost

In the Episcopal Church, the title has been used to indicate a priest in charge of a cathedral when the bishop is the dean.

R

Rector

The priest in charge of a parish. Typically, a rector is the priest in charge of a self-supporting parish, and a vicar is the priest in charge of a supported mission.

All Saints has had 10 rectors in its history. The congregation is preparing to search for and call its 11th rector.

Rectory

A house owned by the parish and provided for the rector's home. Such provided housing has been known as "the parsonage" and "the manse" in other traditions.

The main office building at All Saints is also called the Rectory, as originally it was the home of the rector before a new home was purchased off-campus.

Red Book, The

The official record of all services and Eucharists, including the date and attendance.

Regas, George F. (GFR)

The Reverend Dr. George Regas served as the eighth rector of All Saints from 1967-1995. George passed away in January, 2021 at the age of 90. His wife Mary lives in Pasadena and continues to worship at All Saints. Under George's leadership, All Saints took courageous stands on several critical issues, including opposition to the war in Viet Nam, opening as a sanctuary church to refugees fleeing conflicts in Central America, declaring All Saints a pro-choice church, and blessing same-sex unions. In 2004, as Rector Emeritus, GFR preached an anti-war sermon that sparked an IRS investigation of All Saints that garnered national attention. The IRS dropped the investigation in 2007.

Regas House

The parish house at All Saints, named in honor of the eighth rector, George Regas, upon his retirement in 1995. It houses the offices of the Children, Youth & Families department and the Music department, along with the Learning Center on the top floor; Sweetland Hall, the Guild Room, the Huddle Room, the Small Lounge, the Seminar Room and the kitchen on the ground floor; and the James Walker Choir Room and Forum downstairs.

Registrar (of the General Convention)

The Registrar maintains all journals and other records of the General Convention, and maintains records of all ordinations and consecrations of bishops in the Episcopal Church.

Requiem

A Mass or Eucharist offered on behalf of the dead.

Resolution

A proposed action or decision that is to be considered by a legislative body such as the House of Bishops or the House of Deputies at General Convention, or at a diocesan convention, or at the gathering of another representative legislative body.

At All Saints, the vestry is the group with the authority to pass resolutions stating the church's stance on issues.

Retreat

A period of time, in a “place apart” from daily life and work, which normally includes silence, reflection, and may include some form of still, meditative prayer which may be combined with brief periods of activity and study. The term also refers to a location where a retreat is taken.

Reverend, The

An adjective used in formally addressing a member of the clergy. It is intended to be descriptive. The term is incorrectly used as a noun title (like bishop or sister) to refer to a member of the clergy. For example, it is appropriate to say “the bishops are at the meeting,” but it is not appropriate to say “the reverends are at the meeting.” It is applied without further qualification to priests and deacons in the Episcopal Church and to clergy in other denominations. Hierarchical churches (such as the Episcopal Church and the Roman Catholic Church) further modify the term to indicate varying degrees of respect that are due. “The Very Reverend” indicates a dean of a deanery, a seminary, or a cathedral. “The Right Reverend” indicates a bishop, an abbot or abbess, or other prelate. “The Most Reverend” indicates an archbishop or primate.

Rich, Timothy (Tim)

The Reverend Tim Rich currently serves as Priest-in-Charge at All Saints Church, placed by the Bishop in August, 2024, to lead the congregation and prepare the community to call its 11th rector.

Right Reverend, The

Indicates a bishop, an abbot or abbess, or other prelate.

Rite

A form for religious ceremony. It includes both what is said and what is done in the religious observance.

Rite 1, Rite 2

The 1979 BCP provides the services of Morning and Evening Prayer, the Holy Eucharist, and the Burial Office in both traditional language and contemporary language rites. The traditional language rites are known as Rite 1, and the contemporary language rites are known as Rite 2.

Ritual

Liturgical texts and ceremonies of divine worship. The term originally indicated the prescribed words of worship, but it came to include the entire liturgical action and presentation of the rite.

Rubric

A ceremonial or other direction given in the BCP, now typically printed in italics. It also refers to direction or instruction printed in the Sunday service bulletin, such as “standing,” or “kneeling.”

S

Sabbath

The seventh day of the Jewish week, our Saturday.

Sabbatical

This term comes from the word “sabbath,” and means seven or seventh. It means a period of rest and an intermission in labor. A sabbatical year is the seventh year. It is a time when persons are relieved from their duties so they can study and travel. It is now used for a period of leave that is not necessarily every seven years. Sometimes it is called a “sabbatical leave.”

Sacerdotal, Sacerdotalism

From the Latin *sacerdos*, “priest.” It means of or pertaining to the order of priests or the role, identity, or function of priests. A ministry reserved to the ordained priesthood is a sacerdotal ministry.

Sacramental Rites

The sacramental rites of the Episcopal Church include Confirmation, Ordination, Holy Matrimony, Reconciliation of a Penitent, and Unction. These rites are distinguished from the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist, which were given by Christ and are understood to be necessary for the Christian life of all persons.

Sacraments

Outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means for receiving God’s grace. Baptism and Eucharist are the two great sacraments given by Christ to his church.

Sacristy

The room adjoining a church where vestments, altar hangings and linens, sacred vessels, and liturgical books are kept until needed for use in worship. Clergy typically vest in the sacristy.

All Saints has a Sacristy where communion elements and sacred vessels are kept and church flowers are arranged, as well as a separate vesting room where vestments are kept and clergy dress for services.

Sanctuary

A holy place, usually the worship space of a church. Sanctuary may mean the area around the altar, or it may refer to the entire interior of the church where worship takes place. Historically, a sanctuary would be a place of safe refuge for criminals or fugitives.

Scott Hall

Named in honor of ASC’s sixth rector, John Frank Scott, this is the one story building adjacent to the playground. Its six rooms were used for infant care and preschool Sunday School, and the connected office space is used for pastoral meetings. However, due to structural issues Scott Hall is no longer used.

Scott, John Frank

The Reverend John Scott served as the sixth rector of All Saints Church from 1936-1957. Beginning All Saints' long legacy of social activism, he stood in front of trains in 1942 to protest the removal of Japanese Americans to internment camps during World War II.

Seabury-Western Theological Seminary

An accredited seminary of the Episcopal Church, located in Evanston, Illinois.

Search Committee

A group charged to identify candidates for the position of bishop, rector, or other ministry in the life of the church. It may also be the responsibility of the search committee to clarify the job description and identify the qualifications that are needed for the job.

See

The bishop's throne or chair.

Seminar Room

One of the meeting rooms on the ground floor of Regas House. It connects with the kitchen and the Small Lounge.

Seminary

Theological school for training ordained and lay leaders of the church.

Senior Warden

See Wardens of a Parish.

Sermon

Religious address in a worship service.

Small Lounge

One of the rooms on the ground floor of Regas House. It sits between the Guild Room and the Seminar Room, and is accessible from both of those rooms as well as Regas House lobby. It is the baby room during services on Sunday, where parents can listen to the service while tending to their infant. It also serves as the bride's room for weddings.

Social Justice

Justice indicates what is right or fair. Social justice is concerned with the fairness of transactions and distribution.

Spiritual Director

A person, lay or ordained, with whom one communicates concerning the spiritual life may also be known as a soul-friend, soul mate, or spiritual companion.

[Stations of the Cross \(Way of the Cross\)](#)

A devotion to the Passion of Christ, which recalls a series of events at the end of Jesus' life from his condemnation to his burial.

[Stewardship](#)

Our personal response to God's generosity in the way we share our resources of time, talent, and money.

[Sweetland Hall](#)

On the ground floor of Regas House, Sweetland Hall is a large room connected to the kitchen, used for receptions and other large meetings. It is accessible from the cloister and the Guild Room.

T - U

Taizé Chant

This form of contemporary liturgical song was first developed for use by the ecumenical Christian community at Taizé, France. It uses repetitive structures that can easily be memorized, along with other parts for solo voices, choirs, and instruments.

Tenebrae

This form of the monastic office (matins and lauds) is commonly adapted for congregational use during Holy Week. The office is structured around psalms, readings, and responses. A distinguishing characteristic of this service is the series of readings from Lamentations which appear early in the office.

Thurible

A small metal pot on chains in which incense is burned during the Eucharist and other liturgies. The thurible is also known as a censer.

Thurifer

The server or acolyte who carries and swings the thurible in which incense is burned during the Eucharist and other liturgies.

Tiffany Window

A stained glass window by the American artist Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933).

Tithe

A tenth of a person's income, usually mandated for sacred purposes.

Torches

Candles mounted on poles for use in the liturgy. Lighted torches may be carried by acolytes or servers in procession, including the gospel procession. Torches may be placed near the altar or lectern. Torches are used to enhance the solemnity and festivity of worship.

Transept

In a cross-shaped church building, the parts of the building which are the two lateral arms of the cross. The transepts extend from the nave and chancel.

Treasurer

All Saints' current treasurer is Karen Meier.

Trinity Sunday

Feast that celebrates “the one and equal glory” of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, “in Trinity of Persons and in Unity of Being” (BCP, p. 380). It is celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost.

V

Verger

A lay minister who assists the clergy in the conduct of public worship, especially in the marshaling of processions. Vergers may be full-time or part-time, paid or volunteer.

Very Reverend, The

“The Very Reverend” indicates a dean of a deanery, a seminary, or a cathedral.

Vespers

The early evening office of prayer in the church.

Vesting Room

A room near the sanctuary of a church where clergy and lay people vest. Ordained and lay ministers use this room to put on and take off vestments worn in the liturgy. Vestments are usually kept in this room, along with liturgical books and vessels, altar furnishings, and other items needed throughout the year for the worship of the church.

Vestments

The distinctive garments worn by leaders of the church’s worship.

Vestry

The vestry is the legal representative of the parish with regard to all matters pertaining to its corporate property, much like a company’s Board of Directors.

The number of vestry members and the term of office varies from parish to parish. Vestry members are usually elected at the annual parish meeting. The presiding officer of the vestry is the rector or priest-in-charge. There are usually two wardens. The senior warden leads the parish between rectors and is a support person for the rector. The junior warden often has responsibility for church property and buildings. A treasurer and a secretary or clerk may be chosen, and may or may not be vestry members.

The basic responsibilities of the vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation: to support the church’s mission by word and deed, to select the rector, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances.

Vicar

In the Episcopal Church, the title generally applies to the priest in charge of a mission congregation.

Vigil

A service at night prior to a major feast or other important observance. The vigil anticipates and begins the commemoration of the following day.

Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS)

An Episcopal seminary located in Alexandria, Virginia. During the Civil War, the seminary was used to house wounded Union soldiers. The property was used as a burial ground for some 500 soldiers.

VISIONS

VISIONS, Inc. is an organization that does multicultural training with companies, churches, and other groups. All Saints used VISIONS' services for many years to work with the staff on ways to understand difference, ways to communicate and collaborate effectively, and ways to address and resolve interpersonal issues so they do not simmer under the surface. We no longer have a relationship with VISIONS, but many of the tools we learned from them are still used.

W - Z

Wardens of a Parish

The wardens are officers of a parish. Two wardens are typically selected to serve with members of the vestry. The wardens are generally ranked “senior” and “junior.” The mode of selection and duties of the wardens are determined by state law, diocesan canon, or parish by-laws. Historically, in the Church of England, one warden was named by the priest and the other chosen by the congregation.

The senior warden is usually the primary elected lay leader of the congregation, and serves as a principal liaison between the parish and the rector. The senior warden typically presides at vestry meetings in the absence of the rector.

The junior warden is often given responsibility for the upkeep of the parish buildings and grounds. The junior warden presides at vestry meetings if both the rector and the senior warden are absent.

At All Saints, both wardens are chosen from the current vestry. The rector or priest-in-charge selects the senior warden, and the retiring vestry class along with the current junior warden select the next junior warden. Both wardens serve a one-year term based on the vestry calendar. The current bylaws set the vestry year as April 1 through March 31.

Washington National Cathedral

George Washington was the first person to suggest a “great church for national purposes in the capital city.” In 1893 Congress granted a charter to the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation of the District of Columbia that empowered it to establish a cathedral. The land was purchased in 1898, and the cornerstone was laid in 1907. After eighty-three years of construction, the cathedral was consecrated on Sept. 30, 1990. The Bishop who oversaw the purchase of the land envisioned the cathedral as “a House of Prayer for All People,” especially at times of significance for the nation such as crises, celebrations, and funerals. The cathedral is the seat of the Bishop of Washington. As it was being built and finished it also became “by custom and tradition” the seat of the Presiding Bishop. It is the sixth largest cathedral in the world. It is also known as the Washington Cathedral and the National Cathedral.

Watch

A period of “staying awake” for spiritual reasons. Traditionally, watches have been kept before the Blessed Sacrament on the night of Maundy Thursday at the “Altar of Repose.”

Wine

Alcoholic beverage made from the fermented juice of grapes. Wine and bread are the essential elements of the Eucharist. Wine is associated with celebration, fellowship, and joy.