



From various web-pages

In the pre-Reformation English Parish Church, the Catholic Mass was celebrated several times a day at altars in the chancel and nave. Part of the mass requires the ritual washing of vessels. Most altars had a piscina beside them, which was a basin with a drain set in the wall. Water was poured from a jug over the vessels to wash them; the water drained away into sanctified ground in the churchyard. Piscinas fell into disuse at the Reformation in England.

Definitions

- 1) Hand basin with drain, usually set against or into a wall.
- 2) A niche in the wall...for the ablutions of the priests hands and of the chalice and paten at Mass. It...has a drain connected with the earth, to receive the water used for the ceremonies.
- 3) A stone basin with a drain, used for washing the mass vessels
- 4) The holy water basin in a chapel.
- 5) A basin with a drain directly to the ground where water used in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is poured; or where the first water used in cleaning the vessels and linens of the Holy Communion is poured.

All Saints Church has three piscinas. The first piscina on the entrance where the Catholic stoop would traditionally be positioned. The second piscina is in the Nave towards the Chancel. The third piscina is in the meeting room.