

Catechetical Curriculum Guidelines

Glossary for Kindergarten to Grade Six

“The final criterion for the presentation of the Christian message is that it should foster a common language of the faith so that it may be proclaimed, celebrated, lived, and prayed in words familiar to all the faithful.”

National Directory for Catechesis #25I

- A -

Absolution: Absolution is a prayer spoken by the priest within the Sacrament of Penance. Through the Church the priest has the power to absolve (forgive) sin through a special prayer, along with the Sign of the Cross which is part of the rite of this sacrament. *CCC 1424, 1442, 1449, 1453, 1461, 1480*

Adoration: Adoration is the act of giving worship. The Bible tells us that adoration is due to God alone. During the Mass and before the Blessed Sacrament a person uses bodily gestures to display adoration by bowing or genuflection. The mind and heart must be united to the actions of the body. *CCC 2096, 2628*

Adultery: Those who are married vow themselves to one another for life. This special mutual love is exclusive, meaning it can only exist between the married couple. If either spouse is unfaithful they have committed adultery. The Sixth Commandment forbids adultery. *CCC 2380-2381*

Advent: Advent begins each new liturgical year. This season lasts about four weeks before Christmas. It is a time of preparation for awaiting the joyous birth of Jesus Christ. The liturgical color is purple. *CCC 524*

Advocate: Advocate refers to two things:

1. Jesus is our advocate to God the Father; He prays and intercedes on our behalf. *CCC 519*
2. The Holy Spirit is also our advocate. He comes to our side and assists us through His prayers and intercessions, on our behalf, to God the Father and God the Son. *CCC 692*

All Saints' Day: All Saints' Day is a liturgical celebration of the Church which is celebrated on November 1st each year. This feast honors all those who have died in union with God. On this day the Church recognizes and celebrates all saints, those who have been officially canonized and those whose names are unknown to us.

All Souls' Day: All Souls' Day is a liturgical celebration of the Church which is celebrated on November 2nd each year. In this celebration the living members of the Catholic Church pray for all souls that have died. We pray in the hope that they will one day be in heaven with God.

Altar: A sacred table where the bread and wine are changed into Body and Blood of Jesus, and where Jesus is offered to the Father. *CCC 1182, 1383*

Ambo: A podium or stand from which the readings of Sacred Scripture are proclaimed. Other uses may include the giving of the homily, the general intercessions, and announcements. *CCC 1184*

Amen: This Hebrew word which means “truly” or “so be it.” We often end our prayers with “Amen.” *CCC 1061-1064, 1348, 2856, 2865*

Angel: Created by God, angels are pure spirits. They are without bodies, have minds and wills. Each person has a guardian angel. *CCC 328-336*

Anger: One of the seven capital sins. The sin of anger is when one has a desire for revenge in reaction to a wrong done. It is not necessarily sinful to feel angry, anger becomes sinful when it desires the harm of another or disturbs one’s living a healthy life. *CCC 1866, 2302*

Annunciation: The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary telling her that she would become the mother of the Son of God. Mary accepted God’s will and said, “Yes (Mary’s Fiat).” This feast is celebrated on March 25th. *CCC 484, 494*

Anoint: To anoint is a religious practice of using oil to bless a person, place or thing which calls forth God’s blessing on that which is anointed. Anointing is used during the following Sacraments:

1. Baptism
2. Confirmation
3. Anointing of the Sick
4. Holy Orders

The oils for anointing are blessed by the Bishop once a year at the Mass of Chrism during Holy Week. *CCC 1241-1242, 1291, 1293-1295, 1297-1300, 1499-1525, 1574*

Anointing of the Sick: One of the seven sacraments. This sacrament is administered by a priest, who anoints those who are ill on the forehead and hands with the Oil of Sick. The special grace of this sacrament unites the ill person’s

sufferings with the sufferings of Christ on the Cross and gives them strength and peace to endure those sufferings in a Christ-like manner. If the ill person is unable to receive the Sacrament of Penance, this anointing also forgives their sins. Sometimes God wills them to be physically healed of their illness through this sacrament. *CCC 1499-1525*

Anointing with Oil: This is an ancient practice. Anointing a person with oil signifies that one is “sealed” and made sacred through the rituals used in the Sacraments. The Bishop blesses the oils used each year during Holy Week at a celebration called the Chrism Mass. *CCC 1183, 1241, 1289, 1293-1297*

Apostles: The twelve apostles were chosen by Jesus and sent forth to preach the Gospel to all people. *CCC 3, 76, 81, 96, 857, 869, 2032*

Apostles’ Creed: The Apostles’ Creed is a profession of belief. It is inspired by the teaching of the apostles and contains the fundamental twelve statements of Catholic belief. We profess:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

CCC 194

Apostolic: Apostolic refers to anything that has its beginning from the time of the Apostles. An apostolic blessing would be given by a Pope or Bishop who are both successors of St. Peter. *CCC 857-865; 863, 869*

Apostolic Succession: Apostolic Succession is the passing on of the mission and authority granted to the apostles by Jesus Christ to later generations through, primarily, the laying on of hands. The first apostles passed on their authority to the first bishops of the Church who have, in an unbroken chain, passed on their authority to the next generation of bishops. *CCC 77, 861, 1087*

Ark of the Covenant: A chest which contained the tablets of the Ten Commandments given to Moses, which was a symbol of the Old Covenant. The Israelites carried the Ark with them on their journeys, and it was eventually brought

to the temple in Jerusalem by King David. After this first temple was destroyed, the whereabouts of the Ark became unknown. *CCC 2058*

Ascension: This event took place forty days after Christ's Resurrection. It is Jesus' ascent into heaven. *CCC 659, 663, 665, 668*

Ash Wednesday: Ash Wednesday is a liturgical celebration beginning the Season of Lent in which Christians remember our mortality, our eventual end in death, and promise to turn back to the Lord.

Assembly: An assembly is a gathering of people. In Church, God's people gathered for Mass or other liturgical celebrations are often referred to as the "assembly." *CCC 751-752, 777-778, 1098*

Assumption (Feast of): The Catholic dogma which teaches that Mary, free from the stain of Original Sin, was taken up to Heaven, body and soul, when her earthly life was completed. The Church celebrates this feast of Mary on August 15. *CCC 966*

Atonement: The restoration of friendship between humanity and God through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christ atoned for our sins. *CCC 604, 606-619*

Authority: A person with authority has the power to make decisions and govern those entrusted to their care. All people who have positions of authority have the responsibility to justly use their power.

- B -

Babylonian Exile: Refers to the years (70 or so) that the Israelites were taken into captivity by the king of Babylon. This national tragedy was prophesized in the Old Testament book of Jeremiah.

Baptism: Baptism is the first Sacrament of Initiation. Through this sacrament, by either the pouring on of water or immersion in water, with the proper use of the ritual one is freed from Original Sin. A person receives the gift of the Holy Spirit and becomes an adopted child of God. The person becomes united to Christ through grace and becomes a member of the community of believers. Baptism is only received once. *CCC 977-979, 985, 1213-1216, 1226-1228, 1253, 1262-1262, 1272-1284*

Baptismal Font: Every church has a special area where Baptism takes place. A font contains the blessed water to be used for Baptism. There are different types of fonts. Some are at the entrance of Church. Others are shaped like basins placed to the side of the front of the Church. Some churches have pools for Baptism by immersion. CCC 1238

Beatitudes: The beatitudes bring special happiness. Jesus spoke of these blessings during the Sermon on the Mount, according to the Gospel of St. Matthew. The blessings are:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil

against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

CCC 1716-1718

Bethlehem: Bethlehem is a town in Palestine, ten miles southwest of Jerusalem. It was there that Christ was born of the Virgin Mary.

Bible: The bible is a very special book that contains in writing God's Word. Because it contains many smaller books it is like a small library. It is divided into the Old Testament (46 books) and the New Testament (27 books). In the Old Testament are the stories of Creation and Covenant. The Ten Commandments can be found in either the Book of Exodus (*Ex 20:2-17*) or the Book of Deuteronomy (*Deut 5:6-21*). There is also the Book of Psalms, prayer poems prayed by Christ and still used today. The New Testament has the four Gospels that tell about the life and work of Jesus. There is also the Acts of the Apostles written by Luke. It also has many epistles (letters), some of which are written by the apostle Paul and the Book of Revelation. CCC 105-108, 120-130, 140

Bishop: Appointed by the Pope, a bishop is a successor of the Apostles. He is placed in charge of a diocese. He is called by God to teach and be a shepherd of the people in his care. CCC 77, 861-862, 869, 886, 894-896, 1555-1561, 1594

Blessed Sacrament: The Blessed Sacrament, also known as the Eucharist, is Christ really and substantially present. By the power of God and the consecration of the priest, the bread and wine at Mass are changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. The Blessed Sacrament is the most important sacrament of the Church because it is Jesus Himself, from whom all sacraments draw their power and to which all the other sacraments are ultimately directed. God, in His wisdom and love, provides the Blessed Sacrament for us as a way for us to be really and truly in the presence of Jesus. When we receive the Blessed Sacrament in communion, Jesus lives in us in a special way, and remains in us as long as the appearances of the bread and wine remain in us. We must receive the Blessed Sacrament at least once a year during the Easter Season, but we are encouraged to receive Jesus more frequently, even at daily Mass. We must not receive the Blessed Sacrament while we have any mortal sins which have not been forgiven. CCC 1084, 1116, 1123, 1131, 1330, 1374-1381, 1389, 1415, 1417

Blessed Trinity: See *Trinity*

Blessing: A ritual where God is asked to show special favor to something or someone. Objects which are blessed are considered holy and are to be treated reverently. Blessings are given by the Bishop, priests, or deacons. Parents may bless their children. You “bless yourself” when you make the Sign of the Cross. CCC 1078, 1671-1672, 2626, 2645

Blood of Christ: The wine becomes truly the Blood of Christ after being consecrated by the priest. While it still has the appearance of wine, we know that it is truly the Blood of Christ. CCC 1376, 1396

Body of Christ: The Body of Christ may mean two things:

1. The Church is the Body of Christ, and all of Her members are parts of that body, and Christ is the head. We become members of this body when we are baptized. CCC 787-791
2. A host becomes the Body of Christ after being consecrated by a priest. CCC 1374, 1396

- C -

Canaan: Canaan refers to two things:

1. Canaan was the grandson of Noah, the son of Ham.
2. The land that was promised to Abraham. Abraham was called out of his native land in Ur to go to Canaan. God then promised Abraham that this would be the land of his descendants. After the Israelites escape Egypt in the Exodus they head for Canaan. After forty years of wandering they finally conquer the peoples of this land and settle in Canaan. The land of Canaan is roughly the nation we now call Israel.

Canaanites: The Canaanites are the people that settled in the land of Canaan. They were continually a problem for the Israelites because they worshiped pagan gods which led the Israelites away from God.

Canon of Scripture: The official list of all the books in the Sacred Scripture. The Canon of Scripture contains 46 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament. *CCC 210*

Canonize: The declaration made by the Pope that a deceased person is to be venerated as a Saint. This usually takes place after a lengthy and thorough investigation by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints. Two miracles through the intercession of the deceased are usually required before canonization. *CCC 828*

Capital Sins: The capital sins are serious sins that often lead to much more serious sins. Capital sins are often called the “seven deadly sins, they include: lust, greed, envy, pride, sloth, gluttony and anger. *CCC 1866*

Cardinal Virtues: The four most central virtues: prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude. “Cardinal” comes from the Latin word “cardo” which means hinge, and the other virtues depend on the cardinal virtues as a door depends on its hinges. *CCC 1805-1809*

- *Prudence* is the habit of choosing wisely that which should be done or not done.
- *Justice* is the habit of giving each person their rightful due.
- *Temperance* is the habit of controlling our desire for pleasure.
- *Fortitude* is the habit of proper bravery or courage in the face of fear.

CCC 1834-1838

Catholic: Catholics are people who follow faithfully the teachings of Jesus Christ. They are also called Christians. Catholic Christians believe that the Pope is the Vicar of Christ and successor of St. Peter who was appointed by Christ. As vicar he acts in the person of Jesus Christ. CCC 830-831

Chalice: A chalice is a sacred vessel used at Mass. It is used to contain the Blood of Christ. CCC 1334-1335, 1339, 1365, 1396, 1412

Charity (Love): Charity, also called love, is one of the theological virtues. The virtue of charity, the greatest of the virtues, allows us to love God and our neighbor out of love of God. CCC 1822

Chastity: Chastity means living in a way that respects God's plan for sexuality. All people are called to live chastity in their vocation in different ways. God wants the love between a man and a woman in marriage to be the place where new human life comes into the world. The love between a husband and a wife is meant to be a reflection of the life of the Holy Trinity, in which the love between God the Father and God the Son is so real that it is actually another person – the Holy Spirit. In a similar way, God has made it possible for the love between a husband and wife to be so real that it also becomes another person – their child. Chastity is the virtue which ensures that our thoughts, words, attitudes and actions respect this beautiful gift of sexuality. CCC 2337

Chosen People: A reference to the Israelites of the Old Testament, based upon God's special election of Abraham and his descendents to receive His favor, His protection, and His revelation through the prophets. "For you are a people sacred to the Lord, your God, who has chosen you from all the nations on the face of the earth to be a people peculiarly his own (*Deuteronomy 14:2*)." CCC 59-64, 72

Chrism: Chrism is one of the holy oils used by the Church. It is a mixture of olive-oil and balsam (a sweet smelling tree-sap). Anointing a person with chrism is necessary to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Chrism is also used to anoint the newly baptized and newly ordained priests and bishops. In addition to anointing people, chrism is used to anoint and consecrate sacred objects such as churches, chalices, and altars. CCC 1241, 1289, 1291, 1294, 1297, 1300, 1320

Christ: From the Greek "Christos" which means "anointed one." The Old Testament provided that prophets, priests, and kings were anointed with oil as a sign of the dignity of their office and favor from God. Jesus is THE Christ, or

Anointed One, because he perfectly embodied these three offices of prophet, priest, and king. CCC 436, 453, 727, 745, 783, 786

Christian: Christians are people who believe in Jesus Christ. They follow His teachings because they believe He is the Son of God and the savior of humankind. CCC 942, 1289, 1816

Christian Initiation: When one becomes a Catholic Christian they are baptized. This is the first sacrament which frees us from original sin and united us to Christ. The Sacrament of Confirmation seals and strengthens our commitment to Christ and His Church. The Sacrament of the Eucharist nourishes us with the very Body and Blood of Christ. These three are the Sacraments which are also called Christian Initiation. CCC 1211-1213, 1229-1230, 1285, 1322

Christmas: The liturgical celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ which is celebrated on December 25th each year. The celebration of Christmas is preceded by a period of reflection and penance known as Advent. The liturgical season of Christmas extends from the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve until the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. CCC 525, 563, 1171

Church (the building): The building where the people gather to worship God. A church is a holy place, set aside for a sacred purpose. The church is where the sacraments are usually celebrated.

Church: Church is the People of God who believe in the Trinity. Church is also called the Body of Christ. People believe the Holy Spirit guides the Church. People become members of the Church when they receive the Sacrament of Baptism and are united to Christ in a divine relationship. CCC 688, 752, 798, 1416

Ciborium: A sacred vessel used to contain consecrated hosts. Usually it is shaped like a chalice, but with a removable cover.

Common Good: Common Good is one of the basic principles of Catholic Social Teaching. It means that each person's dignity and rights are respected and the dignity and rights of the entire world are at the same time respected. When making decisions each person is responsible for thinking about the common good. One must not commit an act that is good for themselves or for their group but neglects the good of others. The government is particularly responsible for

ensuring that the laws of the nation protect the good of their own people and all the people of the world. *CCC 1905-1912*

Communal Prayer: Prayer can be said to be communal anytime a group of Christians come together to pray. Some treasured forms of communal prayer in the Church are the Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours and the rosary.

Communion: Communion has two meanings:

1. Communion refers to a closeness or unity, and in this sense we speak of the Communion of Saints since they are united in Christ.
2. Holy Communion refers to the reception of the Eucharist and the resulting moral and spiritual union of the soul with Christ. The worthy reception of Holy Communion requires one to be in the state of grace and free from mortal sin.

CCC 950, 960, 1331, 1385-1387, 1415, 1457

Communion of Saints: The belief of the Catholic Church that there is a spiritual union between the saints in heaven, the souls in purgatory and the faithful living on earth. This belief is expressed in the Apostles Creed. *CCC 946, 953, 957-959, 962*

Community: Those who believe in Christ are joined to Him through the life of grace. Through Christ they become members of his Mystical Body. They are members of a parish community, a diocese or other groups gathered in fidelity to Christ. *CCC 779, 1102, 2179*

Compassion: One who feels compassion for another is keenly aware of, and in a sense shares in, the other's suffering. Compassion ought to move one to mercy, which would mean acting to relieve the suffering if possible. *CCC 2447*

Concupiscence: Because of the disobedience of our first parents, Adam and Eve, there is a moral feebleness and inclination towards sins which is common to all fallen humanity. Thus, this disordered desire to choose to disobey God has been inherited by all since the fall of Adam and Eve. Concupiscence can be a daily experience each time we are tempted to do wrong. *CCC 400, 405, 2515*

Confession: Confession takes place during the Sacrament of Penance. A person confesses his or her sins to the priest who represents Christ. If the person is truly sorry for his or her sins, the priest grants absolution and sin is forgiven. CCC 1455-1446, 1548

Confirmation: At the Sacrament of Confirmation the person receives the gifts of the Holy Spirit that “seals” and strengthens the baptized person to take on the full responsibilities of the Church. CCC 698, 900, 941, 1121, 1285, 1303-05, 1316

Conscience: Conscience is that natural “awareness” each person has to recognize whether they are doing right or wrong. The teachings of the Church inform a person’s conscience. Conscience formation is a life-long task. God’s grace strengthens the conscience to choose rightly. CCC 1776-78, 1783-85, 1795, 1798, 1802

Consecrate: Consecrate has two meanings:

1. The blessing of a person or thing to set them apart for God. Priests are consecrated to their office and agree to set themselves apart so that they can serve God and the Church. The church building is also consecrated to God and set apart to be a place of prayer and worship. CCC 1672
2. The bread and wine at Mass are consecrated and blessed so that they will become the Body and the Blood of Christ. CCC 1352-1353

Consecrated Life: The consecrated life is one of the ways people live out their vocation in life. The vocations to priesthood, marriage, and single life are the other main three. The consecrated life is a way of greater intimacy with Christ. It is rooted in Baptism and the consecrated person pledges to live totally for God, growing in charity, serving the Church in special ways and being a sign of eternal life. There are various forms of consecrated life. See CCC 917-933. The three calls within Holy Orders are called the clerical state. Marriage and the single life are called the lay state (laity). *Canon Law 588* identifies that “the state of consecrated life by its very nature is neither clerical or lay.”

- Women who have consecrated their life to the service of God, but do not take ‘solemn vows’, are referred to as sisters and are part of a Religious Institute. A ‘nun’ is a woman who has been consecrated to God by the diocesan bishop and does profess solemn vows. She may live in community or as a solitary person in the world.

- Some men consecrate their life to the service of God and are part of a Religious Institute. They are called brothers. Brothers do not receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

See CCC 914-933 for the various forms of consecrated life.

Contrition: Contrition is that sorrow and repentance for having offended God by sinning. It recognizes God's mercy and at the same time calls the person to make the determination to not sin again. CCC 1451

Corporal Works of Mercy: Corporal comes from the Latin word 'corpus' which means body. The Corporal Works of Mercy are:

- feeding the hungry
- giving drink to the thirsty
- sheltering the homeless
- clothing the naked
- visiting the sick
- visiting those in prison
- burying the dead

The first six Corporal Works of Mercy are taken from the Gospel according to St. Matthew (25: 34 – 40). CCC 2447

Courage: See *Fortitude*

Covenant: A covenant is an agreement that exists between two parties. God established different covenants with His people in the Old Testament. One example is the love and partnership God made with Moses and His people. In the New Testament Christ's life, death and Resurrection began the New Covenant. The people who follow Jesus Christ believe in God's loving fidelity, His steadfast love. Each baptized person who obeys God's laws keeps this covenant relationship. God is eternally faithful. People, who have free will, can break this covenant with God by not obeying God's will. CCC 56, 62, 73, 203-204, 357, 577, 781, 839, 1102, 1612, 1961, 1964, 1965-1972, 2056, 2058, 2810

Covet: To covet is to have an inordinate attachment or desire for something. Covetousness is known more widely as avarice or greed. CCC 1866

Creation: To create is to make something out of nothing. Creation is the way in which God brought all things into existence. God is called Creator because He alone keeps the whole universe in existence. CCC 290, 296-298, 317, 320, 337

Creator: One of the many attributes of God is that He is the Creator of life in all its many forms: humans, animals, land, sea, and sky. CCC 279, 290, 317

Creed: Creeds are summaries of the faith. They are called creeds because they often start with the Latin word “credo” which means “I believe.” Two of the most important creeds are the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed. CCC 187, 194-196

Crucifix: A crucifix is the image of Christ on the cross. The cross and the crucifix are very important Christian symbols.

Crucifixion: Crucifixion was a form of punishment used at the time of Christ’s life on earth. When Christ was condemned to die for our sins His hands and feet were nailed to a cross until He died. CCC 615-619

Cruets: Cruets are vessels used at Mass. One cruet is used to contain the wine that will be poured into the chalice and will then become the Blood of Christ. Another cruet is used to contain the water that will be added to the wine, as well as used to purify (wash) the priest’s hands and other vessels.

- D -

Deacon: A deacon is a man who is ordained to minister in the Church through the Sacrament of Holy Orders. The word “deacon” comes from the Greek word that means “servant.” The deacon represents Jesus Christ as the servant to the poor and needy. Deacons are to assist the Bishop and his priests. Their ministry includes assisting the priest at Mass in ways such as proclaiming the Gospel and delivering the homily, celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism, witnessing marriages, bring *viaticum* to the dying, presiding over funerals, administering blessings and also can administer the Church sacramentals. Deacons cannot celebrate Mass, hear confession, or anoint the sick. Among other responsibilities within their parish, the deacon also serves in charitable ministries such as reaching out to those in prisons, the homeless and the homebound or elderly. Deacons may be *transitional* or *permanent*. Deacons who will

continue on to the priesthood are called ‘transitional deacons’. The call to diaconate continues for transitional deacons even after their ordination to the priesthood. Men who are married can only be ordained as ‘permanent deacons’ and do not continue on to the priesthood. A single man who is ordained as a permanent deacon makes the commitment to celibacy. CCC 1569-1571, 1588, 1596

Decalogue: See also *Ten Commandments*.

Deposit of Faith: The one source of truth divinely revealed by God which is contained in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. The Deposit of Faith has been faithfully guarded and preserved by the Magisterium of the Catholic Church so that none of what has been revealed to us by God has been lost. CCC 84, 97

Dignity: See *Dignity of the Human Person*

Dignity of the Human Person: Dignity is a word used to describe the life of each person who is made in God’s image. The Church recognizes that each person has a right to freedom of belief in God.

Diocese: A geographic territory or division which marks the boundaries of the jurisdiction of the Bishop. All Catholics in a diocese are under the authority and pastoral care of the Bishop who resides there. CCC 833

Discernment: Discernment is the grace to choose the good for one’s life. St. Paul shows in *1 Corinthians 12:10* that the Holy Spirit helps us to recognize the good we should follow.

Disciples: Disciples are those who follow a leader or teacher. At the time of Christ’s life on earth he had many disciples who came to believe in Him as the One sent by God. All baptized people are disciples of Christ. As disciples they are called to take “on the mind of Christ” and to witness to others the beauty of being one with Christ. CCC 787, 1693, 1816, 2427

Discriminate: A person discriminates against another person or group or persons when they exclude from an activity or deprive them of a right on the basis of their race, gender, age, educational level, etc. It is wrong to discriminate against another person. All people are made in the image of God and should be treated fairly and with respect.

Divine: Divine expresses that which is of God. Divine is in the spiritual realm and comes about through God's grace. Jesus Christ is fully human and divine. We take on divine life at Baptism. Divine life and grace are synonymous.

Divine Inspiration: See also *Inspiration*.

Divine Providence: Divine Providence refers to how God makes all things good due to His love for humanity. There are many instances in Sacred Scripture where we see God's divine providence where God, in wake of evil committed by humans, is still powerful enough to achieve His purpose. As humans we can cooperate with God's divine providence by trusting in Him. CCC 302-305

Divine Revelation: See also *Revelation*.

Domestic Church: The family – mother, father and children – are sometimes called the 'domestic church.' CCC 1656, 1666, 2204, 2685

- E -

Easter Sunday: Easter Sunday celebrates the day Christ rose from the dead. This event is called the Resurrection. It is the most special feast of the liturgical year. Each Sunday reminds us of Christ's Resurrection. CCC 640, 647, 1169

Ecclesiastes: A book in the Old Testament which instructs its readers in the ways of wisdom.

Emmanuel: Emmanuel means "God with us." From the time of the Old Testament the people waited for God to come and dwell with them. We call Christ Emmanuel because He is the fulfillment of all their wishes.

Envy: One of the seven Capital Vices or "seven deadly sins." Envy is the disordered sorrow felt in face of the good fortune of another, and implies that one feels deprived of the same good fortune. CCC 2538-2540, 2553-2554

Epiclesis: Epiclesis is the action of the priest when he extends his hands before the Consecration in the Eucharistic Prayer, calling down the Holy Spirit upon the bread and wine at Mass. CCC 1105-06, 1109

Epiphany: Epiphany is a special feast after Christmas on January 6. It is in memory of the visit of the Magi from the East. Their coming to see Jesus signifies that Jesus came to manifest Himself to save the whole world. CCC 528

Eternal Life: Life on earth is a preparation for eternal life. On earth a person lives in time, measured by years, days and hours. Eternity has no time. People who die enter into eternal life. (CCC 679, 1020) Catholics believe after death there are the four last things:

- Judgment CCC 1021-22
- Purgatory CCC 1031
- Heaven CCC 1023
- Hell CCC 1033

Eternity: See also *Eternal Life*.

Eucharist: See also *Sacrament of the Eucharist*.

Eucharistic Liturgy: See also *Sacrament of the Eucharist*.

Eucharistic Prayer: The Eucharistic Prayer is the most important and central prayer of the entire Mass. It is a long prayer during which the Church asks God the Father to accept our offerings, to bless the living and the dead, and most importantly to look upon the sacrifice of Christ, His Son. Through this prayer and the action of the Holy Spirit, Christ is made present on the altar through a miraculous change of the bread and wine into His body and blood. CCC 1352-1354

Evangelize: To evangelize is to give witness to the spirit of Christ through ones life by acting in his name and helping others to conversion and belief in Christ.
CCC 905, 1122, 2044, 2472

Everlasting Life: See also *Eternal Life*.

Evil: Evil describes the lack of good. There are two kinds of evil: physical and moral.

1. *Physical evil* describes an absence of a due physical good – a destructive tornado would be a physical evil. CCC 310
2. *Moral evil* is possible only for rational creatures with free will – humans and angels – since it describes the lack of acting in accordance with the moral law. CCC 311

Examination of Conscience: To make an examination of conscience means to look inside one’s own heart and ask for the grace to see our thoughts, words, and actions as Christ sees them. We do this to discover where we have not lived up to our responsibilities, where we have not been virtuous, and where we may have sinned. An examination of conscience ought to be followed by sorrow for sin and a promise to avoid sin in the future. We must examine our conscience often, but especially before the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. CCC 1454, 1456, 1779

Exile: The major event in Jewish history when the northern tribes, Israel, were taken from the Promised Land by the Assyrians and the southern tribes, Judah, were taken from the Promised Land by the Babylonians and spread to all corners of the earth. For the Jewish people the exile is an event of great significance because they recognize that they have turned away from the worship of the true God and now they must turn back to Him with their whole hearts. Eventually, some of Judah is returned to the Promised Land but it is not until Christ that their hope for a new kingdom is fulfilled.

Exodus: The word “exodus” comes from the Greek meaning “to go out” or “to leave”; and the book is so named because it describes the Jews release from captivity in Egypt and their subsequent wanderings in the desert, during which time they received the Ten Commandments of the Law. CCC 62, 130, 2057

- F -

Faith: In response to God’s revelation of Himself, faith is believing in a God who cannot be seen with human eyes. God has revealed Himself through all the works of creation, to Abraham, Moses, and the People of Israel, but most especially through his Son, Jesus Christ, as handed on in the Scriptures and the Living Tradition of the Church. Through faith a person accepts the message of Jesus and entrusts themselves to Christ in a personal relationship which is nurtured through grace. CCC 26, 142, 143-144, 151, 153, 178, 182, 1814-1816

Faithfulness: See *Fidelity*

False Witness: To bear false witness against someone is to make a public statement knowingly against the truth. This is forbidden by the Eighth Commandment, and is an offense against justice.

Fasting: A form of bodily penance and discipline where one voluntarily limits the amount or kind of food or drink taken. To fast is to imitate Christ who fasted for forty days before beginning his public ministry. The Church prescribes fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, as well as requires an absolute fast from all but water and necessary medications for at least one hour prior to receiving Holy Communion. CCC 538, 1387, 1438, 2043

Father: One who generates another in His own image. God the Father is one of the Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity. He is truly Father because God the Son was begotten from Him from all eternity. In a more limited way, men are fathers of their own children. We apply the term father to priests, as they are our spiritual fathers in the faith. Jesus taught us to call God our Father in the sense that we have become His children through adoption. CCC 198, 238-240

Feast Day: A special day set apart in the liturgical year dedicated to the honor of God, a sacred mystery, Mary, the angels, or the saints. CCC 1169, 1172-1173

Fidelity: Faithfulness or adherence to someone or something. Thus, fidelity to one's spouse means being faithful to him or her and adhering to one's marriage vows. Fidelity to the Church means adhering to laws, precepts, and teachings given to the faithful. Fidelity to God means loving Him and obeying His commandments.

Forgiveness: To forgive means to pardon someone for an offense. Jesus taught that all people must forgive others who hurt or offend them. Catholics have a special sacrament called Reconciliation and Penance. Through this sacrament they receive Christ's forgiveness when they confess their sins to a priest. CCC 976, 979, 981, 986-87, 1421, 1441, 1486, 1496

Fortitude: Fortitude is one of the Cardinal Virtues. Fortitude is a firmness of will to do what is right despite the circumstances. It is the habit of proper bravery or courage in the face of fear. CCC 1808, 1837

Free Will: Free will is the capacity of a person to choose either what is right or wrong. God has given each person a free will and reason. God invites each person to be united with Him. People have the moral responsibility to learn to know what is right and wrong. *CCC 1704, 1711, 1853*

- G -

Genesis: Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament. This book begins with the creation of the earth and ends with the death of Joseph in Egypt. It includes the story of creation, the creation of Adam and Eve, Original Sin and the fall, the story of Noah, the call to Abraham and the covenant with him, and the origin of the Jewish people. *CCC 289*

Genuflect: To genuflect is to bend the right knee to the floor and then return to a standing position. Before the Blessed Sacrament it is an act of adoration. During the Mass the priest genuflects on three occasions. *CCC 1378*

Gifts of the Holy Spirit: There are seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:

- Wisdom
- Understanding
- Knowledge
- Courage
- Counsel
- Piety
- Fear of the Lord

These are received through the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation. *CCC 1831, 1845*

Glorious Mysteries: The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary are five mysteries that are to be reflected upon during each decade. They are: the Resurrection, the Ascension, the Descent of the Holy Spirit, the Assumption, and the Crowning of Mary as the Queen of Heaven.

God: Through Divine Revelation we know that God is the Blessed Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. He is a personal God whom each person can know and love. God has no beginning and no end; He never changes. God knows all things. He created the entire world and everything continues to exist because of Him. *CCC 203-204, 232-235, 301*

Godparents: Godparents are those who act as sponsors for people at the time of their Baptism. They are expected to have a certain amount of responsibility for the growth of the Catholic faith in the lives of their godchildren. CCC 1255

Good Friday: Good Friday is the name given to the day when Christ was crucified on the Cross for our salvation. It is followed by Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday, the day Christ arose from the dead.

Gospel: A Gospel tells the story of Jesus Christ: His life, passion, death, and Resurrection. The New Testament has four Gospels written by the four Evangelists. Each time the Mass is celebrated there is a Gospel reading. CCC 124, 125-27, 139

Gospel Reading: See *Gospel*

Gossip: Gossip is idle conversation about others. Gossip may offend against the *virtue of justice* if false rumors are spread or against the *virtue of charity* if it violates Christ's command to love our neighbor.

Grace: Grace is a divine life within which strengthens us to do the good and be like Christ. At Baptism we begin a new relationship with Jesus Christ. This new life is called grace. By doing what God wants, each of us can grow stronger in the life of grace. CCC 1266, 1272, 2008, 2017

Great Commandment: In the Old Testament God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. However the Great Commandment condenses the ten into simply to love God with all one's being and to love one's neighbor as oneself.

Greed: Greed is another word for avarice or covetousness, one of the Capital Vices or "seven deadly sins." See *Covet*.

Guardian Angel: Each person has a guardian angel. They protect us from harm and help us to be good. Each person should pray to his or her guardian angel. CCC 336

- H -

Heaven: Life on earth is a preparation for eternal life with God. Heaven is that spiritual "being with God" forever for those who have been faithful to the teachings of Christ. CCC 1023-1025, 1029

Hell: Hell is a state of eternal separation from God, and the primary punishment of hell is the pain of loss of friendship with God. It is freely chosen by those who persist in serious sin until the moment of death, and reject God's mercy. Hell is the dwelling of Satan and the other fallen angels. *CCC 1033, 1035, 1057*

Heritage: Heritage means that which is inherited. The "heritage of faith" is a term used to describe the Sacred Deposit of Faith, entrusted to the apostles and their successors, and contained in Sacred Scripture and Holy Tradition.

Holy: That which is holy is God-like. From Baptism we are called to holiness of life, living in the Spirit of the Beatitudes. Objects and places which receive a special blessing through a ritual are also considered a holy place or holy object such as a rosary or medal.

Holy Communion: In the Sacrament of the Eucharist Jesus Christ becomes fully present, "Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity." The receiving of Christ under the appearances of "bread and wine" is called Holy Communion.

Holy Days (of Obligation): Holy Days of Obligation are very special feast days throughout the liturgical year. On these days people are obligated to attend Mass. In addition to each and every Sunday, in the United States the Holy Days are:

- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1)
- Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15)
- Solemnity of All Saints (November 1)
- Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (December 8)
- Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (December 25)

CCC 2042, 2177, 2180, 2185

Holy Family: The Holy Family is Jesus, his mother Mary, the Blessed Virgin, and her spouse St. Joseph. They lived their earthly life in Nazareth.

Holy Father: The Pope, successor of St. Peter, who leads the Church, is sometimes called the Holy Father.

Holy of Holies: The inner most room in the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem that contained the Ark of the Covenant. The Holy of Holies was considered so special to the Jews, because it contained the presence of God, that only the High Priest could enter once a year.

Holy Orders: Holy Orders is a sacrament, or more informally ordination. In this sacrament a bishop, through the laying on of hands, imparts grace to a man elevating him to the office of deacon, priest, or bishop. The sacrament imparts a spiritual and eternal character to the man, who henceforth is empowered to act as a minister of God. CCC 1121, 1576, 1582-1583

Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is God, the Third Person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is spoken of as the Comforter or Paraclete; the Promise of God; the Spirit of God; or the Holy Ghost. Symbolically and in art, the Holy Spirit is often represented in the form of a dove, or as flame or fire. CCC 152, 243, 245, 693, 696, 701

Holy Thursday: Holy Thursday is the liturgical celebration, during the Triduum, which commemorates Jesus' Last Supper with His apostles. At the Chrism Mass the bishop presides with his priests and blesses the oil that will be used for the Sacrament of Baptism, the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Anointing of the Sick throughout the coming year. At the evening Mass on Holy Thursday the Church celebrates the institution of the Sacraments of Eucharist and the Priesthood. At this celebration the priest washes the feet of some of the people in the parish to remind us that Jesus was a servant to all and He washed the feet of His apostles. CCC 1297

Holy Tradition: The transmission of all the practices and teachings of the Catholic Church as given to us by the Sacred Scriptures and the apostles. Sacred Tradition is preserved by the bishops of the Church and protected from loss. CCC 78, 80-82 174

Holy Water: Holy Water is water that has been blessed by a priest, who asks God to bless it and anyone who uses it. Holy Water is used to bless people and objects. The faithful use holy water to bless themselves at home or when entering a church. Holy Water is used during the Sacrament of Baptism. The water is a symbol of spiritual cleansing. Holy Water is a sacramental. CCC 694, 1668

Holy Week: Lent closes with a very special time called Holy Week. The special days of Holy Week are the last three – called the 'Triduum' which is a Latin word for 'three days.' This solemnity is the most special time of the Liturgical

Year. Beginning with the Mass on Thursday commemorating Christ's Last supper on Holy Thursday it concludes with Evening Prayer (Vespers) on Easter Sunday, which recalls Christ's passion, death, and Resurrection.

Homily: During the Liturgy of the Word at Mass, Sacred Scripture is read. The last reading is the Gospel. The homily then takes place. In the homily the priest explains the meaning of the Gospel, helping people to apply it to their lives. CCC 1100, 1154, 1349

Honor: To honor someone or something means to give them respect and cooperation. First and foremost, it is God that deserves honor. Each person is also called to honor those in leadership positions such as; the police, government officials, and parents. All children are called to honor their parents by obeying them, loving them, and caring for them in their old age. 449, 1900, 2132, 2197-2200

Hope: Hope is one of the Theological Virtues. The virtue of hope allows us to trust that we will have eternal life because God wills it. CCC 1817, 1843

Host: The host is a small, circular bread-like wafer consecrated by the priest at Mass. Through the consecration the host becomes the body of Jesus Christ and is distributed as Holy Communion during Mass and other times such as visits to the sick and home-bound. CCC 1378

Human Dignity: See *Dignity of the Human Person*

- I -

Idolatry: Idolatry is the worship of creature rather than the Creator who made it. Formal idolatry would be adoration given to the image or likeness of various "gods." Practical idolatry is the elevation of any created good above God, such as an excessive love of money, honor, or fame. CCC 1723, 2112-2114, 2424

Immaculate Conception: When Mary was conceived in her mother's womb, because of a special grace from God, she was free from the stain of Original Sin. Because she was to become the Mother of Jesus, who would come to save all people from sin, it was right that she have the privilege of being without Original Sin. This special feast of the Immaculate Conception occurs during the season of Advent on December 8. CCC 491

Imposition of Hands: The action of the imposition of hands is a practice since the early Church which conveys the action of God's power to bless or consecrate. Christ imposed hands when curing the sick (*Mk 6:5; Lk 4:40*). The Sacrament of Holy Orders has the laying on of hands as the Bishop ordains priests. The laying on of hands occurs in the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and at the 'epiclesis' of the Mass. During the Sacrament of Reconciliation the priest extends his hands when giving absolution. *CCC 699, 1504, 1519, 1556, 1558, 1573,*

Incense: Incense is dried tree sap that gives off a pleasing scent when burned. The smoke that rises from burned incense is a symbol of our prayers rising to God. Incense is sometimes used during the Mass for the altar, the book of the Gospels, the people and the priests or deacons, as well as the offering of bread and wine before consecration. *CCC 1154*

Initiation: See *Sacraments of Initiation*.

Inspiration: The action and influence of the Holy Spirit upon the human writers of Sacred Scripture. The writers cooperated with God. Therefore all that God wishes to reveal through the Scriptures for our salvation is without error. *CCC 76, 81, 105, 107, 108, 135-36*

Intemperance: Intemperance is a capital sin. It is also known as gluttony. The sin of intemperance is an unhealthy or excessive use of food and drink. *CCC 1866*

Intercession: Prayers said on the behalf of another. Christ is the primary intercessor. Mary, the angels, and the saints intercede before God on our behalf. We may say prayers of intercession on the behalf of the living or the dead. *CCC 1354, 1509, 2634, 2734*

Introductory Rites: The Introductory Rites are a way for the community gathered together to prepare for the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The Introductory Rites are:

- Entrance Procession
- Entrance Song
- Veneration of the Altar
- Sign of the Cross; Greeting and Introduction
- Act of Penitence

- Sunday Renewal of Baptism (Rite of Sprinkling)
- *Kyrie* (“Lord have mercy”)
- Gloria (“Glory to God”)
- Collect

The Liturgy of the Word begins with the first reading.

Isaiah: An Old Testament prophet who called the people of his time to repent and return to God giving up their evil ways.

Israel: The new name given by God to Jacob after he wrested with an angel of God. See *Genesis 32:25-32*.

Israelites: Used more or less interchangeable with “Hebrews” to denote the Jewish people. The descendants of Israel (Jacob), at one time divided into Twelve Tribes.

- J -

Jerusalem: An ancient city in the Palestine region, and which eventually became ruled by King David, who brought the Ark of the Covenant there. King Solomon, David’s son, built the First Temple. Christ entered the city of Jerusalem triumphantly, and it was there that He suffered His passion and death, and it was there that He rose again.

Jesus: Jesus is the incarnate Son of God; He is the second person in the Trinity. He was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered and died for the sins of humankind, arose on the third day, and will come again in glory. The name Jesus means “God Saves.” To Christians Jesus is the Savior who redeems all mankind from sin through His sacrifice on the cross. CCC 430, 629

Job: The book of Job is found in the Wisdom Literature in the Old Testament. This book chronicles a man who trusts deeply in God even to the point of losing everything he owns and all the people he loves. Although his friends and family tell him to lose faith in God, he continues worshipping God and God rewards him for his fidelity.

John the Baptist: The cousin of Jesus who was a prophet and foretold the coming of the Messiah. He is called “the Baptist” because he baptized people in the Jordan River and called them to repentance. He was the one who baptized Jesus Christ. CCC 523

Jordan River: The Jordan River is an important river that runs through the Holy Land. Many of the stories in the Sacred Scriptures take place on the banks of the Jordan River. For example, Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptist happened in the Jordan River.

Joseph: There are two important Josephs in Sacred Scripture:

1. Joseph was the son of Jacob who was sold by his brothers into slavery in Egypt. While in Egypt he became the prime minister to the Pharaoh. Joseph had a special gift from God called prophecy and he was able to tell the Pharaoh to save up grain for a coming famine. When the famine struck the land Egypt was the only place which still had food. Joseph’s brothers came to buy food from Egypt and were reunited with their brother. The whole family then moved to Egypt and lived there for 400 years.
2. Joseph is the foster father of Jesus Christ. He was scared to take Mary into his home until the angel of God told him that it was okay. Like a good father, Joseph cared for Jesus as his own son and Jesus obeyed him like a good son.

Joyful Mysteries: The Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary are five mysteries that are to be reflected upon during each decade. They are: the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Birth of Christ, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, and the Finding of Christ in the Temple.

Judah: Judah has two meanings:

1. Judah is one of Jacob’s twelve sons.
2. When the united kingdom of Israel divided into two kingdoms the southern two tribes united and were called Judah. It is the kingdom of Judah that carried on the family line of David, the family line of Jesus.

Judges: Judges has two meanings:

1. Temporary rulers of Israel, prior to God's election of King David as king uniting the Twelve Tribes.
2. The seventh book of the Old Testament describing this period.

Judgment: Judgment has two meanings:

1. The particular judgment is God's determination (or ratification) of a person's eternal destiny immediately after their death, either to heaven or hell, based upon his or her acceptance of God's law and love. *CCC 1021-1022*
2. The general judgment is the collective judgment of the entire human race at the end of time, inaugurated by Christ's Second Coming, and incorporating the prior particular judgment of individuals who had already died. After this judgment each person will once again possess their own bodies, which are forevermore immortal. Those in hell will be separated from God forever, unlike those in heaven who will have glorified bodies and eternal union with God. *CCC 677-679, 681-682, 1038*

Justice: Justice is one of the Cardinal Virtues. Justice is the habit of giving each person their rightful due. *CCC 1807, 1836*

- K -

Kingdom of God: The Kingdom of God is the glorious reign of God over heaven and earth that will bring love, peace, and justice to all. Jesus came to begin the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. He often preached about the Kingdom of God and its fulfillment in Heaven through the parables. All Christians are called to live a life that builds up the Kingdom of God on earth. At the end of time, the Kingdom will be realized in its fullness, and all God's faithful will dwell together in union with Him. The celebration of the Eucharist is a way we participate in the Kingdom of God. *CCC 763, 2816*

Knowledge: Is one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit which perfects a person's practical reason in making judgments. A person who possesses the gift of knowledge is able to know God's Revelation even without extensive study. This enables a person to better follow God's will. *CCC 1303, 1831*

- L -

Laity: The laity are those who live out their baptismal vocation through the lay state. The laity is called to sanctify the secular, meaning that in their homes and work place they live in Christ-like ways, growing in holiness of life. *CCC 897-901, 905, 2442*

Last Judgment: This is the judgment that will be given by God at the end of the world after Christ's Second Coming. Christ's coming in glory will signify the final triumph of good over evil. The living and the dead will be judged according to how they have been either faithful or unfaithful to the will of God as taught through Christ's life on earth. *CCC 677-679, 900, 681-682, 1038*

Last Supper: This was the Passover meal that Jesus had with His Apostles the night before His passion and death. At this supper Christ instituted the Sacraments of the Eucharist and Priesthood. *CCC 1323, 1329, 1337, 1366*

Law of Love: The Law of Love is described in the first two commandments: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart..." and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (*Mt 22:37-39*). *CCC 2055*

Lectionary: A book used during Mass that contains all of the Scripture readings for weekdays and Sundays. *CCC 1154*

Lector: A lector is a layperson who has been trained to properly proclaim the Word of God at liturgical celebrations.

Lent: Lent is a liturgical season of forty days, a time of preparation for Easter, the greatest feast of the liturgical year. During Lent the pain and sufferings Jesus endured for each person are remembered by acts of fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday are the days of the Paschal Mystery of Christ and are of the Triduum. *CCC 540*

Leviticus: The third book of the Old Testament which gives the laws and provisions for the liturgical duties of the Levites (the Old Testament priests) and the laws regarding Temple worship.

Liturgical Color: Each liturgical season in the Church has a special color. During Advent and Lent the priest's vestments and the church's decorations are violet. During the seasons of Christmas and Easter the liturgical color is

white. In Ordinary Time the priest's vestments and the church's decorations are green. On feasts of martyrs and feasts of the Holy Spirit the liturgical color is often red.

Liturgical Year: The Liturgical Year is the year of the Church focused on the person of Jesus Christ. The Liturgical Year has five seasons:

1. The first is Advent, four weeks prior to Christmas Day.
2. The next season is Christmas which lasts until Epiphany. This commemorates the manifestation of Christ to the Magi from the East.
3. The Season of Ordinary Time occurs twice.
4. The Lenten Season is six weeks leading up to the death of Christ.
5. Easter season begins with the Resurrection of Christ and culminates on the evening of Pentecost Sunday.

CCC 1168-1171

Liturgy: Liturgy, the public worship of the Church (and the “work” of the people), happens when God's people gather together to pray publicly. The Mass, the Rites of the individual sacraments, and the Liturgy of the Hours are examples of liturgy. The Church differentiates between liturgy and private devotions. Private devotions, while good in themselves, can never become “liturgy.” An example of a private devotion is the praying of the rosary or making novenas. *CCC 1069*

Liturgy of the Eucharist: The Eucharist contains the Church's entire spiritual treasure...Christ Himself. At the Last Supper Jesus Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Through the reception of this Sacrament a person receives the very Body and Blood of Christ. Christ is truly present under the appearance of bread and wine. This, the greatest of the Sacraments, bestows divine life (grace). *CCC 1348-1355*

Order:

- Preparation of the altar and gifts – presentation of offerings at altar (bread, wine, collection); preparation of altar; prayer during preparation of gifts; prayer over gifts
- Eucharistic Prayer – four prayers for general use; two forms for Masses of Reconciliation; three prayers for Masses with children
 - Preface
 - First acclamation – *Sanctus* or “Holy, Holy, Holy” (usually sung)

- Invocation of the Holy Spirit (*Epiclesis*)
- Institution narrative and Consecration
- Second acclamation – The Memorial (four prayers, usually sung)
- Memorial Prayer (*Anamnesis*) and Offering
- Intercessions of priests
- Third acclamation – the Doxology and the Great Amen (usually sung)
- Rite of Communion
 - The Lord's Prayer
 - The Sign of Peace
 - The Fraction Rite (breaking of the bread) with Lamb of God (*Agnus Dei*)
 - Reception of Holy Communion (procession, song, meditation)
- Prayer after Communion

Liturgy of the Word: The Liturgy of the Word includes readings from the Old and New Testaments. The Liturgy of the Word is an encounter with the Word of God proclaimed. CCC 1103, 1154-1155, 1346, 1349

Order – The Scripture readings for Mass are organized according to a three-year Sunday cycle and a two-year weekday cycle:

- First readings: Sundays – Old Testament (Acts of the Apostles during Easter); Weekday – Old Testament or New Testament
- Responsorial Psalm
- Second reading: Sundays, solemnities, and major feasts – New Testament
- Gospel verse - this is omitted if not sung
- Gospel reading
- Homily
- Profession of Faith
- General intercessions
- Offering of Gifts

Lord: Originally used in the Old Testament as a title for God because the divine name “*Yahweh*” could not be said. In the New Testament this name is used for both God the Father and God the Son. CCC 446

Lord’s Prayer (Our Father): When Jesus’ Apostles asked Him to teach them how to pray, He gave them the prayer – “Our Father, who art in heaven....” (Mt 6:9-13). This very special prayer is said everyday in the Church. CCC 2765-2766

Love: To love means to will the good of another. Love may be for the sake of the lover’s own self interest, or it may be for the sake of the loved ones, the latter being what we normally think of as “true” love. Both types are merely natural. Supernatural love, or the infused virtue of *charity*, is love of God for His own sake, and love of others out of love of God. CCC 1822-1823

Luminous Mysteries: The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary are five mysteries that are to be reflected upon during each decade. They are: Christ’s Baptism in the River Jordan, the Wedding Feast at Cana, Proclamation of the Kingdom of God, The Transfiguration, and the Institution of the Eucharist.

- M -

Magisterium: The teaching authority of the Church, given by Christ to the Apostles and their successors the bishops, under the authority of and in union with the Pope. The word Magisterium derives from the Latin word for “teacher.” CCC 85-88

Manna: Food of miraculous origin provided by God for the Israelites as they wandered in the desert after their escape from the slavery of Egypt. It can be seen as a type or prefigurement of the Eucharistic food that God provides for us today and which provides spiritual nourishment in our journey towards Heaven. CCC 1094

Marks of the Church: The four marks of the Church are: one, holy; catholic and apostolic. CCC 811

1. One means the Church is united in the Trinity and with Her head, Jesus Christ. People of all ages and cultures are united as one in the Church.
2. The Church is holy because Jesus Christ is holy and calls all people to be holy in their lives.

3. *Catholic* is a word that means universal. The Church began at Pentecost and will exist for all time reaching out to all people and bringing them to Christ.
4. *Apostolic* means the Church was founded on the apostles; it is guided by the Holy Spirit and contains the truth Jesus came to reveal.

Marriage: The Sacrament of Marriage is the professed union of one man and one woman, who pledge themselves in love to one another for mutual help and the raising of children. It involves a free, mutual gift of self that is faithful and ordered to the procreation and education of children. Christ elevated the natural institution of marriage to one of the seven sacraments, and thus as a sacrament it imparts grace to assist spouses to grow in love of one another and of Christ in whom they are joined. Marriage is lifelong and exclusive – the two spouses remain united to each other exclusively for as long as the both shall live. CCC 1638, 1393, 1641

Martyr: To be a martyr is to be a witness. A martyr is a person who chooses to die rather than in any way to deny Christ. There have been many martyrs throughout the history of the Church. CCC 2474

Mary: Mary became the Mother of Jesus Christ. Her earthly parents were Joachim and Anne. She grew up in Nazareth. At the Annunciation the Angel Gabriel told her she would become the Mother of God. Mary was conceived without original sin. CCC 488, 490-491

Mass: This is another name for the Sacrament of the Eucharist. It comes from the Latin word “*Missa*” and refers to the “mission” or “sending” which concludes this ritual. CCC 1332

Matrimony: See *Marriage*.

Meek: Meekness is a virtue of appropriate self control. In the case of anger a meek person does not become very angry but expresses their feelings appropriately. The meek are those referred to in the Beatitudes, who will “inherit the land.” CCC 716, 1716, 2219

Memorial: The word memorial has two meanings:

1. A memorial is something done to remember a person or event. In this sense the liturgical year has “memorials” of certain saints, days set apart to remember them.
2. In another sense, a memorial is more than remembering an event; it is participating in the event that is made real. The Mass is a memorial of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, and so that one sacrifice is made present again for us and through it we are saved from our sin. *CCC 1099, 1341*

Mercy: Mercy is based on compassion. It is the loving forgiveness of another. God is merciful. We are called to be merciful in imitation of Christ. *CCC 1472, 2447*

Ministry: Ministry is the activity of giving service to others in the name of Christ and through the life of the Church. *CCC 875*

Mission: The Church has a missionary mandate to bring all people to the way and love of Jesus Christ. Each person in the Church has a mission to spread the Gospel of Christ. *CCC 849*

Missionaries: Missionaries are people who devote their lives to bringing the Gospel to places where it is not known. A person can be a missionary to a foreign country or in their own community by teaching about Christ and caring for people’s physical, spiritual and emotional needs. Many Religious Orders dedicate their lives to the missions.

Modesty: The virtue, related to the virtue of temperance, and which helps us moderate our behavior and appearance appropriately. Modesty takes into account the intrinsic human dignity of self and others. Therefore modesty in speech and dress avoids what may be offensive to others, as well as protecting one’s own dignity. *CCC 2521-2524*

Monstrance: A sacred vessel used to display the consecrated host for viewing by the faithful for purposes of adoration of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. A monstrance is used during the Rite of Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, during Eucharistic exposition, and during Eucharistic processions. The word “monstrance” derives from the Latin “to show.”

Mortal Sin: Mortal sin is a very serious offence against the law of God. It totally destroys the relationship with God. Grace is no longer a part of life. For a sin to be mortal three things are necessary – grave matter, full knowledge of the evil of the act and full consent of will. *CCC 1855, 1857*

Mount Sinai: The mountain in modern day South Sinai (near Egypt) where Moses received the Ten Commandments.

Mourn: In reference to the Beatitudes, those who mourn “will be comforted.” Mourning is commonly associated with the sorrow one feels at the death of a love one or one who is greatly esteemed. *CCC 1716*

Mystery: Mystery has two meanings:

1. A mystery is a truth that we wouldn't have been able to know unless God had revealed it. Even after God has revealed a mystery we cannot fully understand it, although we can learn to understand parts of it. The truth of the Trinity is the greatest revealed mystery. The Eucharist and the Incarnation are also mysteries. *CCC 770*
2. The Rosary is a prayer that reflects upon certain events in the Life of Christ. These events are called “mysteries” because we can always find something new to learn in them although we can never fully comprehend the mystery of God.

- N -

Nazareth: Nazareth is a town in Galilee. It is part of the Holy Land where Jesus grew up with Mary and Joseph until He began His public ministry.

New Covenant: Christ's sacrifice, inaugurated at the Last Supper, is the New Covenant that promises eternal life for those who cooperate with God's grace. *CCC 613*

New Jerusalem: In the Old Testament Jerusalem was the city where the Temple was located, thus it was the place on earth where God dwelt physically. The New Jerusalem is Heaven; it is where God dwells and where all His people gather round Him. We can also say that we are in the New Jerusalem at every Mass because we are at a place where God is dwelling physically and where He is fulfilling all the promises He made to our fathers in faith in the Old Testament.

New Testament: The New Testament (27 Books) is the second part of the Bible. These books tell of the birth, life, miracles, teaching, death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God. The Books of the New Testament are the Four Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the many Epistles and the Book of Revelation. CCC 124-127

Nun: A nun is a woman who makes a solemn profession either alone under the Bishop or within a monastic community. Sisters are religious women who make vows to their Religious Institutes. They are sometimes referred to as nuns even though they are not in the strict sense.

- O -

Obedience: Obedience as an act is compliance to the will of another with legitimate authority. As a virtue, a habit that helps one readily obey lawful commands. God has all authority (in fact all authority is from God) and so the obedience due to God is without limit. The obedience due to others besides God only extends as far as it does not contradict a greater authority. For example, obedience to the state cannot compel transgression of God's law, and obedience to a superior cannot compel transgression of the state's law. CCC 1269, 1850

Old Covenant: The Old Covenant is the special agreement between Moses and God. God revealed to Moses the Ten Commandments as a sign of the Old Covenant. CCC 1961

Old Testament: The Bible begins with the Books of the Old Testament (46 Books). In the Old Testament God's revealing of Himself to fallen humanity begins. The first five Books of the Bible are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. The other major categories of Books are the Historical (16), Wisdom (7) and Prophetic (18). Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the Old Testament. CCC 121-123

Omission: Not acting when we are morally required to do so would be a sin of omission. CCC 1853

One: Something that is one is singular and undivided. The Nicene Creed begins with the statement, "I believe in ONE God." We know that our God is the only God, who exists as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three persons in one God. Because we know that God is one, we also know that the Church is one. CCC 200, 813

Oral Tradition: The passing on of the stories and traditions of the Church through word of mouth. Oral Tradition was the way in which the stories of Jesus were preserved before the Gospels were written. CCC 126

Ordained: In Catholicism the vocation to the ordained life is received through the Sacrament of Holy Orders. The ordained are men who are called to the diaconate, priesthood, or being a bishop. Natural law allows us to understand and accept the complementary nature of male and female. *CCC 1577*

Ordinary Time: A liturgical season which is broken up into two components: the first follows the Christmas season (from the Baptism of Our Lord) and continues until the Season of Lent (Ash Wednesday); the second follows the Easter Season (Pentecost Monday) and continues until the beginning of Advent. Ordinary time, so called because the weeks are simply numbered “in order”, comprises the longest season of the liturgical calendar. There are either thirty-three or thirty-four Sundays in ordinary time, depending on the year. The vestment color is usually green.

Original sin: The grace of original holiness was lost and Adam and Eve became subject to the law of death. God created man and woman in His image and likeness. God called them to obedience. Adam and Eve were tempted and they choose to do their own will rather than God’s. Sin then became universally present in the world. *CCC 404*

- P -

Palm Sunday: Palm Sunday is the liturgical celebration which takes place the Sunday before Easter Sunday. At this liturgical celebration the Church celebrates Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey. The Church also commemorates the Passion of Our Lord which took place just days after Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem. *CCC 560*

Parish: This is a very special place where the priest(s) and God’s people come together to worship God and care for one another in community. There are many parishes in a diocese. Each one is named in honor of Christ, Mary or a saint. *CCC 2179*

Participating in Society: Each person has a responsibility to promote the common good in society. Thus, each person is called, according to their role in life, to be present and active in the community.

Particular Judgment: At the end of each person’s earthly life they will come before God to be judged upon their actions, both evil they have done and the good they failed to do. Depending upon that judgment, an individual will experience the eternal joy of heaven, the eternal punishment of hell, or the healing power of purgatory. *CCC 1021-1022, 1470*

Paschal Candle: A large candle that is lit during the Easter vigil mass. The name “Paschal” (from the Jewish word for “Passover”) refers to the death and Resurrection of Christ. The Paschal Candle represents Christ, who is our light. Because of this, five grains of incense which look like small nails and which represent the five wounds of Christ are solemnly stuck into the Candle. At the Easter Vigil, the Candle is used to light many other small candles and is used in the blessing of the baptismal water. The Candle then remains in the sanctuary during the whole of the Easter Season until Solemnity of Pentecost and is lit during Mass or the celebration of the Sacraments. Afterwards, the Candle is used to light the candles of the newly baptized during the year.

Paschal Mystery: Refers to the Redemption brought about by Christ’s passion, crucifixion, death, burial, descent into hell, Resurrection, and Ascension. This mystery is the source of grace for us, and from which all the sacraments draw their saving power. *CCC 571, 1067*

Passion: The Passion of Jesus Christ. This refers to the suffering of Christ for our Redemption, in particular the intense suffering and pain endured in the Garden of Gethsemane, the cruel torments leading up to the crucifixion, and the crucifixion itself, culminating in his death and the separation of His body from His soul. These events are commemorated during Holy Week. *CCC 607*

Passover: In the Old Testament the Jewish people celebrated each year the feast of the Passover. This recalled their protection by God. The first born of every child was to be killed in Egypt. By placing a portion of the blood of a lamb on their doorposts, the angel of death saw and “passed over” their homes. In the New Testament, Jesus is the Paschal Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The Eucharist is the new Passover. To save us, by His death and Resurrection ‘passes over’ to God the Father. *CCC 1363-1364*

Pastor: A pastor is the priest who is asked by the Bishop to be the leader of a parish. *CCC 2179*

Patriarch: The special name given to the Old Testament fathers of our faith, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. *CCC 205*

Patron Saint: Saints are models of holiness. When Catholic parents name their children at the time of Baptism, they should choose one name that is truly a Christian name. As children grow and become aware of the lives of the saints they may choose saints who become their patrons. A patron saint is one who protects the person who intercedes to them. At Confirmation one may choose the name of a saint who is desired as a patron saint.

Peacemaker: The way of Christ is that of love, faith and hope. A peacemaker believes that Christ calls all people to avoid violence and live a life of grace and union with God. *CCC 1716, 2306*

Penance: A penance is a special act that is made to show repentance for sin. Some penances are in the form of special prayers. Others are special acts of kindness and charity towards people. *CCC 1422*

Penitential Rite: Part of the introductory rites of the Mass during which the faithful acknowledge their sin and their faults, and ask the Communion of Saints and the other members present to intercede on their behalf.

Pentateuch: The first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Pentateuch is derived from the Greek word meaning something similar to “five books.” Also see *Torah*. *CCC 702*

Pentecost: Pentecost is celebrated on the Sunday that occurs fifty days after Easter. The first Pentecost was the day on which the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Apostles and disciples in the form of tongues of fire (*Acts 2:1-44*). It marked the beginning of the Church. *CCC 731-732, 767-768, 1076*

People of God: The Church is the Bride of Christ abiding in the mystery of God’s love. The ‘People of God’ is a name for the people who believe that Christ is the Head of the Church. They believe that they are united in the Mystical Body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. They recognize that they have a common journey in life, preparing to live eternally with God in Heaven. *CCC 761-762, 781-786*

Permanent: To be permanent is to last forever without change. The marriage bond is permanent because it commits a man and a woman to each other for the rest of his or her life. A permanent deacon is someone who has chosen to serve the Bishop as a deacon for the rest of their life.

Personal Prayer: Daily prayer between each person and God that forms a special relationship. Personal prayer can take many forms such as contemplative prayer or vocal prayer. It is important that each person turn to God many times during their day. *CCC 2659*

Personal Sin: Personal sin refers to the sins of each person. When receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation one acknowledges and confesses their personal sin. *CCC 1868*

Petition: A special type of prayer in which we pray for our needs and the needs of others as we surrender ourselves to the will of God. CCC 2629

Pharaoh: A Pharaoh is an Egyptian king who was thought by his people to be a god. In the Old Testament Moses had to plead with the Pharaoh, who was enslaving the Hebrew people, to let them go.

Philistines: Men and women from Philistia are called Philistines. In the Old Testament the Philistines were bitter enemies with the Israelites. During the reign of Saul many battles were fought with the Philistines; one of the most famous battles was the battle between David and the giant.

Plague: A plague is a disease or disaster that is widespread and affects a large number of people. In the Old Testament God sent ten plagues on the people of Egypt to convince the Pharaoh to let the Israelites out of bondage. In the Middle Ages there was a great plague that swept through Europe.

Pontiff: See also *Pope*.

Pope: The Pope is the Vicar of Christ on earth. Christ gave St. Peter the “keys to the kingdom” – thus appointing him to be the first Pope. The Pope is in charge of the whole Church. All the Bishops of the world assist the Pope. CCC 880-882

Poverty: One of the “evangelical counsils,” in other words an entreaty by Christ to voluntarily give up material goods and wealth in order to more perfectly imitate Him. A vow of poverty (along with vows of chastity and obedience) is common among members of a religious order. Freedom from material goods, and from the time spent acquiring and maintaining them, can allow one to more readily serve God. CCC 544, 915, 2544-2546

Praise: Praise is a special type of prayer in which man worships God and thanks Him primarily for who He is. In the Sacrament of the Eucharist we praise God. CCC 2639-2641

Prayer: Prayer is communication with God. A person prays by lifting up their minds and hearts to God. Prayer may be alone with God or together with many other people in Church assembly. CCC 2559

Prayer Life: Just as each person has a part of their life devoted to school, each person is called to have a part of their life devoted to prayer and to God. A person's prayer life should consist of daily prayer, participation in the Eucharist and the sacramental life of the Church, and other devotions that praise and worship God.

Precepts of the Church: A precept is another word for a rule. The Precepts of the Church are five rules which all baptized Catholics must follow. *CCC 2041-2043*

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.

Prefigure: A sign or symbol that points to a future event or person. There are many people in the Old Testament that prefigure Christ, such as David. David prefigures Christ because he is the king of God's people. In the New Testament we see that Christ is like a king to the people of the Church. There are also many things in the Old Testament that prefigure the Sacraments. The crossing of Red Sea prefigures Baptism because the Israelites are freed from the slavery of the Egyptians just as Christians are freed from the slavery of sin in the Sacrament of Baptism.

Pride: Pride is one of the seven deadly or capital sins. Pride is an unhealthy love of self.

Priest: Priests receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders. This allows them to act 'in the person of Christ.' They offer sacrifice to God in order to honor God's kingship over all things and in order to make up for their own and others' sin. Jesus, who is both God and man, is the eternal high priest and He offered himself once and for all on the Cross. Jesus renews that one sacrifice on the altar during Mass. Priests have the authority to consecrate the bread and wine at Mass, changing it into the Body and Blood of Christ, and then offer this to God the Father. Ordained priests also have the authority to forgive sins in the Sacrament of Penance. The Apostles were the first ordained priests and every priest and bishop can trace their ordination back to the Apostles. In addition to men who are specially ordained as priests, all baptized Christians share in the priesthood of Christ. We are able to offer ourselves and join our sacrifices to the one sacrifice of Christ during the Mass. *CCC 1562-1568*

Profession of Faith: The Nicene Creed prayed each Sunday during the Mass. *CCC 14, 195*

Promised Land: The land promised by God to Moses and the Israelites when they escaped from Egyptian captivity, otherwise known as the region of Palestine. *CCC 1222*

Prophet: A prophet is one who speaks in the name of God. The message is in obedience to God. In the Old Testament there were many prophets such as Isaiah, Jeremiah and Daniel. John the Baptist is a New Testament prophet. *CCC 64, 201, 523*

Proverb: The book of Proverbs in the Bible is a collection of many short wisdom sayings. The Book of Proverbs has many individual Proverbs. These proverbs are meant to teach a lesson or provide wise guidance for living one's life.

Providence: see Divine Providence

Prudence: Prudence is one of the Cardinal Virtues. Prudence is the habit of choosing correctly that which should be done or not done in a particular circumstance. *CCC 1806*

Psalms: A psalm is a prayer from the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament. In this book there are 150 psalms. Some are psalms of praise and thanksgiving. Others are expressing repentance or petition. Christ prayed the psalms during His life on earth. Every day in Her worship the Church prays the psalms. *CCC 2585-2589*

Purgatory: Purgatory is the experience of purification and healing granted in God's mercy to those who die and who are not yet able to enjoy the fullness of life in heaven. As members of the Communion of Saints we, on earth, pray for the souls in purgatory, that they may be released from this period of purification. November 2 is the Feast of the Holy Souls, a time when the Church reminds us of this need for purification. *CCC 1030-1032, 1472*

Purification: In purgatory, we undergo purification so that we can be made worthy to enter into heaven. This purification is something like the pain that comes from all genuine growth in love. As self-love is abandoned Christ heals and purifies the soul. St. Augustine stated that our hearts are restless until they rest in God. This purification process in purgatory removes all 'temporal punishment' of sin from our soul so that we are brought to the holiness which allows us to enter into eternal life with God. *CCC 1030-1031*

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- R -

Racism: The belief that one race or group is better or worse than other races or groups of people. God taught us that each person has dignity because they are created in His image. Racism destroys the dignity due to each person. CCC 1935

Real Presence: The Sacrament of the Eucharist celebrates the memorial of Christ's death on the cross. A priest offers this same sacrifice, joining with Christ in this sacrifice He made to His Father for our salvation. During each Mass, the faithful receive the very Body and Blood of Christ which become present through the actions of the priest. Christ is truly present and this is known as the 'real presence.' Outside of Mass Christ's true presence remains in the Tabernacle under the appearance of bread (host) and as well during Eucharistic Adoration when the host is placed in the monstrance for all to adore. CCC 1378-1379

Reconciliation: Reconciliation is the act of making right that which has been wrong. In the Sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation our sins are forgiven and we are reunited in relationship with God if we have committed mortal sin. If we have weakened our relationship with God through venial sin, God's forgiveness strengthens our relationship with Him. CCC 1422, 1468-1469

Red Sea: The great sea that forms a border between in modern day Israel and Jordan which Moses and all the Israelites crossed when they were fleeing from Pharaoh.

Redeemer: Jesus Christ is the Redeemer because He suffered and died on the cross for all people. Through His suffering and death all are brought out of the captivity of sin. CCC 571, 601, 605

Reform: Reform is to make a change for the better. In the Old Testament God often calls for the Israelites to reform their ways and turn back to God.

Religious Orders: Throughout the history of the Church some men and women have been called to a life of dedication to Christ. They remain single and live in communities known as religious orders. The great orders that have lasted for centuries are the Benedictines founded by St. Benedict; the Dominicans founded by St. Dominic; the Franciscans founded by St. Francis. There have been smaller groups that have come and gone. Each order brings to the Church a special gift to help the People of God. Example: the Benedictines – hospitality; the Dominicans – preaching.

Reparation: Reparation means to repair. If a person sins, the Church, through the Sacrament of Penance asks that they make some form of prayer or penance to repair the damage they have committed. Reparation is necessary for God's forgiveness of sin. *CCC 1414, 2412, 2454, 2487, 2509*

Repentance: True sorrow for sins inspired by a love for God and a commitment to turn away from sin. *CCC 982, 1492*

Resurrection: After Christ's death, three days later He rose from the dead. The Gospels tell of Christ's Resurrection. It is a mystery of faith. *CCC 638*

Revelation: Revelation is God's communication of Himself to humanity. Natural revelation refers to God indirectly revealing Himself to us through the everyday visible world, or through our use of natural reason. Supernatural revelation refers to God's direct communication to us which culminates in Jesus Christ, who is God. The transmission of supernatural revelation in time is through Sacred Scripture and Holy Tradition, guarded and taught by the Magisterium of the Church. *CCC 50*

Reverence: Reverence is to give the honor due to someone. Reverence is shown towards parents and legitimate civil authorities, and to Church authorities. Religious reverence, the highest form of reverence, is given to God and those persons or things associated with Him. Thus, reverence towards a consecrated individual such as a priest, consecrated person, or towards sacred objects is ultimately directed to God.

Right to Life: Each person has a right to life and respect from others, the Church and society. A most critical offense today is the right to life for the unborn child. Abortion kills the child in the womb. This widely accepted practice by government and individual people morally offends the right to life. *CCC 2258, 2270*

Righteous: Free from sin and blameless before God. A righteous person avoids committing sins and tries to do what is right at all times.

Rings in Marriage: The Church has many signs to point to a spiritual reality. In the Sacrament of Matrimony the couple exchange blessed rings which are a sign of their marital union in Christ. Rings are a sign of permanent commitment to each other.

Rite: During the celebration of the sacraments and other liturgical events, certain rites are necessary. In the form of words and gestures, rites assure the proper administration of the sacrament. An example is: During the Rite of Baptism, the formula “I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” CCC 1201, 1203

Rosary: The Rosary is a special devotional prayer that reflects upon the many mysteries of the Life of Christ. It is prayed using five decades of beads. The twenty decades are composed of the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous Mysteries. CCC 971, 2678-2708

- S -

Sabbath: The Sabbath is the “seventh day” of the Jewish week. This comes from Scripture where it describes that after the six days of creation were complete, God rested on the seventh day. Christians observe the Sabbath on Sunday; the day of the week Christ rose from the dead and begins the new creation. Sunday Mass fulfills the commandment to remember and keep holy the Sabbath day. Sunday is also a day of rest for humankind.

Sacrament: A sacrament is an outward sign of God’s grace. The sacraments were instituted by Christ and are received through the life of the Church. Through the action of the Holy Spirit each sacrament brings a special divine grace to our lives. The Church has seven sacraments. CCC 744, 1113-1116, 1131

Sacrament of Healing: There are two Sacraments of Healing, the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Penance. These sacraments are meant to primarily heal the soul of each person but they can also lead to healing of the body. CCC 1420-1421

Sacrament of the Eucharist: At the Last Supper Jesus Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The word Eucharist means “thanksgiving.” Through the reception of this sacrament a person receives the very Body and Blood of Christ. Christ is truly present under the appearance of bread and wine. This, the greatest of the sacraments, bestowing divine life (grace). The Sacrament of the Eucharist is divided into two parts: The Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. They form “one single act of worship,” because the Eucharist Liturgy is “the center of the Church’s life.” CCC 1323, 1343, 1346

Sacraments of Initiation: The Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. By receiving these three sacraments a person is fully a member of the Christian Community which is the Body of Christ. Baptism is the

beginning. Confirmation is the completion of Baptism. The Eucharist completes Christian Initiation. Eucharist is the continual nourishment of Christian Life. It has the highest place among the seven sacraments. *CCC 1212*

Sacrament of Penance (Reconciliation): The Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation is given by Christ through the Church to forgive sin. Sometimes this is called “confession.” A person confesses his or her sins to a priest, expresses sorrow for sins and promises not to sin again. A priest gives absolution and a penance to perform. *CCC 1422-1424*

Sacrament of the Sick: see *Anointing of the Sick*.

Sacrament of Service: There are two Sacraments at the Service of Communion, the Sacrament of Holy Order and the Sacrament of Matrimony. These two Sacraments are ordered toward the salvation of other people. In the Sacrament of Holy Orders the priest helps to make the people holy. In the Sacrament of Matrimony the couple helps to make each other holy and to make their children holy.

Sacramentals: Sacramentals are sacred signs (objects, actions and blessings) which specially prepare a person to receive the graces of the sacraments. Sacramentals do not impart grace. Sacraments impart grace while sacramentals prepare a soul to receive the graces that are proper to the Sacraments. A few examples of sacramentals are: the Rosary, the Sign of the Cross, and Holy water. *CCC 1667-1673*

Sacred Scripture: The Scriptures are the sacred writings contained in the Bible, the Old Testament and the New Testament. Scripture is inspired by God, and is sacred. Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition are together the “Word of God”, the way God has chosen to speak to humankind. *CCC 81, 120, 134-136*

Sacrifice: A sacrifice is the act of offering a gift of love to God. This offering takes the form of “giving up” something or depriving oneself of something. Jesus Christ is the supreme Sacrifice because He died to atone for the sins of all people. People make sacrifices by giving their money for special causes or by depriving themselves of pleasures and offering this penance to God for some greater good through acts of adoration, gratitude and supplication. *CCC 616, 2099, 2100*

Sacrifice of the Mass: The Sacrifice of the Mass is the Eucharistic celebration. It is called a sacrifice because it makes present sacramentally the one sacrifice of Christ on the cross. *CCC 1330, 1365-1368*

Saints: God calls all people to be united with Him in this world and the next. The Church recognizes many people after they have died who have lived a holy life of great charity and heroic virtue. They become canonized saints. All people in heaven are saints. CCC 823, 946, 948

Salvation: Salvation is liberation from sin and its consequences, especially the consequences death and of eternal separation from God. Salvation comes through the redemptive work of Jesus' passion, death, and Resurrection. Individually, we are saved through grace, which enables us to repent from sin and cooperate with God's saving power. CCC 169, 620, 1811

Salvation History: Salvation History is God's progressive revelation to humanity with the goal of reconciling humanity back to Himself. Salvation History encompasses the original creation of man, the fall, the old covenant, the revelation of the law, the prophets, the promise of the Messiah, the coming of the Savior Jesus Christ, His life on earth, and the founding of His Church. In a certain sense salvation history is ongoing, both personally and collectively, and will only be concluded at the end of time when God's plan for humanity reaches its culmination. CCC 280, 332, 431, 668, 1080

Samaritan: Samaritans are the descendants of those Jews who were not taken in exile to Babylon and who remained in Palestine and developed their own distinctive religious customs.

Sanctifying Grace: Grace is the gift of God's divine life which is first given to us in Baptism. Grace remains in our soul as long as we are faithful to God. If we commit mortal sin our souls are deprived of God's grace. Through prayer, the sacramental life and living charitably grace strengthens our relationship with God and others. This is what is meant by sanctifying – the increase of divine life within. CCC 824, 1266, 1999-2001, 2023-2024

Savior: Jesus Christ became the savior of all humanity. He became man to save us through His life, death and Resurrection. The name Jesus in the Hebrew language means "God saves." CCC 430

Scribes: In the New Testament a term referring to a certain professional class of highly educated Jews who studied, explained, and defended Jewish law and scriptures. Christ rebukes them for their hypocrisy in slavishly adhering to the details of the law while ignoring its more important requirements such as the spirit of the law.

Scriptures: See *Sacred Scripture*.

Seder: Refers to the memorial meal eaten during the Jewish celebration of Passover. Also see *Passover*.

Seraphim: Angels described in the Book of Isaiah to have six wings. These angels are very special angels that are present at God's throne and praise Him.

Sermon on the Mount: The Sermon on the Mount is found in the Gospel of Matthew 5-7. Jesus spoke to His disciples and the people gathered and received the Beatitudes. CCC 577, 1968

Service: The Christian life calls each person to give help to others: the poor, the elderly and the stranger. There are many ways to give service. CCC 852, 910

Sign of the Cross: This is a prayer in honor of the Blessed Trinity. CCC 2157
It is made in the form of a cross using the words:



“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Sin: Sin is a deliberate offense against God and His Commandments. It either wounds or severs our relationship with God. CCC 1849-1850

Sin of Omission: See *Omission*

Sirach: A book of the Bible that can be found in Old Testament Wisdom Literature. The book of Sirach contains many profound statements which teach a person to love the virtue of wisdom.

Sloth: One of the capital sins is a lack of desire to do ones duties. It is a spiritual laziness or sorrow that neglects the good that could be done out of unwillingness or lack of hope. CCC 1866, 2094, 2733, 2755

Social Justice: Social Justice is making sure that each human person is treated with respect and has everything necessary to live a healthy life. The Church calls each person to work for social justice. Even a young person can work for social justice by making sure that unjust things are not done to those around them. CCC 1928

Son of God: God the Son is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. God the Son became man and took on a human nature. Jesus Christ is therefore truly the Son of God. When this title is applied to Jesus it recognizes and acknowledges His Divine Nature. CCC 468, 470

Son of Man: A title for Christ – often applied to Himself. This title emphasizes Christ’s human nature. CCC 460

Song of Solomon: Song of Solomon, also known as Song of Songs, is a beautiful love poem symbolizing God’s love for His people. It can be found in the Old Testament with the Wisdom Literature.

Sorrowful Mysteries: The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary are five mysteries that are to be reflected upon during each decade. They are: the Agony in the Garden, the Scourging at the Pillar, the Crowning with Thorns, the Carrying of the Cross, and the Crucifixion.

Soul: A soul refers to the spiritual principle of the human person. Human beings have a “rational soul”, which means we have the ability to think and the ability to freely will our actions. Human souls are spiritual, which means they are not made out of matter. The human person is composed of a material element, the body, and an incorporeal element, the soul. The human soul is immortal, meaning it will always exist once it is created by God. At death our soul is separated from our body, but awaits the return of the body at the end of time. CCC 363, 365-366

Spiritual: Spiritual refers to the life of grace in a person. Spiritual things cannot be seen, touched, or perceived by the senses. A person who grows spiritually manifests their union with God by living a virtuous life. CCC 327, 330, 363

Spiritual Works of Mercy: The works of mercy are divided into two types: corporal (meaning of the body) and spiritual (meaning of the soul). The Spiritual Works of Mercy are:

- Instruct the ignorant.
- Counsel the doubtful.
- Admonish sinners.
- Bear wrongs patiently.
- Forgive others willingly.
- Comfort the sorrowful.
- Pray for the living and the dead.

Stations of the Cross: The Stations of the Cross are a traditional Catholic practice in which fourteen events from the trial to the burial of Christ are recalled and meditated upon. It is common for parishes to have Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent.

Steward: A steward is a person who cares for the belongings or dealings of another. All people are called to be good stewards of the things that God has given them. *CCC 373*

Stole: A stole is a liturgical garment. It is a strip of cloth worn around the neck by bishops, priests, and deacons. Bishops and priests wear the stole over both shoulders with both ends hanging down, or crossed, in front. A deacon wears the stole like a sash over one shoulder. The stole is a sign of the dignity of Holy Orders and the authority and responsibility given by God.

Successors: In Catholicism we believe that bishops are the successors of the apostles. The Pope is the representative of Christ on earth. He appoints bishops who, through their ordination, become successors of the Apostles. *CCC 862, 1555*

Suffering: Because of Original Sin, suffering became a part of human life on earth. Suffering in Christian life can lead to greater good when it is experienced in union with the sufferings Christ endured for the redemption of all people. *CCC 1500-1505*

Synoptic: Synoptic refers to the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The word “synoptic,” from the Greek word for a general overview, refers to the similarity of the first three Gospels to each other in structure and content.

- T -

Tabernacle: In Catholic churches there is a Tabernacle, a sacred object in the form of a round or square receptacle. Within it are contained consecrated hosts, the Blessed Sacrament, the Body of Christ. It is safely made immovable and is locked. A burning light nearby is a sign that Christ is present in the Tabernacle. *CCC 1183, 1379*

Temperance: Temperance one of the Cardinal Virtues which helps a person to balance their life so that they do not spend too much time on merely pleasurable things and not enough time on God. The virtue of temperance helps a person grow closer to Christ. *CCC 1805, 1809, 1838, 2290*

Temple: In Old Testament times the Temple was a special place where Jews offered sacrifice and worshiped God. CCC 576, 583-584

Temple of the Holy Spirit: The baptized person is considered a Temple of the Holy Spirit. Thus a person is a sacred being who must be respected. CCC 1265

Temptation: A temptation is a desire to sin. Temptations arise from three sources: the world (bad example or pressure of others), the flesh (human weakness due to concupiscence), or the devil (the action of evil spirits). Temptations are allowed by God in order to strengthen us in the face of trial and help us to rely on His grace. CCC 2846-2849

Ten Commandments: In the Old Testament God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. They are God's laws which tell us how we are to live so that we will know goodness and union with God on earth. CCC 2052-2550

Thanksgiving: Thanksgiving is a special type of prayer in which a person thanks God for all the blessings that God has given. The highest form of thanksgiving is the Eucharist in which the Church thanks God for the gift of His Son. In thanking God in the Eucharist the Church becomes more fully who She is created to be. CCC 2637-2638

Theological Virtues: The Theological Virtues are faith, hope, and charity (love). These virtues are supernatural and are not attainable on our own, but only with God's grace. The virtue of *faith* allows us to believe in the truths of revelation because God, who is trustworthy, has revealed them. The virtue of *hope* allows us to trust that we will have eternal life because God wills it. The virtue of *charity*, the greatest of the virtues, allows us to love God and our neighbor out of love for God. Since it is God who gives us these virtues, and because they are directed towards Him, they are called theological, which means "of God." CCC 1812-1829

Torah: A reference to the first five books of the Old Testament, or the "Pentateuch." The books are: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Tradition: See *Sacred Tradition*

Transitional: Within the Sacrament of Holy Orders there are three callings. The first is the deacons who are called to represent Christ as servant. The second is the ministerial priesthood which is the call to live 'in persona Christi' –

becoming the representative of the person of Christ. The fullness of this sacrament is the Bishop who is called as a priest to be a leader, shepherding and teaching. Deacons may be transitional or permanent. Deacons who will continue to the priesthood are called 'transitional deacons'. Deacons who do not go on for priesthood are ordained to be permanent deacons.

Transubstantiation: Transubstantiation is the term used to describe the change of the elements (bread and wine) during the Eucharistic prayer: by the action of the Holy Spirit they are changed substantially (but not in appearance) into Jesus Christ, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. Jesus is present in a true and most special way by His Body and Blood. This presence is the most profound encounter we have with Christ during our life on earth. *CCC 1376*

Trinity: The Trinity is the central mystery of our faith which states that there are three Persons in one God. The three Persons are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. When the Sign of the Cross is made, each person is acknowledged. *CCC 232, 234, 253-55, 261, 2157*



“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Trust: Trust is the reliance on another's honesty. Faith, therefore, is based on trust of God who does not, and cannot, deceive. *CCC 215*

- U -

Understanding: Is one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit which perfects the apprehension of the truth. A person who possesses the gift of understanding is able to better understand the mysteries that God has revealed. *CCC 1303, 1831*

Unity: Unity has two meanings:

1. Unity is one of the four marks of the Church, and which we reference each Sunday when we pray the Nicene Creed: “We believe in ONE, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.” One aspect of this unity is the unity of doctrine, worship, and governance that all the faithful adhere to. *CCC 813-816*

2. Unity also refers to the nature of God, who is absolutely one in His own being. There cannot be other gods. In relation to the doctrine of the Trinity, unity refers to the truth that in God there are three Divine Persons, united, each fully possessing the One Divine Nature. *CCC 254*

Universal Church: The Universal Church is the entire Church founded by Christ. Each and every parish is part of the Universal Church. *CCC 835*

Unleavened Bread: Unleavened bread is bread without any yeast. Jews use unleavened bread in the celebration of the Passover to remember the flight from Egypt when they did not have time to wait for the yeast to rise in the bread and had to eat their bread without any yeast. Roman Catholics use unleavened bread for the Eucharist to remember what Jesus used when He first celebrated the Eucharist. *CCC 1334, 1339*

- V -

Venial Sin: Venial Sin is an offence against God, which wounds our relationship with Him. *CCC 1862-1863*

Vestment: A vestment is a garment worn by priests during special religious services such as the Mass, the celebration of the Sacraments or during prayer gatherings in church.

Virtue: A good habit that enables us to more easily and readily act the right way. The contrary inclination, a habit that causes one to more readily act in an evil way is called vice. Thus, one in possession of much virtue is called virtuous, whereas one in possession of many vices is said to be vicious. *CCC 1803*

Visitation: Mary's visit to her relative Elizabeth. When Mary greets Elizabeth at the Visitation the infant leaps in Elizabeth's womb and she proclaims, "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Mary responds with the Magnificat. *CCC 717*

Vocation: The vocation of all people is to love and serve God in this life so as to attain eternal happiness. Individuals are called to specific vocations such as marriage, priesthood, the single life or consecrated life which has various forms. *CCC 873, 898*

Vows: Vows are solemn promises to God to do something good. Vows invoke the assistance of God to help one fulfill the vow, and may be temporary or permanent. Consecrated people make permanent vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. *CCC 2102*

- W -

Water: Water is made holy by being blessed. It is the special substance used for the Sacrament of Baptism. When water is blessed it is used in devotional practices such as putting the fingers in the Holy Water font and making the Sign of the Cross. Objects are sometimes blessed with Holy Water. *CCC 1238, 1668*

Wisdom: Is one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit which perfects a person's reason in matters of judgment on the truth. A person with the gift of wisdom begins to think in the way that God thinks and comes to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the mysteries of the Faith. *CCC 1303, 1831*

Wisdom Literature: The books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Wisdom and Sirach are all considered wisdom literature because they teach a person to live wisely according to God's laws.

Witness: A witness is someone who testifies to the truth relying on their own experience. In the Christian sense, a witness is a member of the faithful who testifies to the Truth of Christ and the reality of God's grace in their lives through their words and deeds. *CCC 2472*

Worship: Worship is the act of giving adoration and praise to God. *CCC 347, 2096*

- X -

- Y -

Yahweh: The name of God revealed to Moses by God at the Burning Bush. The name Yahweh means "I am who am." The Israelites considered the name of God, Yahweh, so holy that they would never speak or pronounce it. *CCC 205*

- Z -

Zion: In the Old Testament, Zion referred originally to Jerusalem, and specifically to the City of David. Gradually the word began to take on the connotation of the whole Israelite nation and their homeland. In Christian terms, Zion began to connote the heavenly Jerusalem, the final homeland of the faithful.