

GLOSSARY

- Abba** This word for Father comes from Aramaic, a language spoken in Palestine at the time of Jesus; Abba was a term used by children in addressing their fathers. Jesus used Abba to express his relationship with God and taught his disciples to pray to God as a loving and loveable parent.
- absolution** Refers to the declaration by a bishop or priest that the sins of a person who has repented and confessed have been forgiven. Absolution is an essential part of the sacrament of Penance.
- Act of Contrition** A solemn prayer that contains sorrow of sins committed, a firm purpose not to sin again in the future and trust in the help of God.
- actual sin** Actual sin is any willful thought, desire, word, action or omission forbidden by the law of God.
- adoration** This word refers to any expression of great love and high esteem. In its religious sense, adoration is the worship due to God alone; thus, adoration is to praise God as creator and savior and to humble oneself.
- Advent** The four week season beginning with first evening prayer of the Sunday that falls on or closest to November 30th and ending with first evening prayer of Christmas. It is a season of joyful expectation for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ.
- alb** Refers to an ankle length white garment with sleeves that is worn by priests and other ministers at liturgical ceremonies.
- amen** Hebrew word meaning truly, it is true. As concluding word of prayers it expressed assent to and acceptance of God's will.
- anamnesis** Refers to the remembering of God's saving actions in history; in liturgical use, anamnesis refers to the remembrance at Mass of Christ's actions at the Last Supper.
- angel** The angels are purely spiritual creatures, incorporeal, invisible, immortal, and personal beings endowed with

intelligence and will. They ceaselessly contemplate God face-to-face and they glorify him. They serve Him and are His messengers in the accomplishment of His saving mission to all.

Angelus A Christian devotion in memory of the Incarnation. This devotion is practiced by reciting three biblical verses describing the mystery alternating with the Hail Mary. It is usually prayed at 6:00AM, Noon and 6:00PM accompanied by the angelus bell.

Annunciation Refers to the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to announce that she had been chosen to bear the Son of God; by giving her consent, Mary became the mother of God. This event, which is described in the Gospel of Luke is usually celebrated as a feast day on March 25th.

Anointing of the Sick One of the seven sacraments, this anointing with oil blessed by a bishop is administered to a person during a time of serious illness, prior to a serious medical procedure, or in danger of death. The Anointing of the Sick, which is administered by a priest or bishop, may be received multiple times. Among the effects of this sacrament are restoration to health, strength to endure the sufferings of sickness, forgiveness of sins, and preparation for eternal life. This sacrament is also sometimes called the sacrament of the dying and extreme unction.

apostle Refers to those individuals who were chosen and sent on mission by Jesus, just as Jesus was sent by the Father, to preach the Gospel to the whole world. In addition to the original twelve Apostles, Paul and a few other people are also called “apostles” in the New Testament.

Apostles Creed A profession of faith or statement of Christian belief; the apostles’ Creed developed from the baptismal creed of the ancient church of Rome and is considered to be a faithful summary of the faith of the Apostles.

Apostolic Age The period of the twelve apostles from the crucifixion of Jesus and the Great Commission until the death of John the Apostle.

Aramaic Aramaic is a Semitic language that was originally spoken as far back as the ninth century BC in the Land of Aram, a highland located in the area of modern Syria. Aramaic, a commercial language in the Middle East, was spoken by Jews during the time of Jesus and is still spoken today in some places.

archbishop Refers to a bishop who has responsibility over a territory or ecclesiastical province that includes a number of dioceses headed by other bishops; in the Catholic Church, the title “archbishop” is sometimes given to bishops who have special responsibilities, such as nuncios and Vatican administrators.

Ark of the Covenant This was considered the dwelling place of God by the Israelites. The Ark was a chest (approximately 28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 46 inches long) made of acacia wood covered with gold; on top were two winged cherubim (angels), also of gold; at each corner of the chest was a gold ring, through which poles could be inserted so that the Ark could be carried from place to place. The Ark was the receptacle for items sacred to the Chosen People, especially the tablets of the Law or Ten Commandments. The ark disappeared when Jerusalem was captured by the Babylonians in 587 BC.

Ascension Refers to Christ’s being taken up into heaven to be seated at the right hand of the Father; the feast of the Ascension is celebrated forty days after Easter.

Assumption Refers to the dogma that was officially proclaimed by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1950. The dogmatic definition of the Assumption of Mary, which states that after the completion of her earthly life, the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken up, body and soul, into heavenly glory.

Baptism The sacrament of initiation in which we are joined to Jesus Christ, become members of the church, are reborn as God’s adopted children, receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and original sin and our personal sins are forgiven.

Baptismal Call By Baptism the baptized share in the priesthood of Christ, in his prophetic and royal mission. They are “a

chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that they may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called them out of darkness into the marvelous light".

baptismal font a basin used in the sacrament of Baptism.

beatific vision Refers to the contemplation of God in the glory of heaven. The beatific vision implies that those in heaven see God in a direct encounter, in contrast to the human experience of God on earth that is always mediated; however, even in the beatific vision, God will always remain an incomprehensible mystery.

beatitudes This word refers to the state of eternal happiness with God in heaven; an important part of beatitude is the beatific vision.

benediction Refers to any type of blessing or prayer invoking divine help and protection, for example, the blessing of food before meals.

Bethlehem The city where Jesus was born.

Bible Refers to the collection of Jewish and Christian writings that are considered inspired and thus normative for belief. The Hebrew Bible contains most of the works of what Christians call the Old Testament; the Christian Bible also includes writings known as the New Testament.

bishop Refers in the Roman Catholic Tradition, to a priest who has been ordained (consecrated) as a successor of the Apostles. A bishop receives the fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders and shares responsibility for the whole Church through the college of bishops, as well as leadership responsibilities within a particular diocese. A bishop is empowered to ordain men to the priesthood, diaconate, and other orders.

Blessed Mother One of the titles given to Mary the Mother of God meaning "holy one".

Blessed Sacrament This term which is given to the Eucharist, indicates that the Eucharist is the sacrament of sacraments; "Blessed Sacrament" is also the name given to the Eucharist when it is reserved in the tabernacle or venerated at benediction.

blessing The infusion of something with holiness, divine will or one's hopes. Sacramentals derive from the baptismal priesthood; every baptized person is called to be a "blessing", and to bless. Hence lay people may preside at certain blessings; the more a blessing concerns ecclesial and sacramental life, the more is its administration reserved to the ordained ministry (bishops, priests, or deacons).

Bloody Sacrifice of the Cross The suffering and death of Jesus. The only perfect sacrifice is the one that Christ offered on the cross as a total offering to the Father and a means for our salvation.

canonization A declaration by the Pope that a person who died a martyr or practiced Christian virtue to a heroic degree is in heaven and is worthy of honor and imitation by the faithful. Verification of miracles is required for canonization.

Canticle of Zachariah A prayer of praise used in the Liturgy of the Hours as the final blessing. This canticle was taken from the Gospel of Luke. It is one of the three canticles. It was the song of Thanksgiving uttered by Zachariah on the occasion of the birth of his son John the Baptist.

capital sins Seven sins named by the church that are the sources of other sins; pride, covetousness, envy, anger, gluttony, lust and sloth.

cardinal virtues Four virtues play a pivotal role and accordingly are called "cardinal"; all the others are grouped around them. They are: prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. "If anyone loves righteousness, (wisdom's) labors are virtues; for she teaches temperance and prudence, justice and courage". These virtues are praised under other names in many passages of Scripture.

catechumen Refers to a person who is being taught Christian doctrine in preparation for formal reception into the Roman Catholic Church. During the course of their preparation in the catechumenate, catechumens are

anointed with the oil of catechumens in order to strengthen them in their renunciation of sin.

chalice

The cup used at Mass for the consecrated wine.

charism

Refers to a spiritual gift or grace given by the Holy Spirit to persons for their own spiritual improvements as well as for the benefit of the Christian community.

charity

Charity is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.

chastity

Refers to the part of the virtue of temperance that helps Christians achieve an integrated sexuality according to their state in life. Chastity which is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, helps Christians abstain from sexual pleasure outside of marriage and fosters fidelity within marriage.

chasuble

The vestment worn over the alb by priests, bishops and Pope when celebrating the Mass.

chrism

Refers to a perfumed oil that is consecrated by a bishop. Chrism is used for anointings in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders, and also to consecrate churches, altars, chalices, and patens.

Christian Scriptures

It was by apostolic Tradition that the Church discerned which writings are to be included in the list of the sacred books. This complete list is called the canon of Scripture. It includes 46 books for the Old Testament and 27 for the New.

Christmas

Refers to the Nativity, the birth of Jesus, which is customarily celebrated on December 25th.

church

This word has multiple meanings: 1) the building where Christians gather for worship; 2) a specific Christian denomination, such as Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians; 3) the whole body of Christians; 4) ecclesiastical authority in contrast to civil authority, as in the contrast between Church and State.

- Church Council** A conference of the bishops of the whole church convened to discuss and settle matters of Church doctrine and practice.
- Church Fathers** The early and influential theologians and writers in the Catholic Faith, particularly those of the first five centuries of Christian History.
- Church Year** Annual cycle of seasons and days observed in commemoration of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- clergy** Collective term referring to male persons who administer the rites of the Church through Holy Orders.
- commandment** Refers to obligatory norms or rules of moral behavior in contrast to counsels, which are recommended practices.
- commandments of God** This term refers to the ten laws or the Decalogue given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai as the fundamental rules of conduct for the Chosen People. The first three of the Ten Commandments concern the love of God; the other seven commandments concern the love of neighbor.
- communal prayer** Praying with others.
- communion** This word has several meanings: 1) the reception of the Eucharist; 2) union with Christ and fellowship with other Christians; 3) the Church as both a gathering on earth and an assembly in heaven; 4) the relationship among the three divine persons in the Trinity.
- communion of saints** This term has a twofold meaning: 1) the sharing of holy things especially the Eucharist and other spiritual gifts, and 2) the communion of holy persons including those who are still pilgrims on earth, those who are being purified, and the blessed in heaven.

- confession*** This term may refer either to the sacrament of Reconciliation in general or that part of the sacrament in which penitents acknowledge specific sins.
- Confirmation*** Refers to the third sacrament of initiation in the Eastern Church, and in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. Confirmation is administered at the time of Baptism. In the Western Church, Confirmation is usually administered to teenagers and adults.
- conscience*** Refers to a person's inner awareness of the moral aspects or ethical dimensions of human actions; thus, conscience is a person's internal judgment of whether a specific action is right or wrong. Christians are bound to follow their conscience – to do good and to avoid evil.
- consecrated life*** Refers to the state of life professed by men and women who commit themselves to observing the evangelical counsels either on a temporary or permanent basis.
- consecration*** Refers to the dedication of an object, such as an altar or chalice, for religious use. A person may make a personal consecration by a self-dedication to a religious task or to the consecrated life.
- contemplation*** The deepest form of meditation on spiritual matters.
- continency*** Refers to the exercise of self-restraint in sexual matters according to a person's state in life.
(self control)
- contrition*** Refers to repentance for wrongdoing. Genuine contrition includes three elements: sincere sorrow, detestation of sin, and a resolution not to sin again. An Act of Contrition is a prayer that acknowledges the three elements and is always part of the sacrament of Reconciliation.
- conversion*** Refers to a personal change from unbelief to belief; as a turning from a life of sin to a commitment to follow Christ, conversion is an essential aspect of Christianity. In a more specific sense, "conversion" is also used to refer to a change from one Christian denomination or religion to another.

corporal	A square piece of cloth (linen) placed in the center of the altar during Mass. The words of consecration are spoken with the bread and wine sitting on the corporal.
corporal works of mercy	Refers to those works of mercy that complement the spiritual works of mercy; the corporal works of mercy, which are charitable activities intended to help a person's neighbors in their physical needs, include feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, given shelter to strangers, and burying the dead.
Council of Trent	The 16 th Ecumenical Council of the Roman Catholic Church. Considered one of the Church's most important councils. It convened in Trent.
counsel	One of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
courage	One of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.
covenant	Refers, in general, to an agreement between two parties. The covenants between God and Israel are central to the Old Testament, where God promised to be faithful to the Chosen People, who in turn were expected to observe God's commandments. The New Testament provides the definitive covenant between God and the human race.
covetousness	A strong desire of obtaining and possessing some supposed good, excessive desire for riches or money.
creation	Emphasizes that God is the maker of all that exists, both visible and invisible; thus, everything owes its existence to God.
creed	Refers to a summary statement of beliefs or a profession of faith. Creeds are customarily recited at Baptism, Mass, and other services.
crucifix	Refers to a cross to which a figure of Jesus Christ is attached; a crucifix is a symbol of Christ's sacrifice for the redemption of all people.

- cruets*** Small vessels, usually made of glass with a stopper, used to hold water or wine before they are used at Mass.
- deacon*** Refer to one of the three Holy Orders; the other two orders are those of priest and bishop. The origin of the diaconate is customarily traced to the decision of the Apostles to deputize assistants to help with the material services of the Church. The diaconate is conferred by a bishop, who entrusts a deacon with various ministries, including preaching, distributing the Eucharist, blessing marriages, presiding over funerals, and so on.
- devotional prayer*** That form of prayer that embraces a particular devotion (rosary, way of the cross, novena, etc.) that are very rich in the church's tradition.
- diocese*** Refers to a community of believers or a "particular church" presided over by a bishop, usually a diocese consists of a geographical area but sometimes it is constituted by people of the same rite or language.
- disciple*** Refers to the original followers of Christ and, by extension, to all those who try to follow the teaching of Christ..
- doctrine*** All authoritative teachings of the Church and sometimes to a specific teaching. In a technical sense. "doctrine" refers to those teachings that are officially taught as related to Revelation but not explicitly part of Revelation.
- dogma*** Since the nineteenth century, "dogma" has come to mean an authoritative teaching of the Church in regard to faith or morals that is considered to be a matter of Revelation and so an obligatory matter of belief.
- domestic church*** Just as the early Christians held their religious services in house churches, so too the Christian home was described by Second Vatican Council as a "domestic church", where parents teach their children Christian virtues by living the Gospel message on a daily basis.

- Doxology*** Refers to a hymn or prayer of praise that glorifies God; examples include the Gloria and the end of the Eucharistic prayer at Mass and also the prayer “Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.”
- Easter Triduum*** The three days of Holy Week – Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday prior to the Easter Vigil.
- ecumenism*** This word means “the inhabited world” or “universal” refers to the movement that fosters better understanding, promotes cooperation, and seeks reconciliation and unity among Christians.
- envy*** Refers to the immoderate desire to acquire the goods of others, even by unjust or sinful means; envy is a sin against the tenth commandment.
- epistle*** Refers to the letters written by Church leaders in the first two centuries AD, especially those letters that are included in the New Testament and read during the celebration of Mass and other sacraments.
- Essenes*** This term refers to members of a Jewish sect at the time of Jesus who lived a life of asceticism in the solitude of the desert near the Dead Sea.
- Eucharist*** This word means “thanksgiving”. Sometimes it refers to the celebration of the entire Mass and sometimes specifically to the consecrated bread and wine that have become the body and blood of Christ.
- Eucharistic prayers*** The Eucharistic prayer, also known as the anaphora or canon of the Mass, is the most central prayer of the Mass, which includes the prayers of praise and thanksgiving and the consecration, reiterating Christ’s words at the Last Supper and invoking the Holy Spirit upon the gifts of bread and wine that they may become the body and blood of Christ.
- Eucharistic Sacrifice*** The Mass is known as the Eucharistic Sacrifice. The memorial of the Lord’s Passion and Resurrection. The Holy Sacrifice, because it

makes present the one sacrifice of Christ the Savior and includes the Church's offering.

- evangelists*** Refers to those who spread the Gospel. "Evangelist" has two meanings: 1) the New Testaments authors who wrote the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John; 2) anyone who evangelizes or preaches the Gospel.
- evangelization*** This term refers to the proclamation of the Gospel in light of the "great commandment" of Jesus to preach his message to all nations. Evangelization, which is usually directed toward people who have previously not known the Gospel, involves not only the preached word but also the life testimony of the evangelist.
- examination of conscience*** Refers to a personal, private, and prayerful review of one's thoughts, words, and deeds to determine how one has been responding to the Gospel. Some people examine their conscience daily, but everyone should examine their conscience prior to receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation.
- Exodus*** The name of the second book of the Bible, which describes the departure of the Israelites from Egypt under the leadership of Moses. The Exodus is celebrated at Passover as the liberation of the Chosen People.
- exorcism*** Refers to a driving out of evil spirits. In the New Testament, Jesus is portrayed as expelling evil spirits. An exorcism is part of the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism, which is a deliverance from the power of Satan. In extraordinary cases, and with special permission, a priest may perform an exorcism for a person believed to be possessed by evil spirits.
- exposition*** Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament is taken from the tabernacle and placed in a monstrance on the altar for the purpose of adoration by the faithful.
- faith*** This word has multiple meanings: 1) faith can be understood as a specific act or human response to revelation, 2) faith can also be considered as a God-

given theological virtue or habit of belief, and 3) faith can designate a set of beliefs or doctrines.

family

A man and a woman united in marriage form a family together with their children. God instituted the family and endowed it with its fundamental constitution. Members of the same family establish among themselves personal relationships and primary responsibilities.

forgiveness

Refers to a release from the guilt of sin granted to a repentant person. More specifically, forgiveness refers to the absolution given to a penitent by a priest in the sacrament of Penance.

forms of prayer

The four types of prayer revealed in Sacred Scripture that are the norm for Christian prayer; adoration and blessing, petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praise.

fortitude

Refers to one of the four cardinal virtues that help a Christian person face difficulties and be committed to doing good; fortitude is considered a gift of the Holy Spirit.

free will

Refers to the ability of a human to choose among options and to make decisions. Free will or self-determination is the grounds for an authentic relationship with God; sin weakens free will but does not destroy it.

fruits of the Holy Spirit

Refers to those personal qualities bestowed by the Holy Spirit that prepare a person for eternal glory: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self control and chastity.

Galilee

At the time of Jesus this was the northern region of Palestine, which was the location of Nazareth, Cana and Capernaum. Galilee was part of the kingdom of Herod the Great and then part of the tetrarchy of Herod Antipas.

genuflection Refers to the practice of bending one or both knees as a sign of respect, especially in the presence of the Eucharist.

gifts of the Holy Spirit This term refers to the permanent dispositions that help a person be receptive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Based on Isaiah 11:1-3, the traditional lists of gifts of the Holy Spirit includes: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, piety, fortitude, and fear of the Lord.

gloria Ancient hymn of praise in which the Church prays to the Father. It is used on all Sundays (outside of Advent and Lent) and at solemn celebrations.

Glorious Mysteries A meditation on the five glorious events in the lives of Jesus and Mary: The Resurrection, The Ascension, The Descent of the Holy Spirit, the Assumption, the Coronation.

Glory Be A prayer giving worship and honor to the blessed Trinity. This prayer is said after each decade of the rosary.

gluttony Refers to the vice of excessive eating.

God the Father The first person of the Blessed Trinity

good confession The following must take place for a good confession: a careful examination of conscience; contrition which is perfect when it is motivated by love of God and imperfect if it rests on other motives and which includes the determination not to sin again; confession, which consists in the telling of one's sins to the priest; and satisfaction or the carrying out of certain acts of penance which the confessor imposes upon the penitent to repair the damage caused by sin.

Good Friday The second day of the Easter Triduum. The day Jesus died for our sins.

good shepherd Jesus is the good shepherd. Just as a shepherd cares for his sheep – Jesus cares for us.

- goodness*** One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. A quality of character that the Holy Spirit builds into us.
- Gospels*** The first four books of the New Testament which pass on the faith of the Church in Jesus Christ and in the saving events of His life, passion, death, resurrection and ascension.
- grace*** Refers to a free and undeserved supernatural gift or help that God gives persons so that they may respond to the divine call to salvation.
- guardian angel*** Refers to the belief that angels are messengers from God to people on earth and that individual angels serve as guides and protectors for each person.
- Hail Mary*** These are the opening words of a popular prayer in honor of Mary; the prayer is derived in part from the angel Gabriel's greeting to Mary.
- heaven*** This word has various meanings: 1) in the ancient world, heaven was often identified with the sky and considered the dwelling place of the divine; 2) in Judaism, because of the reluctance to pronounce the name of God, the word "heaven" was sometimes used as a substitute for God's name; and 3) among Christians, heaven represents the final goal of all Christians, where they are definitively united with God and reunited with their fellow Christians.
- Hebrew Scriptures*** The Old Testament
- hell*** Refers to the state of definitive separation from God and the saints and to a state of eternal punishment.
- hierarchy*** Refers to an institution ruled by religious people. The word "hierarchy" is used in various senses: 1) clergy in contrast to laity; 2) the different orders of clergy; bishops, priests, deacons and 3) bishops as members of the college of bishops.
- holy days of obligation*** Feasts in Latin – rite churches on which Catholics are required to attend mass: January 1st- Mary the Mother of God, Ascension Thursday, Feast of the

Assumption, All Saints, Immaculate
Conception and Christmas.

- Holy Eucharist*** One of the seven sacraments. It is the real presence of Jesus Christ found under the appearance of bread and wine.
- holy family*** The family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
- Holy Orders*** The sacrament at the service of communion through which a baptized man is consecrated to serve the whole church as a bishop, priest or deacon.
- Holy Spirit*** The third person of the Blessed Trinity, the Advocate sent to us by the Father in the name of His Son Jesus Christ.
- Holy Thursday*** The first day of the Triduum. We remember that on that day the Last Supper was celebrated when Jesus gave us the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Holy Orders. He also washed the feet of His apostles as an example to us. We are all called to ministry.
- Holy Trinity*** The most important mystery of our faith. There are three Divine Persons in one God.
- holy water*** Holy water is a sacramental. Sacramentals are instituted for the sanctification of certain ministries of the Church, certain states of life, a great variety of circumstances in Christian life, and the use of many things helpful to man.
- hope*** Refers to the theological virtue by which Christians desire and expect from God both eternal life and the means of grace necessary to attain it. Hope, along with faith and charity, is a divinely infused gift.
- Immaculate Conception*** Mary's freedom from all sin, both original and all personal sin, from the first moment of her existence, or conception, and throughout her entire life.
- Incarnation*** The term the Church uses to name the faith of the Church that the Son of man became fully human in all things except sin, while remaining fully divine.

- infallibility*** Refers to the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church that preserves the Church[s doctrinal teaching about faith and morals from error.
- Infancy Narratives*** Stories of the early years of Jesus' life found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. At Christmas the glory of heaven is shown forth in the weakness of a baby; the circumcision of Jesus is a sign of His belonging to the Hebrew people and is a prefiguration of our Baptism; the Epiphany is the manifestation of the Messiah King of Israel to all the nations; at the presentation in the temple, Simeon and Anna symbolize all the anticipation of Israel awaiting its encounter with its Savior; the flight into Egypt and the massacre of the innocents proclaim that the entire life of Christ will be under the sign of persecution; the departure from Egypt recalls the exodus and presents Jesus as the new Moses and the true and definitive liberator.
- inspiration*** Refers to the divine assistance that the Holy Spirit gave to the authors of the books of the Bible. Gifted with this divine assistance, the biblical authors were able to write in human words the salvific message that God wanted to communicate.
- intercession*** Refers to the prayers of petition. Though Christ is the primary intercessor or advocate before God the Father, intercessory prayers may be said by any person praying for a good purpose.
- Intercessory Prayer*** Prayers of intercession.
- Jerusalem*** The name of the city in Palestine that was the location of the Temple and the city where Jesus was crucified.
- Jesus*** The name of Jesus, meaning Savior in Christian usage, derived from the Aramaic and Hebrew Yeshua and Joshua, meaning Yahweh is salvation.
- joy*** One of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- Joyful Mysteries*** A meditation on the five joyful events in the life of Jesus and Mary. The Annunciation, The Visitation,

The Nativity, The Presentation and The Finding in the Temple.

- Judea** An ancient region of southern Palestine. In the time of Jesus it was a kingdom ruled by the Herods and part of the Roman province.
- justice** A moral virtue that prompts a person to give both God and neighbor what is their due.
- kindness** A fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- Kingdom of God** The Kingdom of God is at the center of the preaching of Jesus, who taught his disciples to pray for the coming of the Kingdom in the Our Father. The messianic kingdom, which is inaugurated by Jesus, will triumph over Satan at the end of time.
- knowledge** A gift of the Holy Spirit
- laity** All those who have been incorporated into the Church by Baptism, with the exception of those who have received Holy Orders and those who belong to a religious community.
- Last Supper** This term refers to the meal that Jesus celebrated with his disciples in the upper room prior to his trial, Passion, and death. Because the Eucharist is the memorial of this meal, the Eucharist is sometimes called the Lord's Supper.
- Lectionary** Refers to an official book with Scripture readings for use at Mass, the Roman Catholic Lectionary has a three-year cycle of readings for Sundays and a two-year cycle for week days.
- Lent** The liturgical season of forty days that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes with the celebration of the Easter Triduum. Lent, a commemoration of the forty days that Jesus fasted in the desert, is a time of prayer and penance.
- liturgical prayer** A public prayer of praise and worship using rituals and rites. Examples of this type of prayer are: the Holy Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, Funerals, etc.

- liturgical year*** The Church's yearly cycle of seasons and feasts that celebrate the mysteries of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection.
- liturgy*** In general refers to public service. In the Christian tradition, it is the participation of the people of God in the redemptive work of God through the public worship of the Church. Sometimes the word "liturgy" is used as a synonym for the Mass.
- Liturgy of the Eucharist*** Refers to the second part of the Mass that includes the offertory, the prayers of consecration and invocation of the Holy Spirit, the reception of Communion, and the dismissal.
- Liturgy of the Hours*** This is the preferred term in the Latin rite for the official liturgical prayers sanctifying the parts of each day.
- Liturgy of the Word*** This term refers to the first part of the Mass that includes the introductory rite, the readings from the Scriptures, the homily, and the prayers of the faithful.
- longanimity*** Calmness of the face of suffering and adversity; forbearance.
- love*** A synonym for the theological virtues of charity; a way of identifying the divine: God is love, and a translation for three different Greek terms: eros – a life-giving force, such as sexual love; agape – unconditional love and philia – friendship love.
- Luminous Mysteries*** A meditation on the events of Jesus' life that brought about great strength and grace: The Baptism of Jesus; The Wedding Feast of Cana; The Proclamation of the Kingdom, with the call to conversion; The Transfiguration; The Institution of the Eucharist.
- lust*** An inordinate desire, especially in matters of sexuality. While sexuality is a basic part of human nature, disordered sexual desire is one of the capital sins.

<i>magisterium</i>	Refers to either a body of teachers or to their teachings. In Roman Catholic theology “magisterium” usually refers to the Church’s living teaching office, which consists of all bishops in communion with the Pope, who have the collegial responsibility of preserving and teaching the Gospel.
<i>Magnificat</i>	A word that means “it magnifies, or makes great”. It is the name we give to Mary’s great prayer of praise to God.
<i>manna</i>	The food that was miraculously provided for the Chosen People during their wandering in the desert.
<i>Marks of the Church</i>	Refers to those characteristics or essential features that enable people to recognize the Church. Although theologians have proposed over a dozen different marks, particular attention is given to the four mentioned in the Nicene Creed: one, holy, catholic and apostolic.
<i>marriage</i>	The legal union of man and woman as husband and wife.
<i>Mass</i>	This word means “mission” or “sending forth” – refers to the ending of the celebration of the Eucharist in Latin, which concluded by sending the faithful out into the world with the words: “Go, you are sent forth”.
<i>Matrimony</i>	The sacrament at the service of communion that unites a baptized man and a baptized woman in a lifelong bond or covenant, of faithful love to serve the Church as a sign of Christ’s love for the church.
<i>meditation</i>	A form of prayer that reflects on a scriptural passage, a spiritual writing, or a religious image in relation to the actual situations of life in order to come closer to union with God.
<i>mental prayer</i>	A form of prayer recommended in the Catholic Church whereby one loves God through dialogue with Him; meditating on His words, and contemplating Him. It is a time of silence focused on God.

<i>mercy</i>	Refers to the kindness or compassion shown to an offender, especially the forgiveness that God shows to sinners.
<i>Messiah</i>	A Hebrew term meaning “anointed one”, the Anointed One God promises to send His people. We believe Jesus is the Messiah promised by God.
<i>mildness</i>	The quality or state of being mild. Mildness of temper.
<i>modesty</i>	Refers to the virtue that promotes moderation in all human activities, especially prudential behavior in matters of dress and sexuality.
<i>Monsignor</i>	An honorary ecclesiastical title granted by the Pope to some diocesan priests. In the United States, the title is given to the vicar general of a diocese.
<i>monstrance</i>	Refers to a sacred vessel, usually in the form of a cross, which is used for the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for adoration and benediction.
<i>mortal sin</i>	A deadly or serious sin that turns a person away from God and destroys charity in that person’s heart. For a sin to be mortal, three conditions must be present: (1) a serious matter as indicated the Ten Commandments, (2) full knowledge of the serious sinfulness of the act, and (3) free and deliberate consent.
<i>mystery of faith</i>	The words we use to describe the fact that we can never fully, comprehend or fully grasp God. God is, and His loving plan for us is, a mystery. We only know who God is and what His plan for us is because He has revealed it.
<i>myth</i>	Originally a myth was a story about the gods or heavenly beings and usually taught a moral lesson; theologians sometimes contrast fact and myth understood as a story that is not factual but artificially contrived to teach a lesson.
<i>Names of the Seven Sacraments</i>	Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony
<i>Nazareth</i>	The city where Jesus lived and grew up.

New Testament Refers to the biblical writings that were circulated within the early Christian communities and narrated the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit within the life of these communities; these writings were later accepted by the Church as divinely inspired.

Nicene Creed The summary statement of Christian belief that was originally formulated at the First Council of Nicaea in 325 and later amplified at the First Council of Constantinople in 381. This creed has special significance because it is used by many Churches in both the East and the West.

O Antiphons Antiphons used at daily prayer in the evenings of the last days of Advent in various liturgical Christian tradition. December 17 – O Wisdom; December 18 – O Adonai, December 19 – O Root of Jesse; December 20 – O Key of David; December 21 – O Mary Star; December 22 – O King of Nations; December 23 – O Emmanuel.

Old Testament The Christian name for those biblical writings that record God’s Revelation to the Chosen People. Christians believe that the Old Testament anticipates and prepares for the New Testament, which is accordingly the culmination and completion of the Old Testament.

Order of Creation

Ordinary Time This term refers to the thirty-four weeks of the Church’s liturgical year that are not included in the seasons of Easter, Advent and Lent.

ordination Refers to the sacramental rite by which a bishop, through the laying on of hands and the appropriate prayer of consecration, confers on a man the order of deacon or priest or bishop.

original sin This term has two meanings. (1) the sin of the first human beings who disobeyed God’s command by choosing to follow their own will and so lost their original holiness and became subject to death, and (2)

the fallen state of human nature that affects every person born into the world.

Our Father

These are the opening words of the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples; this prayer is noteworthy for addressing God as “Father”. The text of the prayer in the Gospel of Luke has five petitions, while the text in the Gospel of Matthew has seven petitions.

Palestine

pall

Refers to two different object used in the liturgy: 1) the large decorated cloth that is spread over a casket during a funeral Mass; formerly, a funeral pall was black, symbolizing death; presently, a funeral pall is white, symbolizing the resurrection of the body; and 2) a small square piece of linen, usually reinforced with cardboard, that is used to cover a chalice during the celebration of the Mass.

parable

Refers to a short story that uses everyday images to communicate a religious message. Jesus used parables frequently in His teaching and preaching as a way of presenting the Gospel, the Good News of salvation.

Paraclete

Means “advocate” or “helper”. It’s used in the Gospel of John to describe the Holy Spirit who was promised to the disciples as an advocate or consoler.

parish

Refers to the local Christian community under the care of a pastor, appointed by the bishop of the diocese. A parish is a local center for the celebration of the Eucharist and the other sacraments, the preaching of the Gospel, and works of charity and social concern. Parishes are usually territorial; but sometimes they are established for a particular national or ethnic group.

Paschal Mystery

Refers to Christ’s redemption of all people through His life of sacrifice, especially His Crucifixion, death, and Resurrection. Christians participate in Christ’s death and Resurrection through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist,

<i>Passion of Christ</i>	Refers to the sufferings of Jesus during the final days in his life: his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, his trial, and his crucifixion. Contemporary theologians often relate the Passion of Christ to the present-day suffering of people, especially the needy and marginalized.
<i>Passover</i>	The Jewish feast that celebrates the sparing of the Hebrew children from death, and God's saving His people from slavery in Egypt and leading them to freedom in the land He promised them.
<i>pastor</i>	A priest in charge of a parish or congregation. He is responsible for administering the sacraments, instructing the congregation in the doctrine of the Church and other services to the people of the parish.
<i>paten</i>	The plate used to hold the bread that will become the body of Christ.
<i>patience</i>	Refers to the fruit of the Holy Spirit that enables a person to endure life's difficulties without complaint in anticipation of eternal glory.
<i>patron Saint</i>	
<i>peace</i>	Refers to a virtue at the core of the New Testament; peacemaking is one of the Beatitudes and also one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.
<i>penance</i>	Refers to many types of actions, both internal and external, whereby a person expresses sorrow for sin, tries to atone for the harm resulting from sinful actions, and attempts to lead a better life.
<i>penitential rite</i>	A general acknowledgment by the entire assembly of sinfulness and the need for God's mercy.
<i>Pentateuch</i>	Word meaning "five containers", the first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, also called the Torah.
<i>Pentecost</i>	This word means "fiftieth day". Pentecost is celebrated seven weeks after Easter, commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples who were

empowered to preach the Gospel and so marks the beginning of the Church.

petition Refers to a prayer which requests a grace or blessing from God or the saints.

Pharisees Designates a Jewish religious party or school at the time of Jesus. The Pharisees, who faithfully adhered to the Mosaic Law and believed in the resurrection of the body, are depicted in the New Testament as hostile to the teaching of Jesus.

plagues

pope A title used by a number of important bishops but especially by the bishop of Rome, as successor of Saint Peter and supreme pontiff of the universal Church.

praise

prayer A lifting up of the mind and heart to God. Prayer, as a conversation with God, may take many forms: silent and internal, spoken and public, formal or spontaneous, and so on.

precepts of the Church Rules or laws that detail responsibilities and impose standards of conduct.

priest A man who has received the sacrament of Holy Orders, which empowers him to be a minister of the sacraments of Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation. The priesthood of the ordained is essentially different from the priesthood of the faithful.

Presentation of Jesus

pride Refers to excessive self-esteem or self-love that constitutes one of the seven capital sins.

prophet A person chosen by God to communicate a salvific message. A biblical prophet was primarily a communicator of a divine message of repentance to the Chosen People and not necessarily a person who predicted the future.

<i>proverb</i>	Refers to any short saying that has been orally passed down as advice from generation to generation. The Book of Proverbs in the Old Testament contains many examples of such wisdom sayings, which provide an understanding of human experience from a religious perspective.
<i>prudence</i>	Refers to the virtue that disposes a person to discern what is good and to select the appropriate means for attaining that good. Along with justice, temperance, and fortitude, prudence is considered a cardinal virtue.
<i>psalms</i>	Refers to hymns or songs of prayer that express praise, thanksgiving, petition, lamentation, or a historical memory of God's actions on behalf of the Chosen People.
<i>purgatory</i>	Refers to a sinner's final purification of the temporal punishment due to sin prior to entrance into heaven.
<i>purificator</i>	A cloth of linen used to clean the inside of the chalice at Mass.
<i>purity</i>	Refers to the virtue that enables a person to purify mind and heart from temptation and to practice temperance and chastity.
<i>real presence</i>	Refers to the multiple ways in which Christ is present to believers: 1) In the celebration of the Eucharist, Christ is present in the body of the faithful gathered in his name; 2) Christ is present in the word proclaimed from the Scriptures; 3) Christ is present in the person of the minister, who is an alter Christus; and 4) Christ is present at Mass under the species of bread and wine, which become the body and blood of Christ. This last sense is the one most commonly used.
<i>reconciliation</i>	Refers to the process whereby a sinful person returns to the grace of God and love of neighbor. The sacrament of Penance reconciles a sinner with God and the Church.
<i>reposition</i>	

restitution	Refers to the return of what has unjustly been taken from another person.
Resurrection	The event of Jesus being raised from the dead to a new and glorified life.
revelation	Refers to the unveiling or self-manifestation of God and God's divine plan of salvation through the prophets of the Old Testament and through Jesus Christ in the New Testament.
reverent love	The attitude of awe, profound respect and love.
rite	Refers to the way in which the liturgy is celebrated. Not only is the liturgy celebrated in a diversity of different languages, there are different liturgical traditions or rites in the Eastern and Western Churches.
ritual	This word has a double sense: 1) a specific ceremony, such as the ritual of the Mass or 2) a book that contains the texts that are to be recited during such ceremonies.
rosary	A set of prayers (Apostles Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be) that are recited while meditating on the mysteries of Christ's life. There are twenty mysteries of the rosary divided into four groups of five each; the joyful, the sorrowful, the glorious, and the luminous mysteries.
Sabbath	The day of rest, the seventh day of the week, that the Israelites dedicated to God and that the Jewish people today dedicate to God as a day of rest and a holy day.
sacrament	A visible sign of the invisible presence of God. The term "sacrament" is used in various ways: 1) Christ is the sacrament of God, a visible sign of the divine presence; 2) the Church is a sacrament, insofar as it is a visible sign of Christ's presence in the world; 3) for Catholics there are seven sacraments instituted by Christ to communicate grace to Christians.
Sacrament of Penance	A Sacrament of healing. It's the process whereby a sinful person returns to the grace of God and love of neighbor. The sacrament of

Penance, reconciles a sinner with God and the Church.

sacramental Sacred signs instituted by the Church. They include certain objects and blessings and prayers that prepare us to participate in the sacraments and make us aware of and help us respond to God's loving presence in our lives.

sacramentary The book used by the celebrant, containing all the prayers for the Liturgy of the Mass.

Sacraments of Healing Penance and Anointing of the Sick are Sacraments of healing.

Sacraments of Initiation Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist are the three sacraments of initiation.

Sacraments of Service The two sacraments of service are Matrimony and Holy Orders

Sacred Scripture Two words that mean "holy writings", the holy writings of God that the Holy Spirit inspired the people of God to write and that have been collected by the Church in the Bible.

Sacred Tradition The passing on of the Gospel in the Church through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

sacrifice Offering made to God by a priest on behalf of the people as a sign of adoration, thanksgiving, petition, and communion. The only perfect sacrifice is that offered by Christ on the cross.

sacrificial meal

Sadducees Refers to a Jewish religious party or school at the time of Jesus; the Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection of the body, are depicted in the New Testament as hostile to the teaching of Jesus.

saint Any person who is trying to live a Christian life as a member of the communion of saints, or those people who have been officially recognized as saints through

canonization by the Church and so as worthy of imitation and veneration.

salvation The forgiveness of sins and the restoration of friendship with God, a person can be certain of salvation, which is a gift of God, only at the time of judgment.

salvation history This term refers to an interpretation of the Bible as a historical record of divine salvation: God began disclosing this divine plan of salvation at the time of Creation and continued revealing his plan through the historical events of the Old Testament, culminating with its definitive manifestation through Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

Samaria This territory consisted, at the time of Jesus, of the region south of Galilee and north of Judea, that is, the region between Nazareth and Jerusalem.

sanctifier

sanctifying grace Refers to the habitual gift that God gratuitously gives a person to respond to the divine call to salvation; sanctifying grace heals human nature and makes a person holy and pleasing to God.

Sanhedrin Refers to the assembly of Jewish religious authorities that acted as a supreme court in declaring Jesus deserving of death because of blasphemy.

Savior A title appropriately given to Jesus, whose Hebrew name means “God saves”.

scribes At the time of the New Testament, referred to Jewish legal scholars or teachers of Jewish Law, who are often portrayed as opposed to Jesus.

Scripture and Tradition

This term refers to the fact that the Revelation given by Jesus Christ to His apostles has been transmitted in two forms: 1) the oral Tradition that began with the apostles and has continued through the centuries under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and 2) the written account of this Revelation that has been recorded in the Bible. Scripture and Tradition are

mutually related. Tradition gave birth to the Scriptures and is always necessary in order to interpret the Scriptures; the Scriptures, in turn, are the text that definitively expresses the Apostolic Tradition.

- secular*** Any view that emphasizes matters of this world and rejects religious and spiritual values.
- Seder*** Refers to a Jewish ceremonial meal, usually celebrated at home during Passover, in commemoration of the Exodus of the Chosen People from Egypt.
- self-control***
- Sermon on the Mount*** The summary of the teachings of Jesus on discipleship that are grouped in Chapters 5,6 and 7 of Matthew's Gospel.
- Sign of the Cross*** A sign, ceremonial gesture or movement in the form of a cross by which a person confesses faith in the Holy Trinity and Christ, and intercedes for the blessing of Himself, other persons, and things.
- sin*** Refers to an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience and thus against God. Sin is considered venial, when it is less serious and mortal or capital, when it is a serious transgression of a person's relationship with God and neighbor.
- single***
- sloth*** Refers to a sinful lack of either physical or spiritual effort and is considered a capital sin.
- social justice*** This term represents a central aspect of Roman Catholic social teaching, refers to that aspect of justice that respects and defends the human dignity and human rights of each individual and of society as a whole.
- Sorrowful Mysteries***

- soul** Refers to the spiritual principle of human beings. The soul is immediately created by God and will be reunited with the body after the last judgment.
- Spiritual Works of Mercy*** Actions and practices which the church considers expectations to be fulfilled by believers. Those actions that provide for the needs of the spirit.
- state of grace**
- stewardship** This word has two different meanings: 1) the rightful care of all creation as desired by God in the Book of Genesis, and 2) the responsible use of funds by churches and their members; in particular, such funds should be used for the purposes for which they were given.
- stole** The vestment worn around the neck by all ordained ministers. For priests, bishops and Pope, it hangs down in front (under the chasuble); the deacons wear it over their left shoulder crossed and fastened at the right side.
- synagogue** Refers to the worship assemblies of Jews, who lived outside of Jerusalem, to celebrate the Sabbath; Jesus is depicted in the Gospel of Luke as beginning his Galilean ministry in the synagogue of Nazareth.
- tabernacle** Place in the church where the Eucharist or sacred species is reserved.
- temperance** Refers to the cardinal virtues that helps a person balance the enjoyment of human pleasures and the use of created goods.
- Temple of the Holy Spirit*** The image used to describe the indwelling of the Spirit in the Church and within the hearts of the faithful.
- Ten Commandments** The laws of the covenant God revealed to Moses and the Israelites on Mount Sinai.
- thanksgiving** This word refers to any expression of appreciation, especially gratitude to God for all the blessings given

us. Thanksgiving as a public celebration in the United States dates back to the Pilgrims in Plymouth Colony.

theological virtues Refers to the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity, which are divinely infused gifts that enable their recipients to live a life of friendship with God and love of neighbor so they will merit eternal life.

Torah The Law of God revealed to Moses, which is found in the first five books of the Old Testament.

transubstantiation The conversion of the essence of bread into the Body of Christ, and the conversion of the essence of wine into the Blood of Christ. This is a sacramental act performed by a priest during Mass. After the words of consecration, the appearance of and taste of the bread and wine are unchanged, but the essence has been permanently altered.

unbloody sacrifice of the Cross The unbloody sacrifice of the cross is the celebration of the Mass – the memorial of His sacrifice.

understanding

unleavened bread

Vatican The word refers to the hill in Rome on the west side of the Tiber River that is the location of the cemetery where Saint Peter is believed to have been buried. In everyday use, “Vatican” is often used to refer to the papal government or curia.

venial sin Refers to less serious sins which, while turning a person away from God, do not destroy a person’s basic relationship with God.

vestment The vesture the minister wears.

viaticum Viaticum is the Holy Eucharist received by those who are about to leave this earthly life and are preparing for the journey to eternal life. Communion in the Body and Blood of Christ who died and rose from the dead, received at the

moment of passing from this world to the Father, is the seed of eternal life and the power of the resurrection.

- virgin birth*** This term refers to the conception of Jesus in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- virtue*** Refers to a firm and habitual disposition to do that which is good. Moral virtues are acquired by human effort aided by divine grace, while the theological virtues are gifts of God.
- visitation***
- vocation***
- way of the cross*** This term refers to a form of prayer that apparently dates back to the fourteenth century. The way of the cross is a popular Lenten devotion that retraces the last events in the life of Jesus, from His condemnation by Pilate to His execution on Calvary. Most Catholic Churches had fourteen stations that are artistic representations of these final stages in the life of Jesus.
- wisdom*** Wisdom is the name of one of the books of the Old Testament. In the Hebrew Scriptures, Wisdom is depicted as the action of God in the world. In Christian theology it is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit which helps us to know God's plan of creation and salvation and to make moral decisions according to that divine plan.
- wonder and awe***
- worship*** Refers to the adoration and honor given to God. Worship may be: 1) private, when an individual personally chooses a time and place to adore God; or 2) public, when the liturgy and sacraments are celebrated by a group of people.
- Zealots*** This word refers to a Jewish group at the beginning of the first century AD that sought religious and political independence from the Romans and rose up in open rebellion; after their defeat; they carried on guerilla warfare against the Romans.

