

Glossary of Terms for Catechists

The words listed in this glossary do not necessarily provide an all-inclusive list of faith formation terms for grades K–8. The words here are those cited in the learning objective portions of this curriculum document, and the definitions and other references given for the words are intended to aid the catechists in teaching these words to their students. For a definition or explanation of words not included here, and perhaps for a fuller understanding of the words that are here, catechists should refer to a Catholic dictionary or other competent source particularly the United States Bishop’s website: www.usccb.org/comm/glossary.shtml

A

Aaron	Brother of Moses. (Ex 4:14, 7:1) Helped Moses lead the Israelites in the desert during the Exodus. Anointed as a Levitical priest. (Ex 28:41, 40:13) Died before reaching the Promised Land. (Nm 20:24-28) Spokesman of the "Aaronic blessing" (Nm 6:24-26) still used today.
Abel	Second son of Adam and Eve. (Gn 4:2) Killed by his brother, Cain. (Gn 4:8)
Abraham	Abram (his original name) was called by God to be head of God's Chosen People. (Gn 12:1-7) Father of Ishmael. (Gn 16:15) God changed his name to Abraham (Gn 17:5) and made the Covenant of Circumcision with him. (Gn 17:10) Father of Isaac. (Gn 21:2-3) Abraham was tested by God, and because Abraham trusted and obeyed God completely he was greatly rewarded. (Gn 22:16-18)
Absolution	That part of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation in which the priest or bishop, using the power entrusted to the Church by Christ, pardons the sin(s) of the penitent.
Acts of the Apostles	Acts of the Apostles, a book of the New Testament. Written by St. Luke (author of the <i>Gospel According to Luke</i>), telling of the early work of the apostles and the growth of the Christian community.
actual grace	Temporary supernatural intervention in our lives by God to enlighten the mind or strengthen the will to perform supernatural actions that lead us to heaven. Actual grace is therefore a <i>transient divine assistance</i> to enable us to obtain, retain, or grow in sanctifying grace (the life of God). When a person receives actual grace, they have a sense that God is truly intervening and helping them through some challenge.

Adam	The first man, created by God (Gn 1:26-27, 2:7) in his image and likeness. Husband of Eve, father of Cain, Abel, and Seth and other sons and daughters. (Gn 5:4) Adam and Eve committed the original sin. (Gn 3:6)
Adoration	A specific act of worshiping or honoring someone or something as divine. Acknowledging God as God, the Lord and Master of everything that exists. Through worship and prayer, we give to God the adoration which is the first act of the virtue of religion. Christians reserve the act of adoration exclusively for God.
Advent	The liturgical season of four weeks immediately before Christmas preparing to celebrate the Nativity of Christ. The spiritual preparation during this period is penitential in nature, hence the liturgical color is purple.
age of reason	The time of life (the person's age) when a person is assumed to be morally responsible on their own and fully able to distinguish between right and wrong. It is generally held by the Church to be "the end of the seventh year," i.e., when a child becomes seven years old. In individual cases, it could be earlier or later.
Agnus Dei	"Lamb of God" in Latin. The Latin version is sometimes sung in the Mass in place of singing an English version of the "Lamb of God." These words occur during the fraction rite (the priest's breaking of the bread) immediately prior to Holy Communion.
Alb	A full length white vestment worn at Mass and in other liturgical rites. It is often secured around the waist with a cincture. It reminds us of our baptism and symbolizes the purity of the soul with which we should participate in the Mass. An alb is worn by bishops, priests, deacons, and duly instituted acolytes. Altar servers generally wear either an alb or a cassock and surplice.
All Saints Day	A Holy Day of Obligation celebrated on November 1 in honor of all persons who lived exceptionally virtuous lives and whose souls are now in heaven where they participate in the heavenly liturgy.
altar	The sacred table used only for offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Before new altars are used, they are typically dedicated for their special purpose by a bishop. One or more relics of saints are commonly set into the altar.
altar cloth	The linen cloth used to cover the altar during the celebration of Mass.
ambo	A desk or lectern used in the Mass to support a book in a convenient position for a standing reader of the Gospel, etc.

ambry	A niche or cupboard in a church where the holy oils (Oil of the Catechumens, Oil of the Sick, and Sacred Chrism) are stored.
angel	A heavenly, immortal spirit with intelligence and free will, created by God who serves God. An angel has no body and often serves as a messenger to humans. For example, the angel Gabriel announced the Incarnation to the Virgin Mary. The Church celebrates in particular St. Michael, St. Gabriel, St. Raphael, and the guardian angels. Catholics should see themselves as sharing by faith in the blessed company of angels and men united in God.
Annunciation	The feast, observed annually on March 25, when the angel Gabriel announced to the Virgin Mary that she was to be the Mother of God.
Anointing of the Sick	A sacrament of healing. One of the seven sacraments instituted by Christ. This sacrament is administered by a priest or bishop (not by a deacon) to a baptized Catholic person who begins to be in danger of death because of illness or old age. (Cf. canon 844)
Apocalypse	Another name for the Book of Revelation; the last book in the Bible.
apostles	Specifically refers to the original twelve men chosen by Jesus. They were ordained priests by Jesus at the Last Supper and sent by him to preach the gospel. The word "apostle" literally means "one who is sent." After Pentecost, the apostles taught others what Jesus had taught them and were the early leaders of the Church. Mt 28:19-20. St. Paul, dramatically converted by Jesus to believe in him (Acts 9:1-19), was also sent by Christ to preach the gospel. Paul appropriately referred to himself as an apostle of Christ.
Apostles' Creed	A formula statement of belief, in twelve articles, containing the fundamental doctrines of Christianity, whose authorship tradition ascribes to the Apostles. "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ..."
apostolic succession	The handing on of apostolic preaching and authority from the Apostles to their successors, the bishops, through the laying on of hands. Christ entrusted his power of sanctifying to his apostles, and by the power of the Holy Spirit this power of sanctifying has been passed on in turn to each of their successors, down to the present day bishops of the Catholic Church through the sacrament of Holy Orders.
Ascension	Christ's going up to heaven forty days after his resurrection from the dead. Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:6-11.
Assembly	The people gathered together at Mass.

- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary As defined by Pope Pius XII in 1950, this dogma declares that "Mary, the immaculate perpetually Virgin Mother of God, after the completion of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into the glory of heaven."
- atonement Reparation for an offense. Applied to Christ the Redeemer who, through his suffering and death, rendered vicarious atonement to God for the sins of the whole human race.

B

- Baptism First of the seven sacraments and first Sacrament of Initiation into the Body of Christ, the Church. Through this sacrament, administered by a bishop, priest, or deacon, the recipient is cleansed of all sin and reborn and sanctified in Christ to everlasting life. Baptism is a rebirth in the Spirit, by water and the word of God. It is worthy of personal celebration each year, just as we celebrate our physical birthdays.
- Beatitudes In a general sense, beatitude is a state of bliss. In particular, beatitude refers to any of the declarations made by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:3-12) beginning "Blessed are..." These are Jesus' teachings on the meaning of and way to true happiness.
- Benediction Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament is a Eucharistic devotion. It includes a period of praise, meditation, and adoration by everyone present. The priest or deacon blesses the people in the form of a cross with the raised monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament, hence Benediction is truly a blessing by our Lord Jesus Christ himself.
- Bethlehem Bethlehem, called Ephrathah to designate it as the birthplace of King David, is one of the oldest towns in Palestine, twelve miles southeast of Jerusalem. This is where Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary. In Hebrew, "beth lechem" means house of bread.
- Bible The collection of Sacred Scriptures of Christians comprising the Old and New Testaments. It is believed to be the authentic, inspired record of the revelation made to mankind by God about himself and his will for men. The Council of Hippo in 393 A.D. first determined which books were to be included in the Bible. The Council of Trent in 1546 formally canonized (listed) the books of the Old and New Testament. It is a matter of faith for all Catholics to believe that all passages of all books of the Bible are equally inspired by God.

bishop	A successor of the Apostles who has received the fullness of Christ's priesthood. Bishops are appointed by the Holy See and consecrated by another bishop by the imposition of hands.
Blessed Mother	The title given to Mary, the Mother of Jesus Christ. She stood beneath the cross on Calvary and was placed in the care of the Apostle John, being told, "Behold your son." She is our spiritual Mother and Mother of the Church.
blessing	Blessings are signs that have God's word as their basis and that are celebrated from motives of faith. They are signs perceptible to the senses and are intended to foster an increase in human sanctification. The outward signs or gestures typically employed with a blessing are one or more of the following: outstretching of arms; raising or joining of the hands; the laying on of hands; the sign of the cross; sprinkling with holy water; and incensation.
Blood of Christ	The human blood which Jesus had on earth and which is sacramentally present in the Eucharist under the appearance of wine.
Body of Christ	(1) The human body which Jesus had on earth and which is now glorified in heaven. (2) This same Body and Blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ are sacramentally present in the Eucharist under the appearances of bread and wine. (3) The Church is called the (mystical) Body of Christ.

C

Cain	First son of Adam and Eve. (Gn 4:1) Killed his brother, Abel (Gn 4:8) and was penalized by God. (Gn 4:11-12)
Cana	A city of Galilee approximately eight miles north of Nazareth. In John's Gospel, it was at a wedding in Cana that Jesus worked his first miracle—that of turning water into wine. (Jn 2:1-11) Also, Nathanael (Jn 1:45-51), identified by many scholars as the Apostle Bartholomew, was from Cana. (Jn 21:2)
cardinal	A cardinal is a bishop appointed by the pope to assist and advise the pope in the government of the Church. Cardinals wear a specially designed red hat and cassock. Cardinals rank next to the pope in terms of hierarchy, and they are the ones to elect a new pope when this is necessary.

Cardinal Virtues	Four human virtues that play a pivotal role in the lives of the faithful. Because of their importance among all other virtues, they are called Cardinal Virtues. The Cardinal Virtues are fortitude, justice, prudence, and temperance.
Cathedra	The chair of the bishop, located in the cathedral, which symbolizes the bishop's teaching and governing authority over the flock of the diocese.
Catholic	(1) A member of the Roman Catholic Church, as distinct from a member of a Protestant church. (2) When used as an adjective, the word Catholic serves as a pointer to the Roman Catholic Church. (For example, "The author of this book has a clear Catholic message.") (3) When written with a small 'c' the word catholic means universal. Thus being catholic is one of the marks of the Church, taken from the Nicene Creed. The Church is catholic both because she possesses the fullness of Christ's presence, and because she has been sent out by Christ on a mission to the whole human race.
chalice	The cup-shaped sacred vessel or goblet used at Mass to contain the Precious Blood of Christ.
Chaplet	As a physical thing, a chaplet is literally "a string of beads." Rosary beads, for instance, are a form of chaplet. As a devotion or prayer, the chaplet is an intercessory prayer or set of prayers. For example, see the prayers for the Divine Mercy Chaplet in Error! Reference source not found. In a vision to St. Maria Faustina Kowalska in 1935, the Lord revealed a powerful prayer that he wanted everyone to say—The Chaplet of Divine Mercy—and he promised extraordinary graces to those who would recite it.
Charity	The infused supernatural, theological virtue by which a person loves God above all things for his own sake, and loves others for God's sake. It is a virtue based on divine faith or in belief in God's revealed truth, and it is not acquired by mere human effort. It is infused by God.
chastity	The moral virtue which provides for the successful integration of sexuality within the person. It involves self-discipline and control of passions, and it includes purity in conduct and intention. To understand offenses against chastity, refer to the <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> , 2351–59.
chasuble	The sleeveless outer vestment worn by the priest at Mass. It symbolizes the yoke of Christ and signifies charity. Chasubles are generally made of rich materials and decorated with appropriate symbols. The color of the chasuble material corresponds to the liturgical season of the year.

child of God	By Baptism, a person is reborn in the Spirit through water and the power of the Holy Spirit. God becomes our spiritual father, and we become the adopted children of God. As a child of God, each member of the faithful is part of God's family.
Chosen People	The descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are referred to as the Chosen People. These descendants are the people whom God led out of slavery in Egypt during the Exodus and to whom he gave the Promised Land. They became the 'Israelites,' named after 'Israel,' the name God gave to Jacob. (Gn 32:29) God intended that the Chosen People act as his first-born, to be an example to all the other nations (peoples) of the world.
Chrism	Perfumed oil, consecrated by the bishop annually at the Chrism Mass. Chrism signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is used in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.
Christ	The "anointed one of God." The word Christ is not Jesus' last name but a title indicating he was God's anointed or chosen one. He was the Messiah. Jesus is "the Christ."
Christian	Any person who has been anointed through the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism. Christians are followers of Christ, members of the Christian Church. Conversely, a person who has not been validly baptized is not a Christian.
Christmas	The feast of the Nativity, the birth of Jesus. Celebrated each year on December 25 th .
Church	Church, with a capital 'C', is the people that God gathers (assembles) in the whole world through Christ. As a group, a body, all Christians comprise the universal community of believers and are the Church in the largest sense. "This Church, constituted and organized as a society in the present world, subsists in the Catholic Church, which is governed by the successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him." (<i>Lumen Gentium</i> , #8) "Bishops are the visible source and foundation of unity in their own particular Churches." (<i>Lumen Gentium</i> , #23)
church	The building in which we worship is called a church (small 'c').
ciborium	A sacred vessel shaped as a large cup of precious metal with a cover of the same material that contains the consecrated small hosts. Similar in shape to a chalice but generally larger and distinguished from the chalice by having its own cover.
cincture	The cord used around the waist as a belt to gird the alb. It symbolizes the virtues of chastity and continence required of the priest.

Clergy	Those men specially ordained for Divine Service as deacons, priests, or bishops.
colors, liturgical	<p>The standard liturgical colors are white, red, purple, and green. Vestments made from gold cloth may be substituted on special occasions in place of white, red, and green vestments. Black vestments are optional for funeral liturgies. Rose vestments are permitted on the Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent.</p> <p>White symbolizes innocence and triumph. Red is the color of blood. Purple is a symbol of penance and expiation. Green, the color of budding and living vegetation, is the symbol of hope.</p>
commandment	A norm of moral and/or religious action. A directive by competent authority. Any of the Ten Commandments (laws) given to Moses by God. Jesus summarized all of the commandments in the twofold command to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.
commission, sins of	Choosing to do something that we should not do. The sin occurs by committing the act, saying the words, or deliberately thinking evil thoughts.
communal prayer	A group prayer, particularly a liturgical prayer such as the Mass or Liturgy of the Hours prayed in common by several people. A communal penance service leading to individual receipt of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation is also a communal prayer event.
Communion of Saints	The unity and cooperation of the members of the Church on earth with those in heaven and those in purgatory. The faithful on earth are in communion with each other by professing the same faith, obeying the same authority, and assisting each other with their prayers and good works. They are in communion with the saints in heaven by honoring them as glorified members of the Church, invoking their prayers and aid, and striving to imitate their virtues. They are in communion with the souls in purgatory by helping them by their prayers and good works.
Communion, Holy	The reception of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. A person's First Holy Communion (first receipt of this sacrament), after Baptism and along with Confirmation, completes their initiation into the Church, cf. Eucharist.
confession	See Penance and Reconciliation. Telling one's sins to a priest.

Confirmation	A Sacrament of Initiation. One of the Seven Sacraments instituted by Christ. This sacrament, administered by a priest or bishop (not by a deacon), completes the grace of Baptism by a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which "confirm" the baptized in union with Christ.
conscience	The interior voice of a human being that, when formed through prayer, study of Church teachings, reflection, and humility, is capable of discerning moral good. Conscience is an operation of the intellect, which applies its knowledge to a specific moral situation. In other words, we know something is right or wrong not because we feel that it is or that we want it to be right or wrong. Our minds objectively recognize right or wrong because our inner voice gives us the criteria for discerning.
consecrated life	A life dedicated to the service of God, especially by profession of the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience.
consecration	The power of the Holy Spirit changing the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ at Mass during the Eucharistic Prayer, when the priest uses the same words that Christ used at the Last Supper.
consequences	The results or effect of behavior. The penalty imposed by God because of sin.
contemplation	The form of prayer which looks at God by contemplating and adoring his attributes more than by asking him for favors (supplication) or thanking him for graces received (praise and thanksgiving).
Contrition	The act or virtue of sorrow for one's sins. There must also be a determination not to sin again and to take action to overcome sin.
corporal	A square white linen cloth on which the paten with large host and the chalice are placed during Mass. It is also used under the monstrance at Benediction or under the Blessed Sacrament at any time.
corporal works of mercy	The seven practices of charity based on Christ's prediction of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:35-36) that will determine each person's final destiny. They are: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit those in prison, and bury the dead.
Covenant	In the Old Testament, an agreement between God and Israel in which God promised protection to the Chosen People in return for exclusive loyalty. A covenant is a sworn promise between two parties and has the effect of forming a permanent bond of kinship between the parties. If one of the parties breaks the covenant, there are dire consequences.

Creation	The production of material and spiritual things in their whole substance, done by God. He creates out of nothing both because he starts with no pre-existing matter and because he parts with nothing of his own being diminished in the act of creation.
Creator	God is the one who created. He said, "Let there be light," and there was light. (Gn 1)
Creed	A brief, normative summary statement or profession of Christian faith. A statement of belief. Examples: the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.
credence table	A small table where the sacred vessels are placed before and after their use on the altar. The bread and wine are also placed there before Mass if they are not to be carried to altar in procession at the time of the collection.
crozier (crozier)	A pastoral staff presented to a bishop at his ordination, which signifies his duty of guiding and governing the particular Church entrusted to him.
Crucifix	A cross with an image or figure (corpus) of the crucified Christ attached to it.

D

dalmatic	The outer vestment with sleeves worn by the deacon at Mass. It symbolizes the joy and happiness that are the fruit of dedication to God. The color of the dalmatic material corresponds to the liturgical season of the year. Ideally, the color and design of the dalmatic match those of the priest's chasuble.
David	Hebrew king who ruled 1000 – 961 B.C. A shepherd boy, he was the son of Jesse. He killed Goliath with a sling and stone. (1 Sm 17) He became king of both Judah and Israel for a period of forty years. (2 Sm 5:4-5)

deacon	<p>A man ordained by the bishop (receiving the sacrament of Holy Orders) to the service of the Church's ministry. His duties may include preaching, the conferral of baptism, performance of marriage, administration of parishes, service to the community, etc. Transitional deacons are unmarried men preparing to become priests. Permanent deacons may be married or unmarried men, with no intention of being subsequently ordained as priests.</p>
Death	<p>Death is the cessation of bodily functions of a human being through the departure of the soul. Only the body dies when separated from its principle of life, which is the soul.</p> <p>Death is also the end of the time of human probation or testing of one's loyalty to God. After the moment of death, there is no further possibility of merit or demerit.</p>
Deuteronomy	<p>The fifth book of the Bible and the final book of the Pentateuch. Deuteronomy is written as a series of discourses by Moses near the end of his life in which he exhorts, corrects, and threatens his people. He partially repeats, completes, and explains the Law proclaimed forty years previous on Mount Sinai. Moses' intention is to enforce among the Israelites the Lord's claim to their obedience, loyalty, and love. Moses does not get to enter the Promised Land, but the Lord allowed him to gaze upon the Land from the top of Mount Nebo east of the Jordan opposite Jericho. (Dt 34:4-5)</p>
Devil	<p>A fallen angel who sinned against God by refusing to accept his reign. The chief of the fallen angels is Satan, or simply "the devil." The other fallen angels may be referred to as devils or demons.</p>
devotion(s)	<p>A religious practice or exercise other than the regular corporate worship of a congregation or assembly. With Mass as the regular form of worship for Catholics, praying the Stations of the Cross together at church, for example, would be a devotion. Similarly, a group of the faithful praying the Rosary together before Mass would be a Marian devotion.</p>
diocese	<p>The territorial jurisdiction of a bishop. All of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, for example, comprises the Diocese of Marquette.</p>
Disciple	<p>A person who accepts, practices, and helps spread the teachings of another. A disciple of Jesus follows (lives out) his teachings and makes an effort to teach others to do the same, by word and example.</p>
disposes	<p>Gives us a tendency toward something. For example, we become disposed (become inclined) to sin more and more if our venial sins grow or increase in number.</p>

- disposition, proper The qualifying condition for receiving Holy Communion is “to have the proper disposition.” To have the proper disposition, one must be a Catholic and have the correct attitude, mood, and intention *and* not be in the state of mortal sin.
- divine Of, relating to, or proceeding directly from God. Directed toward God, as in “divine worship.”
- Divine Office Another term for Liturgy of the Hours. (See below.)

E

- Easter The greatest and oldest Christian feast, which celebrates Christ's Resurrection from the dead. It is the "Great Sunday." It is celebrated with great joy and solemnity.
- Easter duty The third precept of the Church, obligatory in nature, states: "You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season." (See *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2042, and canon 920 of the *Code of Canon Law*.) *The Easter season consists of the fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost.*
- Easter Vigil The Easter Vigil is the vigil Mass on Holy Saturday night before Easter Sunday. It is the "mother of all vigils" (Sacramentary, p. 187), with a new fire, candles, and nine readings. It is celebrated with the greatest solemnity possible. Catechumens who have completed the R.C.I.A. process receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion) and become members of the Church at the Easter Vigil.
- Elijah Elijah is one of the most important Old Testament prophets. His name means "Yahweh is my God." He was the successful leader in the struggle to preserve the worship of Yahweh against the Canaanite religion. (See 1 Kgs 17 through 2 Kgs 2:14) Elijah, in a sense, is a "speaking" prophet, as there is no book of Scripture written by him.
- In the New Testament, Elijah appears with Moses at Jesus' Transfiguration. (Lk 9:30-31) Jesus refers to John the Baptist as having the spirit of Elijah, "the one who is to come." (Mt 11:14)

Epistle	One of the various letters included as a book in the New Testament. There are 13 letters identified by the name of the particular church or individual to which they were written, for example, <i>The Letter to the Ephesians</i> . These letters are all attributed to Saint Paul. There are seven other letters identified by the author's name, which were written to general audiences, for example, <i>The Letter of James</i> . One epistle (letter) is by an unknown author and is addressed <i>to the Hebrews</i> . The Book of Revelation (Rv 1:4–3:22) contains “Letters to the Churches of Asia,” but the overall book is not generally thought of as an epistle in the same way as are Paul's letters.
Eucharist	The ritual, sacramental action of praise and thanksgiving to God, which constitutes the principal Christian liturgical celebration of and communion in the Paschal Mystery of Christ. One of the Seven Sacraments. A person's First Holy Communion (first receipt of this sacrament), after Baptism and along with Confirmation, completes their initiation into the Church.
Eucharistic Adoration	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, which entails spending time in prayer, either kneeling or sitting, in front of the tabernacle or in front of a monstrance containing the Body of Christ (the consecrated host) and being present to Jesus, physically, mentally, and spiritually.
Evangelist	One who evangelizes. In particular, the term “Evangelist” is used to designate a writer of any of the four Gospels.
evangelization	The proclamation of Christ and his Gospel by word and deed in fulfillment of Christ's command to go and make disciples. Evangelization is the primary mission of the Church.
Eve	The first woman, created by God (Gn 1:26-27, 2:21-23) in his image and likeness. Wife of Adam, mother of Cain, Abel, and Seth. (Gn 4:25) Adam and Eve committed the original sin. (Gn 3:6)
evil	The opposite or absence of good. Moral evil results from the free choice to sin, an ability given to both mankind and angels.
examination of conscience	A person's self-reflection and mental review of his/her words and deeds to see how they might have offended God. This examination should be conducted prayerfully and carefully. An examination of conscience should precede every celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

Exodus (1) The departure of the Israelites from Egypt. (2) The second book of the Bible, a book of the Pentateuch. Exodus tells of the oppression of the Israelites in Egypt and their deliverance by God through Moses who lead them through the wilderness and to Mt. Sinai where they entered into a covenant with God.

Ezekiel A major prophet, the first prophet to receive the call to prophesy outside of the Holy Land. (He was in Babylon during the Babylonian Exile.) Ezekiel's text is filled with vast imagery, and student's may find Ez 37:1-14 especially interesting—this expresses Ezekiel's firm belief in a forthcoming restoration, Israel rising to new life from the graveyard of Babylon. ”

F

faith A gift from God (the first of the theological virtues) and a personal act by which we give personal adherence to God. Through faith we freely assent to the whole truth God has revealed.

faithful The baptized people, members of the Church.

fast To deliberately refrain from eating and drinking for a significant period of time as an expression of penance. We do this in order to discipline ourselves and, perhaps, to offer whatever suffering is experienced for the benefit of others.

fast, Eucharistic To refrain from eating or drinking for at least one hour prior to receiving Holy Communion. Water and medicine do not break this fast. A person who has not kept this fast should not receive Holy Communion.

fear of the Lord Profound reverence and awe toward God. It does *not* mean to be afraid of God! The fear of God consists wholly in love, and perfect love of God brings our fear (awe and reverence) of him to its perfection.

feast A celebration. In the Church, a “feast” does not involve a large meal with guests and dessert and all the trimmings. Rather, for example, the Feast of St. Patrick means the day (March 17) on which we celebrate and honor this great saint. “Feast” also indicates the rank of liturgical celebrations within the three-tiered hierarchy: solemnity, feast, and memorial.

font, baptismal	The receptacle for baptismal water. It may be as simple as a bowl on a wooden stand or as elaborate as a structure large enough for baptism by total immersion of the person being baptized. The baptismal font is the place for conducting the principal portion of the Sacrament of Baptism.
free will	The God-given freedom of humans to make choices that are not determined by prior causes or by divine intervention.
fruits of the Holy Spirit	The perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in each human being as our “first fruits” of eternal glory. The tradition of the Church identifies twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity.
funeral Mass	The Mass offered for a deceased person. It is the second part of the Church’s funeral liturgy: (1) funeral vigil, (2) funeral Mass, and (3) interment in a cemetery. The funeral Mass is for the benefit of the deceased’s soul; it is also for the benefit of loved ones and friends of the deceased who are still living, in that it can bring great comfort and consolation.

G

Genesis	The first book of the Bible, a book of the Pentateuch. Genesis tells the stories of creation (Adam and Eve), Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Esau, Jacob, Jacob's (Israel's) twelve sons (who become the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel), Joseph's being sold into slavery and rising to power in Egypt, and the migration of Jacob's (Israel's) entire family to Egypt.
genuflect	To bend the knee, touching it to the floor or ground as a sign of worship. Catholics genuflect on the right knee to Jesus present in the tabernacle or in the monstrance.
gifts	The elements of bread and wine brought forward by the people at Mass. If a monetary collection is taken up at the Mass, it too may be brought forward along with the other gifts.
gifts of the Holy Spirit	Permanent dispositions received by being baptized and confirmed in the Holy Spirit. These gifts enable us to be obedient to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. (See “fear of the Lord” above.)

glorified body	The human body after its resurrection from the dead and reunion with the soul, which beholds the vision of God. This vision is the source of the body's glorification. (1 Cor 15:42-44)
God	The supreme being who is, was, and always will be. The creator of all things, both seen and unseen. One in being yet three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The source of our salvation and loving Father of all people.
God the Father	The first Person of the Holy Trinity.
God the Holy Spirit	The third Person of the Holy Trinity; the personal love of the Father and Son for each other. Also called the Paraclete (Advocate). See "Holy Spirit" below.
God the Son	The second Person of the Holy Trinity—Jesus. Word of God incarnate. Messiah, Redeemer, and Savior of all.
Golden Rule	"Do to others whatever you would have them do to you." (Mt 7:12) This saying, known since the 18 th century as the "Golden Rule," is found in both pagan and Jewish sources, both earlier and later than the Gospel. Over 20 other religions have a teaching equivalent to the Golden Rule, including Buddhism, Judaism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, and Shinto.
Good Friday	The Friday before Easter Sunday, a day of fast and abstinence. It is the Friday of our Lord's Passion and death, which he suffered for our benefit, hence it is called "Good" Friday. Mass is not celebrated. Instead, a special service is celebrated in the afternoon consisting of Liturgy of the Word (including a proclamation of the Lord's Passion), veneration of the cross, and Holy Communion.
Gospel	A genre or category of New Testament Scripture; "good news." Capitalized when referring to or used in the name of one of the four Gospels, i.e., the Gospel according to Mark.
gossip	Idle talk, especially about others. The morality of gossip is determined by the degree to which time is wasted in useless conversation, by the failure in justice or charity committed against others, and by the damage done to people's reputation by those who gossip.
grace	God's free gift to us that enables us to respond to our calling by him to be his adopted children. See also "sanctifying grace" and "actual grace" in this glossary.

- Great Commandment In Jesus' own words, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Mt 22:37-39)
- guardian angel Each person has an angel assigned to watch over them and intercede for them—their guardian angel. (Mt 18:10) "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life." (St. Basil)

H

- Healing, Sacraments of A collective term to illustrate the nature of the Sacraments of Anointing of the Sick and of Penance and Reconciliation.
- heaven Eternal life with God. Heaven is the state of supreme and definitive happiness. The Apostles' Creed professes that God is "Creator of heaven and earth." This profession includes all that is seen and unseen. Heaven can designate both the firmament and God's own "place" — "Our Father, who art in heaven," It is not a physical place, as we think of places on earth.
- hell Eternal life without God. The state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed; the state of being reserved for those who refuse by their own choice to believe in God and to be converted from sin, even to the end of their lives.
- holiness All Christians are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of charity. All are called to holiness. "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." The lives of saints show us lives of holiness.
- holy Sacred, commanding absolute devotion. Spiritually pure.
- Holy Days of Obligation Feast days to be observed by attendance at Mass and rest as far as possible from unnecessary work.
- Holy Family The Holy Family consists of Our Lord Jesus Christ, his Blessed Mother, and his foster father St. Joseph. Since their household was one of perfect harmony and unity, it should be the model for every Christian home.
- Holy Land A name given to the geographic area that witnessed the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

holy oils	Holy oils are the three oils blessed and consecrated by the bishop at the Chrism Mass, then distributed to each parish and mission in the diocese for sacramental use by the local pastor throughout the year. The three holy oils are the Oil of Catechumens, Oil of the Infirm, and Sacred Chrism. As appropriate to the particular rite, the oils are used in the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Orders. A bishop also uses Sacred Chrism in dedicating a church or a new altar.
Holy Orders	A sacrament of service. One of the Seven Sacraments instituted by Christ. Holy Orders is the sacrament of ministry by which the mission entrusted by Christ to his Apostles continues to be exercised in the Church by the laying on of hands. The three distinct orders are deacon, priest, and bishop. All three confer a permanent, sacramental character on the man called to receive this sacrament. Only a bishop can administer (confer) this sacrament.
Holy Spirit	The third person of the Blessed Trinity, who is distinct from the Father and the Son but one in being, coequal, and coeternal with them because, like them, he is in the fullest sense God. He is symbolized by a dove, because it was in this form that he descended visibly upon Christ in the Jordan. (Mark 1:10)
Holy Thursday	Also called Maundy Thursday, the anniversary of the Last Supper, when Christ instituted the Eucharist, the Sacrifice of the Mass, and the sacrament of the priesthood. The Easter Triduum begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.
holy water	A sacramental, blessed by a priest or deacon, invoking God's blessing on all who use it. Holy water is a symbol of spiritual cleansing, and its use is advised in moments of physical danger or temptation.
homily	The oldest form of preaching, which consists of an informal talk on some passage in Sacred Scripture. The speaker endeavors to explain the lesson and to exhort the listeners to apply the teachings to his daily life. The Fathers of the Church first employed this type of sermon.
Hope	The theological virtue through which a person both desires and expects fulfillment of God's promises of things to come.
host	The wafer of unleavened bread consecrated by the priest during the Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass. It is the matter that becomes the Body of Christ through transubstantiation. The word 'host' is from 'hostia' meaning victim.

humility The moral virtue that keeps a person from the unruly desire for personal greatness. It leads to a true appreciation of their position in respect to God and their neighbor. See the Litany of Humility at the end of **Error! Reference source not found.**

I

image of God The creation account (Gn 1:26 ff.) states that God made man in his own image and likeness. The idea of man as the image of God is developed in the Pauline writings. This image is first and most properly Christ, the new Adam and head of a new race of men. (2 Cor 4:4; Col 1:15) See "likeness of God" in this glossary.

Immaculate Conception Mary, the mother of Jesus, was conceived without the stain of original sin. A Holy Day of Obligation celebrated on December 8.

Incarnation God the Son assumed a human nature in the person of Jesus Christ in order to redeem us. His divine and human natures were substantially united.

Initiation,
Sacraments of A collective term to illustrate the nature of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Communion. By means of these three sacraments, a person becomes fully initiated in the faith of the Catholic Church.

inspired
(inspiration) The supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit whereby the writers of the books of the Bible were supernaturally moved to write what God wished to be written. Thus, God is the principal author of all the books of the Bible.

intellect One of the two powers of the soul (intellect and will). The power by which we think, judge, and understand. The intellect informs the will.

intercession Entreaty in favor of or on behalf of another person. The Blessed Virgin (mediatrix of all graces), angels, saints in heaven, and the faithful on earth intercede for mankind by their merits and prayers.

- Isaiah** Greatest of the prophets and author of the longest prophetic book in the Old Testament. He is quoted more often in the New Testament than any book except Psalms. His mission was to proclaim the fall of Israel and Judah and the punishment that would befall the nation because of its sinfulness. He pleaded with his people to place their trust in God. His writings foreshadow the life of Jesus. (Isaiah 2:1-5, 7:10-17, 9:1-6, 11:1-5)
- Israel** The name given to Jacob by an angel at the Jabbok ford. (Gn 32:29, 35:9-10) Israel (Jacob) is a personification of the nation of Israel. With Israel's (Jacob's) sons becoming the leaders of the twelve tribes, his name, "Israel," accrues to the whole nation. The term Israelites pertains to his descendents and is used even before the birth of Moses. (Ex 1:11)

J

- Jeremiah** One of the major prophets. He lived during the seventh and sixth centuries before Christ and witnessed the capture and destruction of Jerusalem. He survived six kings of Judea.
- Jerusalem** Ancient city in Palestine, the religious and political center of the Jewish people, situated on the crest of a chain of mountains that cross Palestine from north to south. Originally called Salem, it was the capitol of Melchizedek from 2100 B.C. (Gn 14:18) Its most famous rulers were King David, who brought the Ark of the Covenant into the city, and his son Solomon, who built the first Temple.
- Jesse tree** A symbol of Christ, "a shoot springs from the root of Jesse." (Is 11:1) Often represented as a flourishing tree, it carries the six-pointed star of Israel at its base and the Cross as its fulfilled blossom at the apex.
- Jesus** The name of Our Lord, the Son of God and son of Mary. It is the Latin form of the Greek *Iesous*, who's Hebrew is Jeshua or Joshua, meaning Yahweh is salvation.
- Jonah** A minor Israelite prophet who is the key character in a short, four-chapter book of the Bible telling a story that both instructs and entertains. The story uses an actual personality to teach a moral lesson: God's mercy is at hand providing man is willing to repent.
- Joseph** In the Old Testament: the second youngest of Jacob's (Israel's) twelve sons. His life story is told in Genesis 37 - 50.
In the New Testament: husband of Mary and foster-father of Jesus.

- Judas** Judas Iscariot, the only apostle who did not come from Galilee. He was in charge of the common funds of the Apostles. (Jn 13:29) His inordinate greed motivated him to betray Jesus. (Mt 26:14-16)
- Judgment, particular** An individual's judgment immediately after death, when Christ will judge one's eternal destiny to be spent in Heaven (after purification in Purgatory if needed) or in Hell.
- justice** As a virtue, it is the constant and permanent determination to give everyone his or her rightful due.

K

- Kingdom of God** In the Synoptic Gospels, the term Kingdom of God is frequently used to designate the central theme of the mission of Jesus. Jesus tells his disciples to seek the Kingdom of God and his righteousness. (Mt 6:33). All people are invited into this kingdom, which is governed by God's laws.

L

- laity** The faithful who through their baptism are the people of God. They are distinguished from clergy (those who have received Holy Orders) and those in consecrated life.
- Last Supper** The meal Our Lord took with the apostles the night before his passion and death. At that time he instituted the Mass and commanded the apostles to perpetuate the rite. (Mt 26:26-29; Mk 14:22-25; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-26)
- Law, The** The Israelite "Law" is comprised of all the commandments (instructions) given by God to Moses, which are written in the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament). The highest of these are the Ten Commandments. There are 613 laws.
- In the New Testament, Jesus reduces the whole law to the two-fold commandment to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. (Mt 22:34-40; Mk 12:28-34; Lk 10:25-28)

lectio divina	<i>Lectio Divina</i> is reading, slowly and thoughtfully, either alone or with others, a more or less lengthy passage of Scripture, being careful to perceive the passage as the Word of God and allowing this Word to lead, at the prompting of the Spirit, to meditation, prayer, and contemplation.
Lectionary	The sacred book containing the designated scripture readings for each Mass. It contains a three-year cycle of readings for Sundays and solemn feasts, a two-year cycle for weekdays, and a one-year cycle for the feasts of saints. Moreover, it contains readings for a large variety of other optional Masses.
lector (reader)	The ordinary ministry responsible for proclaiming the First Reading and/or Second Reading from the Lectionary at Mass. In most instances in Catholic parishes, the lector (reader) is a layperson from that parish who has been trained and appointed by the local pastor. In other instances, men who are in training for Holy Orders will be formally instituted to the ministry of lector by their bishop as one of the necessary steps prior to ordination to the diaconate.
Lent	The season of prayer and penance before Easter. Its purpose is to better prepare the faithful for the feast of the Resurrection, and to dispose them for a more fruitful reception of the graces that Christ merited by his Passion and death.
Leviticus	The third book of the Bible, a book of the Pentateuch. Leviticus primarily provides the sacrificial and ritual laws prescribed for the Levite priests. It is a book of legislation.
likeness of God	Created in the likeness of God; the soul is in the likeness of God.
liturgical seasons	Extended periods of time during the liturgical year that focus on (give special emphasis to) particular events in the life of Christ. The seasons which help us to prepare and extend our celebrations of those events are Advent, the Christmas Season, Lent, Triduum, the Easter Season. The portions of the liturgical year outside of these seasons are called Ordinary Time.
liturgical year	It is the annual cycle of seasons and feasts that celebrates the Paschal Mystery beginning with the First Sunday of Advent (late November or early December) and concluding the Saturday after the Solemnity of Christ the King. This 12-month cycle of celebrating the mysteries of the Lord's birth, life and ministry, death, and resurrection is referred to as a "year of the Lord's grace."

Liturgy	Liturgy is the official public worship of the Church and is thus distinguished from private devotion. It is the special title of the Eucharist and the administration of the sacraments. Its function is twofold: to give honor and praise to God, which is worship, and to obtain blessings for the human race, which is sanctification.
Liturgy of the Eucharist	The part of Mass which includes Preparation of the Altar and Gifts, Prayers over the Gifts, Eucharistic Prayer, Communion Rite (Lord's Prayer, Sign of Peace, etc.) and Prayer after Communion.
Liturgy of the Hours	The public prayer of the Church for praising God and sanctifying the day. It is also known as the Divine Office. Clergy are obliged to pray the Divine Office. Members of the laity are encouraged to do so. Morning Prayer (Lauds) and Evening Prayer (Vespers) are the two principal prayers each day, along with prayer at five other hours: office of readings, mid-morning, mid-day, mid-afternoon, and night.
Liturgy of the Word	The part of Mass which includes the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel acclamation, Gospel, the Homily, the Profession of Faith, and the Prayers of the Faithful.
Lord's Day	Another name for Sunday, the day of the week on which Jesus rose from the dead.
Lord's Prayer	The prayer Jesus taught his disciples to pray (Mt 6:9-13), which is used during the Mass and prayed daily by the faithful throughout the world.
love	A devotion to a person or object. According to Greek philosophy, there are four types of love: <i>storge</i> ("I like you"), <i>philia</i> ("You are my good friend," trust), <i>eros</i> ("I want you," passion, romance, love of a spiritual nature), and <i>agape</i> ("I love you unconditionally," a total self-giving to another).
Luke	An evangelist, author of the <i>Gospel According to Luke</i> and the <i>Acts of the Apostles</i> . Luke was a Gentile by birth and a physician. He accompanied Saint Paul on parts of his second and third missionary journeys.

M

Magisterium	The sacred teaching authority of the Church. (<i>Lumen Gentium</i> , 12) The Magisterium is comprised of all the bishops with the pope at the head. The Magisterium ensures the Church's fidelity to the teaching of the Apostles in matters of faith and morals.
Mark	An evangelist and author of a Gospel around 65 A.D.
marks	Four properties or characteristics of the Church. The Church is <i>one, holy, catholic, and apostolic</i> , as found in the creed.
Marquette	Diocese of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It is named after Fr. Jacques Marquette, a Jesuit priest and explorer in the 17 th century.
martyr	A person who gives up his/her life rather than deny Christ and the Gospel or any of the teachings of the Church. A martyr is a "witness" for Christ.
Mary	The name of any of several women in the Bible, e.g., Miriam, sister of Moses; Mary the mother of Jesus/God; Mary Magdalene; Mary the sister of Lazarus and Martha; and the mother of John Mark, a Christian woman of Rome. <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Young woman of Nazareth betrothed to a carpenter named Joseph, and visited by the angel Gabriel who announced to her that she was chosen by God to be the Mother of his Only-begotten Son, to be named Jesus, the Christ, or Messiah.</p>
Mass	The unbloody re-presentation of Jesus' sacrifice at Calvary, and the principal celebration of the Church's public worship. It is called "Mass" (from the Latin <i>missa</i>) because of the "mission" or "sending" with which the liturgical celebration concludes. For example, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord."
Matrimony	A sacrament of vocation/service. One of the seven sacraments instituted by Christ. Marriage is a covenant relationship between a man and a woman, which is ordered to the well-being of the spouses and to the procreation and upbringing of children. When validly celebrated before a bishop, priest, or deacon, marriage is a sacrament and is indissoluble.
Matthew	An Evangelist and one of the twelve Apostles—the tax collector. Authorship of one of the four Gospels is attributed to Matthew.
Matthias	The disciple chosen to replace Judas Iscariot as one of the Twelve. (Acts 1:15-26)

meditation	A form of prayer in the mind and heart in which we try to understand what God wants of us, a point of faith, or a truth we believe. In this prayer, we talk to God and listen to what he is telling us as we think about a passage of Scripture.
memorial	Something designed or established to serve as a remembrance of a person. This can be a prayer service, a Mass, a statue, or a program.
mercy	Kind or compassionate treatment of someone who has offended us. When we ask forgiveness, God treats us with mercy. We pray, "Lord, have mercy on us."
Messiah	The Anointed One of God; someone expected to come to free a group of people. Jesus is the Messiah/Savior of the world.
ministry	The service or work performed by the preaching of the Word and the celebration of the sacraments by those in Holy Orders or by the laity, e.g., proclaiming the Word of God at Mass (the lector), distributing Holy Communion (the extraordinary minister of communion) at Mass or taking Communion to the homebound or those in hospitals, leading the singing at Mass, visiting the sick, and burying the dead. Using one's gifts for God's glory.
miracles	A sign or wonder such as a healing or the control of nature, which can only be attributed to Divine power. The miracles of Jesus were a messianic sign of the presence of God's kingdom. Hence, miracles are acts performed through the power of God that we cannot explain.
miter (mitre)	The liturgical headdress worn by a bishop as a sign of his office. It is tall and pointed, with peaks in the front and the back. It is constructed to lie flat when removed.
monstrance	The sacred vessel used to expose a large consecrated host during exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.
morality	Refers to the good or evil of human acts. Human freedom makes a person an agent able to judge the goodness or evil of the acts which are chosen. The morality of human acts depends on the object (or nature) of the action, the intention or end foreseen, and the circumstances of the action. Actions done with knowledge and free consent may be morally good or evil.
morals	Rules or habits of conduct, especially sexual conduct, with reference to standards of right and wrong. A habit of doing good acts is considered a virtue which helps us do good with ease.

mortal sins	A grave breaking of the Law of God that destroys the divine life in the sinner, constituting a turn away from God. For a sin to be a mortal sin, or a person's way of life to turn away from God, three conditions must be present: (1) the action must be a serious/grave matter, (2) the person must have full knowledge of the evilness of the act, and (3) the person must give full consent of the will (must want and choose to do it anyway).
Moses	The Hebrew man called by God to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. He was the leader of the Exodus. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mt. Sinai while the Israelites lived in the desert and were enroute to the Promised Land.
Mother of God	Mary is the mother of Jesus, who is both God and man. Mary is the mother of the whole Jesus, God and man; therefore she is the Mother of God or Theotokos (God-bearer).
Mother of the Church	Mary is the mother of Jesus, the Christ, who is head of the Church, the Body of Christ. Mary is therefore also known as the Mother of the Church.
Muslim	One who submits to God known as Allah. Muslims are people who practice the religion of Islam, which was founded by the prophet Muhammad in 622 A.D. and which traces its roots to our forefather Abram through his son Ishmael. (Genesis 16:1-16) Their scripture is called the Koran. Islam has five Pillars: (1) belief in Allah (God) and his prophet Muhammad, (2) prayers are to be offered at five certain times of the day while facing their holy city Mecca, (3) alms are to be given often, (4) fasting is to be observed, and (5) all Muslims are to go to Mecca on pilgrimage. (For further reference, see the <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> 841.)
Mysteries of the Rosary	Events in the life of Christ and his Blessed Mother that are meditated upon during the recitation of each decade of the Rosary. Throughout recent centuries, the faithful prayed the Rosary using three sets of five mysteries each (the Sorrowful Mysteries, the Joyful Mysteries, and the Glorious Mysteries). In 2002, Pope John Paul II added a fourth set of mysteries, the Luminous Mysteries. For a complete list of the mysteries of the Rosary, see Error! Reference source not found. in this curriculum.
mystery	Any reality that cannot be explained by reason but must be accepted from the standpoint of supernatural faith. God is a mystery, the Trinity is a mystery, and so is the entire plan of God through which he saves us.

N

Nativity	Another name for the celebration of the birth of Christ.
Nazareth	A small village in Galilee that was Jesus' home as a youth.
New Testament	The second section of the Christian Bible, which consists of 27 books containing the life of Christ, his teachings, and the story of the early Christian Church. For a listing of the books in the New Testament, see Appendix 1a—Books of the Bible of this curriculum.
Nicene Creed	A statement of Christian beliefs used as the Profession of Faith in the Mass. It was first formulated by the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. and was put in its present form at the Council of Constantinople in 381 A.D.
Noah	A descendant of Adam and Eve's son Seth (Gn 5:1-29), Noah was "a good man and blameless" (Gn 6:9), and God made a covenant with Noah. (Gn 6:18, 9:9-17) Noah built the ark on which at least two of every living creature would be safe during the Great Flood.
novena	A public or private prayer repeated nine successive times. The succession may be continuous, days, specific weekdays, or specific days of the month.
Numbers	The fourth book of the Bible, a book of the Pentateuch. Numbers continues the narrative story of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt. It begins where Exodus leaves off, with the Israelites still encamped at Sinai. Numbers is so named because it contains the results of two different censuses taken of the people. Because the people did not trust in the Lord, they wandered in the desert for forty years. (Nm 14:29-38)

O

obedience	The moral virtue that inclines the will to comply with the will of another who has the right to command. As a virtue, it is pleasing to God because obedience is the sacrifice of one's will out of love for God.
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obligation	The moral power of a law commanding obedience. Something that binds one to a good course of action. For example, when we speak of a “holy day of obligation,” that is a day on which we are morally bound to comply with Church precepts by attending Mass. Freely choosing to skip going to Mass on that day without a serious reason is morally wrong.
occasion of sin	Any person, place, or thing that can lead one to do wrong, thereby committing sin. People should avoid occasions of sin.
Office	A prescribed form or service of worship, particularly if one has an obligation to perform that service of worship. Used almost exclusively to mean “Divine Office,” praying the canonical hours in the Roman Catholic liturgy. The Liturgy of the Hours is the prescribed prayer of the Church at seven times of the day: Office of Readings, Morning Prayer, Daytime Prayer (Mid-morning, Mid-day, Mid-afternoon), Evening Prayer, and Night Prayer, all with their appropriate antiphons, orations, psalms, canticles, hymns, and responsories.
oils, holy	See holy oils.
Old Testament	The first part of the Christian Bible containing the 46 books of Sacred Scripture written prior to the time of Christ. The books of the Old Testament reveal the history of salvation, from God’s creation of everything that exists, through his early covenants with mankind, and through the prophets and events that prepared the way for the appearance of Jesus Christ as savior of the world. For a listing of the books in the Old Testament, see Appendix 1a—Books of the Bible of this curriculum.
omission, sins of	Choosing not to do something that we should do. Specifically, a sin of omission is willful neglect or positive refusal to perform some good action that one's conscience urges one to do. Such omission is morally culpable, and its gravity depends on the importance of that which should have been done.
Orders, Holy	See Holy Orders.
Ordinary Time	The days and weeks of the liturgical year that are not a part of Advent, the Christmas Season, Lent, the Triduum, or the Easter Season is called Ordinary Time. Impress upon students that this is not the “ho-hum” time of year—it is filled with some of Jesus’ greatest teachings—but it is called “ordinary” because the weeks (the Sundays) are named in numerical order. For example, the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Original Sin The sin by which Adam and Eve, the first human beings, disobeyed the commandment of God, choosing to follow their own wills rather than God's will. Adam and Eve's sin was personal and grave, and it affected the whole human race, i.e., it is passed on to every human being with the exception of Christ and his Mother. We, as descendants of Adam and Eve, are restored to sanctifying grace through the Sacrament of Baptism. Adam and Eve's sin: Gn 3:6; God's punishment: Gn 3:16-24; all born in original sin: Rom. 5:19.

P

Palestine Name, originally from Philistine, of the country on the east shore of the Mediterranean. In the Bible, Palestine is called Canaan before the invasion of Joshua. It was the Holy Land of the ancient Israelites because it was promised to them by God and became the Holy Land of the Christians because it was the home of Jesus Christ.

parable A short story based on a familiar life experience used to teach a spiritual lesson. Jesus explains why he teaches in parables in Matthew 13:10-11. Sample parables are Matthew 11:16 -19, 13:3-8, 13:44-50, and Luke 8:5-8, 15: 4-7.

Paraclete A title of the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity. A Greek word meaning advocate, intercessor, comforter. When Christ was to leave earth in visible form, he promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide the Church. John 14:16, 14:26, 16:13. The term aptly suggests the role of the Holy Spirit in the Church and in souls, since, like Christ himself, the Holy Spirit not only rebukes sin but also teaches, strengthens, and makes intercession for us. In the New Testament, "Advocate" is sometimes translated to "Paraclete."

Paradise A synonym for heaven. Jesus spoke of it in his promise to the good thief on the cross. (Luke 23:43)

Paschal Lamb The lamb eaten at the Passover of the Jews. Christ as the Messiah "was sacrificed for us" (Corinthians 5:7), "and thus became for those who believe in him the Paschal Lamb who takes away the sins of the world." (John 1:29)

Paschal Mystery Christ's work of redemption accomplished principally by his Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension whereby he destroys our death and restores our life.

Passion (Jesus')	The events surrounding the suffering and death of Jesus Christ; part of the religious rite of Holy Week in the Catholic Church.
Passover	The Jewish Pasch celebrated annually as commanded by God (Ex 12:17 and Ex 12:24) to commemorate the deliverance of the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt. Jesus' last celebration of the Passover was the occasion for instituting the Eucharist and the priesthood of the New Law.
paten	A saucer-like dish used to hold the host during the Offertory and after the Consecration during the celebration of Mass.
patron (as in patron saint)	A saint who has been chosen as a special intercessor with God for a particular person, place, community, or organization. The custom arose from the biblical fact that a change of personal name indicated a change in the person, e.g., Abram to Abraham, Simon to Peter; and from the practice of having churches built over the tombs of martyrs.
Paul	The most dynamic of Christ's Apostles, even though he was not one of the original Twelve. His Hebrew (Semitic) name was Saul, which was pronounced Paul in the Greco-Roman languages. (Note: Saul's name <i>was not changed</i> to Paul at the time of his conversion (Acts 9:3-9), in the way that Abram's name was changed by God to Abraham, c.f., Gn 17:5.) Saul (Paul) was a Jew born in Tarsus, and he was originally a Pharisee. (Acts 22:3) The travels of Paul are covered in Acts 15 - 19. During Nero's persecution of Christians, Paul was decapitated in about 67 A.D.
peace	The tranquility of order. It is the absence of conflict. Peace is the calm that accompanies agreement of human wills, and it is the foundation of every well-ordered society.
penance	The virtue or disposition of heart by which one repents of one's own sins and is converted to God. The punishment by which one atones for sins committed, either by oneself or by others. (Mt 16:24; 1 Cor 9:27; Col 3:5; Gal 5:24.)
Penance and Reconciliation	A sacrament of healing. One of the Seven Sacraments instituted by Christ. This sacrament is administered by a priest or bishop (not by a deacon) to a baptized Catholic person for the forgiveness of sins of the penitent (the person making his/her confession).
Pentateuch	The first five books of the Bible taken collectively, that is Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy, written from about 1400 to 1300 B.C. These books contain the old Law.

Pentecost	Feast commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples. It takes its name from the fact that it comes <i>fifty days</i> after Passover and was the Israelite-Jewish festival called simply the “harvest festival,” the feast of the first-fruits of the grain harvest, which was also called the feast of weeks. With the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, Luke makes Pentecost “the birthday of the universal Church.”
Peter	Leader of the Apostles, hence the first pope. His original name was Simon, but Jesus gave him the name "Peter" (Greek) or "Cephas" (Aramaic), which means “rock.” (John 1:42) "You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church." (Mt 16:18)
petition	A form of prayer. The voluntary response to the awareness of God's presence during which we ask for graces needed.
pope	The Bishop of Rome who, as the Vicar of Christ and the legitimate successor of St. Peter, is the visible head of the Church. The title, pope, is derived from the Greek word <i>papas</i> , meaning <i>father</i> . The pope is elected for life by the College of Cardinals.
praise	A form of prayer. The voluntary response to the awareness of God's presence during which we offer adoration for his greatness and goodness.
prayer	The act of addressing God showing awareness of his presence.
precepts of the Church	Commandments of a moral and ecclesiastical nature prescribed by the Church for obligatory observance by all Catholics. The precepts of the Church are (1) attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation; (2) confess your sins at least once a year; (3) receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season; (4) observe the days of fast and abstinence established by the Church; and (5) help to provide for the needs of the Church.
presider's chair	The special chair used by the presiding priest at liturgy. A deacon may also use this chair if he is presiding at liturgy, but no other person is allowed to sit in this chair.
priest	One of the three degrees of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. They are co-workers with their bishops to serve the People of God by teaching, sanctifying, and shepherding them in the very person of Jesus Christ, the Head of his Body, the Church. It is through the ministry of priests, the unique sacrifice of Christ on the cross is made present in the Eucharistic sacrifice of the Church.

Promised Land	The land of Canaan, generally thought to be the whole of western Palestine. It was given by God in his three-fold promise to Abram: land, a great nation, and worldwide blessing. (Gn 12:1-7; 15:7)
prophet	The biblical term " <i>nabi</i> " which means one who spoke, acted, or wrote under the extraordinary influence of God to make known the divine counsels and will. A person sent by God to form the people of the Old Covenant in the hope of salvation.
Protestant	A member of one of the Christian churches deriving from the Reformation begun in the 16 th century. A Christian not of a Catholic or Orthodox church.
psalm	A sacred hymn of praise, usually sung or chanted, and taken in whole or part from the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament.
Purgatory	The state or condition in which the souls of the just are purified after death and before they can enter heaven. (2 Mc 12:38-46; Mt 12:32)
purificator	A small piece of white linen, marked with a cross in the center, used by the priest in the celebration of the Mass. It is folded in three layers and used by the priest to purify his fingers and the chalice and the paten after Holy Communion. A purificator is also used by each minister of the Precious Blood in Communion to wipe the rim of the cup after each communicant has received from the cup.

Q

R

RCIA	Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The process and set of rites for bringing unbaptized adults (catechumens) into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. Baptized but previously uncatechized adults (candidates) also participate in R.C.I.A. The goal for each participant is to grow in his/her faith and to eventually receive the appropriate Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and/or First Communion) so as to become fully participating members in the Body of Christ, the Church.
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reader (lector)	The person(s) at Mass who read(s) the “First Reading” and the “Second Reading” from the Lectionary during the Liturgy of the Word. This is a ministry governed by the General Instruction of the Roman Missal and is typically fulfilled by a lay person who has been chosen and trained for this role.
Real Presence	The reality that Jesus Christ is present at and in the Eucharist, body, blood, soul, and divinity under the form of bread and wine.
reason	Refer to the “age of reason” above in this glossary.
reconciliation room	The common name for the place where the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated.
Redeemer	One who frees or buys back or atones for another. For Christians it is Christ who is the Redeemer
redemption	The salvation of humanity by Jesus Christ. Humanity was held captive in that it was enslaved by sin. Jesus ransomed humanity by his death and resurrection.
religious	<p>When used as an adjective, “religious” means having or demonstrating a faithful devotion to God. For example, we could say that someone who goes to Mass every weekend, prays frequently, and lives according to God’s laws is a religious person.</p> <p>When used as a noun in the Catholic tradition, a “religious” would be a person who has taken vows in a religious order and is consecrated to God. A Catholic sister, nun, or brother, monk, or a priest in a religious order (e.g., Dominican, Franciscan, Jesuit) is a religious.</p>
repent	To be sorry for sins committed because they offend God and then resolve to reform one's life. To repent is to “turn back” or “turn around” and follow the path toward God.
resurrection	The restoration of bodily life to one who has died. Three of the miracles of Jesus are classified as resurrections. (Mt 9:18-26; Mk 5:21-42; Lk 8:40-56) The Resurrection of Jesus was to eternal life.
Revelation	Information given to us by God about himself, i.e., divine revelation. “Revelation” is also used to refer to the Book of Revelation in the Bible.
reverence	The virtue that inclines a person to show honor and respect for any person, place, or object related to God.

Rosary A devotional prayer, mental and vocal, focused on Christ and honoring his Blessed Mother. It involves a collection of prayers: mainly the Our Father, Hail Mary, and the Glory Be. See **Error! Reference source not found.** for information on how to pray the rosary. The physical rosary is a circlet of beads (chaplet) devised to help us count and pray without distraction. Each decade (ten Hail Marys) is devoted to meditating on one of the Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous, or Glorious Mysteries which commemorate an event in the life of Jesus or of his Blessed Mother.

Roman Missal The liturgical book at Mass that contains the prayer texts for the celebration of the Mass according to the Roman Rite. Previously it was known in the United States and Canada as the Sacramentary. A new translations was put into use beginning Advent of 2011 and is now entitled the Roman Missal.

S

Sabbath The seventh day of the Jewish week (i.e., Saturday). On the Sabbath no work is to be done according to early biblical laws.

sacrament “An efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church by which divine life is dispensed to us.” (CCC 1131) One of the seven principal liturgical rites of the Church through which participants experience and receive the love and power of God (God’s grace). A sacrament is a physical expression of a spiritual reality, a physical sign which communicates something of the mystery of God, an efficacious expression of the mystery it symbolizes, and an event where humanity and divinity embrace.

sacramental(s) Sacred signs, objects, actions, and blessings that help people grow in faith and holiness. Examples of sacramentals are holy water, the Sign of the Cross, medals, scapulars, and rosary beads.

sacred Pertaining to or representative of God; not secular (worldly, temporal) or profane. Worthy of reverence and veneration.

Sacred Scripture The written, authoritative word of God. All the books of the Bible comprise Sacred Scripture.

sacrifice A ritual offering made to God by a priest on behalf of the people. The perfect sacrifice was Christ’s death on the cross.

saint	(1) A person officially recognized by the Church as having lived a holy life and who may be publicly venerated by the people. (2) Any holy person who leads a life in union with God and receives the reward of eternal life.
salvation	The ultimate restoration and healing of humanity's relationship with God.
salvation history	The pattern of events in human history that reveal and realize God's saving activity.
sanctifying grace	God's sharing of his divine life and friendship with us, enabling the soul to live with God and act by his love. Sanctifying grace is the supernatural state of being infused by God. This grace is the effect of God's self-communication to us, by which we are made holy.
sanctuary	The raised space in the church immediately around the altar for the principal rites of worship.
sanctuary lamp	A lamp (often with a burning candle as the light) that indicates the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.
Sarah	Abraham's wife in the Old Testament. Her original name, Sarai, was changed by God to Sarah. (Gn 17:15) Abraham laughed (Gn 17:17) and Sarah laughed (Gn 18:10-15) at the thought of having a child in their old age. But God kept his promise! (Gn 21:1-8) They named their son Isaac, which in Hebrew means "laughed."
Satan	A fallen angel, a devil; the Evil One. Chief of the fallen angels. The Devil.
Savior	One who saves; Jesus (which means "God saves" in Hebrew).
scandal	An attitude or behavior in one person that leads another to do evil. The person who gives scandal becomes his neighbor's tempter.
server, altar	An assistant to the presider at Mass.
Service, Sacraments of	A collective term to illustrate the nature of the Sacraments of Marriage and Holy Orders. These two sacraments are also called Sacraments of Vocation.

sign	Something that points to something other than itself. Signs and their meaning are man-made, i.e., knowledgeable people ascribe a particular meaning to a mark or a gesture and inform others of that meaning, so that over time the meaning becomes commonly understood by all. For example, Catholics everywhere understand and use the "Sign of the Cross." We are also fully accustomed to exchanging a "sign of peace" with those around us at Mass. Signs are quite different from symbols.
sin	An intentional offense against God and his laws.
Sinai	The sacred place (Mount Sinai, Ex 19) where the covenant between God and the Israelites took place during their exodus from Egypt. God delivered the Ten Commandments at Sinai.
slander	Damaging of another's reputation by false accusation.
social justice/teachings	Virtue pertaining to the structural requirements for a just society focused on human rights. The respect for the human person and the rights which flow from human dignity and guarantee it.
solemnity	A principle day with the highest rank in the liturgical calendar.
sorrow	A form of prayer, also known as contrition.
soul	The principle life in a human being. Each human soul is individual and immortal, immediately created by God.
spirit	That which is completely without matter. A spirit has no dependence on matter either for its existence or for any of its activities.
spiritual works of mercy	Acts of love by which we come to the aid of our neighbor for their spiritual needs. The seven spiritual works of mercy are to admonish sinners, instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, comfort the afflicted, bear wrongs patiently, forgive offenses, and pray for the living and the dead.
St. Ann	Mother of Mary, grandmother of Jesus.
St. Joachim	Father of Mary, grandfather of Jesus.
Stations of the Cross	A Catholic devotion which focuses prayer on fourteen events of Christ's Passion and death.
stole	A vestment worn around the neck and down the front of the alb by a priest, or over the left shoulder and crossing down to the right hip or thigh by a deacon, which symbolizes the office the priest or deacon holds in the Church.

Sunday	The Lord's Day. Since the time of the Church, after Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension, Sunday has for Christians replaced the Jewish Sabbath.
symbol	Symbols, unlike signs, are not made up or invented by mankind. Rather their meaning is contained in and of themselves (is self-evident) and is revealed to us. Symbols are multi-layered, multi-faceted objects with intrinsic meaning. Water is a perfect example of a symbol. Water symbolizes life, death, power, cleansing, renewing, etc. These aspects of water derive from the nature of water itself (i.e., they are not ascribed by man out of his intellect). Other symbols in the Church are light (candles, fire), bread and wine, oils, and the vestments. Symbols are much different than signs.
Synoptic Gospels	The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are called "synoptic gospels" because of their similarity—they "look alike" (synoptic). The authors of Matthew and Luke apparently had access to the Gospel of Mark and used much of it in their texts. The Gospel of John is notably different in arrangement and content.

T

tabernacle	A box-like or cylindrical container in the church generally made out of metal, where the consecrated Eucharist is reserved.
temple	Our bodies are temples (dwelling places) of the Holy Spirit. In Old Testament times, the Temple in Jerusalem, with its holy of holies and the Ark of the Covenant, was the house of God—the central place of worship for the Jewish people.
temptation	An attraction to act contrary to God's laws, i.e. to sin.
Ten Commandments	The ten laws given to Moses on Mount Sinai by God that tell us what is required for the love of God and the love of neighbor. Also called the Decalogue (ten laws).
thanksgiving	An expression of gratitude to God; a form of prayer.

Torah	The body of Jewish wisdom and law contained in Scripture and tradition. A term often seen as synonymous with the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible.
Tradition	The process and content of the transmission of beliefs, doctrines, rituals, Scriptures, and life of the Church (capital 'T' Tradition). Different than small 't' traditions, which are more like customs.
transubstantiation	The term used to describe the change of the substance of the bread and wine offered at the Eucharist into the body and blood of Jesus Christ.
Triduum	A liturgical celebration lasting three days. It most commonly refers to the three days before and including Easter, beginning with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and concluding with Vespers on Easter Sunday. The Easter Triduum recalls the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus. It is the culmination of the entire liturgical year.
Trinity	The mystery of one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

U

V

Vatican	An independent city-state in Italy where the Bishop of Rome (the pope) resides. Also used to describe the central authority of the Catholic Church.
venerate	To regard or treat with reverence. To show devotion and respect to someone or something. To venerate is distinct from and is a lesser regard than to adore or worship. Adoration and worship are reserved only for God. Veneration applies to Mary, the apostles, and the martyrs.
venial sins	A moral transgression not serious enough to destroy a person's relationship with God but which <i>does</i> diminish and wound that relationship.
vestments	Special garments worn by liturgical ministers, which symbolize their office. Some examples are chasubles, dalmatics, stoles and albs.

vicar	One who has ecclesiastical authority to act in the place of another. We refer to the pope, for example, as the Vicar of Christ on earth.
Virgin Mary	The Mother of Jesus, who is honored as “ever-virgin” for her perpetual virginity.
virtue	A habitual and firm disposition to do good.
virtue, theological	The theological virtues are faith, hope, and charity (love). These are infused in a person by God and may be strengthened through practice.
vocation	The call of Christ to all the baptized to follow him by embracing a life of holiness and participating in the mission of the Church to build the kingdom of God. Each person responds to this call specifically: as a priest or deacon, as a vowed religious (sister or brother), to married life, or to single life. “Each leads to a manner of life and specific tasks that are essential to building up the Body of Christ and the reign of God.” (Catholic Encyclopedia, OSV1319)

W

Way of the Cross	See "Stations of the Cross."
well-formed conscience	(See conscience.) A person’s conscience is well-formed if he/she has made a serious, deliberate effort over much time, with prayer and reflection, to study the life and words of Jesus in the Gospels and the moral teachings of the Church. By these means, one acquires a fuller understanding of the inner laws inscribed by God in his/her heart.
will	One of the two powers of the soul (intellect and will). The will is the power by which we choose good or evil, which is recognized by the intellect. The will in effect is an appetite which enables us to intend, choose, desire, hope, consent, hate, love, and enjoy.
wisdom	Knowledge that is so perfect that it directs the will to obey God’s commands. In the Bible, there is the Book of Wisdom. Wisdom is also a genre of Old Testament books about wisdom. These wisdom books are Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Wisdom, and Sirach.

witnessing	Giving testimony to others based on personal and immediate knowledge of a fact, event, or experience. A Christian testifies to the goodness and truth of God by his/her life, words, and actions, and thus gives inspiration and example to others by this testimony.
Word of God	Scripture texts in the Bible are the word of God. Jesus is also "the Word" made flesh.
worship	To give praise, honor, glory, reverence, and thanksgiving to God. Catholics and all other Christians worship the triune God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We do <i>not</i> worship Mary, saints, or any other being. (We venerate Mary. When we pray to Mary and the saints, we are asking them to pray to God for us. God alone do we worship.)

X

Y

Yahweh	The personal name of the God of Israel, revealed to Moses at Horeb (Mt. Sinai), meaning "I am who am." (Exodus 3:14)
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Z

zealot	One who shows great zeal and enthusiasm. In New Testament times, the Zealots were a Jewish sect which represented the extreme of fanatic nationalism. One of the twelve apostles, Simon the Zealot (Luke 6:15), may have earlier been a member of this group. The Zealots played a prominent role in the revolt against Rome. (A.D. 66-70)
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