

Religion Glossary

A

A.D. Anno Domini. The term *Anno Domini* is Latin for *In the year of the Lord*. It is sometimes specified more fully as *Anno Domini Nostri Iesu (Jesu) Christi* ("In the Year of Our Lord Jesus Christ").

Absolution: Act by which a priest grants forgiveness of sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Acolyte: alter server

Adoration: The act of adoration is done through worship and prayer by the Church or individual persons towards God.

Advent: The liturgical season of four weeks devoted to preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas. Also the Liturgical New Year of the Church.

Alb: The white garment covering one's everyday clothes.

All Saints Day: The day on which Catholics remember all the saints of the Church, whether officially canonized or not. It is celebrated on November 1st.

All Souls Day: The day on which Catholics remember the dead and pray for them recognizing that they may still need to be brought to perfection. It is observed on November 2nd.

Alleluia Acclamation: This acclamation of praise to God follows the second reading and serves to prepare the assembly for the Gospel.

Altar: The Table of the Lord, the table where the Eucharist is celebrated.

Ambo: The place where the Scriptures are proclaimed.

Amen: A Hebrew word meaning "it is so;" "let it be done."

Antipope: Someone who opposed the Pope. Then they called themselves the Pope.

Annunciation: The visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to inform her that she was to be the mother of the Savior. After giving her consent to God's word, Mary became the mother of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit. The feast day is March 25.

Anointing: anointing is the act of sealing someone with Holy Oil, a symbol of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Apostle: Apostolic - Disciple: means "one sent."

Apostles' Creed: A statement of Christian faith developed from the beliefs of the first Apostles.

Apparition: An appearance of Christ, Mary, an angel, or a saint to people on earth. The apparitions of Jesus in his risen body to his disciples occurred between Easter and his Ascension into heaven.

Ascension: The taking up of Jesus into Heaven, Body and Soul, 40 after the resurrection (Easter) and witnessed by the Apostles.

Ash Wednesday: The first day of Lent. By tradition Catholics have ashes sprinkled on their foreheads to mark repentance. The Ashes are made by a mixture of Holy Oils and Ashes from burnt palms.

Assembly: Those present to celebrate the liturgy. Other terms: to use: "The Community," "The Church (as people not building)," "The Worshipers," "The Faithful," or "the congregation."

Assumption: The taking up of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, Body and Soul into Heaven. Celebrated on August 15th.

Atheism: The denial that God exists. Atheism is a sin against the first commandment.

Ave Maria: Latin words meaning; "Hail Mary".

B

Baptism: The first of the seven sacraments which gives access to the other sacraments. Baptism is the first sacrament of forgiveness of sins because it unites us with Christ, who died for our sins.

Baptismal Font: holds the Holy Water used for Baptism.

Basilica: A church to which special privileges are attached. It is a title of honor given to various kinds of Churches. More than a church less than a cathedral.

Beatification: from the Latin word *beatus*, meaning blessed. Beatification is the third of the four steps in the canonization process.

Beatitudes: The teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount on the meaning and way to true happiness. The solemn blessings which mark the opening of the Sermon on the Mount, the very first of Our Lord's sermons in the Gospel of St. Matthew (5:3-10). The eight beatitudes are:

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall possess the land.

Blessed are they who mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice: for they shall have their fill.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart: for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Bible: From Greek word *biblia* or books. Sacred Scripture: the books which contain the truth of God's creation and were composed by human authors inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Bishop: From the Greek word *episcopos* meaning overseer. A bishop is in charge of the Church in a local area. The Bishop has received the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, which makes him a successor of the Apostles. He is the shepherd of a particular Church entrusted to him.

Blasphemy: Speech, thought, or action insulting to God or the Church, or persons or things dedicated to God. Blasphemy is a sin against the second commandment.

Blessed Sacrament: A term Catholics use when referring to the consecrated Host-especially when it is reserved in the Tabernacle.

Blessing: A short prayer, usually accompanied by the sign of the cross, asking God's favor on persons or objects.

Brother: A man who is a member of a religious order, but is not ordained or studying for the priesthood.

C

Canon Law: The rules or laws that govern the Church.

Canon of Scripture: The Church's complete list of sacred books of the Bible inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Canonization: The process by which a deceased catholic becomes a Saint.

Canticle: From the Latin word *canticum* for "song."

Cantor: from the Latin word: *canere* meaning singer. A cantor is a person that leads the congregation in singing during the liturgy.

Cardinal: Cardinals are appointed by the Pope and constitute a kind of senate of the Church, and aid the Pope as his chief counselors.

Catechesis: The education of children, young people, and adults in the faith of the Church.

Catechist: Someone who teaches Christian education, especially in Parish or School.

Cathedral: The Greek word *cathedra* means chair or throne; the bishop's "Chair" symbolizes his teaching and governing authority. The official Church of the bishop of a diocese.

Catholic: Greek word for universal.

Catholic Relief Services: overseas aid agency of American Catholics.

Celebrant: one who celebrates the Mass, priest or deacon.

Chalice: The cup used at Mass to hold the wine.

Chancellor: The chief archivist of a diocese' official records.

Charity: 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.

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

Chrism: Perfumed oil, consecrated by the Bishop, which signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit, used during some sacraments.

Christ: title given to Jesus. From the Greek *khristos* meaning anointed one. The Hebrew word Messiah means the same.

Christ the King of the Universe: A feast celebrated on the last Sunday of the Church's year acclaiming Christ as King of the Universe.

Christe Eleison- Greek words meaning *Christ have mercy,*

Christian: A name derived from that of Christ himself. The name refers to all those who have been anointed through the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism; hence, the followers of Christ.

Ciborium: A bowl or chalice-shaped vessel to hold the consecrated Hosts for the distribution of Holy Communion.

Clergy: A term applied to men who have been Ordained for ministry within the Church. Bishops, Priests and Deacons are members of the Clergy.

Cloister: A place of religious seclusion, like a monastery or convent.

College of Cardinals: A collection of cardinals that offers advice to the Pope, elects new popes and governs the Church in between popes.

Communion of Saints: The unity in Christ of all the redeemed, those on earth, and those who have died.

Concelebrants: The celebration of Mass by several Priests together.

Conclave: The meeting of the Cardinals in complete seclusion, when they assemble to elect a Pope.

Concluding Rite: The brief rite at the end of Mass which consists of the celebrant's greeting, final blessing, and dismissal.

Confession: An essential element of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, which you tell your sins to the Priest.

Confirmation: A Sacrament of Initiation into the Church, together with Baptism and Eucharist. Confirmation completes the grace of Baptism by a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which seal or "confirm" the baptized in union with Christ.

Conscience: Your inner-voice that helps you make good choices. An examination of conscience is recommended as a preparation for the reception of the Sacrament of Penance.

Consecration: part of the Eucharistic Prayer when the Priest blesses the wine and the bread.

Consubstantial: of the same substance. Three persons in one God.

Contrition: The act of acknowledging your sin and promising not to sin again.

Convent: The place where a community of Nuns live.

Corporal Works of Mercy: Charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbors in their basic physical needs. Corporal works of mercy include feeding the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, sheltering the homeless, and burying the dead.

Corpus Christi: Latin phrase meaning; "The Body of Christ". The feast of Corpus Christi commemorates the institution of the Eucharist and is celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday.

Covenant: A sacred promise between God and a Christian.

Creed: from the Latin word *credo* meaning "I believe." A brief statement or profession of Christian faith, like the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed.

Crosier (pastoral staff): The staff which a bishop carries when he presides at the liturgy.

Cross: The instrument of execution on which Christ died; a symbol of the unique sacrifice of Christ.

Crucifix: A cross with the figure of the crucified Jesus upon it. Used by Catholics to bring to mind the sufferings of Christ.

D

Deacon, Diaconate: The deacon is ordained not to priesthood but for ministry and service. Deacons are ordained to assist the bishop and priests in the Mass.

Dean/Vicar: A priest that is an assistant to the Bishop.

Denomination: the type of Christian church. Some types are Catholic, Methodist, Baptists.

Diocese: A collection of churches in a geographical location. St. Jude the Apostle Church is in the Albany Diocese.

Disciple: Those who accepted Jesus' message and follow his teachings.

Dispensation: Exemption from a Church law in a particular case for a special reason.

Divine Office: The Liturgy of the Hours, the public prayer of the Church which takes place throughout the day. Starting dawn and concluding at late night.

E

Easter: The greatest and oldest Christian feast, which celebrates Christ's Resurrection from the dead. Easter is the "feast of feasts," the solemnity of solemnities, the "Great Sunday."

Easter Triduum: A three day observance of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil.

Ecclesiastic/Ecclesiastical: from the Latin: *ecclesia* meaning church.

Ecumenical: unity among all Christians, from all denominations.

Encyclical: A holy letter written by the Pope and sent to the whole Church expressing a teaching on some important matter.

Entrance Procession: Priest, deacon, altar servers, lectors, enter the church for celebration of the liturgy. The opening hymn is sung at this point.

Epiphany: The feast of Epiphany celebrates the adoration of Jesus by the wise men from the East.

Epistle: From the Greek word meaning "letter," This word refers to the 21 books in the New Testament that were written as letters to instruct and encourage the members of the early Church.

Eternal Life: Living forever with God in the happiness of heaven.

Eucharist:-from the Greek *eucharistia* meaning thanksgiving, the sacrament of receiving the Body and Precious Blood of Jesus Christ.

Eucharistic Ministers: non-ordained parishioner who volunteers to assist the priest in the distribution of the Body and Precious Blood at communion time during Mass.

Examination of Conscience: Prayerful self-reflection on our words and actions to determine how we may have sinned against God. We do this before receiving the Sacrament of Penance.

F

Faith: Both a gift of God and a human act by which we believe in God without having seen or touched God.

Feast Days: The annual liturgical celebrations celebrating the saving mysteries of Christ's life.

First Communion: Reception of the sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time.

Font: A basin or bowl in a Church used for the holding Holy Water.

Free Will: Humans' ability to make our own decisions, right or wrong.

Fruits of the Holy Spirit: The perfect gifts that the Holy Spirit gives us. The tradition of the Church identifies twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit: Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Goodness, Kindness, Long-suffering, Humility, Faithfulness, Modesty, Continence, & Chastity.

G

General Intercessions: The prayer of the faithful for all of humankind; for the Church, government authorities, those in various needs, for all peoples, and for the salvation of the world.

Genuflection: Bend on our right knee in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, as a sign of respect for Jesus Christ.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit: These gifts help us to live as the Holy Spirit would like us to. The seven gifts are in the Bible passage from Isaiah 11:1-3: wisdom, understanding, knowledge, right judgment, courage, reverence, wonder, & fear for 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.

Godparent: The sponsor of one who is baptized, who assumes a responsibility to assist the newly baptized child or adult on the road of Christian life.

Good Friday: The second day of the Holy Triduum. The day on which the crucifixion of Jesus is remembered.

Gospel: The "good news" of God's mercy and love revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The four Gospels are the books written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Grace: The free and undeserved gift that God gives us in order for us to live in the light of God. Sacramental grace and special graces are gifts of the Holy Spirit to help us live out our Christian life.

H

Hail Mary: The prayer known in Latin as the Ave Maria. The first part of the prayer praises God for the gifts he gave to Mary as Mother of God; the second part seeks her intercession to help in our lives.

Heaven: Eternal life with God; communion of life and love with the Trinity and all the blessed.

Hierarchy: the food chain within the Catholic Church: Pope-Cardinal-Bishop-Priest-Deacon-Lay Ministers.

Holy Days of Obligation: Catholics are obliged by Church law to participate in the Eucharist. Christmas (Dec. 25th)-Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Jan 1st)-Ascension of the Lord (the Sunday that follows the 40 days after Easter)-Assumption Of Mary (Aug 15th)-All Saints' Day (Nov. 1st)-Immaculate Conception of Mary (Dec. 8th)

Holy Orders: a sacrament that men are called to, to become priests.

Holy Saturday: Also called the Easter Vigil, it is the final day of the Triduum.

Holy See: The name given to the administrative part of the Catholic Church.

Holy Spirit: The third divine Person of the Blessed Trinity, the personal love of Father and Son for each other.

Holy Thursday: The first day of the Holy Triduum, the day before Good Friday. On this day Catholics remember the Last Supper Jesus held with his disciples on the night before he died.

Holy Trinity: Three persons in one God. God the Father-God the Son-God the Holy Spirit.

Holy Water: Blessed water, a sacramental that is sprinkled or use is a reminder of our Baptism.

Holy Week: The week before Easter, beginning with Palm Passion Sunday. It marks the Church's annual celebration of the events of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection, culminating in the Paschal Mystery.

Homily: Preaching by an ordained minister to explain and teach the Scriptures proclaimed in the liturgy.

Host: The wafer of consecrated bread which Catholics receive at Holy Communion.

Humble- to be modest, not proud or arrogant.

Hymn: Sacred text set to music and meant to raise the hearts of Christian people to God, especially during liturgical services.

I

Icon: Religious painting traditional among many Eastern Christians. Icons tell a religious story.

Idolatry: Worshiping a creature, person, or thing in place of God.

Immaculate Conception: The Holy Spirit giving Jesus to Mary to be born. Mary was born without sin and lived a sinless life. We celebrate this belief on Dec. 8th.

Incarnation: The fact that the Son of God was born and lived on the earth.

Incense: Material used to produce a fragrant odor when burned. It is used as a symbol of the Church's offering and prayer going up to God.

Israel: The Jewish people, chosen by God to be his people. God formed Israel into his priestly people in their exodus from the slavery of Egypt.

J

Jesus Christ: "Jesus" which means "God saves" in Hebrew. There are a number of symbols for the name Jesus which you may see in Churches or works of art. These are some of them:

- HIS: three letters from the Greek name, Jesus.
- INRI: the initial letters form the Latin inscription written on the cross: Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum, (Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews).
- PX: a monogram of the first two Greek letters for 'Christus'.

John the Baptist: Son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, John was a cousin of Jesus. John identified Jesus as the Messiah and baptized him in the Jordan River. John gave witness to Jesus by his preaching and by baptizing people in Christianity. John the Baptist was martyred.

Joseph: Husband of Mary, venerated as a saint. His feast day is celebrated on March 19.

Justice-fairness to all people.

K

Kyrie Eleison: Greek words meaning; *Lord have mercy*.

L

Laity: non-ordained people of the church who help in the churches' ministries: Altar Servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Music Ministers, etc.

Last Supper: The last meal, a Passover supper, which Jesus ate with his disciples the night before he died.

Lectern: The stand from which the Scriptures are read in Church.

Lectionary/Lector: The official liturgical book from which the reader, a lector, proclaims the Scripture.

Lent: The liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum).

Litany: A form of prayer in which the Priest recites a series of petitions to God, or calls on the help of Saints. These petitions are followed by a set response said or sung by the congregation.

Liturgy: the set prayers, readings, and rites for the Catholic Masses and services.
-Liturgical-anything having to do with the Liturgy.

Liturgy of the Word: Part of the Mass where the Scriptures are proclaimed and reflected upon. On Sundays and major feasts, there are three readings and a psalm:
1. Old Testament 2. Psalm 3. New Testament 4. The Gospel

Liturgy of the Hours: Prayers that are said throughout the day by clergy:
Matins (prayers at dawn) Lauds (morning prayer) Terce (mid-morning) Sext (midday) None (mid-afternoon) Vespers (evening prayer) Compline (night prayer)

Liturgy of the Eucharist: the celebration when the gifts are prepared and the Eucharistic Prayer is proclaimed by the celebrant.

Lord's Prayer: The prayer of petition for both daily food (which for Christians means also the Eucharistic) and the forgiveness of sins.

M

Magi: The wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the newborn Savior.

Marriage: A covenant of life between a man and woman. When the ceremony is done by a clergy between two baptized people, marriage is a sacrament (Matrimony).

Martyr: A person who killed for being faithful to God. Those who die for the faith before having received Baptism are said to have received a "baptism of blood," by which their sins are forgiven and they share in the death and Resurrection of Christ.

Mary: The mother of Jesus. Mary is also called "full of grace," and "Mother of the Church," and in Christian prayer and devotion, "Our Lady," the "Blessed Virgin Mary," and the "New Eve".

Mass: The Eucharist celebration.

Messiah: A Hebrew word meaning "anointed one."

Miracle: A sign or wonder, such as a healing or the control of nature, which can only be done by the power of God.

Missal: A book containing the prayers of Mass.

Mitre: A headdress worn at some liturgical functions by bishops.

Monstrance: An ornate vessel in which a consecrated host is placed so that Jesus in the form of bread can be seen and venerated by the people.

Mortal Sin: A grave sin against the Law of God (Ten Commandments.) For a sin to be mortal, three conditions must be present: serious matter, full knowledge of the act, and full consent of the will.

Moses: The leader chosen by God to lead the Israelites out of their exile in Egypt. To him God revealed the ten commandments on Mount Sinai.

Monk - Friar: A man who belongs to one of the monastic orders in the church, such as Benedictines.

N

New Testament: The twenty-seven books of the Bible written by the sacred authors: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These books contain the life, teachings, Passion and glorification of Jesus.

Nicene Creed: A profession of faith that was the result of the Nicaea Council 325 a.d. This creed defined Jesus, The Father, and The Holy Spirit as One, The Holy Trinity. This creed is used in the church today.

Novena: Nine days of prayer. It has its origins in the nine days the disciples spent in prayer awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit between the Ascension and the Pentecost.

Nun: A member of an enclosed religious order of women. Members of orders which are not enclosed are usually referred to as religious sisters.

O

Old Testament: The forty-six books of the Bible, which explains the history of salvation from creation to the birth of Jesus. These books contain stories before Jesus was born.

Oil of Chrism: Oil that has been blessed at a special mass before Holy Week. The oil is blessed by the Bishop and is used by the churches for anointing people for Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick.

Ordination: The rite of the Sacrament of Holy Orders by which the bishop blesses men to become Deacons or Priests.

Original Sin: The sin by which the first human beings disobeyed the commandment of God, choosing to follow their own will rather than God's will. Sin became universally present in the world.

P

Palm Sunday: The Sunday before Easter. It celebrates the occasion when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people waved palm branches in his honor. In the Catholic Church this Sunday is also known as Passion Sunday.

Papacy: The ministry of the Pope as shepherd of the whole Church.

Parables: Simple stories Jesus tells to explain how to live a holy life. These stories always teach a lesson.

Paraclete: A name for the Holy Spirit.

Parish: A stable community of the faithful within a particular church or diocese.

Paten: The plate used to hold the Body of Christ, during the time of Communion.

Paschal Candle-the largest candle in the church. It reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the World.

Paschal Lamb: Jesus is acknowledged in the New Testament as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world; he is the Paschal Lamb.

Paschal Mystery/Sacrifice: the mystery of Jesus' Resurrection, His victory over death.

Passion: The suffering and death of Jesus. Passion or Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, during which the annual liturgical celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ takes place.

Penance, Sacrament of: The liturgical celebration of God's forgiveness of our sins. We are then reconciled with God and with the Church.

Penitential Rite: When the church community realizes their sinfulness and the need for God's mercy.

Pentecost: The "fiftieth" day at the end of the seven weeks following Easter. We celebrate the Holy Spirit being present and working in our lives.

Peter, Saint: Simon Peter, whom Jesus called Peter or Rock, upon whom he would build his Church (Mt 16:16-19). He was the first to confess Jesus to be the Christ, the Son of the living God. He was the first among the Apostles, and their leader,

Pope: The successor of St. Peter as Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pontiff of the universal Catholic Church. The leader of the Catholic Church. Pontiff is used as an alternative name for the pope.

Praise: The form of prayer which focuses on giving recognition to God, giving glory to Him for who he is.

Processions: A solemn walk for a religious purpose, usually accompanied by prayers and hymns.

Proclamation: making a statement in a loud confident manner.

Prophet: One sent by God to inform the people of the coming of Jesus. The prophets are often authors of books of the Old Testament. Prophets were able to see the future.

Psalms: Latin word meaning song. A book in the Old Testament which is a collection of prayers in the form of hymns or poetry.

R

RCIA: Stands for Right of Christian Initiation of Adults. A year long process of entrance into the Catholic Church, the sacraments are celebrated at the Easter Vigil Mass.

Reconciliation, Sacrament of: The sacramental celebration in which, through God's mercy and forgiveness, the sinner is reconciled with God and also with the Church, Christ's Body, which is wounded by sin.

Redeemer/Redemption: Jesus Christ paid the price of his own death on the cross to set us free from the slavery of sin, thus achieving our redemption.

Reformation: A movement for reform of certain doctrines and practices of the Church which began in the 16th Century and led to division between Catholic and Protestant Churches.

Relic: Any part of the physical remains of a saint or items that have touched the body of a saint.

Requiem: A Mass for the dead. It takes its name from the first word of the prayer with which Mass begins. In Latin "Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine."(Lord, give them eternal rest).

Responsorial Psalm: A psalm which is recited or sung after the first scripture reading at Mass.

Resurrection of Christ: The bodily rising of Jesus from the dead on the third day after his death on the cross and burial in the tomb. The resurrection of Christ is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ.

Reverence: High degree of honor and respect for God. Reverence is shown by genuflecting, sign of the cross, bowing, and responding to the readings and gospel.

Rome: The City of Rome is the diocese of the Pope, as the Bishop of Rome.

Rosary: A prayer in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which repeats the Marian prayer Ave Maria, or Hail Mary, with the Pater Noster ("Our Father") and concluded by the Gloria Patri (Glory Be to the Father), accompanied by meditation on the mysteries of Christ's life.

S

Sacrament: sacred signs that celebrate God's love for us and Jesus' presence in our lives and in the church. Seven Sacrament: Baptism, Penance or Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation, Matrimony, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick.

Sacramentals: Sacred objects or actions which reflect the sacraments. Some examples of rituals that are sacramentals are making the sign of the cross, bowing the head or bowing deeply, folding hands, and genuflection. Objects that are sacramental are: statues, icons, ashes, bells (especially church bells), blessed fire, candles, the nativity scene, the Advent wreath, crucifixes, holy oil, holy water, and incense.

Sacred: religious

Sacred Heart: The symbol of the love with which Jesus continually loves the eternal Father and all human beings without exception.

Sacred Scripture: The sacred writings of the Old and New Testament that are believed to be inspired by the Holy Spirit and written by human hands.

Sacrifice: the act of giving up something for another person.

Sacristy: The room in the Church where the Priests dress for Mass and the sacred vessels are kept.

Saint: The "holy one" who leads a life in union with God through the grace of Christ and receives the reward of eternal life. The Church is called the communion of saints, of the holy ones.

Salvation: ultimately being saved from sin and its' consequences, which can be done by God alone.

Sanctuary: That part of the church where the altar is located and the Mass is celebrated.

Sanctuary Lamp: A lamp which is kept burning as a sign and a reminder that Jesus is present.

Savior: Jesus which means "God saves" in Hebrew.

Scripture: the written word of God that we read in the Bible.

Second Vatican Council: A major meeting of the Bishops of the world started by Pope John XXIII to bring about a renewal of the Church for the second half of the 20th century. It ran from 1962 to 1965 and produced important documents in liturgy.

Secular-non-religious

Seminary: A religious college where men are trained for the priesthood.

Sermon: A talk in which the word of God is explained after the reading of the Gospel. Also called a homily.

Shrine: Structure built to encourage private prayer to a saint, it usually contains a picture, statue or other religious feature capable of inspiring prayer.

Sign of the Cross: A sign in the form of a cross made before a prayer honoring the Blessed Trinity, "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".

Sign of Peace: Before sharing the Body of Christ the members of the community are invited to express their love and peace with one another.

Sin: An offense or insult against God. Sin is a deliberate thought, word, or action. To be forgiven of the sin one has to go to confession.

Solemnity: A solemnity is an important day in the Church's liturgical calendar. Solemnities celebrate events in the life of Christ, Mary, and the saints which are of particular importance for the whole Church. The following are examples of solemnities: Pentecost, Epiphany, Easter Triduum, Ascension of the Lord, All Saints.

Spiritual Works of Mercy: Charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbors in their spiritual needs. The spiritual works of mercy include instructing, advising, consoling, comforting, forgiving, and patiently forbearing.

Stations of the Cross: Also known as The Way of the Cross, this devotion to the suffering of Christ consists of prayers and meditations on fourteen occurrences experienced by Christ on His way to His crucifixion.

Stigmata: The Greek meaning is "tattoo" or "branding." Wounds of Christ appear on one's body.

T

Tabernacle: Place in the church where the Eucharist is reserved.

Temptation: Giving into sin when it is presented. Jesus himself during his life on earth was tempted and put to the test by Satan.

Ten Commandments: The rules of life delivered by God to Moses on Mount Sinai.

Theology: The study of God, based on divine revelation.

Transfiguration: Jesus and three of his apostles go to a mountain (the Mount of Transfiguration). On the mountain, Jesus begins to shine with bright rays of light. Then the prophets Moses and Elijah appear next to him and he speaks with them. Jesus is then called "Son" by God. The Transfiguration is one of the miracles of Jesus in the Gospels.

Trespass: Sins or wrong-doings.

Transubstantial: The Mystery of Faith: the process by which the Priest turns the bread and wine into Jesus' Body and Precious Blood.

Triduum: A liturgical celebration of three days duration, as in the Easter Triduum.

Trinity: The mystery of three persons in one God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

V

Vatican: The official residence of the Pope in Rome. It also refers to the central government of the Church.

Vatican Councils: meetings called by the pope of all bishops of the Church. These councils are usually called to discuss specific matters of interest to the Church.

Veneration (of Saints): Showing devotion and respect to Mary, the Apostles, and the martyrs, who were viewed as faithful witnesses to faith in Jesus Christ.

Venial Sin: Not as serious as a mortal sin, but it weakens our relationship with God. Venial Sin still requires reconciliation for forgiveness.

Vespers: The evening prayer.

Vessel: a container

Vestments: Garments worn by Ministers of the Church when celebrating Mass or administering the sacraments.

Viaticum: The Eucharist received by a dying person. It is the spiritual food for one's "passing over" to the Father from this world. With Penance and the Anointing of the Sick, the receiving of Holy Communion as Viaticum constitute the "last sacraments" of the Christian.

Virtue: behavior that shows high moral standards.

Vocation: The work we do as members of the church. We are called to use our talents to carry on Christ's mission in the world.

Vow: A deliberate and free promise made to God.

W

Wisdom: A spiritual gift which enables one to know the purpose and plan of God; one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Wisdom is also the name of one of the books of the Old Testament.

Worship: Adoration and honor given to God, which is the first act of the virtue of religion.

Z

Zucchetto: Skull cap worn by the Pope (white) and bishops (purple) and Cardinals (red).