

GLOSSARY - PreK-8

(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Abba	Hebrew word that means "daddy" in the truest sense as a term of endearment, it is the spirit of the Son of God in our hearts that cries out, "Abba! Father!" (CCC #683, 742, 1303, 276 ,2777) Part of the prayer taught to us by the Lord in the Our Father, it also forms the root of the word Abbot. <i>see</i> First Person, Son of God, Lord's Prayer
Abortion	deliberate termination of pregnancy by killing a child in the womb or while in development inside the mother. Such direct abortion, willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law. The Church attaches the canonical penalty of excommunication to this crime against human life, while offering mercy to those who repent in the sacrament of Reconciliation. (CCC #2271, 2272) <i>see</i> Moral Law, Mercy, Reconciliation
Abraham	Old Testament patriarch, with whom God made a covenant promising Abraham and his wife Sarah land in which to live and many descendants- a great people for whom the Lord would be their God. Through Abraham, God formed the people to whom he would later give the law by revelation to Moses. With the advent of Christ, the people of Israel would serve as the root to which the Gentiles would be grafted by their coming to believe. (Gn 17:1-10, CCC #59-61, 72, 145, 705-706, 762) <i>see</i> Covenant
Absolution	an essential element of the Sacrament of Penance or Reconciliation, in which the priest, by the power entrusted to the Church by Christ, pardons the sin(s) of the penitent and offers forgiveness on behalf of the faithful. (CCC #1424, 1442, 1449, 1453, 1480) <i>see</i> Faithful, Penance, Reconciliation
Abstinence	refraining from eating meat or flesh on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays during Lent; obligatory upon the faithful from age 14 onwards and encouraged as a good penitential practice for all Fridays during the year, in memory of Christ's sacrifice of his flesh upon the Cross on Good Friday. Fish (or water dwelling creatures) are exempt as meat because they alone survived the Great Flood that purified the earth of wickedness. <i>see</i> Fasting, Lent, and Great Flood.
Acedia	<i>see</i> Sloth
Acolytes	one who attends the minister in a liturgical service and assists in minor duties; server at some rituals such as the Mass or Benediction. (CCC #1143-1144, 1369)
Acts of the Apostles	sequel to the Gospel written by Luke the Evangelist, in which are described the actions of the early church under the episcopal leadership of the Twelve and the missionary endeavors of Paul to bring the Gospel to the nations.
Adam	according to the creation account in Genesis, the first man, husband of Eve, whose name means 'from the ground.' God formed man from the ground and breathed into him the breath of life. From the beginning, "male and female he created them" (Gen 1:29), endowing them with dignity. Nor was their sin solitary; rather their act of disobedience would stain all generations to come. Yet, the New Adam, Christ would come to free the human race from the stain of original sin, especially through Baptism and Reconciliation, the Blood and Water that issued forth from His side, just as Eve was formed from Adam's rib. (CCC #369, 375, 511) <i>see</i> Eve, Original Sin
Admonish Sinners	one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy. (CCC #2447) To admonish a sinner is to save a soul, when done in a spirit of fraternal charity and in a context of mutual regard.
Adonai	term in Hebrew that means 'Lord' and is used by pious Jews to avoid using the name of God in ordinary or even sacred discourse, since they believe that to name something is to exercise dominion over it, which of course with God we can never do. <i>see</i> Lord

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Adoration	act of worshipping God; the act of reverencing Christ in the Blessed Sacrament; intentional communion with God out of a sense of wonder. The first commandment of the law obliges us to adore God through worship and prayer. (1 Jn. 1:3, CCC #1083, 1178, 2628, 2781) Not to be confused with veneration of a saint. <i>see</i> Benediction, Exposition, Divine Praises, Contemplation, Veneration, Prayer
Adultery	marital infidelity, or sexual relations between two persons when at least one is married to another party. The sixth commandment and the New Testament forbid adultery absolutely. (CCC #2380; cf. 1650) God speaks of the worship of false idols as an act of adultery on the part of God's People, indicating the level of covenant intimacy God wants with each of our souls in communion. <i>see</i> Matrimony, Covenant
Advent	liturgical season of four Sundays devoted to preparation for memorial of Christ's birth at Christmas and his second coming at the end of time. (CCC #524) It marks the beginning of the Liturgical Calendar. The liturgical color of violet indicates that Advent is a penitential season, while the third Sunday color is Rose, indicating a lessening of penance and anticipation of the Lord's dawning to the East. <i>see</i> End of the World, Liturgical Calendar, Rose
Advent Wreath	a devotional aid used in the home to mark the Four Sundays of Advent. The candles lit each Sunday follow the sequence Violet, Violet, Rose, Violet so that the domestic church can mirror the liturgical life of the parish. The candles are arranged around a circlet of evergreen branches to remind us that God is Eternal and his mercy is everlasting. In historical practice, the home becomes brighter with each week, culminating in the Christmas tree as a symbol of the Light of Christ coming into the world to dispel the darkness of sin. <i>see</i> Rose, Liturgical Year
Agnus Dei	in Latin, it means "Lamb of God" and refers to Christ's sacrifice that hearkens back to the Passover in Exodus. The choral part of Mass when the people sing their threefold praise. <i>see</i> Lamb of God, Passover, Mass Parts
Alb	sacred garment common to all ordained and instituted ministers of any rank is the alb, to be tied at the waist with a cincture (ropelike belt) unless it is made so as to fit even without such. (CCC #336) It recalls the white garment given at Baptism.
Alleluia	means "praise God." Sung or recited before the Gospel, except during Lent. One of the choral Mass Parts known as the Gospel Acclamation. <i>see</i> Mass Parts
Almsgiving	one of the three Lenten disciplines. Along with prayer and fasting, this practice of giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity; also a work of justice pleasing to God. (CCC #1434, 1969) <i>see</i> Works of Mercy, Prayer, Fasting
Altar	known as the Throne of the Lamb, a sacred furnishing (like a table) used only for offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, it is the focal point of liturgy, where the sacrifice of Christ on the cross is made present. Among the Israelites, the altar was the place where sacrifices were offered to God. Before new altars are used, they are typically dedicated for their special purpose by a bishop, who anoints the altar with Chrism. One or more relics of saints are commonly set into the altar. (CCC #1182, 1383) <i>see</i> Ambo, Chrism, Relics
Ambo	known as the Altar of the Word, it is a liturgical furnishing (like a podium or lectern) from where the Scriptures are read at Mass and the homily is given (CCC #1154). In Greek, it means an elevated pulpit. According to Nehemiah ch.8, Ezra read from an ambo. <i>see</i> Altar

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American Saints	refers to the saints who are canonized or in the process of canonization and were either born or principally ministered within either the current national boundaries of the United States of America or the Western hemisphere generally, known by the universal church as the Americas. Hence, the misnomer "first American saint" could refer to the first saint from the western hemisphere, the first saint born in the western hemisphere, the first saint who served in the United States and died there, a saint who was martyred on the continent prior to 1776, the first saint born a citizen of the United States, or the first Native American saint.
Anamnesis	Greek word meaning the "remembrance" of God's saving deeds in history and in the liturgical action of the Church, which inspires thanksgiving and praise. It refers specifically in the Latin Rite to the prayer which follows the institution narrative and memorial acclamation. Eucharistic prayers contain an anamnesis or memorial in which the Church calls to mind the Passion, Resurrection, and glorious return of Christ. (CCC #1103) <i>see</i> Memorial Acclamation
Anaphora	<i>see</i> Canon of the Mass or Eucharistic Prayer
Angel	spiritual, personal, and immortal creature, with intelligence and free will, who glorifies God without ceasing and who serves God as a messenger of his saving plan. (CCC #329-331) In the Creed, they are the invisible creation of God. Unlike humans, angels do not have bodies; therefore humans do not become angels upon entry into heaven. Fallen angels are known as demons. <i>see</i> Demons, Archangel, Free Will
Angelus	Catholic devotional practice performed at 6am, 12 noon, and 6pm, in places where the custom is observed, during the tolling of a bell at those hours. It consists of three verses with their responses, each followed by a Hail Mary, and it concludes with a formal prayer. The name comes from the opening verse in Latin, "The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary..."
Anger	emotion which is not in itself wrong, but which, when it is not controlled by reason and hardens into resentment or hate, becomes one of the seven cardinal sins. Christ taught that anger is an offence against the fifth commandment. (CCC #1765, 1866, 2262) <i>see</i> Cardinal Sins
Annulment	declaration by a Church tribunal (a Catholic church court) that a marriage thought to be valid according to Church law actually fell short of at least one of the essential elements required for a binding union. (USCCB>Issues and Action>Marriage and Family>Marriage), and is therefore free of canonical consequences. Children born to such a union are not invalid. (cf. CCC #1629) <i>see</i> Matrimony
Annunciation	visit of the archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to inform her that she was to be the mother of the Savior. After giving her consent, or <i>fiat</i> , Mary became the mother of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, an event celebrated March 25, nine months prior to the nativity of Our Lord. (CCC #484, 494, 973) <i>see</i> Gabriel, Theotokos
Anointing of the Sick	one of the seven sacraments administered by a priest to a person in danger of death because of illness or old age, through prayer and the anointing of the body with the oil of the sick. The proper effects of the sacrament include a special grace of healing and comfort to the Christian who is suffering infirmities of serious illness or old age, the forgiving of the person's sins, and the possibility of physical healing. (CCC #1499, 1520, 1523, 1526-32) The oil traced into the recipient's palms with a sign of the Cross is like Christ holding that person's hands in the midst of trial. <i>see</i> Matter, Sacrament
Antiphon	prayer repeated before and after each psalm during Liturgy of the Hours. In the propers of the Mass, there is an Entrance Antiphon, Offertory Antiphon, and Communion Antiphon that repeat so the faithful may pray them. <i>see</i> Propers, Liturgy of the Hours

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Apologetics	theological discipline that deals with the reasons for believing God and accepting the faith presented by the Christian Church; a defense of Catholicism by the use of logic, Scripture, and Church teaching. Apology is a term that means argument.
Apologist	one who writes or speaks in defense of Christian beliefs and practices
Apostle	one who is sent by Jesus, as Jesus was sent by the Father. Jesus chose from among his disciples twelve men who would ensure that the Church carry forth the Great Commission. He called the Twelve to become Apostles, chosen witnesses of His Resurrection and the foundation on which His Church is built. (CCC# 857) <i>see</i> Disciples
Apostles' Creed	statement of Christian faith developed from the baptismal creed or "symbol" of the ancient Church of Rome, the see of St. Peter, first of the Apostles. It is considered to be a faithful summary of the teaching of the Apostles and begins, "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ..." (CCC #194) <i>see</i> Creed, Nicene Creed
Apostolic	one of the four marks of the Church, with two related meanings. First, it describes the church, or anything that has its origin and roots in the Apostles. Secondly, it refers to the papal see and its offices, and other matters related to the papacy. (cf. CCC #857) <i>see</i> Four Marks, Holy See
Apostolic Age	referring to the period of early Church formation when the apostles were not yet martyred and still personally bearing influence on the actions of the church. They continue to do so through their successors, the bishops
Apostolic Succession	unbroken line of succession beginning with the apostles and perpetuated through bishops, considered essential for orders and sacraments to be valid. The authority to govern and preach in the name of Christ is handed down literally through the laying on of hands. <i>see</i> Laying on of Hands, Holy Orders
Apostolic Tradition	living transmission of truth, accomplished in the Holy Spirit, distinct from Sacred Scripture, though closely connected to it (Scripture is the main portion of the entirety of Tradition guaranteed by the Magisterium of the Church). Through it, "The Church, in her doctrine, life, and worship, perpetuates and transmits to every generation all that she herself is, all that she believes. The sayings of the holy Fathers are a witness to the life-giving presence of this Tradition, showing how its riches are poured out in the practice and life of the Church, in her belief and her prayer." (CCC #78, 174, 1124, 2651) <i>see</i> Magisterium, Revelation, Tradition, Scripture, Scripture and Tradition
Apparition	appearance to people on earth of a heavenly being- either Jesus, Mary, angel, or saint. The apparitions of Jesus in His risen body to the disciples occurred in the forty days between his Resurrection and Ascension. The apparition of Our Lord to Saul leading to his conversion as Paul is also recorded in Scripture. In both the Old and New Testaments, the archangels have appeared to various people. Only certain apparitions of Our Lady are approved by Church authority, yet they are never binding on the faithful, in the same way that the ones recorded in Scripture are binding. (CCC #641, 649) St. Joseph and various angels have appeared to many people, yet these private revelations are never binding on the faithful or they are only locally approved. <i>see</i> Forty Days, Our Lady of Fatima, Guadalupe, Lourdes, and Mt. Carmel
Archangel	one of the lower ranks of the nine choirs of Angels, they oversee the lowest rank, which is the Guardian Angels. The choir above them are the Principalities, assigned to each diocese. There are only three named Archangels in the Bible: Michael in the Books of Daniel and Revelation, Raphael in the Book of Tobit, and Gabriel in the Gospel of Luke chiefly. They are celebrated on September 29. <i>see</i> Nine Choirs
Archdiocese	chief diocese of an ecclesiastical province. It is governed by an archbishop. (USCCB) <i>see</i> Province

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Arianism	fourth-century heresy propagated by Arius denying the divinity of Jesus Christ. Following views which Gnostics had popularized, he regarded the Son of God as standing midway between God and creatures; not like God without a beginning, but possessing all other divine perfections, not of one essence, nature, substance with the Father and therefore not like him in divinity. <i>see</i> Heresy, Hypostatic Union
Ark of the Covenant	sacred wooden box ornamented in gold in which the tablets of the Ten Commandments were kept, along with the priestly staff of Aaron and the manna bread. (CCC #2578; 2594; 2130; 2058) Mary is referred to as the New Ark, because in her was contained the Lawgiver, the High Priest, and the Bread of Life.
Ascension	when Jesus ascended to the Father, after giving the Great Commission to the Apostles; the entry of Jesus' humanity into divine glory in God's heavenly domain, forty days after his resurrection (CCC #659, 665); also one of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. The solemnity for this occasion traditionally takes place on the Thursday nine days prior to Pentecost, as it frames the first novena of the Church. In most dioceses in the United States, the solemnity has been transferred to the nearest Sunday, rather than obligating a weekday Mass, and so the novena has been diminished. <i>see</i> Great Commission, Forty Days, Solemnity, Pentecost, Novena
Asceticism	self-mastery over the will through voluntary denial, deprivation, or mortification.
Aspirations	brief prayers of few words, expressed in precise language, sometimes poetic, their purpose being to help one maintain a spirit of recollection in God's presence during the day, the Jesus Prayer being the most common. <i>see</i> Jesus Prayer
Assumption	the Blessed Virgin Mary's singular participation in her Son's Resurrection, by which she was assumed (or taken up body and soul) into heavenly glory, when the course of her earthly life was concluded. (CCC #966) In this she prefigures the resurrection of all the faithful departed and fulfills the scripture regarding the Ark of the Covenant. In the eastern churches, this event is known as the Dormition of Mary, and it is a teaching definitively held as dogmatic. The solemnity is celebrated August 15; also one of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. <i>see</i> Solemnity, Dogma, Rosary
Atheism	denial in theory or in practice that God exists. It is a sin against the virtue of religion required by the first commandment of the law. (CCC #2124-5)
Atonement	reconciliation brought about between God and Man through Christ's redemptive act, or the ending of the separation of heaven from earth. The term has also come to mean doing penance for one's sins. (CCC #623) <i>see</i> Paschal Mystery, Redeemer
Baptism	first of the seven sacraments, and the "door" which gives access to the other sacraments. Baptism is the first and chief sacrament of forgiveness of sins, because it cleanses our soul of original sin and unites us with Christ, who died for our sins and rose for our justification. Baptism is completed by Confirmation and together with the reception of first Holy Communion, the believer becomes initiated into membership in the Body of Christ. The rite of Baptism consists in immersing the candidate in water, or pouring water on the head, while pronouncing the invocation of the Most Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (CCC #977, 1213, 1275, 1278) <i>see</i> Matter, Sacrament

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Baptism of the Lord	when Christ was immersed in the River Jordan by John the Baptist, and a voice from heaven declared him to be Beloved Son of God, ending the hidden years when Jesus was thought to be Joseph's son. The entry of the People of God through the waters of the River Jordan into the promised land of Canaan at the time of Joshua was a typological foreshadowing of this event, in which Christ's entry into the waters of Baptism paves the way for our own entry into the Promised Land of Heaven. This solemnity closes the Christmas season and opens the season of Ordinary Time, when we live out our own baptismal promise and our subsequent vocation to be a Beloved Child of God until his return at the end of time. <i>see</i> Epiphany, Hidden Life, Typology
Baptismal font	pool, bowl, or fountain at which someone receives Baptism. (Mk 1:9-11, Acts 8:26-38, CCC #1214, 1226-1246) Into it is plunged the Paschal candle at the Easter Vigil, signifying the font as the place of conception for neophytes born anew in the Light of Christ. <i>see</i> Neophytes, Easter Candle
Basilica	an architectural form of building that used to be the center of finance and government in the Roman Empire until the Church began to occupy them as places of public worship when it emerged from the catacombs. Many of them became cathedrals, and thus their form is often associated that way, but not every basilica is also a cathedral. For example, the Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican is not the cathedral of the Bishop of Rome; the papal seat of authority is located at St. John Lateran. <i>see</i> Cathedral, Vatican, Catacombs
Bear wrongs	one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy. (CCC #2447) To bear wrongs patiently.
Beatification	when a Venerable person's cause for canonization proceeds to the next phase as a result of a miracle being attributed to the person's intercession. After a person's life, writing, and teaching have been carefully examined and found to contain nothing contrary to doctrine or the demands of Christian perfection, and when a miracle can be proven by forensic analysis, it confirms that the soul enjoys the beatific vision and can be named one of the beati, or Blessed, by the Pope. This means that they are worthy of veneration outside the diocese that opened the cause. If a person comes to death through martyrdom, they are already beatified. <i>see</i> Venerable, Canonization
Beatitudes	The teachings of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount on the meaning and way to true happiness, or blessedness. (Mt 5. 3-12; Lk 6. 20-26) These teachings reflect the promises made to the chosen people since the covenant with Abraham and portray the charity of Christ; moreover, by shedding light on the characteristics of the Christian life, they describe the vocation of all the faithful according to the promise made at baptism. (CCC #1716-7, 1728) <i>see</i> Happiness, Faithful, and Kingdom
Begotten	refers to the fact that though Christ is not created, Jesus is a true Son of the Father. <i>see</i> Hypostatic Union, Consubstantial
Benediction	Eucharistic devotion in the Latin Rite that takes place in the context of Adoration and Exposition. In its traditional form, a priest, vested in surplice, stole, and cope, places on the altar the consecrated Host in the monstrance and incenses it. Benediction occurs when the priest lifts the monstrance containing the Host and blesses the congregation, making the sign of the Cross with it. <i>see</i> Blessing, Adoration, Exposition, Monstrance, Latin Rite

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TERMS	DEFINITION
Bethlehem	birthplace of Jesus, mentioned in Joshua 19:15, seven miles northwest of Nazareth, where Ruth, the progenitor of King David, would take up residence; hence it became the City of David. Prophecies foretold that the Messiah would be born there. In Hebrew, its name meaning 'House of Bread' foreshadows the birth of Christ, the Bread of Life. Joseph, being descended from David's lineage, took Mary there for the census, during which time she gave birth to Jesus and laid him in a manger, or grain trough, thus prefiguring the Eucharist, when Christ comes to us as food made from grain.
Bible	Sacred Scripture; the books that contain the truth of God's revelation and were composed by human authors inspired by the Holy Spirit. The forty-six books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven parts of the New Testament are the two halves of the Bible, the Church's holy book. (CCC #105, 120)
Biblical Typology	<i>see</i> Typology
Bishop	one who has received the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, which makes him a member of the Episcopal college and a successor of the Apostles. He is most often the shepherd of a particular diocese. (CCC #1557; cf. 861, 886) First ordained to diaconal and priestly service, the bishop in episcopal service is configured most closely to Christ Pantocrator (Ruler and Teacher), as he is responsible for the teaching and governance of the people entrusted to him. <i>see</i> Diocese, Eparchy, Deacon, Priest, Holy Orders, Apostolic Succession, Collegiality
Blasphemy	speech, thought, or conduct involving contempt for God, the Church, or persons and things dedicated to God. It is directly opposed to the second commandment. (CCC #2148) Jesus was charged with blasphemy by the temple authorities of his day because he did not deny being the Son of God, a belief that is still considered blasphemy to Muslims in the present day. <i>see</i> Muslims
Blessed Mother	Mary, the Mother of Jesus, because she is the mother of Jesus - Son of God and second Person of the Blessed Trinity - according to the flesh, she is rightly called the Mother of God. (CCC #148, 495) Mary is also called "full of grace," and "Mother of the Church" <i>see</i> Theotokos, Second Person
Blessed Sacrament	the Eucharist, especially the consecrated elements reserved in the tabernacle for adoration or for the homebound (CCC #1330). <i>see</i> Eucharist
Blessing	prayer invoking God's power and care upon some person, place, thing, or undertaking; acknowledges God as the source of all blessing. Some blessings confer a permanent status: consecration of persons to God, or setting things apart for liturgical usage. (CCC #1671, 2626) <i>see</i> Benediction, Book of Blessings
Body of Christ	When we go up for communion, we receive Jesus, whose Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity is sacramentally present in the Eucharist under the appearances of bread and wine. (CCC # 1374) In one sense, the body of Jesus Christ is the one conceived in the womb of Mary, now glorified in heaven. (CCC #467, 645) In another sense, the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ who shares in intimate communion with Jesus; the image of a body, whose head is Christ and whose members are the faithful, keeps in focus both the unity and diversity of the Church. (CCC #787, 790, 1396) When we partake of the Body in communion, we are the Bride of Christ entering so fully into communion with our Bridegroom that we become the Body of Christ, present in the person of the priest and the assembled faithful. <i>see</i> Church, Bride of Christ, People of God, Real Presence, Temple of the Holy Spirit
Book of Blessings	ritual text of the Church used for various blessings the Church can impart, with instructions for the priest on appropriate settings and other background information. <i>see</i> Blessings

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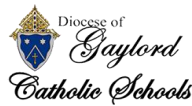
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Book of Gospels	ritual text of the Church containing all the Gospel readings for Mass throughout the liturgical cycle. The reverent act of processing the book of the Gospels from gathering to altar and from altar to ambo (normally by a Deacon) conveys the power of the Word of God to the assembled faithful. It is entrusted to each deacon upon ordination by the bishop. <i>see</i> Deacon, Liturgical Year, Cycle of Readings
Bread and wine	prior to consecration, the raw material of the Eucharist is unleavened wheat bread and pure wine made from fermented grape. These elements brought up during the offertory become the Body and Blood of Christ during the Eucharistic prayer of the Mass. (CCC #1333, 1350, 1147-8) <i>see</i> Raw Material, Sacrament, Eucharist, Body of Christ
Bread of Life	Holy Eucharist, or the New Manna, as Christ refers to himself in John's Gospel. <i>see</i> Bethlehem, Manna, Typology
Bury the Dead	Corporal Work of Mercy, burying the dead reminds us of the hope we have in the Resurrection while safeguarding the dignity of the human person. <i>see</i> Cremation
Cain	committed the first murder when he killed his brother Abel. (CCC #401) His descendants would remain in opposition to the descendants of Seth as a sign that there will always be many righteous but not all will be saved.
Calumny	false statement which harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them. (CCC #2477) A violation of the seventh commandment.
Calvary	the location of the Crucifixion of Christ, overlooking the temple, and previously the location of the attempted sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham. <i>see</i> Typology
Candidate	non-infant person whose baptism has been recognized as valid and who will undergo formation to complete sacramental initiation into full communion with the Church, typically at the Easter Vigil. The Church recognizes as valid any baptism done in the Trinitarian formula described by Christ, even if done outside the full communion of the Catholic church. <i>see</i> Catechumen, RCIA
Canon Law	rules which provide the norms for good order in the visible society of the Church. Those canon laws that apply universally are contained in the Codes of Canon Law. The most recent Code of Canon Law was promulgated in 1983 for the Latin Church and in 1991 for the Eastern Church. (USCCB) Official rules that guide all aspects Church life.
Canon of Scripture	complete list of sacred books that the Church discerned, through Apostolic Tradition, to be held definitively as the Word of God. (CCC #120, 1117) <i>see</i> Bible
Canon of the Mass	central portion of the Mass, also known as the Eucharistic Prayer or "anaphora," which contains the prayer of thanksgiving, the epiclesis, the institution narrative, anamnesis, offering, and final doxology. (CCC #1352) <i>see</i> Eucharistic Prayer
Canonization	solemn declaration by the Pope that a deceased member of the faithful may be proposed as a model and intercessor to the faithful and venerated as a saint throughout the world on the basis of the fact that the person lived a life of heroic virtue or remained faithful throughout martyrdom. (CCC #828) The miracles attributed to their intercession is evidence of their being in the beatific presence of God. <i>see</i> Beatification, Venerable
Canticle	hymn or song of praise taken from Scripture other than the Psalms for use during Liturgy of the Hours (e.g. Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55) <i>see</i> Liturgy of the Hours

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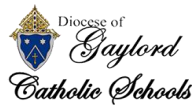
TERMS	DEFINITION
Capital Punishment	when the state ends the life of a convicted felon to protect its citizens. Assuming that the guilty party's identity and responsibility have been fully determined and no racist motivation could play a factor in sentencing, the traditional teaching of the Church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty, if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor. (CCC #2267) In light of current penal codes, however, and with racism so prevalent, it would be almost impossible to find a circumstance in which such recourse would ever prove just.
Cardinal Sins	sins which engender other sins and vices. They are traditionally numbered as seven: pride, covetousness, envy, anger, gluttony, lust, and sloth. (CCC #1866)
Cardinal Virtues	four pivotal virtues that engender other virtues: prudence, temperance, fortitude, and justice. They are stable dispositions of the intellect that govern our acts, order our passions, and guide our conduct in accordance with reason and faith. (CCC #1805, 1834)
Cassock	long- sleeved, ankle-length black robe with a Roman collar at the neck, also known as a cleric, and only worn by priests or seminarians. (USCCB) Altar servers may wear one under a surplice that does not have a Roman collar.
Catacombs	subterranean cemetery consisting of galleries or passages with side recesses for tombs, where early Christians celebrated Mass. (USCCB) It is the basis of our practice for preserving relics in the altars of our churches. <i>see</i> Altar, Relics, Basilica
Catechesis	formation of children, young people, and adults in the faith through the teaching of Christian doctrine in a systematic way to help make them disciples of Jesus Christ. Catechesis is built on the initial proclamation of the Gospel or missionary preaching to arouse faith; examination of the reasons for belief; experience of Christian living; celebration of the sacraments; integration into the ecclesial community; and apostolic and missionary witness. (CCC #5, 426-427) <i>see</i> Catechumenate, Missionary
Catechist	educator of children, young people, and adults in the faith through the teaching of Christian doctrine in a systematic way to help make them disciples of Jesus Christ. Those who perform the ministry of catechesis in the Church are "catechists" with parents being the primary educators of their children in the faith (CCC #5, 426, 427)
Catechumen	non-infant person preparing to receive the sacrament of Baptism for the first time. Anointed with the Oil of Catechumens, they are strengthened in their conversion from sin and their renunciation of Satan. <i>see</i> Candidate, RCIA
Catechumenate	period of Christian formation and development in the RCIA process which aims to bring catechumens to maturity of faith within the ecclesial community. (CCC #1248) <i>see</i> RCIA, Mystagogy
Cathedral	primary parish of the diocese where its bishop resides. Every bishop has a chair representing the seat of his authority to govern his diocese. That chair is called the <i>cathedra</i> and the building that houses it is the bishop's cathedral. Older cathedrals are also usually a form of architecture known as a basilica. <i>see</i> Basilica, Bishop, Diocese
Catholic	one of the four marks of the Church, taken from the Nicene Creed. The Church is <i>katholic</i> , or universal in Greek, both because she possesses the fullness of Christ's presence and the means of salvation and because she has been sent out by Christ on a mission to the entire human race. (CCC #750, 830) <i>see</i> Four Marks



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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

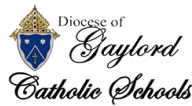
TERMS	DEFINITION
Catholic Charities	network of charitable organization, one of the largest in the United States, that uses a variety of approaches to address poverty, including: provision of food and basic needs, disaster relief, health services, HIV/AIDS services, and housing. (CatholicCharitiesUSA.org) <i>see</i> Charity
Catholic Church	The Church established by Christ on the foundation of the Apostles, possessing the fullness of the means of salvation which the Lord has willed: correct and complete confession of faith, full sacramental life, and ordained ministry in apostolic succession. (CCC #830) This fullness of communion awaits non-Catholics who have received Baptism. <i>see</i> RCIA
Catholic Epistles	Letters of James, I and II; Peter, I, II, and III; John, and Jude in the New Testament, to distinguish them from the Pauline Epistles. <i>see</i> Pauline Epistles
Catholic Social Doctrine	body of teachings of the Church on integral human dignity, human solidarity, and the principles of justice and peace; the moral judgments about economic and social matters required by assent to truth and moral precepts about the demands of justice and peace. (CCC #2419-2422) <i>see</i> Solidarity, Subsidiarity, Human Dignity and Equality
Celibacy	state or condition of those who have chosen to remain unmarried for the sake of the kingdom of heaven in order to give themselves entirely to God and to the service of his people. In the Latin Church, celibacy is obligatory for priests and bishops. In some Eastern Churches, celibacy is a prerequisite for bishops only; priests may not marry after they have been ordained. (CCC #1579, 1580) <i>see</i> Eastern Churches
Chalice	consecrated cup, made of precious materials, used to hold the Blood of Jesus during the Mass. (USCCB) It is elevated by a deacon when present. <i>see</i> Paten
Chaplet	strand of beads used for devotional prayer, to assist in counting the number of recitations without distraction. A rosary is a type of chaplet that is also used for the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Other chaplets may have different numbers of beads, such as the Chaplet of St. Michael. <i>see</i> Rosary, Devotions, Sacramentals
Charism	specific gift or grace of the Holy Spirit which directly or indirectly benefits the Church, given in order to help a person live out the Christian life, or to serve the common good in building up the Church. (CCC #799, 951)
Charity	theological virtue by which we love God above all things for his own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. (CCC #1822) Also, an organization that commits itself to corporal works of mercy. <i>see</i> Love, Theological Virtues
Chastity	moral virtue which, under the cardinal virtue of temperance, provides for the proper living of one's sexuality in the context of his or her vocation. (CCC #1832, 2337) Promotes the full integration of sexuality within persons in accord with their state of life - married, single, professed religious or consecrated celibate. Chastity is a virtue that allows us to do what is right and good in the areas of relationship and sexuality. (Catechetical Formation and Chaste Living, 2008) Chastity is listed as one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit (CCC #1832) and the virtue which regulates one's sexual thoughts, desires, and actions. (CCC #2341, 2344, 2346, 2348, 2394-5) <i>see</i> Matrimony
Chasuble	colored outermost garment worn by bishops and priests in celebrating the Eucharist. Its color depends upon the liturgical season or specific memorial, feast, or solemnity being celebrated that day. (USCCB)



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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Child of God	vocation of all those who have received Baptism is to become a Child of God, like Jesus when in the River Jordan was declared Beloved Son. God made you to know Him, to love Him and to serve Him in this world so that you may be happy with Him in the next (Heaven). God has made all people in His image. (CCC #1721, 355) <i>see</i> Baptism, Our Father, Human Dignity
Choral prayer	prayer in community - recited or sung- especially when two sides alternate. <i>see</i> Liturgy of the Hours
Chrism	sacred oil perfumed with balsam fragrance and consecrated by the bishop, who breathes upon it the same breath of the Holy Spirit given to the Apostles in the Upper Room by Christ. It is used within his diocese for Baptism, Confirmation, Ordination, and the Dedication of a new altar (CCC #1241, 1289; 1291; 1294) <i>see</i> Altar, Sacraments
Christ	Greek translation of the Hebrew word <i>Messiah</i> , which means Anointed. It became the proper name of Jesus the Savior who accomplished perfectly the divine mission of priest, prophet, and king. (CCC #436) <i>see</i> Second Person, Jesus, Messiah
Christian	term derived from the name of Christ, it refers to all those who have been anointed through the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism; hence, the followers of Christ, the members of the one, holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. According to Acts 11:26 "It was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians." (CCC #1289)
Christian Initiation	foundation of every Christian life laid by the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. (CCC #1212, 1230) For a candidate or catechumen, these sacraments are typically received at the Easter Vigil after formation in RCIA. <i>see</i> RCIA
Christian symbols	objects representing Christ, e.g. fish, lamb. (USCCB) Also, the sacramental materials of oil or wine or water that signify Christ. <i>see</i> Raw Material, Matter
Christmas	solemnity of the Nativity, the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem. (CCC #1171) Also, the season of the liturgical year, lasting from the evening of Dec. 24 until the Sunday of the Baptism of the Lord, whose color is white or gold. <i>see</i> Epiphany
Christology	field of study within Christian theology which is primarily concerned with the nature - human and divine- and person of Jesus Christ as recorded in the New Testament. (USCCB) <i>see</i> Heresy, Hypostatic Union
Church, ecclesia	name given to the "convocation "or "assembly" of the People of God called together from "the ends of the earth." The word "Church" has three inseparable meanings: The People whom God has gathered from the nations; the particular church founded by an Apostle or a local diocese/eparchy; and the liturgical assembly. The Church draws her life from the Word and the Body of Christ, and so herself becomes Christ's Body. (CCC #752) In the Creed, the sole Church of Christ is professed to be one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. (CCC #811) Hence, the terms ecclesial or ecclesiastic refer to the Church. <i>see</i> Diocese, Eparchy, Ecclesial Communities, Creed, Four Marks, People of God, Body of Christ, Temple of the Holy Spirit
Church Fathers	early writers of Catholic doctrine who defended its teaching in the face of heresy and whose writings continue to form the basis for all study of Scripture and theology. Patristics is the study of their writings. <i>see</i> Christology
Church Year	celebration throughout the year of the mysteries of the Lord's birth, life, death, and Resurrection in such a way that the entire year becomes a "year of the Lord's grace." Thus the cycle of the liturgical year and the great feasts constitute the basic rhythm of the Christian's life of prayer, with its focal point at Easter. <i>see</i> Liturgical Year



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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Ciborium	bowl or chalice-like vessel used to contain the hosts, often with a lid
City of God	the holy city described in the Book of Revelation, the New Jerusalem prepared as a Bride, refers to the Church, the People of God. Our duty as citizens on earth must not take precedence over our Citizenship in Heaven, as we build up the Kingdom of God.
Clothe the Naked	one of the Corporal Works of Mercy. (CCC #2447) The garment of Christ for whom the soldiers cast lots is woven from the charitable works both he and the Church perform.
Collegiality	principle that all the bishops of the Church with the Pope as their head form a single 'college' or collection, which succeeds the 'college' of the Twelve with Peter at their head. This college, which Christ instituted as the foundation of the Church, always with the Pope, has supreme authority over the universal Church. <i>see</i> Bishop
Comfort the Sorrowful	one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy. (CCC #2447) Also a Beatitude. <i>see</i> Sorrow
Commandment	a norm of religious action, above all the Ten given by God to Moses and summarized by Christ as Love of God and Love of Neighbor. (CCC #2052) <i>see</i> Great Commandment
Common Good	when considering any moral action, the good of the whole community must outweigh the needs of the individual, thereby safeguarding human dignity. In other words, when we seek to do what is best for an individual seeking rights, we risk doing what is unjust for society as a whole, thereby diminishing what it means to be human. (CCC #1906) <i>see</i> Moral Life, Catholic Social Doctrine, Human Dignity
Communal penance	prayer service in which the community joins in prayer before and after private confession of each individual. Its practice is to be mitigated except in dire need or for large groups, such as an entire class of students making their first reconciliation.
Communion	most often refers to Holy Communion, the action in the liturgy of going to receive the Body and Blood of Christ; more properly it refers to our mystical fellowship in and corporate union with Christ, the head of the Church, as all the faithful People of God. Partial communion extends to all those who have received valid baptism, while those in full communion have completed initiation in Confirmation and come to the sacrificial banquet with sins reconciled. It may refer to the Real Presence in the appearance of bread and wine or to that particular moment in the liturgy when the faithful go up to partake. <i>see</i> Body of Christ, Real Presence, Christian Initiation
Communion of Saints	unity in Christ of all the redeemed, those on earth and those who have died. It is professed in the Apostles' Creed, where it has also been interpreted to refer to unity of faith and charity achieved through participation in the Eucharist. (CCC #948, 957, 960, 1474) <i>see</i> Redeemer, Communion, Creed
Compassion	literally a 'feeling with' those who suffer, in order to relieve their pain or accompany their sorrow; a form of mercy and an exercise of the Beatitudes. <i>see</i> Sorrow
Conclave	closed meeting of cardinals to elect a pope; also refers to the place of election, a sealed-off area in the Vatican. Fifteen days after the death of a Pope, an election is held in an area digitally silenced from all outside contact. The customary method of election is by secret ballot, a two-thirds majority required for election. Ballots are cast, two in the morning and two in the afternoon, until a majority is achieved. The number of voting-age cardinals involved may not exceed 120. (USCCB)

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Concluding Rite	following the Prayer after Communion, the celebrant blesses the people assembled. The blessing is always Trinitarian: "May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." It is in the sign of the cross that we find our blessing. After that, the deacon dismisses the people. <i>see</i> Blessing
Concupiscence	tendency or default inclination to sin or drifting off-course that results from the loss of Original Blessedness after the Fall; described in Romans 7:19-23, living a moral life is an apprenticeship in self-mastery, according to St. John Paul, and the Church Fathers unanimously prescribed asceticism as the antidote. <i>see</i> Original Sin, Asceticism
Confession of sin	essential element of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which consists in telling one's sins to the confessor priest, in both number and kind for mortal sins. Though it is only one part, the word confession is frequently used to refer to the Sacrament of Penance itself. (CCC #1455) <i>see</i> Penance, Reconciliation, Mortal Sin
Confirmandi	plural word for all the candidates preparing to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.
Confirmation	sacrament which completes Baptism with a special outpouring of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which seal (as symbolized by oil) or 'confirm' the baptized in union with Christ and equip them for active participation in the worship and apostolic life of the Church, especially the Spiritual Works of Mercy. (CCC #1285) It places them under a Bishop's care, who confers upon their soul an indelible mark. <i>see</i> Spiritual Works of Mercy, Sacraments
Confiteor	prayer of confession said as part of the Introductory Rites of the Mass, it does not absolve, but it does remit venial sins until examination and confession take place.
Conscience	interior voice of a human being, within whose heart the inner law of God is inscribed. Moral conscience is a judgment of practical reason about the moral quality of a human action. It moves a person at the appropriate moment to do good and to avoid evil. (CCC #1777-1778) It is a movement of the Holy Spirit within the soul of the confirmed person as the Lord and Giver of Life to avoid the loss of grace through mortal sin. We must examine our conscience to prepare for sacramental confession. <i>see</i> Moral Life, Examination, Holy Spirit
Consecrated Life	permanent state of life recognized by the Church, entered freely in response to the vocation of Christ to perfection, and characterized by profession of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Properly speaking, there are Institutes of Religious Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. The state of consecrated life is thus one way of experiencing a "more intimate" consecration, rooted in Baptism and dedicated totally to God. In the consecrated life, Christ's faithful, moved by the Holy Spirit, propose to follow Christ more nearly, to give themselves to God who is loved above all and, pursuing the perfection of charity in the service of the Kingdom, to signify and proclaim in the Church the glory of the world to come. (CCC #916)(CCC #913) <i>see</i> Religious Life, Vow
Consecration	dedication of an object, place, or person to divine service by prayer or blessing. The consecration at Mass is that part of the Eucharistic Prayer during which the Lord's words of institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper are recited by the priest, making Christ's Body and Blood sacramentally present under the species of bread and wine. (CCC #1352, 1353) <i>see</i> Sacred
Consubstantial	being of the same substance, as spoken in the Creed in reference to Christ being begotten not made. This teaching supports the dogma known as Hypostatic Union, that Christ has two natures both human and divine, and neither supersedes the other. <i>see</i> Dogma, Hypostatic Union, Christology

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Contemplation	wordless prayer in which mind and heart focus on God's greatness and goodness in affective, loving adoration; to look on Jesus and the mysteries of his life with faith and love. (CCC #2628, 2715) St. John Newman and Mother Teresa both describe this form of prayer as heart speaking to heart. <i>see</i> Adoration, Thanksgiving, Intercession, Prayer
Continence	refraining from immoral sexual activity. (Catechetical Formation in Chaste Living, 2008) Also the disposition of a fully-integrated person, either celibate or married.
Contrition	sorrow of the soul and hatred for sin with resolution not to commit the sin again. Contrition is necessary for the penitent to be in Reconciliation. (CCC #1451) <i>see</i> Reconciliation, Sorrow
Conversion	radical reorientation of the whole life away from sin and evil, and toward God. This change of heart or repentance is a central element of Christ's preaching, of the Church's ministry of evangelization, and of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. (CCC #1427, 1431, 1423) <i>see</i> Repentance, Moral Life
Corporal Works of Mercy	charitable actions by which we respond with love to the basic physical needs of people, honoring their human dignity and reverencing the body as a temple of the Holy Spirit. (CCC #56; 62; 66) 'Corporal' means literally of the body: To feed the hungry; to give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked; to shelter the homeless; to visit the sick; to visit the imprisoned; to bury the dead. <i>see</i> Spiritual Works of Mercy, Temple of the Holy Spirit, Human Dignity, Charity
Corpus Christi	Latin phrase meaning Body of Christ. A feast day of the church's calendar dating back to the 13th century, it celebrates the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, typically with a public procession of the monstrance or ciborium from the altar to a place of adoration or repose. <i>see</i> Body of Christ, Monstrance
Council of Jerusalem	an apostolic meeting in Jerusalem in 50 AD that decided whether a gentile had to become Jewish and follow Mosaic laws before becoming a Christian. The council determined that circumcision was not required for gentiles, and set an example for the church in how to deal with conflict, deciding that Baptism is the initiation to Christianity and to break from the Jewish law. Recorded in the book of Acts, it is the first of many councils in the Church. <i>see</i> Hierarchy
Council of Nicaea	first ecumenical council called in 325 AD; the Nicene Creed was developed therein as a response to heresy that denied the Hypostatic Union. <i>see</i> Creed, Hypostatic Union
Council of Trent	19th ecumenical council of the Church in 1545 that clearly explained the teachings of the Church, including the delineation of seven sacraments, and worked to eliminate abuses as part of a general reform of the church.
Council, Ecumenical	gathering of all the bishops of the world, in the exercise of their collegial authority over the universal Church. An ecumenical council is usually called by the Pope as successor of St. Peter, or at least confirmed or accepted by him. (CCC #884) <i>see</i> Universal Church, Collegiality
Counsel the Doubtful	one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy, it means to use the gift of Counsel endowed by the Holy Spirit at Confirmation to help people overcome their lack of adherence to the faith revealed by Jesus Christ. (CCC #2447) <i>see</i> Evangelization, Instruct the Ignorant

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Covenant	solemn promise of relationship between God and His People involving mutual surrender, likened by God to the spousal gift given in Matrimony. The Bible refers to God's covenants with Abraham, Moses, and David as leaders of the chosen people, Israel. In the Old Testament/Covenant, God revealed divine law and prepared a people for salvation through the prophets. In the New Testament/Covenant, Christ establishes a new and everlasting law of love through his own sacrificial death and Resurrection. (CCC #56, 62, 66) The covenant relationship continues in the Sacramental life of the Church. <i>see</i> Matrimony, Typology
Creator	originator of all the visible part of Creation, known as the Universe, and all the creatures that inhabit it. God the Father has loved all things into being, including the invisible part of Creation, who are the Angels. God made all things in and through and for the Son. The Holy Spirit was present at the moment of Creation. Some, in an effort to eschew gendered language to refer to God, have employed the terms Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier to describe the threefold nature of the Trinity, but that has proven problematic in consideration of the fact that all three Persons participate in each action. <i>see</i> Redeemer, Sanctifier, Trinity, Angels, Creation, First Person
Creation	action by which the eternal Father gave a beginning to all that exists outside of himself. Creation also refers to the created universe or totality of what exists, as often expressed by the formula "the heavens and the earth." (CCC #290) The "heavens" refers to the invisible part of the Creation, that exists apart from time, space, and the Laws of physics, while "the earth" refers to the visible part of Creation, the known Universe, and the creatures within it that are subject to time, space, and the Laws of physics. <i>see</i> Angels, First Person, Heaven, Earth
Creed	normative summary statement or profession of Christian faith, such as the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed, coming from the Latin word <i>credo</i> meaning 'I believe.' (CCC #187) <i>see</i> Nicene Creed, Apostles' Creed
Cremation	only permitted when proper internment is guaranteed (cremains should never be scattered or kept) and burial in the ground is prohibitively expensive or when interstate internment requires it. Burying the Dead is a Corporal Work of Mercy
Cross	the best-known religious symbol of Christianity, the Cross is a representation of the instrument of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. <i>see</i> Crucifix, Christian symbol
Crucifix	symbol of the Cross that includes the corpus, or body, of Christ crucified. Some non-Catholic Christians are Iconoclasts who deny the legitimacy of having the corpus on a Cross. <i>see</i> Iconoclasm
Crusades	medieval military expeditions organized by the Church for the liberation of sacred sites in the Holy Land and the defense of religious liberty.
Cycle of Readings	The Lectionary is arranged in two cycles, one for Sundays and one for weekdays: The Sunday cycle is divided into three years, labeled A, B, and C. The first reading, usually from the Old Testament, reflects important themes from the Gospel reading. The second reading is usually from one of the epistles, a letter written to an early church community. These letters are read semi-continuously. Each Sunday, we pick up close to where we left off the Sunday before, though some passages are never read. The weekday cycle is divided into two years, Year I and Year II. During the year, the Gospels are read semi-continuously, beginning with Mark, then moving on to Matthew and Luke. The Gospel of John is read during the Easter season. For Advent, Christmas, and Lent, readings are chosen that are appropriate to the season. (USCCB)

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
David	chosen by God, while still a shepherd boy, to be the second king of the Israelites. (1 Samuel 16:1-13) His son built the Temple, and his kingdom prefigured that of the New David, Christ the King and Good Shepherd. <i>see</i> Covenant, Typology
Deacon	third degree of the hierarchy of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, present in the early church as recorded in Acts. All priests are ordained to the diaconate before ordination to the priesthood. The deacon is ordained to diakonia or service: to assist the bishop in the liturgy, in the distribution of Holy Communion, in blessing marriages, in the proclamation of the Gospel and preaching, in presiding over funerals, baptizing, and in dedication to the various works of charity. While Eastern Churches have always had a functioning order of deacons, in the West the permanent diaconate was reestablished by the Second Vatican Council. (CCC #1569, 1571) The deacon, a herald of the Word of God, is configured most closely to Christ the Suffering Servant in his outreach to the poor, the widow, and the orphan. <i>see</i> Book of the Gospels, Eastern Churches
Death	passage from earthly life to eternal life and the separation of the soul from the body, in which the soul assumes a novel relation to the body. The soul proceeds to particular judgment before the Throne of God while the mortal remains of the body are properly interred. Death is one of the consequences of Original Sin and an inevitability for earthly existence. (CCC #1006-1014) It should only be feared by those who do not repent of sin. <i>see</i> Soul, Original Sin, End of the World
Decalogue	The Ten Commandments (literally, "ten words") given by God to Moses on Sinai. In order to be faithful to the new covenant of Jesus, the Decalogue must be interpreted in light of his Great Commandment to love God and neighbor. (CCC #2055, 2056)
Degrees of Holy Orders	Bishop - Priest - Deacon. Catholic doctrine recognizes two degrees of ministerial participation in Christ's priesthood: the episcopacy and the presbyterate; the diaconate is meant to serve these two orders. (CCC #1554)
Demons, Devil	fallen angels, who in the free exercise of their will in opposition to the plan of God render themselves permanently separated from Heaven. Unlike humans, angels are incapable of repentance. Lucifer fell from being Prince of the Heavenly Host and became Satan, Prince of Darkness and Division. Satan means accuser. Devil means one who divides. Demons strive to divide humans against the will of God. <i>see</i> Michael, Archangel.
Deposit of Faith	all truths entrusted by Christ to the Apostles and the early church, found in Scripture and Tradition, from which the Magisterium draws all that it proposes for belief as being divinely revealed. (CCC #84) <i>see</i> Magisterium
Descent of the Holy Spirit	one of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary, this event was promised by Christ at his Ascension, nine days prior to Pentecost. As recorded by Luke, Christ told the Apostles to remain in Jerusalem and await the Advocate being sent. Nine days of prayer culminated in an event whereby all the types or symbols of the Holy Spirit prefigured in the Old Testament became active upon them: the driving wind, the burning flame, the breath speaking, and the Gifts enabling them to bear prophetic witness. The collection of nations comprehending Peter is a reversal of the diaspora from the Tower of Babel. <i>see</i> Novena, Pentecost, Typology, Holy Spirit, Christian symbols, Rosary, Diaspora
Deuterocanonical	of, relating to, or constituting the books of Scripture contained in the Septuagint (Greek translation of Bible) but not in the Hebrew canon. (USCCB)
Development of conscience	parents have a duty to develop a conscience in their children, by teaching them to conform their actions to the Gospel. <i>see</i> Conscience, Formation of Conscience

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Devotions	pious practices of the faithful beyond participation in liturgy, usually honoring the communion of saints. May include formal prayers such as chaplets or novenas or sacramentals such as medals or scapulars. Such devotions should accord with the liturgical season and the sacred liturgy, derive from it, and lead people to it, since the liturgy is superior to any form of devotion. (CCC #1674-76) <i>see</i> Chaplet, Scapular, Piety
Diaspora	dispersal of the Jews throughout foreign lands following the destruction of the Herodian Temple in 70 AD. Also may refer to the exile in Babylon and the destruction of the Solomon Temple or the dispersal after the fall of the Tower of Babel or the exile from Paradise. All of these were reversed by Christ in collecting the faithful.
Diocese	a "particular church," a community of the faithful in communion of faith and sacraments whose bishop has been ordained in apostolic succession. A diocese is usually a determined geographic area; sometimes it may be constituted as a group of people of the same rite or language. (CCC #833) <i>see</i> also Eparchy
Disciples	students of the Word who accept Jesus the Teacher's invitation to follow him. Jesus associated his disciples with his own life, revealed the mystery of the Kingdom to them, and gave them a share in his mission, his joy, and his sufferings. (CCC #767, 787)
Discipleship	through Baptism, the primary vocation of each person to live out the teaching of Christ through the Fruits and Virtues, Beatitudes, Commandments, Works of Mercy, a well-formed conscience, and the five precepts of the Church. <i>see</i> Baptism, Beatitudes, Conscience, Precepts of the Church, Stewardship
Divine	referring to God or pertaining to God. Also referring to one of Christ's two natures. <i>see</i> Hypostatic Union
Divine inspiration	the gift of the Holy Spirit by which a human author was able to write a biblical book which really has God as the author and which teaches faithfully and without error the saving truth that God willed to be consigned to us for our salvation (USCCB Doctrinal Framework; CCC #105, 135) <i>see</i> Inspiration
Divine Mercy Chaplet	devotional prayer using the beads of the Rosary to ask reparation for souls through the sorrowful Passion of Christ. <i>see</i> Mercy, Reparation, Chaplet
Divine Office	Liturgy of the Hours, the public prayer of the Church which sanctifies the whole course of the day and night. Christ thus continues his priestly work through the prayer of his priestly people. (CCC #1174) <i>see</i> Liturgy of the Hours
Divine Persons	God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit; the Trinity. (CCC #232, 237, 249, 253-6) <i>see</i> Trinity; First, Second, Third Person
Divine Praises	prayer following Benediction, praising the attributes of God. <i>see</i> Benediction
Divine Providence	action of God who provides all that we need as Author of life. When we freely surrender our will in trustful abandonment to the Lord, we enable ourselves to receive what God is always giving and adhere to his plan for our salvation. God continues to bring good out of misfortune and evil, for those who love him and devote themselves to him. (CCC #302-314) <i>see</i> Garden, Manna, Stewardship
Divine Revelation	self-disclosure of God and the communication of the truth about His nature and will over the course of salvation history. Scripture is one component of the Tradition guaranteed by the Magisterium in passing on what has been revealed to it; therefore Scripture is not the fullness of what has been revealed. The fullness of this self-disclosure is experienced in a sacramental way in the Eucharist, a foretaste of the actual revelation promised in Heaven (Dei Verbum, Apostolic Constitution)

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Dogma	The revealed teachings about Christ which are proclaimed to the fullest extent by the exercise of the authority of the church's Magisterium. The faithful are obliged to believe the truths or dogmas contained in divine Revelation and defined by the Magisterium. (CCC #88) <i>see</i> Magisterium, Hypostatic Union, Assumption
Doctrine	teachings of the Church as advanced by the Apostles and developed (or elaborated in our understanding of the richness of them) by the Church Fathers and the Doctors of the Church (whose writings now compose essential teaching of the Church). <i>see</i> Apostolic Tradition, Church Fathers
Domestic Church	families are the first cell and most basic unit of the Church, wherein parents are the primary catechists of their children. (CCC #1656) Just as the parish building is the house of the church, the <i>domus ecclesiae</i> , so too each family home is a Domestic Church, and the practice of prayer in the life of each home should reflect the liturgical life of the Church. Central to the liturgy of the domestic church is the dinner table, where communion at home is extended for the building up of the Kingdom, and the family altar, or little oratory, where sacramentals are kept in the home.
Doxology	prayer of praise and glory to God in three divine persons of the Trinity. Liturgical prayers traditionally conclude with a doxology. (CCC #2639, 2855) Note that the doxologies are different when praying the Rosary (which uses the Glory Be) and praying the Liturgy of the Hours (which uses the Glory To). <i>see</i> Trinity
Early Church	<i>see</i> Apostolic Age, Church Fathers
Earth	the visible part of God's creation, encompassing all the created world that is perceivable through our senses, even if not literally this planet, being the realm of human beings and creatures that are not angels. <i>see</i> Heaven, Angels
Easter	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." Christians prepare for it during Lent and Holy Week, and catechumens usually receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil, mother of all vigils. (CCC #1169; cf. 647) <i>see</i> Passover, Paschal Mystery, Easter season, Feast Days
Easter candle	also known as the Paschal Candle, a column of wax of exceptional size, marked with the wounds of Christ and used at the Easter Vigil as the symbol of Christ, a light in the darkness. The Easter Candle is positioned near the font normally, moved to the ambo during the Easter season, and positioned near the casket at every funeral. As a symbol of our hope in Eternal Life, it is lit at every Mass during the Easter season, lit at every baptism, and lit at every funeral. <i>see</i> Paschal
Easter season	liturgical season that lasts 50 days after the Resurrection and ends on Pentecost Sunday. (USCCB) Its liturgical color is white or gold and the readings focus on the 40 days that Christ appeared to the apostles preparing them to become episcopal leaders of the Church to be born on Pentecost. <i>see</i> Paschal, Passover, and Pentecost
Eastern Churches	Churches founded by an Apostle and in union with Rome but having their own liturgical, theological, and hierarchical traditions, such as the Byzantine, Coptic, Maronite, or Chaldean Rites. (CCC #1202-3, cf. 835) <i>see</i> Orthodox Churches, Latin Rite
Ecumenism	promotion of fraternal cooperation and the restoration of unity among Christians, the unity of whom is an intention of Christ and to which the church is called by the Holy Spirit. For the Catholic Church, the Decree on Ecumenism of the Second Vatican Council provides a charter for ecumenical efforts. (CCC #816, 820-822)

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Ecclesial Communities	while not Churches properly speaking, since they were not founded by an Apostle, these church-like Christian communities fall within the ambit of the Catholic Church either through valid Baptism and/or a liturgical and sacramental tradition that has its origins in the Latin Rite, even though they remain outside of full communion with Rome. They often refer to themselves as Churches. <i>see</i> Latin Rite
Ecclesiastical	adjective referring to the Church, from the Greek word 'ekklesia' that means convocation or assembly of the Faithful. <i>see</i> Church, Faithful
Effects	change in a person that results from receiving a Sacrament. (USCCB)
Elizabeth and Zechariah	mother and father of John the Baptist, they represent the end of the Old even as they herald the New: Zechariah the last of a long line of priests, John the last of a long line of prophets, and Elizabeth a type for Sarah and Hannah before her. <i>see</i> Typology
Emmanuel	title for Christ used by Isaiah in his prophecy of the Virgin birth of the Messiah, it literally means "God-with-us" and amply describes the Incarnation and the twofold nature of Christ, who is both human and divine. <i>see</i> Epiphany, Hypostatic Union
Emotions	feelings, that human tendency in which senses participate, and which must also be ordered by reason and a well-formed conscience.
End of the World	final passing of this world, long subjected to the effects of sin and ruled by the Prince of Darkness, to be replaced by a new heaven and a new earth as a result of the Atonement. Only those who cling to this world have reason to fear its end; those who remain in the Word will enter the glorious reign of the Lamb of God, who is all in all. <i>see</i> Advent, Judgment, Death
Encyclicals	pastoral letter written by the Pope and addressed to the Universal Church and even to the whole world, to express church teaching on some important matter. Encyclicals are expressions of the ordinary papal magisterium. (CCC cf. 892)
Eparchy	similar to a Diocese, it is the geographic boundary for the eparch or bishop in a non-Latin Church in union with the Holy See. <i>see also</i> Diocese
Epiclesis	the invocation of the Holy Spirit upon the sacrament at the altar during the Eucharistic Prayer. <i>see</i> Canon of the Mass
Epiphany	from the Greek word <i>epiphanos</i> meaning 'manifestation' or revelation. Together with the Baptism of the Lord in the River Jordan and his miracle at the Wedding Feast in Cana, this feast celebrates the manifestation to the world of the newborn King as both Son of God and Messiah. The traditional observation of this feast on January 6 commemorates the visit of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. Their gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh (burial ointment) are gifts worthy of a King who is both Divine and Mortal (Human), respectively. The second <i>epiphanos</i> of Christ came at the River Jordan when God the Father revealed Jesus to be God the Son, an event celebrated at the close of the Christmas season. The last manifestation came at the Wedding Feast in Cana, when Jesus was revealed to be the Messiah, the one at whose coming the prophets foretold an abundance of wine would be shared in Israel. In the Eastern Churches, they are celebrated as one single theophanic event. <i>see</i> Baptism of the Lord, Wedding Feast at Cana, Eastern Churches
Epistles	letters written to the early Christian communities. Those in the New Testament are considered canonical. <i>see</i> Pauline Epistles, Catholic Epistles, and Canon of Scripture

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Eternity or Eternal	attribute of God who, like a circle, has no beginning and no end. Our liturgical calendar is in the shape of a circle; we use circular objects like the advent wreath or the wedding ring to symbolize this attribute as a reminder that we can attain to everlasting life. Those who have been fully initiated into the Life of Christ through the sacraments have been anointed with chrism oil, which has a balsam fragrance that evokes this attribute of God. <i>see</i> Liturgical Calendar, Advent Wreath, Chrism
Ethics	systematic reflection on human righteousness and the role of the human person in making decisions. The science of morality derives from natural law. One is encouraged to live in the freedom endowed by God for the purpose of living in accordance with Christ's example and in accordance with a well-formed conscience.
Eucharist	ritual, sacramental action of thanksgiving to God. This action constitutes the principal Christian liturgical celebration of and communion in the Paschal Mystery of Christ. The liturgical action called the Eucharist is also traditionally known as the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. It is one of the seven sacraments of the church; the Holy Eucharist completes Christian initiation. The Sabbath celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life. (CCC #1322, 2177) The Eucharist is the Source and Summit of the Christian life. "The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch." (CCC #1324) <i>see</i> Paschal Mystery
Eucharistic prayer	spoken by the priest in preparation of the bread and the wine as they are consecrated and conformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus. <i>see</i> Canon of the Mass
Evangelical Counsels	public profession of the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience taken by Consecrated Religious which are intended to free them for Evangelization. (CCC # 915) Also, the precepts of the New Law proposed by Jesus that lead to perfection in the Christian life. (CCC #1973) <i>see</i> Consecrated Life, Religious Life
Evangelist	messenger, or evangel, one of the four authors to whom is ascribed the writing of the four Gospels -Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. (CCC #125, 120) The term is also used for one who works actively to spread and promote the Christian faith and may be used commonly to refer to non-Catholics who do so. <i>see</i> Protestants, Gospel
Evangelization	proclamation of Christ and His Gospel to others, usually by the example of a good life and joyful works, so that they desire to be an active member of the Church. Sharing the Gospel with believers to enliven their faith, bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation, and seeking to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself constitute the primary mission of the Church, especially the laity. (CCC #905) <i>see</i> Laity, Discipleship
Eve	according to the creation account in Genesis, the first woman, wife of Adam, whose name means 'Mother of all living'. God did not create man a solitary being; rather he formed woman from the rib of the man, closest to his heart. From the beginning, "male and female he created them" (Gen 1:29), endowing them with dignity. Nor was their sin solitary; rather their act of disobedience would stain all generations to come. Yet, the New Eve, Mary the Mother of the Church, kept free from the stain of original sin, through her obedient fiat would unknot what Eve had wrought. (CCC #369, 375, 511) <i>see</i> Adam, Original Sin, Typology
Evil	opposite or absence of good. Moral evil results from the free choice to sin which angels and men have; it is permitted by God, who knows how to derive good from it, in order to respect the freedom of His creatures. The entire revelation of God's goodness in Christ is a response to the existence of evil. (CCC #309-311, 385, 1707) <i>see</i> Angels, Demons, Divine Providence

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Examination of conscience	prayerful self-reflection on our words and deeds in the light of the Gospel to determine how we may have sinned against God. In preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, one ought to make a thorough examination, noting a failure to live the fruits and virtues, commandments, beatitudes, works of mercy, baptismal promises, or precepts of the Church. (CCC #1454) <i>see</i> Precepts, Conscience
Excommunication	severe ecclesiastical penalty that results from grave crimes against the Catholic religion; it is formally imposed by ecclesiastical authority or self-incurred as a direct result of the commission of an offense. It excludes one from taking part in or receiving the graces from the Eucharist or other sacraments while also barring one from the exercise of any ecclesiastical office or function. (CCC #1463) <i>see</i> Ecclesiastical
Exile	dispersal of the People of God from their homeland, especially as a result of their failure to uphold the Covenant. Adam and Eve were exiled from the Garden of Eden, the Israelites were exiled during the Babylonian captivity, and we are living as exiles from our true home in heaven according to the Salve Regina prayer. The prophets warned about exile as a consequence of sin. <i>see</i> Diaspora, Garden, Jeremiah, Hosea
Exodus	God's saving intervention in history by which he liberated the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt, made a covenant with them, and brought them into the promised Land. The Book of Exodus, the second of the Old Testament, narrates this saving history. The exodus is commemorated by the Jewish people at Passover, which for Christians is a foreshadowing of the "passover" of Jesus Christ from death to life and is celebrated in the memorial of the Eucharist. (CCC #1363) <i>see</i> Paschal Mystery
Exposition	a manner of honoring the Holy Eucharist, by exposing it, with proper solemnity, to the view of the faithful in order that they may render devotion. In its traditional form, a priest, vested in surplice, stole, and cope, places on the altar the consecrated Host in the monstrance, and then incenses it. <i>see</i> Adoration, Benediction, Monstrance
Faith	faith is a gift and a response to revelation. It is this revelation of God which the Church proposes for our belief, and which we profess in the Creed, celebrate in the sacraments, live by right conduct that fulfills the twofold commandment of charity (as specified in the Ten Commandments), and respond to in our prayer of faith. Faith is both a theological virtue given by God as grace, and an obligation which flows from the First Commandment of God. (CCC #26, 142, 150, 1814, 2087) <i>see</i> Theological Virtues
Faithful	those who have been incorporated into Christ through Baptism and constitute the People of God, the Church. (CCC #871) Also, fully initiated and practicing members of the Church. <i>see</i> Church
The Fall	biblical revelation about the reality of sin in human history. The biblical narrative begins with the original sin freely committed by the first human beings, Adam and Eve. This primeval event is narrated in figurative language in the Book of Genesis, which describes this sin as a "fall" from God's friendship and grace, which they had received from God not only for themselves but for the whole human race. (CCC #388, 390) <i>see</i> Free Will
Fasting	refraining from food and drink as an expression of interior penance, in imitation of the fasting of Jesus for forty days in the desert. It is an ascetical practice recommended in Scripture and the writings of the Church Fathers. (CCC # 538, 1434, 2043) Fasting and abstinence from meat is required of Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 (except for medical reasons) on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. It is a reminder of our need to be filled with God. <i>see</i> Church Fathers, Abstinence, Almsgiving, Lent, Asceticism

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Father	the Creator, the First Person of the Trinity who makes all things, both visible and invisible. The Son of God referred to him as Abba in the prayer he gave us. <i>see</i> Abba, Trinity, First, Second, and Third Person, Lord's Prayer
Fatima	the town in Portugal near where the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima was seen by three shepherd children, who were instructed to make reparation for sins against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. <i>see</i> Our Lady of Fatima, Reparation
Fear of the Lord	one of seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit which ensures our awe and reverence before God. (CCC #1831) Rather than a human fear or irrational subservience, holy fear is the rational and right recognition that God is God and you are not. To come before the Lord in need of him is also the state of a person who is Poor in Spirit, according to the Beatitudes. Proverbs says, "the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord." <i>see</i> Wisdom, Beatitudes, Gifts of the Holy Spirit
Feast Days	annual cycle of liturgical celebrations commemorating the saving mysteries of Christ's life, as a participation in the Paschal Mystery, which is celebrated annually at Easter, the "Feast of feasts." Feast days balance out the days of fasting in the calendar. Solemnities are the highest rank, with Memorials for each saint day being optional or observed regionally. (CCC #1169, 1173) <i>see</i> Liturgical calendar, Liturgical Year, Paschal Mystery, Solemnity, Memorial
Feed the Hungry	one of the Corporal Works of Mercy.
Final Judgment	general or last judgment on humanity as a whole, as well as on each individual, to occur after the resurrection of the dead at the end of the world. <i>see</i> End of the World
First Eucharist	initial time one receives Holy Communion after a period of preparation including catechesis and prayer.
First Person	God the Father is the first Person of the Holy Trinity. <i>see</i> Creator, Abba
Forgive all injuries	one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy
Formation of conscience	process whereby one forms their belief about actions in light of the Gospel, allowing grace to build. <i>see</i> Examination of Conscience, Development
Fortitude	one of the four cardinal moral virtues which ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in doing the good (CCC #1808). Fortitude (sometimes called strength, courage, or might) is also one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit. (CCC #1299) <i>see</i> Cardinal Virtues, Gifts
Forty Days	a period of time in both the Old and New Testaments indicating transformation for the people of God. Noah aboard the Ark, Moses on Mt. Sinai, Elijah in prayer, and Jesus in the desert are examples of a 40-day period of transformation. Perhaps the most important period of transformation in the Church was the forty days during which Our Lord appeared to the Apostles and various disciples prior to the Ascension; nine days after that, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Church, and its mission was birthed. <i>see</i> Typology, Ascension, Descent of the Holy Spirit
The Four Marks	The Church is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic (CCC #813-865)
Free will	faculty or capability given to us by God to make reasonable choices, underlying moral responsibility. (CCC #1704, 1711, 1730-1739, 1853) <i>see</i> Angels, Demons, Moral Life

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Fruits of the Holy Spirit	perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the "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. (CCC #1830) Galatians ch.5 lists nine fruits: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
Funeral	service performed by the Christian community for the benefit of its dead, to pray for that soul. It expresses the sorrow of the survivors, yet it always has a Paschal character. Ultimately we die in Christ so as to celebrate with him the feast of the Resurrection. (CCC #1686-1690) <i>see</i> Sorrow, Paschal, Corporal Works of Mercy
Gabriel, Archangel	of the three archangels named in Scripture, Gabriel occurs principally in the Gospel of Luke as the messenger sent by the Lord first to Zechariah at the annunciation of the birth of John the Baptist and then to Mary at the annunciation of the Incarnation. It is widely believed but not definitively held that Gabriel was the one who appeared to Joseph in his dream. The name <i>gebher'el</i> means "Strength of God" and refers to the announcement of salvation and the vanquishing of the Evil One. <i>see</i> Archangel, Michael, Raphael
Garden	both a reference to Eden and Gethsemane. Humanity's original sin and its antidote both took place in a garden, a place of Divine Providence.
Gaudete Sunday	means "Rejoice" from the Entrance Antiphon for the Third Sunday of Advent. <i>see</i> Rose
Genealogy	lineage or line of descent traced continuously from an ancestor. The Gospel of Matthew traces the lineage of Jesus back to David, to emphasize that he is the fulfillment of the Jewish hope for a Messiah. The Gospel of Luke traces the lineage of Jesus back to Adam, to emphasize that he is the fulfillment of the desire of all nations and the redeemer of humanity. <i>see</i> Messiah, Redeemer
Genesis	First book in the Old Testament, which describes God's creation of the world, the creation of our first parents and The Fall, as well as the drama of sin and our hope for salvation. (CCC #120, 289, 337, 355) <i>see</i> The Fall
Genuflect	pious bodily gesture made by bending the (right) knee to touch the ground, especially to express adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. (CCC #1378) What began as a demonstration of chivalry by a medieval vassal has become a physical way to declare fealty to the only Lord and recognition of the Real Presence. <i>see</i> Piety
Gifts of the Holy Spirit	permanent dispositions that make us docile to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit. The traditional list of seven Gifts of the Spirit is derived from Isaiah 11:1-3: Wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord. (CCC #1830) <i>see also</i> Fruits of the Holy Spirit
Give drink to the Thirsty	one of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Thirst in this sense refers not only to water but also to the need for spiritual fulfillment as described in John 6.
Global Church	<i>see</i> Universal Church, which exists in every time zone on the globe.
Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary	mysteries of the Rosary through which we meditate on the afterlife of Jesus, His Resurrection, Ascension, sending the Holy Spirit, assuming His mother, and crowning His mother. <i>see</i> Sorrowful, Joyful, Luminous

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
God	infinite divine being, one in being yet three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God has revealed himself as the "One who is," as truth and love, as creator of all that is, as the author of divine revelation, and as the source of salvation. (CCC #198, 279) <i>see</i> Trinity, First, Second, and Third Person
God's Law	The Law of God contains the Ten Commandments. Divine law is any law that comes directly from the will of God, in contrast to man-made law. <i>see</i> Discipleship
God's Will	<i>see</i> Will of God
Golden Rule	a maxim from Christ that concisely expresses the law listed in Leviticus 19. Christ teaches in Matthew 7:12, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Not to be confused with his Great Commandment regarding love of neighbor, a related but separate teaching. <i>see</i> Great Commandment, Typology
Good News	<i>see</i> Gospel
Gospel	the "good news" of God's mercy and love revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. It is this Gospel or good news that the Apostles, and the Church following them, are to proclaim to the entire world. The Gospel is handed on in the apostolic tradition of the Church as the Source of all-saving truth and moral discipline. The four Gospels are the books ascribed to the evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which have for their central object Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Son: His life, teachings, passion and glorification, and his Church's beginnings under the Holy Spirit's guidance. (CCC #571, 1946, 75, 124, 514) <i>see</i> Evangelist
Gospel Acclamation	choral part of the Mass, also known as the Alleluia. <i>see</i> Alleluia, Mass Parts.
Grace	free and undeserved gift that God gives us to respond to our vocation to become his adopted children. As sanctifying grace , God shares his divine life and friendship with us in a habitual gift, a stable and supernatural disposition that enables the soul to live with God, to act by his love. As actual grace , God gives us the help to conform our lives to his will. Sacramental grace and special graces (charisms, the grace of one's state of life) are gifts of the Holy Spirit to help us live out our Christian vocation. (CCC #1996; 2000; cf. 654)
Great Commandment	Jesus summarized the Ten Commandments by giving two clear commands referred to singularly: 1. to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind and 2. to love your neighbor as yourself. When you put Jesus first and Others before Yourself last, you experience the JOY of eternal life in heaven; thus the path to happiness is through obedience to God's Law. <i>see</i> Ten Commandments, Discipleship
Great Commission	prior to the Ascension, forty days after the Resurrection, Jesus gave his last instruction to the Apostles, sending them forth to lead the Church in bringing the good news to the ends of the earth, or to all peoples. <i>see</i> Apostle, Missionary
Great Flood	event recorded in Genesis story of Noah and the Ark, wherein God caused all earth-dwelling creatures to perish as water submerged the earth to cleanse and purify it, indicating a new Creation, thus evoking the waters of Baptism. For this reason, fish are allowed to be consumed on days of abstinence. <i>see</i> Typology, Abstinence
Guardian Angel	Angels assigned to protect and intercede for each person. (CCC #336) Matthew 18:10 among other references in Scripture upholds this teaching. <i>see</i> Nine Choirs of Angels

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Halloween	the Eve of All Hallows. Just as Christmas Eve precedes Christmas Day, this eve precedes the solemnity, or major feast, that follows it (though in this case, it uniquely precedes two feasts). Just as the Easter Vigil precedes Easter Day, so this eve is the vigil that precedes the Solemnity of All Saints and the Feast of All Souls. Celebrated together, they constitute a Triduum of sorts. Though the practice of this day has been obscured by secular distortions of it, it should be observed by the faithful as an occasion for prayer, especially the Work of Mercy to Pray for the Living and the Dead, most especially in a cemetery. 'Hallows' is a term that refers to the 'holy ones' in the same way that hallowed is used in the Our Father; it refers not only to the holy saints and blessed in Heaven, but also the souls in Purgatory being prepared for ultimate communion in heaven. <i>see</i> Pray for the Living and the Dead, Purgatory, Vigil
Halo	in artistic representation, a circlet of light surrounds the heads of holy ones depicted, to indicate their holiness. Simple or partial halos for saints, full halos for Mary, and mandorla halos for Christ to indicate the presence of God. <i>see</i> Saints, Mandorla
Happiness	more accurately described as Blessedness or the virtue of Joy, this is a lasting sense that one is in right relationship with the Lord. <i>see</i> Beatitudes, Great Commandment
Heaven	Eternal life with God; communion of life and love with the Trinity and all the blessed. Heaven is the state of supreme and definitive happiness, the goal of the deepest longings of humanity. (CCC #1023) The invisible part of God's creation, being the realm of the angelic hosts. <i>see</i> Earth, Particular Judgment, Beatitudes
Hell	The state of self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed, reserved for those who refuse by their own free will to repent from sin, even to the end of their lives. <i>see</i> Particular Judgment, Repentance
Heresy	a false teaching or distortion accompanied by obstinate denial after Baptism of a truth which must be accepted with full and Catholic faith (CCC #2089) One who promotes such error is an heresiarch. <i>see</i> Excommunication, Arianism, Christology
Hidden Life of Jesus	the thirty years that precede Christ's baptism in the River Jordan, which inaugurates his public ministry as the Son of God, prior to which he was known as Joseph's son. <i>see</i> Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, Baptism of the Lord, Public Ministry
Hierarchy	the Church is structured with different levels of authority, with those in Holy Orders exercising the authority conferred upon them through apostolic succession to teach, govern, and sanctify in the name of Christ. Within the first succession of bishops after the death of the Apostles, the hierarchy was established as normative throughout the early Church, with bishops and their deacons and priests in every diocese.
Historic Books of the Old Testament	section of the Bible telling the covenant narrative, or salvation history, of the People of God as they received the Law and became a Kingdom that would anticipate a Messiah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Tobit, Judith, Esther, 1 Maccabees, 2 Maccabees. <i>see</i> Covenant, People of God, Messiah
Holy, Holiness	pertaining to God or consecrated for religious use or set apart for God; conforming to God's Will. Also one of the Four Marks of the Church, meaning that it possesses the fullness of the means of salvation. <i>see</i> Sacred, Four Marks
Holy Communion	<i>see</i> Eucharist

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Holy Days of Obligation	principal feast days or solemnities in the liturgical calendar on which, in addition to Sunday, Catholics are obliged by Church law to participate in the Eucharist; a precept of the Church. (CCC #2043, 2180) <i>see</i> Precepts, Solemnity, Liturgical Calendar
Holy Family	earthly family of Jesus with Mary and her husband, Joseph. <i>see</i> Joseph, Mary
Holy Orders	Sacrament of Apostolic Service by which the mission entrusted by Christ to his Apostles continues to be exercised in the Church through the laying on of hands. This sacrament has three distinct degrees, known as orders: deacon, priest, and bishop. All three confer a permanent sacramental character on the soul of the ordained. (CCC #1536) <i>see</i> Hierarchy, Ordinand, Degrees, Laying on of Hands
Holy See	seat of central administration of the global church, referring to the <i>cathedra</i> , or chair of the Bishop of Rome, that represents his official authority given to him by Christ to govern the souls of the people entrusted to him within his diocese and in exercise of Collegiality. The Bishop of Rome has a diocesan see, or seat, that also has diplomatic relations with other nations, distinct from the geopolitical entity known as the Vatican City-State. <i>see</i> Global Church, Collegiality, Vatican, Cathedral
Holy Spirit	third divine person of the Blessed Trinity, the personal love of Father and Son for each other. Also called the Paraclete (Advocate) and Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit is at work with the Father and the Son from the beginning to the completion of the divine plan for our salvation. (CCC #685, 152, 243) <i>see</i> Third Person
Holy water	water blessed by a priest, a sacramental whose sprinkling or use is a reminder of Baptism and a means of sanctification. (CCC #1668) <i>see</i> Baptism of the Lord
Holy water font	font, or stoup, is a vessel containing holy water generally placed near the entrance of a church, so that the faithful may bless themselves as they enter as a reminder of their baptism, through which they entered the faith. <i>see</i> Baptismal font
Holy Week	week preceding Easter, beginning with Palm (Passion) Sunday, called the "Great Week" in the liturgies of the Eastern Churches. It marks the Church's annual celebration of the events of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection, culminating in the Paschal Mystery. (CCC #1169) The apex of the liturgical year, during this week we hear the readings from the last days of Christ in Jerusalem, for which he had been prepared from birth. <i>see</i> Paschal Mystery, Liturgical Year
Homily	preaching by an ordained deacon to explain the Scriptures that were just proclaimed, to apply their meaning to their own lives, and to exhort people to accept their meaning as the revelation of the Word of God. (CCC #132, 1100, 1349) When delivered by a priest or bishop, the homily is still from an ordained deacon. <i>see</i> Deacon
Homosexuality	<i>see</i> Same Sex Attraction
Hope	theological virtue by which we desire and expect from God both eternal life and the grace we need to attain it. (CCC #1817) It enables us to trust in God's promises even in the face of difficulty or trial. <i>see</i> Theological Virtues
Hosea	prophet in the Old Testament who spoke out against idolatry; God compares the sin of idolatry, which caused the Exile, to the sin of Adultery. <i>see</i> Covenant
Host	wafer of bread used for Holy Communion. (CCC #1992, 1378) It also refers to the fact that the wafer will transubstantiate into the flesh of Christ, thus serving as a host for the person it will become.

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Human choice	in moral decision making, there are three considerations for human choice: object, intention, and circumstance, and all must align with God's Will in order for a choice to be good. <i>see</i> Free Will
Human Dignity and Equality	inherent fact that all people created in God's image and likeness are worthy of honor and care from the moment of their conception to their natural end, and also throughout every stage of their natural development. (CCC #369, 872, 1934-5) <i>see</i> Catholic Social Doctrine, Solidarity, Subsidiarity
Hymns	sacred music that complement the Propers of the Mass; they should be composed of scriptural references that enhance the faithful in hearing the Word proclaimed from the Lectionary readings. Their use was made more optional at the Second Vatican Council. <i>see</i> Propers, Liturgical Hymns
Hypostatic Union	dogmatic teaching that Christ has two consubstantial natures, being both fully human and fully divine. This teaching that Jesus Christ is both True God and True Man was denied by heresies in the early church such as Arianism and Nestorianism (that influenced Mohammed) and clarified definitively in various Councils of the early church and in symbols such as the Nicene Creed and the name Emmanuel. <i>see</i> Dogma, Early Church, Heresy, Christology, Arianism, Muslims
Iconoclasm	an heretical or false teaching that claimed that veneration of religious images is unlawful according to the Ten Commandments; it was condemned as unfaithful to tradition at the Council of Nicaea in 787 AD. (CCC #2131) <i>see</i> Heresy, Council
Idolatry	divinization of a creature in place of God, or the worship of a false image, or idol, as prohibited by the Ten Commandments; the substitution of a creature, especially money, ego, or power, in place of God the Creator, who alone we should worship. (CCC #2112) Idolatry should never be confused with veneration of a sacred image or veneration of a saint. <i>see</i> Veneration, Hosea
Image and Likeness	<i>see</i> Human Dignity and Equality
Immaculate Conception	dogma proclaimed in Christian Tradition and defined in 1854, that from the first moment of her conception, Mary - by the singular grace of God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ - was preserved immune from original sin. (CCC #491) Mary is the <i>created</i> Immaculate Conception while her spouse the Holy Spirit is the <i>uncreated</i> Immaculate Conception. Under this title, Mary is honored as the patron saint of the United States, and her feast day December 8 is both a solemnity and a holy day of obligation. <i>see</i> Solemnity, Holy Day, Our Lady of Lourdes
Immanence	God's nearness, permanently pervading and sustaining the universe, in contrast to his Transcendence. <i>see</i> Transcendence, Muslims
Immortality	quality of the spiritual human soul whereby it survives the death of the body and remains in existence without end, to be reunited with the body at the final resurrection. (CCC #363, 366) Angels also have this quality, being souls without bodies.
Incarnation	the very fact that the Son of God assumed human nature and became man in order to accomplish our salvation in that same human nature. Jesus Christ, the son of God, the second Person of the Trinity, is both true God and true man, not partly God and partly human. (CCC #461; 464) Word became Flesh and dwelt among us at the precise moment when the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary at the Annunciation, celebrated March 25, though we celebrate its effect nine months later at the Nativity on December 25. <i>see</i> Jesus Christ, Second Person, Son of God, Hypostatic Union

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Indelible	permanent effect upon the soul. Three sacraments of the Church confer an indelible mark upon the soul: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. <i>see</i> Laying on of Hands
Indissolubility	trait of a marriage within the Church, when the bride and groom consent to give themselves totally to each other until only death can part the bond, which has prepared them for the true marriage to Christ in heaven. <i>see</i> Matrimony
Inerrancy	attribute of the books of Scripture whereby they faithfully and without error teach that truth which God, for the sake of our salvation, wished to have revealed through the Sacred Scriptures. (CCC #107) <i>see</i> Revelation, Inspiration
Infallibility	gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church whereby the pastors of the Church, the pope and bishops in collegiality, can definitively proclaim doctrines of faith or morals for the belief of the faithful. This gift is related to the inability of the whole body of the faithful to err in matters of faith and morals. (CCC #891, 892) <i>see</i> Collegiality, Faithful
Infancy Narrative	story of Jesus' birth in the Gospels: Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2
Inspiration	gift of the Holy Spirit which assisted a human author to write a biblical book so that it has God as its author and teaches faithfully, without error, the saving truth that God has willed to be revealed to us. (CCC #105) <i>see</i> Inerrancy, Revelation
Instruct the ignorant	one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy. (CCC #2447) Ignorant, rather than being a pejorative term, literally means 'not knowing' to refer to those who do not believe because they do not know yet. We use the gift of Knowledge endowed by the Holy Spirit at Confirmation to help people learn about Jesus Christ. <i>see</i> Evangelization
Intercession	prayer of petition on behalf of others, it does not cease upon death for those in heaven. The prayer of intercession leads us to pray as Christ, our unique Intercessor, prayed. (CCC #2634) That is why we can ask for the intercession of a saint as we would a friend. <i>see</i> Petition, Thanksgiving, Adoration, Prayer
Introductory Rites	Mass begins with the entrance chant/hymn. The celebrant enters in procession and reverences the altar. All make the Sign of the Cross and the celebrant greets the faithful. The Penitential Act following the greeting includes the Kyrie. The Introductory rites conclude with an opening prayer, called the Collect. The Collect gathers the prayers of all into one and disposes all to hear the Word of God in the context of the celebration. (USCCB> Prayer and Worship> The Mass > Order of Mass)
Invitatory	psalm that is an invitation to prayer, referred to in the Liturgy of the Hours
Isaiah	prophet in the Old Testament who called kings to act justly on behalf of God. He also foretold the coming of the Messiah, born of a Virgin, who would suffer in order to save the people. <i>see</i> Emmanuel
Jeremiah	prophet in the Old Testament who warned the people about the consequences of being unfaithful to the covenant, namely exile from the Promised Land.
Jesus Christ	eternal Son of God, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered crucifixion and death, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, and will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. <i>Jesus</i> which means "God saves" in Hebrew, was the name given to him at the annunciation; <i>Christ</i> is a title which comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew word <i>Messiah</i> and means "anointed." (CCC #184, 430, 436; cf. 127) He is the Second Person of the Trinity and Word made Flesh. <i>see</i> Incarnation

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Jesus Prayer	aspiration to be recited while breathing slowly in and out: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." <i>see</i> Aspirations
John the Baptist	forerunner or herald of Jesus. John identified Jesus as the Messianic Lamb of God and baptized him in the Jordan River. With prophetic power, John gave witness to Jesus by his preaching, by the baptism of conversion he announced, and finally by his martyrdom. (CCC #523, 720) He prepared a Bride for Christ the Bridegroom. <i>see</i> Bride of Christ
Joseph	Mary's husband and the earthly father of Jesus, or foster father. (CCC #437) He is the one to whom God entrusted stewardship of the Mother of God and the Son of God. He is described as Just or righteous, for he obeyed all that the Law commanded; he did as the Lord commanded when the angel came to him in a dream. <i>see</i> Holy Family, Apparition, Baptism of the Lord, Gabriel, Hidden Life, Mary
Joy	one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. "We live by the Spirit"; the more we renounce ourselves, the more we "walk by the Spirit." (CCC #736) When you put Jesus first and Others before Yourself last, you experience the JOY of eternal life in heaven; thus the path to happiness is through obedience to God's Law. <i>see</i> Discipleship, Fruits
Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary	mysteries of the Rosary through which we meditate on the childhood of Jesus, his annunciation, heralding, nativity, presentation, and obedience to parents. <i>see</i> Sorrowful, Glorious, Luminous
Judgment	Three meanings: Particular judgment is the eternal retribution received by each soul at the moment of death in accordance with that person's faith and works while on earth. (CCC #1021-2) The " Last Judgment " refers to God's triumph over the revolt of evil, after the final cosmic upheaval at the end of this passing world. Preceded by the resurrection of the dead, it will conclude with the second coming of Christ in glory at the end of time, disclose good and evil, and reveal the meaning of salvation history and the Divine Providence by which justice has triumphed over evil. (CCC #677-9, 1021, 1038) Counsel or Right Judgment is one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit enabling us to listen to our Conscience. We ought to make judgments that err on the side of doing what is right according to moral law, while also refraining from being judgmental of others who err wrongly. <i>see</i> Conscience, End of the World
Justice	cardinal moral virtue which consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and to neighbor. Original justice refers to the state of holiness in which God created our first parent. Commutative justice, which obliges respect for the rights of the other, is required by the Seventh Commandment; it is distinguished from legal justice, which concerns what the citizen owes to the community, and distributive justice, which regulates what the community owes its citizens in proportion to their contributions and needs. (CCC #1807, 375, 2411) <i>see</i> Cardinal Virtues
Kingdom of God	everlasting reign or rule of God. It is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit; it is announced in the Gospel; it is present in the person of Christ; it remains in our midst in the Eucharistic communion; hence, wherever God's Will prevails according to the Our Father prayer. (CCC #551-4, 709, 763) The Kingdom of God is the fulfillment of the Beatitudes and is at the heart of Jesus' teaching. The Beatitudes fulfill the promises made to the chosen people since Abraham by ordering them no longer merely to the possession of a territory, but to the Kingdom of heaven. (CCC #1716-1717) <i>see</i> Beatitudes, Heaven, Communion, Our Father, Moral Law, God's Will
Knowledge	one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit enumerated in Isaiah 11:2-3. <i>see</i> Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Instruct the Ignorant
Laetare Sunday	means "Rejoice" from the Entrance Antiphon for the Fourth Sunday of Lent. <i>see</i> Rose

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Laity	the faithful who, having been incorporated into Christ through Baptism, are made part of the people of God, the Church. The laity participate in their own way in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly roles of Christ, especially the building of the Kingdom in their daily work. Laity are distinguished from clergy, who have received Holy Orders. Those in consecrated or religious life are laypersons who have accepted a particular charism to live out their baptismal vocation in Chastity that prefigures the Kingdom. (CCC #897, 864) <i>see</i> Church, Faithful, Vocation, Evangelization, Discipleship, Stewardship
Lamb of God	New Testament name for Jesus that emphasizes his obedient sacrifice to the Father for our salvation. The sacrifice of a Lamb dates back to the Passover in Exodus. It was first used in reference to Christ by John the Baptist, who indicated Jesus with the declaration, "Behold: the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." This title for Christ is recited three times in the Agnus Dei before the distribution of Eucharist at Mass. (CCC #523-4, 536, 602, 613, 719, 757) <i>see</i> Passover, Jesus, John the Baptist
Last Supper	last meal, a Passover Supper or Seder Meal, which Jesus ate with his disciples the night before he died. In the Jewish Passover recorded in Exodus, the blood of an unblemished lamb painted on the lintel of each Hebrew door spared them from the tenth plague, as the Angel of Death passed over their houses. In the New Passover, instituted in the Eucharist the night before he died, the blood of the Lamb of God saves us from sin and death. (CCC #610-611, 1329, 1340) <i>see</i> Seder Meal, Typology
Latin Rite	the liturgical, theological, and hierarchical tradition of the Church under the authority of the Bishop of Rome, though there have been other rites in the West, notably the Ambrosian Rite. <i>see</i> Eastern Churches, Hierarchy
Lauds	service of morning prayer in the Divine Office. <i>see</i> Liturgy of the Hours, Vespers
Laying on of hands	catechumens who believed in the Apostles' preaching were baptized and received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands. "The imposition of hands is rightly recognized by the Catholic tradition as the origin of the Sacrament of Confirmation, which in a certain way perpetuates the grace of Pentecost in the Church" (CCC #1288, citing <i>Divinae Consortium Naturae</i> , #659) Ordinandi likewise receive Apostolic succession or Holy Orders through the laying on of hands by an ordained bishop. It is the raw material of two sacraments that each confer an indelible mark upon the soul of the one who receives it- Confirmation and Holy Orders. <i>see</i> Ordinandi, Confirmation, Holy Orders, Pentecost, Apostolic Succession, Raw Material
Lectio Divina	phrase in Latin may be translated as "divine reading." First, a biblical pericope is read aloud followed by a few moments of quiet reflection. After the text is read and heard a second time, the listener is invited to speak a word or phrase heard in the reading without any commentary or explanation. Next, the reading is proclaimed a third time, and a brief time of reflection follows. Listeners are asked to share any part of the reading found to be meaningful, instructive, or formative. Sharing aloud can cement the bond of relationship with God. (USCCB) <i>see</i> Pericope
Lectionary	official, liturgical book from which the reader (or instituted lector) proclaims the Scripture readings used in the Liturgy of the Word. (CCC #1154) <i>see</i> Liturgical books, Pericope
Lector	one who is instituted to proclaim the word from the lectionary during the Liturgy of the Word. (CCC #1154) It is a step along the way towards ordination; therefore laypersons who are not instituted are properly referred to as Readers, though colloquially the two terms interchange. <i>see</i> Reader, Liturgy of the Word

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Lent	liturgical season of forty days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the forty days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer. (CCC #540, 1095, 1438) We are given this time to prepare for the Easter mysteries and deepen our baptismal promises through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Its liturgical color is Violet for each of the Sundays except Laetare Sunday, which is Rose. <i>see</i> Liturgical year, Rose, Almsgiving, Forty Days, Fasting
Light of the World	through Baptism, we receive Jesus Christ as the "Light of the World...the true light that enlightens all...indeed, he becomes 'light' himself." (CCC #1216) <i>see</i> Advent Wreath
Litany of Loreto	popular prayer of supplication, once prayed in processions to atone for sins and to prevent calamities. Its invocations to our Blessed Mother include titles given to her by the early church Fathers in the first few centuries of Christianity. <i>see</i> Church Fathers
Liturgical books	all the books, published by the authority of the church, that contain the text and directions for the official liturgical services, including the Roman Missal, the Rites of the various sacraments, and the Lectionary of readings. (USCCB) <i>see</i> Book of Gospels
Liturgical Calendar	unlike secular calendars, this one is shaped in a circle, connoting Eternity. Each year we are meant to grow closer and closer to Christ as we progress through the Sundays with the Lord. The year begins with the Advent season and climaxes at Easter Sunday. <i>see</i> Liturgical Year, Eternal, Easter, Advent
Liturgical gesture	during Mass we assume different postures: Standing, kneeling, sitting, and we are also invited to make a variety of gestures. These postures have profound meaning. Each posture we assume at Mass underlines and reinforces the meaning of the action in which we are taking part at that moment in our worship. (USCCB) <i>see</i> Piety
Liturgical hymns	sacred music composed to raise the hearts of Christian people to God during liturgical services (CCC #1156) <i>see</i> Propers
Liturgical symbols	God speaks to us through the visible creation (<i>see</i> Matter). Colors and objects are used to symbolize various concepts and specific seasons in the Church year. (CCC #1333-1340)
Liturgical Year	celebration throughout the year of the mysteries of the Lord's birth, life, death, and Resurrection in such a way that the entire year becomes a "year of the Lord's grace." Thus the cycle of the liturgical year and the great feasts constitute the basic rhythm of the Christian's life of prayer, with its focal point at Easter. (CCC #1168) In the course of a year of Our Lord <i>anno domini</i> we are meant to grow closer to Christ by living out communion with the saints and each other. <i>see</i> Liturgical Calendar, Cycle of Readings
Liturgy	in its original meaning, a "public work" or service rendered for the people. Through the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the official public worship of the Church, and through the Liturgy of the Hours, Christ our High Priest continues the work of our redemption through the Church's celebration of the Paschal mystery by which he accomplished our salvation and sanctifies each day. (CCC #1067-1069)
Liturgy of the Eucharist	second main part of the Mass, following the Liturgy of the Word, in which we move from the Altar of the Word to the Throne of the Lamb. The Mass culminates in the Eucharist, the "source and summit" of our liturgical life in Christ. We make an offering of our lives, our gifts, our prayers to Christ and he in turn bestows upon us his Real Presence in Communion. <i>see</i> Real Presence, Eucharist, Ambo, Altar

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Liturgy of the Hours	daily prayer of the Church, marking the segments of each day and sanctifying each day with prayer. The Hours are a meditative dialogue on the mystery of Christ, using readings and prayer. At times the dialogue is between the individual soul and God; at times the dialogue is between the members of the Church; and at times it is even between the Church and the world. It is the very prayer by which Christ the Mystical Body addresses the Father. Each of the canonical hours includes selections from the Psalms that culminate in a scriptural proclamation. The two most important, prayed by all ordained and consecrated persons, are Morning and Evening Prayer. (CCC #1177) <i>see</i> Antiphon, Vespers, Lauds, Psalms, Canticle, Invitatory, Divine Office
Liturgy of the Word	first main part of the Mass in which the Word of God speaks. (CCC #1103, 1154, 1346, 1349, 2183) The high point of the Liturgy of the Word is the reading of the Gospel, telling us the doctrine of Christ. The gathered assembly stands to hear the Gospel, introduced by an acclamation and read by a deacon. The homilist preaches on the Gospel and any of the Scripture, including from the Propers, drawing from them lessons that may help us live out our call to grow in holiness. The Profession of Faith then follows the homily, either the Nicene or Apostles' Creed. (USCCB) <i>see</i> Creed, Epistles, Psalms, Propers, Cycle of Readings
Long suffering	patience, one of the 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit (CCC #1832).
Lord	translated from the Hebrew word <i>Adonai</i> , it refers to the One who exercises supreme and transcendent dominion over all Creation while acting immanently within it to accomplish his purpose. <i>see</i> Abba, Adonai, First Person, Transcendence, Immanence
Lord's Prayer	term used more often by non-Catholic Christians to refer to the Our Father prayer. It was taught to us by the Son of God, and it distinguishes us from other religions who do not refer to the Almighty with such affection, or who would deny the Immanence of God. It consists of seven petitions to our merciful Father in heaven. The first three petitions relate to God and the right way of serving him. The last four petitions present our basic human needs to our Father in heaven: give, forgive, lead, deliver. (CCC #2803-2806, 2857) <i>see</i> Our Father, Abba, Son of God, Immanence
Love, or Charity	to will the good of the other. (CCC #1766) One of the three Theological Virtues and also a Fruit of the Holy Spirit. <i>see</i> Charity, Theological Virtues, and Fruits
Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary	mysteries of the Rosary through which we meditate on the public ministry of Jesus, his baptism in the River Jordan, the miracle at the Wedding in Cana, the proclamation of the Kingdom, his Transfiguration, and the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. <i>see</i> Sorrowful, Joyful, Glorious, Public Ministry, River Jordan, Wedding in Cana, Transfiguration, Eucharist
Magisterium	living, teaching office of the Church, whose task it is to give an authentic interpretation of Divine Revelation, in the form of apostolic Tradition, one primary expression of which is Sacred Scripture, the written form of the Word of God being revealed. The Magisterium ensures the Church's fidelity to the teaching of Christ in matters of faith and morals and the accessibility of that teaching through successive eras and language developments. (CCC #85, 890, 2033) <i>see</i> Revelation, Apostolic Tradition, Scripture, Scripture and Tradition

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Magnificat	canticle of Mary in response to Elizabeth's declaration that Mary is the Mother of God, as recorded in Luke: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever." <i>see</i> Canticle, Theotokos
Mandorla	halo that surrounds the entire person of Christ to indicate the presence of God, rather than the halo that merely encircles the head of saint in artistic representations. A notable exception would be the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe that features a mandorla, to indicate that Christ is present in her womb. <i>see</i> Halo
Manna	flakes of bread-like food that God provided for the Israelites in the desert. (CCC #1094, 1334) The flakes would cover the surface of everything in the camp each morning, just like dewfall, and they could be gathered and pressed into bread-like cakes to eat, along with the ration of daily quail that would flood the camp, while they wandered the wilderness. Because the manna would spoil after each day, it taught the people to trust in Divine Providence for their daily bread; in that way God taught them not to worship idols. Jesus would refer to himself as the New Manna in his Bread of Life discourse. <i>see</i> Divine Providence, Bread of Life
Marks of the Church	four characteristics of the Church: One, holy, catholic and apostolic (CCC #491). Only the Catholic churches founded by Apostles can claim all four traits. <i>see</i> Four Marks
Marriage	the joining together of two persons who become one flesh, only possible between one man and one woman making that gift of self to each other. Redefined by our present culture, the unitive aspect of marriage must never be separated from its procreative aspect. In the church, natural marriage has been elevated to a Sacrament. <i>see</i> Matrimony
Martyr	a witness to the truth of the faith in which the martyr endures even death to be faithful to Christ. Those who die for the faith before baptism are said to have received a baptism of blood, by which their sins are forgiven. (CCC #1258, 2473)
Mary	Theotokos and mother of Jesus, Son of God and second Person of the Trinity; therefore she is rightly called the Mother of God. Mary is also called 'full of grace' and 'Mother of the Church'-- and in Christian prayer and devotion, 'Our Lady' or the 'Blessed Virgin Mary'. As the archetypal Woman she is known as the New Eve. (CCC #148, 495, 722, 726, 963). <i>see</i> Holy Family, Son of God, Theotokos, Typology
Mass	principal sacramental celebration of the Church, established by Jesus at the Last Supper, in which the mystery of our salvation through participation in the sacrificial death and glorious resurrection of Christ is renewed and accomplished. The Mass renews the paschal sacrifice of Christ as the sacrifice offered by the Church. It is called "Mass" (from the Latin missa) because of the "mission" or "sending" with which the liturgical celebration concludes. (CCC #1332, 1088, 1382, 2192) <i>see</i> Liturgy
Mass Parts	choral parts of the Mass used by chorists in reference to the Gloria, Gospel Acclamation (or Alleluia), Sanctus (or Holy Holy), Memorial Acclamation, Great Amen, and Agnus Dei (or Lamb of God).

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Matrimony	literally the "making of a mother" it refers to the sacrament by which one man and one woman become two in one flesh. What we celebrate on the day of the wedding is only a public event of their conferral of the sacrament to each other; the actual conferral takes place in the conjugal embrace. When the man and woman conjugally embrace, a third person may generate from their love, thus manifesting the inner life of God, who is a communion of three divine persons. Hence, the matter of the sacrament is not the rings worn, but the two persons themselves, male and female, who image God and present to the world an icon of the love that God has for all humanity. Husbands and wives are therefore called to express that love in ways that do not contravene the fecundity of God as Giver of Life. <i>see</i> Matter, Wedding Ring, Vow, Wedding at Cana, Annulment, Continence, Indissolubility
Matter	raw material, or matter, used for each of the seven sacraments that correspond to its effect on a person's soul. Christ uses water at Baptism because our soul is being cleansed of original sin. Oil is used to seal, strengthen, and lubricate our soul against the grasp of Satan, or as a healing balm. The love of Christ is tasted and smelled in pressed and fermented grape, balsam fragrance, or the conjugal embrace of one's spouse. Absolution is something we hear said out loud. In all of these ways, God communicates through our senses something of what is happening interiorly in our souls. <i>see</i> Sacrament, Raw Material, Christian symbols
Meditation	form of prayer in which we try to understand God's revelation of the truths of faith and the purpose of the Christian life, and how it should be lived, in order to adhere and respond to what the Lord is asking. (CCC #2705) <i>see</i> Contemplation
Memorial	a feast day of lower rank than a Solemnity that is optional or regionally observed in honor of a canonized saint. <i>see</i> Solemnity, Feast Days
Memorial Acclamation	part of the Mass properly known as Anamnesis. The other choral parts of the Mass include the Gloria, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei. <i>see</i> Anamnesis, Mass Parts
Mercy	loving kindness, compassion, or forbearance shown to one who offends, especially the mercy of God to sinners in the sacrament of Reconciliation. (CCC #1422,1829) The Divine Mercy devotion was perpetuated to teach Christians to trust in the Lord's providential care for all those who seek repentance. <i>see</i> Works of Mercy, Compassion
Messiah	means "anointed" in Hebrew. Jesus was the Messiah, the long-awaited hero of God's People who would defeat its foes not through military conquest as some expected, but through a new Passover. (CCC #436) <i>see</i> Christ, Passover
Metanoia	Greek word meaning "conversion" or change of heart.
Michael, Archangel	of the three archangels named in Scripture, Michael occurs principally in the Book of Daniel and the Book of Revelation as the one who leads the angelic hosts against Lucifer, replacing Lucifer as Prince of Light while Lucifer, a seraph, becomes Satan, Prince of Darkness. The name <i>micah'el</i> means "Who is like God?" the rebuke directed at Satan falling from heaven. While endowed with free will like humans, angels are incapable of repentance, their free act of disobedience permanently rendering them outside the will of God. Fallen angels occupy the state of eternal separation from God which is Hell. <i>see</i> Archangel, Demons, Free Will, Gabriel, Raphael

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Ministry	work of sanctification performed by the preaching of the word and the celebration of the sacraments by those in Holy Orders, or in determined circumstances, by laity. The New Testament speaks of a variety of ministries in the Church; Christ himself is the source of ministry in the Church. Bishops, priests, and deacons are ordained ministers in the Church (CCC #893, 1536, 903, 873-4, 1548). <i>see</i> Laity
Miracle	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 messianic signs of the presence of God's kingdom. (CCC #547) <i>see</i> Kingdom of God, Messiah
Mission	three meanings to this term: (1) Trinitarian missions: To accomplish the divine plan of the triune God for the redemption of humanity, the Son and the Holy Spirit were "sent" into the world: Hence the Trinitarian "missions". (CCC #257, 689) (2) Apostolic mission: Just as he was sent by the Father, Jesus sent his Apostles into the world to continue his own saving mission (CCC #853). (3) Church as mission: Thus the Church is missionary by its very nature, continuing the mission or work of Christ through the Holy Spirit, according to the plan of God. This apostolic mission of the Church is fulfilled according to their different states of life by the clergy, laity, and religious (CCC #849, 863, 913). <i>see</i> Mass, Missionary
Missionary	means "one who is sent" to fulfill the Great Commission, to bring the Gospel to all peoples. Usually these are people called to religious life whose religious order makes bringing the Gospel to non-Christian places a primary work. When used as an adjective, it describes the missionary activity of the Church. Missionary activity is sometimes given in a more historical sense as the work of initial evangelization and establishment of the Church in non-Christian lands. The teaching of the New Evangelization views every heart as mission territory, meaning that even those who have received sacraments may need Gospel witness. <i>see</i> Mission, Religious Life, Catechesis, Great Commission, New Evangelization
Monstrance	a sacred receptacle similar to a reliquary, usually cross-shaped with a circle at the transept, in which the Body of Christ can be seen through a glass window at its center. From the Latin word root <i>monstra</i> that means 'to show' (think of the word 'demonstration'), it is used to show the Blessed Sacrament to the faithful, which is normally enclosed inside the tabernacle, during a period of Exposition. The circle at the transept is usually a radiant sun, and the glass window is known as a <i>luna</i> , the Latin word for 'moon' - suggesting that the Lamb is the Light of the City of God, as Jesus is described in the Book of Revelation. <i>see</i> Tabernacle, Adoration, Exposition, Reliquary, Transept, Lamb of God.
Moral Law	also known as Natural Law, because it is accessible by human reason, it expresses the original moral sense which enables man to discern by reason the good and the evil, the truth and the lie. When we uphold our human dignity through the practice of the good, we help to build the Kingdom of God according to the Law of Love (CCC # 1954-60, 1972). <i>see</i> Human Dignity, Kingdom of God, Great Commandment
Moral Life	living according to the law of God and the Church, docile to the dictates of one's conscience formed according to the premise that our greatest good is to die to self. In the Catholic view, every single thing we do as persons has a moral consequence, even the most mundane, and we must seek always to do what is in the best interest of the common good, reforming our behaviors in an ongoing apprenticeship in self-mastery. <i>see</i> Common Good, Conscience, Repentance
Morality	refers to the righteousness or wrongdoing of human acts. Human freedom makes a person a "moral subject" or agent, able to judge the morality (goodness or evil) of the acts which are chosen. The morality of human acts depends on 1. the object (or nature) of the action, 2. the intention or end foreseen, and 3. the circumstances of the action. (CCC #1749; cf. 407) <i>see</i> Human Choice
Morals	acts that can be judged according to their conformity to God's will. (CCC #1749)

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Mortal Sin	grave infraction of the law of God that severs the divine life (or sanctifying grace) in the soul of the sinner, constituting a turn away from God. For a sin to be mortal, three conditions must be present: 1. Grave matter, 2. full knowledge of the gravity of the act, and 3. full consent of the will, either in omission (failing to do good) or commission (choosing to do wrong). (CCC #1855, 1857) <i>see</i> Omission, Venial Sin
Moses	patriarch chosen by God to lead the Israelites out of their exile in Egypt. To him God revealed the divine name (Yahweh) and the law on Mt. Sinai (including the Decalogue), by which he sealed the covenant with his people, Israel. As lawgiver, Moses was a type of Christ, who was the lawgiver of the Great Commandment or New Law. (CCC #62, 204) <i>see</i> Typology, Decalogue, Great Commandment
Mother of God; Mother of Jesus; Mary our Mother	names for Mary, the Mother of Jesus, because she is the mother of Jesus - Son of God and second Person of the Blessed Trinity - according to the flesh, she is rightly called the Mother of God. (CCC #148,495) 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." (CCC #722, 726, 963)
Muslims	adherents of the religion of Islam, who believe Mohammed was a greater prophet than Jesus and use the name Allah for God; Mohammed blended Arab tribal religion with many practices that originate in Christianity, such as scripture study, fasting, almsgiving, daily prayer, and veneration of Mary. Mohammed was greatly influenced by Nestorianism, a sect of Christianity that denied that Jesus was fully divine; as a result belief that Jesus is the Son of God is considered blasphemy against Allah. <i>see</i> Hypostatic Union, Blasphemy
Mystagogy	the period following the catechumenate when a neophyte continues to deepen their entry into membership in the Church through ongoing formation and participation in liturgical life. <i>see</i> Catechumenate, Neophyte, RCIA
Mysteries	concepts about our faith that exceed our understanding. Also, the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious events from the life of Jesus upon which we meditate while praying the Rosary. <i>see</i> Rosary, Meditation
Narthex	vestibule leading to the nave of a church. <i>see</i> Nave
Nativity	referring to Jesus' birth primarily, but also we celebrate the Nativity of Mary and the Nativity of St. John the Baptist in the liturgical year. It may also refer to the crèche scene or manger scene that adorns a home in Advent; on Christmas, the baby Jesus can be added to the manger scene to celebrate the memorial of his birth.
Natural Law	operative principle that everything in Creation is ordered to the good and functions best when in conformity to God's will. (CCC #339, 346, 354) <i>see</i> Will of God
Nave	main part of the interior of a church building, especially the long narrow central area lined with pews. In a cruciform church, it will be intersected by a transept. <i>see</i> Transept, Basilica
Neophyte	person who has recently completed the sacraments of initiation through RCIA and is deepening their entrance into membership in the Church through ongoing formation during the period of Mystagogy. <i>see</i> RCIA, Catechumenate, Mystagogy
New Covenant	new Testament, order, or promise of relationship, established by God in Jesus Christ, to succeed and perfect the Old Covenant, sometimes even referring to Christ himself. (CCC #612, 839) <i>see</i> Covenant

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
New Evangelization	calls each of us to deepen our faith, believe in the Gospel message, and go forth to proclaim the Gospel. The focus of the New Evangelization calls all Catholics to be evangelized and then go forth to evangelize. In a special way, the New Evangelization is focused on 're-proposing' the Gospel to those who have experienced a crisis of faith. Pope Benedict XVI called for the re-proposing of the Gospel "to those regions awaiting the first evangelization and to those regions where the roots of Christianity are deep but who have experienced a serious crisis of faith due to secularization." The New Evangelization invites each Catholic to renew their relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church. (USCCB) All hearts are mission territory according to this view, even so-called 'cradle Catholics'. <i>see</i> Missionary, Evangelization, Discipleship
New Testament	last quarter of the Bible, comprised of twenty-seven books (the four Gospels, Acts, the Epistles, Revelation) written by divinely inspired authors during the apostolic era, which have Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God - his life, doctrinal teaching, and the beginnings of his Church - as their central theme. The promises and mighty deeds of God in the former covenant prefigure and are fulfilled in the New Covenant established by Jesus Christ. (CCC #124, 128) <i>see</i> Covenant, Prefiguration, Inspiration
Nicene Creed	profession of faith, common to the churches of East and West, which came from the first two ecumenical councils (Nicaea and Constantinople: 325 and 381 A.D.) (CCC #195-196) <i>see</i> Arianism, Creed, Council
Nine Choirs of Angels	according to St. Thomas Aquinas, the nine choirs are arranged in three tiers: the choirs closest to earth are the Guardian Angels, Archangels, and Principalities (assigned to each diocese); the intermediate rank are the Powers, Virtues, and Dominions who govern the celestial movements and the visible universe; while the highest tier are the Thrones, Cherubim, and Seraphim around the Godhead as described in Ezekiel. While having some scriptural basis, these choirs are nowhere part of the Catechism.
Novena	prayer said for nine consecutive days, usually as a prayer of petition but sometimes as a prayer of thanksgiving. The first novena of the Church was the nine days spent in prayer in the Upper Room from the Ascent of Christ to the Father and the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. This primordial novena has been diminished in those dioceses where the solemnity of Ascension Thursday is transferred to the nearest Sunday, nevertheless it remains a worthy devotion for the faithful. Notably the first novena would have been prayed with Mary, the Mother of the Church, whose feast falls on the Monday after Pentecost. <i>see</i> Ascension
Nun	a woman who lives a cloistered life in a monastery and professes vows in an Institute of Religious Life. <i>see</i> Sister, Religious Life
Object, intention	a good toward which the will deliberately directs itself. It is the matter of a human act. The object chosen morally specifies the act of the will, insofar as reason recognizes and judges it to be or not to be in conformity with the true good. Objective norms of morality express the rational order of good and evil, attested to by conscience. (CCC #1751, 1794) In contrast to the object, the intention resides in the acting subject. Because it lies at the voluntary source of an action and determines it by its end, intention is an element essential to the moral evaluation of an action. (CCC #1752, 2520, 1731) <i>see</i> Morality
Offertory	the "carrying up of the gifts" which is a rite in itself. We unite our prayers, works, joys, and sufferings to their physical symbol, while also collecting monetary donations that render our spiritual offering more efficacious. As we sacrifice for God, so the sacrifice of Jesus is re-presented to us. As we present our prayers up to God, so God responds with the gift of his Real Presence in the Eucharist.

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Old Testament	forty-six books of the Bible, which record the history of salvation from creation through the old covenant with Israel, in preparation for the appearance of Christ as Savior of the world. (CCC #120-121) <i>see</i> New Covenant
Omission	failure to do something one can and ought to do. <i>see</i> Mortal Sin
Omnipotent	attribute of God referring to his having unlimited power to do anything; Almighty
Omnipresent	attribute of God referring to his presence everywhere at the same time
Omniscient	attribute of God referring to his knowing and foreknowing everything
One	<i>see</i> Unity, Four Marks
Oral Tradition	passing along truth by word of mouth or witness testimony. The Apostles were entrusted with the oral teachings of Jesus that have been passed down faithfully by the Church, who alone has the authority to authentically interpret them. <i>see</i> Magisterium, Apostolic Tradition
Ordinandi	all the candidates preparing to receive the sacrament of Holy Orders. <i>see</i> Holy Orders, Laying on of Hands
Ordinary Time	liturgical season for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ. The goal, toward which all of history is directed, is represented by the final Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. (USCCB> Prayer and Worship) Its liturgical color is green. <i>see</i> Liturgical Year
Original Blessedness	state of grace that was lost through the first sin of our first parents and to which we are called by Christ the Redeemer, who has through his Saints modeled for us a life of virtue that we can follow in order to attain everlasting joy. <i>see</i> Saints
Original Sin	act of disobedience by which our first parents ignored the commandment of God, choosing to follow their own will rather than God's will. As a consequence they lost the grace of original blessedness, and became subject to the law of death; sin became universally present in the world. Besides the personal sin of Adam and Eve, original sin describes concupiscence, or the fallen state of human nature which affects every person born into the world, and from which Christ, the "new Adam," came to redeem us. (CCC #396-412) Effects of Original Sin: Loss of God's friendship (grace), damage to the harmony between body and soul, reduced ability to love one another unselfishly, experience of shame, confusion about the nature and purpose of the human body, being subject to other temptations to sin, and death. (Page 4 of the Catechetical Formation and Chaste Living, 2008) <i>see</i> Concupiscence
Orthodox Churches	Churches that may have been founded by an Apostle, but are no longer in union with Rome, and having liturgical, theological, and hierarchical traditions subject to the authority of their own patriarch and not subject to the authority of the Holy See. They often have strong association with national governments, in contrast to the Holy See, which has diplomatic relations with all nations. <i>see</i> Eastern Churches
Our Father	based on the Lord's Prayer as recorded in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew, this formal prayer of the Church merges the two and translates them according to St. Jerome, who translated from Luke's Greek and Matthew's Hebrew into ecclesiastical Latin (hence the disparity between Catholic and Protestant versions). The Our Father contains seven petitions made to God the Father. The first three: the sanctification of his Name, the coming of his Kingdom, and the fulfillment of his will. The last four petitions present our wretchedness and our expectations: to feed us, to forgive us, to sustain us in temptations, and to free us from the Evil One. (CCC #2803-2806, 2857) <i>see</i> Kingdom of God, Lord's Prayer

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Our Lady of Fatima	title for the Blessed Virgin Mary based on apparitions to three shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal, on the thirteenth day of six consecutive months in 1917, beginning on May 13 and concluding with the Miracle of the Sun; they were also visited by a Guardian Angel that taught them how to pray properly in order to prepare for May 13. The three children, Lucia Santos and her cousins, Ss. Jacinta and Francisco Marto, were instructed to do penance and make reparation for sins against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. <i>see</i> Penance, Reparation
Our Lady of Guadalupe	title for Mary from an apparition of an Aztec princess at Tepeyac Hill, near Mexico City, to St. Juan Diego on December 9, 1531. Diego told the bishop, who instructed him to ask the princess for a miraculous sign to prove her identity. The first sign was the miraculous healing of Juan's uncle. Then she told Juan Diego to gather flowers from the top of Tepeyac Hill; although December was very late in the growing season for flowers to bloom, Juan Diego found Castilian roses, not native to Mexico, a second miracle. The Virgin arranged these in his peasant cloak, or <i>tilma</i> . When he opened his cloak before the Bishop on December 12, the roses fell to the floor, revealing the third miracle, an image of the Virgin of Guadalupe, a name that means "crushes the Serpent"- but not woven or painted. The tilma with the image is miraculously preserved to this day. <i>see</i> Mandorla
Our Lady of Lourdes	a title of the Blessed Virgin Mary in honor of the Marian apparitions that occurred in 1858 to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old peasant girl, in a grotto near Lourdes, France, while she was gathering firewood with her sister. Similar appearances of the "lady" were reported on seventeen further occasions that year, who identified herself finally as The Immaculate Conception and caused a spring to well up, which still heals pilgrims to this day. <i>see</i> Immaculate Conception
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel	under this title, Mary is the patron saint of the Diocese of Gaylord. In this apparition, she gave the scapular as a way for laypersons to participate in the religious piety of Carmelite hermits, in much the same way that Third Orders of major religious societies participate in the life of the vowed religious while remaining laypersons.
Pall	most commonly, a pall is the cloth placed over the coffin at Funeral Masses, to indicate the baptismal garment given to that soul at the outset of Christian life. Also refers to the stiff square cardboard covered with linen, placed atop the chalice at Mass
Parable	characteristic feature of the doctrine of Jesus, parables are simple images or comparisons which confront the hearer or reader with a radical choice about the invitation to enter the Kingdom of God. (CCC #546) <i>see</i> Kingdom of God
Paraclete	name for the Holy Spirit, used by Jesus in the New Testament (cf. Jn 14:16) to indicate the promised gift of the Spirit as another consoler and advocate, who would continue his own mission among the disciples. (CCC #692) It means Comforter, and indicates our nearness to God even when Christ ascends to the Father. <i>see</i> Ascension
Parish	stable community of the faithful within a diocese, whose pastoral care is confided by the bishop to a priest as Pastor or as Vicar (CCC #2179) <i>see</i> Pastor, Vicar, Diocese
Particular Judgment	When a soul separates from the body at corporal death, it goes before God who alone determines how that soul will dwell for eternity, until the Final Judgment. <i>see</i> Heaven, Hell, Purgatory, Judgment

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Paschal Candle	made of beeswax, never artificial, replaced each year, of sufficiently large size that it may convey the truth that Christ is the light of the world. The paschal candle is the symbol of the light of Christ, rising in glory, scattering the darkness of our hearts and minds. Above all, the paschal candle should be a genuine candle, the pre-eminent symbol of the light of Christ. (USCCB) <i>see</i> Easter candle, Light of the World
Paschal Mystery/Sacrifice	Christ's work of redemption accomplished principally by his Passion, death, Resurrection, and glorious Ascension, whereby "dying he destroyed our death, rising he restored our life" (CCC #1067; cf. 654). The paschal mystery is celebrated and made present in the liturgy of the Church, and its saving effects are communicated through the sacraments (CCC #1076), especially the Eucharist, which renews the paschal sacrifice of Christ as the sacrifice offered by the Church. (CCC #571, 1362-1372, 1067, 1076; 1362-1372) <i>see</i> Easter, Eucharist, Passover
Passion	the narrative of the Paschal Mystery pertaining to the suffering and death of Christ, as recounted every Palm Sunday and Good Friday and when praying the Via Crucis.
Passover	Jesus' saving death and its memorial in the Eucharist, associated with the Jewish feast of Passover (or Pasch) commemorating the deliverance of the Jewish people from death by the blood of the lamb sprinkled on the doorposts in Egypt, which the angel of death saw and "passed over." Hence 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, the symbol of Israel's redemption at the first Passover. By his blood, sprinkled on the doorpost of our hearts, we are saved from eternal death. The Eucharist celebrates the new Passover, in which Jesus "passes over" to his Father by his death and resurrection, thus anticipating the final Passover of the Church in the glory of the kingdom. (CCC #571, 608, 1334-1340) <i>see</i> Lamb of God, Easter
Pastor	ministry of shepherding the faithful in the name of Christ. The Pope and bishops receive the pastoral office which they are to exercise with Christ the Good Shepherd as their model; they share their pastoral ministry with priests, to whom they give responsibility over a portion of the flock as pastors of parishes (CCC #886, 1560, 2179) <i>see</i> Parish, Vicar, Bishop
Pastoral Administrator	laypersons appointed by the Bishop to lead a parish community in its temporal needs, in conjunction with a priest who serves its sacramental needs. Such a parish would not have a priest as a Pastor. <i>see</i> Pastor, Parish
Paten	small plate, made of precious metal, used for host. <i>see</i> Host, Ciborium
Patron Saint	provides a model of virtuous service to Christ; by intentionally choosing their name, usually at Baptism or Confirmation, we are assured of their intercession. (CCC #232, 1267) Some groups or nations also seek a saint as patron. <i>see</i> Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Pauline Epistles	Letters in the New Testament attributed to St. Paul and his scribes, whether or not the authorship is disputed. <i>see</i> Catholic Epistles
Peace	one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23. (CCC #736) Also one of the Beatitudes of Jesus who said "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." (CCC #1716) The Fifth Commandment requires us to preserve and work for peace, which was defined by St. Augustine as "the tranquility of order," and which is the work of justice and the effect of charity. (CCC #2304) <i>see</i> Beatitudes, Fruits of the Spirit

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Penance	interior conversion of heart toward God and away from sin, which implies the intention to change one's life because of hope in divine mercy. External acts of penance include fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. The observance of certain penitential practices is obliged by the fourth precept of the Church. (CCC #1431, 1434, 2043) <i>see</i> Precepts, Lent, Repentance, Mercy
Penance, Sacrament	liturgical celebration of God's forgiveness of the sins of the penitent, who is thus reconciled with God and with the Church. The acts of the penitent - contrition, the confession of sins, and satisfaction or reparation - together with the prayer of absolution by the priest, constitute the essential elements of the Sacrament of Penance. (CCC #980, 1422, 1440, 1448) <i>see</i> Reconciliation, Absolution, Reparation
Penitent	sinner who repents of sin and seeks forgiveness. (CCC #1451) In the early Church, public sinners belonged to an "order of penitents," who did public penance for their sins, often for years. (CCC #1447) Penitential acts refer to those which dispose one for interior conversion; such acts follow upon the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. (CCC #1434) <i>see</i> Repentance
Pentateuch	first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. (CCC #702; cf.120) Also known as the Torah or Law in Judaism
Pentecost	the "fiftieth" day at the end of the seven weeks following Passover (Easter). At the first Pentecost after the Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus, the Holy Spirit was manifested, given and communicated as a divine Person to the Church, fulfilling the paschal mystery of Christ according to his promise. Annually the Church celebrates the memory of the Pentecost event as the beginning of the new "age of the Church," when Christ lives and acts in and with his Church. (CCC #726; 731; 1076) Liturgical color is red. <i>see</i> Easter season, Holy Spirit, Novena, Paschal Mystery
People of God	synonym for the Church, taken from the Old Testament, Israel, whom God chose. Christ instituted the new and eternal covenant by which a new priestly, prophetic, and royal People of God, the Church, participates in these offices of Christ and in the mission and service which flow from them. (CCC #761, 783) <i>see</i> Church, Body of Christ, Temple of the Holy Spirit, Covenant
Pericope	an excerpt of Scripture from a lengthier passage, intended to convey a cohesive theme unto itself, but longer than a quote. Lectionary readings are usually pericopes.
Personal Sin	offense against God as well as a fault against reason, truth, and right conscience. Sin is a deliberate thought, word, deed, or omission contrary to the eternal law of God. In judging the gravity of sin, it is customary to distinguish between mortal and venial sins. (CCC #1849, 1853, 1854) <i>see</i> Mortal Sin, Venial Sin
Peter	Simon, whom Jesus called Peter or "rock" upon whom he would build his church. He was the first who confessed Jesus to be the Christ, the son of the living God. He was the first among the apostles and their head; the Pope is his successor as Bishop of Rome and Vicar of Christ, and as Pastor of the Universal Church. (CCC #442, 552, 765, 862, 881)
Petition	prayer request. (CCC #2734) <i>see</i> Intercession, Thanksgiving, Adoration, Prayer
Pharisees	Jewish religious leaders who rigorously upheld the Mosaic laws of the Old Covenant.
Piety	one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit which leads one to devotion to God. Filial piety connotes an attitude of reverence and respect by children toward their parents. Piety also refers to the religious sense of people, and its expression in popular devotions. (CCC #1831, 2215, 1674) Reverent gestures in liturgy such as genuflecting or bowing in the Creed. <i>see</i> Devotions, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Via Crucis

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Pontius Pilate	Roman procurator who condemned Jesus to death. <i>see</i> Creed
Pope	successor of St. Peter as Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pontiff of the universal Catholic Church. The Pope exercises a primacy of authority as Vicar of Christ and shepherd of the whole Church; he receives the divine assistance promised by Christ to the Church when he, in union with the College of Bishops, defines infallibly a doctrine of faith or morals. (CCC #880-882) <i>see</i> Collegiality, Universal Church
Praise	prayer giving recognition to God for his own sake, giving glory to Him for who he is. In the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the whole Church joins with Christ in giving praise and thanksgiving to the Father. (CCC #2639-2642, 1358) <i>see</i> Prayer
Pray for the living and the dead	one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy. (CCC #2447) To pray for loved ones who have died and who may be in Purgatory (especially on All Souls Day or the vigil preceding it known as Halloween); To intercede for those who have not died but need our prayers, To ask the intercession of the saints in heaven. <i>see</i> Purgatory, Halloween, Intercession
Prayer	elevation of the mind and heart to God in praise of his glory; a petition made to God for some desired good, or in thanksgiving for a good received, or in intercession for others before God. Through prayer the Christian experiences a communion with God through Christ in the church. Talking and listening to God. (CCC #2559-2565) It may be formal or spontaneous. <i>see</i> Intercession, Thanksgiving, Petition, Adoration, Praise, Spontaneous Prayer, Contemplation, Blessing
Prayer of Thanksgiving	<i>see</i> Thanksgiving
Prayer of the Faithful	Universal Petitions, wherein the people exercise their priestly function by praying for all mankind, to be included whenever the faithful are assembled for Mass. The normal sequence is to pray for: the Church, civil authorities, salvation of the whole world, those in need, and the local community, but they may be adjusted accordingly.
Precepts of the Church	our responsibilities as members of the Church: 1) to attend Mass on holy days of obligation, including all Sundays, and to remain free from work or activity that could impede the Sabbath rest. 2) to confess sins at least once a year, preferably in Lent. 3) to receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season. 4) to observe all days of fasting and abstinence. 5) to provide for the needs of the Church through Stewardship. (CCC #2041) <i>see</i> Discipleship, Holy Days, Sabbath
Prefigurement	<i>see</i> Typology
Priest	one who has received the Sacrament of Holy Orders and shares in the apostolic mission of his Bishop in governing, teaching, and bringing the sacraments to the people entrusted to him in his parish. First ordained to diaconate service, the man ordained to priestly service acts in the person of Christ when confecting the Eucharist and configures more closely to Christ as High Priest, immolating himself for the salvation of souls. <i>see</i> Bishop, Deacon
Priest, Prophet, and King	common priesthood of all those who have received Baptism and Confirmation, by virtue of their vocation to become children of God, are configured to Christ in his priestly or sacrificial nature, his prophetic mission to bring the Word of God to others, and his royal inheritance of everlasting salvation. <i>see</i> Laity, People of God

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Priesthood, Ministerial	ministerial priesthood received in the Sacrament of Holy Orders differs in essence from the common priesthood of all the faithful. It has as its purpose to serve the priesthood of all the faithful by building up and guiding the Church in the name of Christ who is Head of the Body. (CCC #748, 119, 1546-1547)
Profession of Faith	synthesis (creed, "symbol") of belief which summarizes the faith professed by Christians, recited during Mass. (CCC #187) <i>see</i> Nicene Creed
Promised Land	region promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and returned to Israel by Joshua. Baptism is prefigured in the crossing of the Jordan River by which the People of God received the gift of the land promised to Abraham's descendants, an image of eternal life. The promise of this blessed inheritance is fulfilled in the New Covenant. (CCC #1222) <i>see</i> Typology
Propers	the Propers of the Mass are the Entrance Antiphon, Offertory Antiphon, and Communion Antiphon. They should be recited or intoned prior to a complementary hymn being sung. They were not abrogated when the Second Vatican Council permitted hymns. <i>see</i> Hymns, Antiphon
Prophet	one sent by God to form the people of the Old Covenant in the hope of salvation. The prophets are often authors of books of the Old Testament. The prophetic books constitute a major section of the Old Testament of the Bible. John the Baptist concludes the work of the prophets in the Old Covenant. (CCC #702, 64, 120, 522, 2581, 721)
Prophetic Books of the Old Testament	section of the Bible which reveals the warnings given before, during, and after Exile to the People of God when they strayed from the Covenant bond: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Baruch, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi. <i>see</i> Covenant, Exile
Protestants	non-Catholic brothers and sisters in Christ, who have stepped away from or remain outside of full communion with the one true Church. <i>see</i> Ecclesial Communities
Proverbs	literary form of Scripture that imparts brief teachings or sayings on how to be wise.
Providence	<i>see</i> Divine Providence and Manna
Province	ecclesiastical region composed of dioceses that share a common Metropolitan, who is the Archbishop of the largest diocese in that region. In the Province of Michigan, we have seven dioceses, of whom the Archbishop of Detroit is Metropolitan, who share in common projects that affect the entire region. <i>see</i> Archdiocese, Ecclesiastical
Prudence	cardinal moral virtue which disposes a person to discern the good and choose the correct means to accomplish it; provides the proximate guidance for the judgment of conscience. (CCC #1806) <i>see</i> Cardinal Virtues
Psalm	literary form of Scripture, a collection of hymn-poetry assembled over centuries, many written by David. Jews would daily recite the Psalms, which became the practice of the early Church; we now pray the Liturgy of the Hours using the Psalms and Antiphons. (CCC #2585) In the Liturgy of the Word, the Responsorial Psalm is proclaimed between readings. <i>see</i> David, Antiphon, Liturgy of the Hours
Public Ministry of Christ	Inaugurated at his baptism in the River Jordan, Jesus spent his last three years on earth fulfilling God the Father's plan for our salvation. <i>see</i> Hidden Life of Jesus

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Purgatory	process of final purification after death in which those who have died in the state of grace attain the readiness they need to enter heaven. (CCC #1031) <i>see</i> Pray for the Living and Dead, Particular Judgment
Racism	social sin that causes some to view others as unequal in human dignity on account of a difference in skin color. It especially leads to policies and social structures that favor or privilege some while disadvantaging others. <i>see</i> Social Sin, Human Dignity
Raphael, Archangel	of the three archangels named in Scripture, Raphael appears only in the Book of Tobit, where he protects Tobias the son of Tobit on his journey to solicit a contract of marriage. Raphael appears to Tobias under human form until the moment when Tobias must be healed of poison intake and defended against the Devil; therefore the name <i>rapha'el</i> means "Healing of God" who saves both body and soul. <i>see</i> Archangel, Gabriel, Michael
Raw Material	God engages with us through our senses of taste, touch, sight, smell, and sound. <i>see</i> Matter, Sacrament, Christian symbols
RCIA	Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, it refers to the formation and sacramental incorporation of a non-infant person into full membership in the Church, the mystical Body of Christ, either as a catechumen receiving baptism for the first time or as a candidate completing baptism through Confirmation and/or first Holy Communion, typically at the Easter Vigil. Formation may take up to a year, depending on the circumstances and pastoral considerations. <i>see</i> Catechumenate
Reader	non-ordained layperson who is not instituted as a Lector, but for pastoral reasons is permitted to read at the ambo during the Liturgy of the Word. <i>see</i> Lector, Ambo
Real Presence	unique, true presence of Christ in the Eucharist under the species or appearances of bread and wine. The Church invites the faithful to deepen their faith in the real presence of Christ through adoration and communion during Mass, and through adoration outside of Mass. (CCC #1378-1379) <i>see</i> Transubstantiation, Adoration
Reconciliation	also known as Confession or Penance, it is the sacrament in which God's forgiveness for sin is given through the Church. (CCC #1442-1445) The matter of this sacrament pertains to our sense of hearing, because Christ considers it necessary that we hear ourselves express aloud our contrition and in turn hear the words of absolution. <i>see</i> Penance, Sacrament, Matter, Contrition
Rector	the pastor of a cathedral parish often has this title, because the Bishop would be the pastor of his cathedral. <i>see</i> Pastor, Cathedral
Redeemer	Jesus Christ, redeemer of mankind. Christ paid the price of his own sacrificial death on the cross to ransom us, to set us free from the slavery of sin, thus achieving our redemption. (CCC #571, 601; cf. 517, 1372) <i>see</i> Creator, Sanctifier, Second Person, Jesus Christ, Trinity, Saints
Relics	remnant articles from a saint, such as bones or clothing, kept in reliquaries for veneration of that saint by the faithful. Sacred items, such as the wood of the Cross, whose origin may be forensically indeterminate, are worthy of veneration for what they represent. The lack of relics from the body of Mary and her Son are further proof of the Assumption and Resurrection, since so many other relics have been preserved from the apostolic era. Relics are often contained within altars of churches.

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Religious Life	permanent state of life, entered freely in response to the call of Christ to perfection, and characterized by the profession of the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Properly speaking, there are Institutes of Religious Life that focus on enclosed community, contemplative works, and a rule of life that governs their dress and actions; whereas Societies of Apostolic Life focus on serving those in need through Works of Mercy. (CCC #914) <i>see</i> Consecrated Life, Vow
Reparation	the duty of one who has caused an injustice to repair the harm done. We make reparation for sin or offenses against the truth by our penitential practices. <i>see</i> Fatima
Repentance	turning away from past sin and turning toward God's Will. This sorrow of the soul, together with a resolution not to sin again, is the most important act of the penitent, and is necessary for the reception of the Sacrament of Penance. (CCC #1451) <i>see</i> God's Will, Contrition, Penance, Fatima
Resurrection	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 Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in him as Christ. (CCC #638) <i>see also</i> Paschal Mystery
Revelation	God's communication of himself, by which he makes known the mystery of his divine plan, a gift of self-communication which is realized by deeds and words over time, and most fully by sending us his own divine Son, Jesus Christ. (CCC #50) Also, the final book of Scripture, the apocalyptic writing of John the Evangelist. <i>see</i> Magisterium
Reverence	deep respect shown to God; our outward manner reflects inward focus. <i>see</i> Piety
Rights	by virtue of the fact that we possess human dignity, being made in God's Image, we are endowed by our Creator with inalienable duties which requires our response, and we must be free to do so. <i>see</i> Catholic Social Doctrine
River Jordan	<i>see</i> Baptism of the Lord, Public Ministry of Christ, and Promised Land
Rites of the Catholic Church	diverse liturgical traditions in which the one catholic and apostolic faith has come to be expressed and celebrated in various cultures and lands; for example in the West, the Roman and Ambrosian (Latin) rites; in the East, the Byzantine, Coptic (Alexandrian), Syriac, Armenian, Maronite, and Chaldean rites. (CCC #1201-1203) "Rite" or "ritual" are sometimes interchanged, especially when using the ritual liturgical books. <i>see</i> Eastern Churches
Rosary	chaplet in honor of Our Lady, which repeats the Marian prayer <i>Ave Maria</i> , or Hail Mary, in "decades" of ten beads, each decade being preceded by an Our Father and concluded by a Glory Be, accompanied by meditation on the mysteries of Christ's life. (CCC #2678, 2708; cf. 1674) <i>see</i> Mysteries, Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, and Glorious
Rose	liturgical color used for only two Sundays out of the year: Gaudete Sunday in Advent, the third week of four; Laetare Sunday in Lent, the fourth week of six. It suggests a lightening of the penitential violet to indicate a joyful anticipation halfway through the penitential seasons towards the festival forthcoming. In Advent, the emphasis is on the Lord's dawning to the East, while in Lent the emphasis is that the Great Fast is almost over. <i>see</i> Advent, Lent, Gaudete, Laetare, Liturgical Year

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Sabbath	seventh "day," on which God rested after the work of creation was complete. Creation is thus ordered to the Sabbath, the day to be kept holy to the praise and worship of God. Just as the seventh day or Sabbath completes the first creation, so the "eighth day," Sunday, the day of the week on which Jesus rose from the dead, is celebrated as the "holy day" by Christians - the day on which the "new creation" began. (CCC #345-349) Thus the Christian observance of Sunday, with its vigil the eve before, fulfils the commandment to remember and keep holy the Sabbath day. (CCC # 2175) <i>see</i> Precepts, Easter Vigil, Vigil
Sacramentals	signs which bear a certain resemblance to the sacraments and by means of which spiritual effects are signified and obtained through the prayers of the Church. (CCC #1667) They were distinguished from the Seven Sacraments by the Council of Trent. Common examples include: palms, holy water, sign of the cross, scapular.
Sacramentary	that part of the Roman Missal which contains the prayers and directives for Mass, and a number of sacramental formulas, but does not include the readings of the Mass
Sacrament	efficacious sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit. God takes something visible to express what is invisibly taking place in the soul. The tangible raw material for each sacrament corresponds to its effect on our soul. While the Church itself is considered a Sacrament in the broad sense of the term, the sacraments dispensed by it are seven in number: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance or Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony. (CCC #1131, 774, 1210) They continue the Covenant relationship established between God and his People throughout the Old Testament. <i>see</i> Covenant, Raw Material
Sacraments of Healing	<i>see</i> Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick
Sacraments of Initiation	<i>see</i> Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist
Sacraments of Service	<i>see</i> Matrimony, Holy Orders
Sacred	pertaining to God or set apart for ritual purpose. <i>see</i> Holy
Sacristy	room attached to a sanctuary of a church, usually near the altar, for storage of sacred vessels, vestments, and other articles needed for liturgical use. May also have a vestry, where clergy vest before Mass.
Saints	the "holy ones" who lead a life in union with God through the grace of Christ and receive the reward of eternal life. The Church is called the communion of saints, the holy ones who have been redeemed. (CCC # 823, 946; cf.828) By following their example of heroic virtue we can return to that everlasting joy or the Original Blessedness in which we were created before the first sin of our first parents. <i>see</i> Original Blessedness, Communion of Saints, Redeemer, Virtue
Salvation	forgiveness of sins and restoration of friendship with God, which can be done by God alone. (CCC #169) The reason for Christ's coming into the world.
Salvation History	plan of God from the beginning of time for the establishment of the Covenant, and the sequence of events that God followed to procure that outcome. It intersects and corrects the chronology recorded by secular historians by pointing to the focus or meaning of human existence, which is Christ. <i>see</i> Covenant, Salvation

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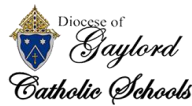
(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Same-Sex Attraction	feelings of attraction to a person who is the same sex as oneself. By themselves, the feelings are oriented in a way that results from original sin. When acted upon, those feelings become sinful in their expression. Properly speaking, there is no such reality as a homosexual or gay person, only persons who experience same-sex attraction, often as a trial to their spiritual life. (CCC #2357-59) All persons who are not married are called to chastity. <i>see</i> Chastity
Sanctifier	<i>see</i> Holy Spirit, Third Person, Creator, Redeemer
Sanctifying Grace	grace which heals our human nature wounded by sin by giving us a share in the divine life of the Trinity. It is a habitual, supernatural gift which continues the work of sanctifying us - of making us "perfect," holy, and Christ like. (CCC #1999)
Sanctuary	part of the church containing the altar. If there are several altars, the sanctuary is for the high altar. It is the center of liturgical ceremony, clearly distinct from the nave, or main body of the church. <i>see</i> Nave, Transept
Sanctuary lamp	red altar lamp, or perpetual candle, that shines before the tabernacle to indicate the presence of Christ within it.
Sanctus	choral part of the Mass also known as the Holy Holy. <i>see</i> Mass Parts
Satan	fallen angel or the devil; the Evil One. (CCC #391, 395, 2851) The name Satan means 'accuser' and Devil means 'doubler' or 'divider' <i>see</i> Demons
Savior	Jesus, (which means "God saves" in Hebrew). The Son of God became man to achieve our salvation; he is the unique savior of humanity. (CCC #430)
Scapular	type of sacramental worn as a reminder of one's promise made at Baptism. Rather than vesting in the habit of a vowed religious, a layperson can vest in the scapular as a form of personal devotion to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, the patron of our Diocese. <i>see</i> Sacramental, Devotions, Vestments, and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Schism	refusal of submission to the Supreme Pontiff, or of communion with the members of the Church subject to him. (CCC #2089)
Scripture and Tradition	living transmission of the message of the Gospel in the Church. The oral preaching of the Apostles, and the written message of salvation under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (Bible), are conserved and handed on as the deposit of faith through the apostolic succession in the Church. Both the living Tradition and the written Scriptures have their common source in the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. (CCC #75-82) <i>see</i> Revelation, Tradition, Scripture, Apostolic Tradition
Scripture, Sacred	divinely inspired writings of Old and New Testaments. (CCC #101) <i>see</i> Divine Inspiration
Second Person	second Person of the Holy Trinity is Jesus Christ, Son of God, the Eternal <i>Logos</i> , or Word made Flesh. <i>see</i> Incarnation, Jesus Christ, Son of God

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Seder Meal	in Hebrew it means 'order' and it refers to the sequence of foods eaten to commemorate the events of the Exodus narrative pertaining to the Passover celebration. At his Last Supper, Jesus ate a Passover meal with the Apostles very similar to the Seder Meal that would become more developed into its present form by the rabbinical Judaism that came to prominence after the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD. Christian observance of this custom on Holy Thursday should never replicate the actual Jewish ceremony but instead point to its fulfillment in the Passover of Christ. It can be an enriching way to deepen communion with Jews. <i>see</i> Passover
Seminarian	one studying for priestly service while discerning their vocation.
Seven Capital Sins	actions which go apart from God and engender other sins and vices: pride, envy, lust, covetousness, anger, gluttony, and sloth. (CCC #1866)
Seven Sacraments	sign of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us through the work of the Holy Spirit (CCC #1131, 774) The sacraments are seven in number: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance/Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony. (CCC #1210)
Shelter the homeless	one of the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy (CCC #2447) We ought to support local warming centers, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters while also practicing the art of hospitality in the way we regard our neighbor, like the Good Samaritan.
Sign of the Cross	gesture in the form of a cross made by the Christian as a prayer honoring the Blessed Trinity, "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (CCC #2157; cf. 786) We mark ourselves as belonging to Christ when we affirm through outward gesture that all our thoughts belong to him, all our actions of our body belong to him, and all the desires in our heart belong to him. As we move from forehead, to abdomen, and from our left shoulder to our right, we trace a cross over our entire person, body and soul. <i>see</i> Sacramental
Sin	act of disobedience and offense against God as well as a fault against reason, truth, and right conscience. Sin is a deliberate thought, word, deed, or omission contrary to the eternal law of God. In judging the gravity of sin, it is customary to distinguish between mortal and venial sins. (CCC #1849, 1853-1854) <i>see</i> Omission
Sins of Commission	when we sin by doing what we know is wrong. (CCC #1849-1854) <i>see</i> Mortal Sin
Sins of Omission	when we sin by failing to do what we know is right. (CCC #1849-1854) <i>see</i> Omission
Sister	term used interchangeably to refer to a woman who has professed vows either as a sister (properly speaking, a member of a Society of Apostolic Life) or as a nun (properly speaking, a member of an Institute of Religious Life). As a title or form of address, women of both professions use the term, but nuns are distinguished by their habit and cloistered life, whereas sisters often do not wear a habit nor do they live in monasteries. <i>see</i> Religious Life, Consecrated Life, Nun
Social Sin	Sins give rise to social situations and institutions that are contrary to the divine goodness. "Structures of sin" are the expression and effect of personal sins that lead their victims to do evil in their turn. (CCC #1869) Already concupiscent individually, social groups may influence members to participate in veering off-course from the blessedness we are called to live in Christ or lead them to ignore or malform their consciences. <i>see</i> Racism, Concupiscence, Conscience



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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Social Teaching	see Catholic Social Doctrine, Human Dignity, Solidarity, Subsidiarity
Solemnity	highest liturgical rank of a feast in the ecclesiastical calendar, considered a major feast. Besides the movable feasts such as Easter and Pentecost, fourteen solemnities are celebrated in the universal Church. <i>see</i> Feast Days
Solemnity of the Sacred Heart	falls 19 days after Pentecost, celebrating the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, from which come the blood and water of Divine Mercy devotion
Solidarity	principle of Catholic Social Doctrine that recognizes all people as brothers and sisters, as a result of our being made in the image of God the Father. We should live in consideration of the needs of others who may be very far from us globally but very connected to us in terms of global economy. At the core of the virtue of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that "if you want peace, work for justice." The Gospel calls us to live the Beatitudes and Works of Mercy. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote policies that uphold justice in a world without peace. <i>see</i> Subsidiarity, Human Dignity
Son of God	most frequently refers to the Second Person of the Trinity, but the term is also used in scripture to refer to Adam, to the human nature of Jesus Christ, or to angels or humans as creatures made by God. <i>see</i> Jesus Christ, Second Person, Incarnation
Sorrow	one of the results of Original Sin, ever since our exile from the Garden, we experience the loss of the Original Blessedness in which we were created and for which we have been redeemed. We have this joy in Christ, that we can be freed from sorrow for all eternity. We reflect upon this state of our souls when we pray the mysteries of the Rosary, when we have contrition for our sins, and when we pray the Via Crucis. <i>see</i> Original Sin, Rosary, Contrition, Via Crucis
Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary	mysteries of the Rosary through which we meditate on the Passion of Christ, his agony in the Garden, the scourging at the pillar, the crowning with thorns, his Via Crucis and ignominious death. <i>see</i> Joyful, Glorious, Luminous, Passion, Garden, and Via Crucis
Soul	spiritual aspect of a human person, who has both a body and a soul. The soul is the subject of human consciousness and freedom; soul and body together form one unique human nature. Each individual soul is immortal, immediately created by God. The soul does not die with the body, from which it is separated by death, and with which it will be reunited in the final resurrection. (CCC #363, 366; cf. 1703) Angels are souls that do not have bodies; therefore, in heaven we do not become angels.
Spiritual Works of Mercy	loving actions by which we respond to the basic spiritual needs of people, who must be cared for both in body and in soul. (CCC #2247) To counsel the doubtful; to instruct the ignorant; to admonish the sinner; to comfort the sorrowful; to forgive injuries; to bear wrongs; to pray for the living and the dead. <i>see</i> Corporal Works of Mercy
Spontaneous prayer	speaking and listening to God from the heart, not relying on learned, formal prayers

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
St. Joseph	husband of the Virgin Mary who, though silent in Scripture, revealed his profound righteousness and piety in his willingness to do as the Lord asked of him, in voluntary self-denial. He is a model for both married and celibate men in how to live their vows, invoked in the Divine Praises and the Canon of the Mass. His feast day March 19 honors him as patron of the Universal Church while his feast May 1 honors those who work as he did. As a <i>tekton</i> , or builder, he taught Jesus the carpentry trade. He observed the duties of the Law, and modeled for Jesus the obedience to be rendered to God the Father. His intercession is especially sought for the grace of a happy death, as he would have departed this life in the care of Our Lord and Our Lady.
Stations of the Cross / Way of the Cross	pious devotion of the faithful more suitably known as the <i>Via Crucis</i> . The fourteen stations commemorate the Passion of Jesus as he walked to Calvary, and for those who could not make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, it became a popular alternative. <i>see</i> Via Crucis, Devotions, Passion, Piety
Steward	caretaker of Creation and model of servant leadership. <i>see</i> Adam
Stewardship	responsibility to care for God's creation and God's people. <i>see</i> Discipleship
Stewardship Equation	everything we have has been provided to us by a loving God; in gratitude we make a generous response through gifts of time, talent, and treasure for the needs of our parish and diocese. Without material costs accounted for, the spiritual mission of the Church is unable to proceed very far. Examples include Lydia and Susanna in the early church, without whose generosity Paul could not have funded his missions.
Subsidiarity	principle of Catholic Social Doctrine that states a community of a higher order should not interfere in the internal life of a community of a lower order, depriving the latter of its functions, but rather should support it in case of need and help to co-ordinate its activity with the activities of the rest of society, always with a view to the common good. (CCC #1883) <i>see</i> Solidarity, Human Dignity
Sunday	first day of the week, the Lord's Day. Also known as the Sabbath, it includes the Saturday evening prior, beginning at 4pm (just as the Jewish Sabbath begins the Friday evening prior); thus the obligation to honor the Sabbath in the 3rd Commandment is fulfilled in going to the vigil Mass. Liturgically speaking, there is no Saturday evening; there is Sunday Evening I, followed by Sunday Morning and Sunday Evening II. <i>see</i> Sabbath
Synoptic	literally "one eye" it refers to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke so similar in content, in contrast to John's Gospel.
Tabernacle	sacred receptacle in the church in which the consecrated Eucharist is reserved for communion for the sick and dying. Reservation of the Eucharist in the tabernacle lends itself to private devotional visits and adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament by the faithful. (CCC #1183, 1379) It evokes the Ark of the Covenant that was kept in the Holy of Holies behind a curtain in the ancient Temple of Jerusalem. <i>see</i> Monstrance, Devotions, Ark of the Covenant
Temperance	one of the cardinal moral virtues that moderates the attraction of pleasure and provides balance in the use of created goods. It ensures the mastery of the will over appetite, and keeps natural desires within proper limits. (CCC #1809) <i>see</i> Cardinal Virtues, Fasting
Temple of the Holy Spirit	The Church is called the temple of the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit resides in the body which is the Church, in her Head and in her members. He also builds up the Church in charity by the Word of God, the sacraments, the virtues, fruits, and charisms. (CCC #809-810) <i>see</i> Church, Body of Christ, People of God, Fruits of the Holy Spirit

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Temptation	an attraction, either from outside oneself or from within, to act contrary to right reason and the commandments of God. Jesus himself during his life on earth was tempted, put to the test, to manifest both the opposition between himself and the devil and the triumph of his saving work over Satan. (CCC #538)
Ten Commandments	God's law about loving God and others, revealed to Moses on Mt. Sinai and summarized by Jesus as the Great Commandment. (CCC #2058, 2067) Also known as the Decalogue. <i>see</i> Great Commandment
Thanksgiving	form of prayer in which we give thanks to God for all that he has provided to us. Also the meaning of the word Eucharist; hence every Mass is itself a prayer of Thanksgiving. <i>see</i> Prayer, Intercession, Petition, Adoration
Theological Virtues	three moral habits - faith, hope and charity - that come from God and help us become more holy. (CCC #1812-1813) <i>see</i> Virtue, Cardinal Virtues
Theotokos	Greek term that means "God-bearer" in reference to Mary as Mother of God. <i>see</i> Mary
Third Orders	membership of laypersons, either through investiture or consecration, in a religious order of the Church reserved for those who live in cloister or celibate community. It began as a way for married faithful to join in the spiritual works and benefits of the order without impeding their existing vow. <i>see</i> Religious Life, Consecration
Third Person	the third Person of the Trinity is the Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and Son. <i>see</i> Trinity, First and Second Person
Thirty-Three Years	traditional age given as the total of Christ's life on earth, including his Hidden Life (the first thirty years) and Public Ministry (the final three years).
Time, Talent, and Treasure	giving of Time and Talent to parish ministry and the tithing of household income is the most basic, though inadequate, way to understand Stewardship, which is about exercising generous care for Creation according to the first Covenant with Adam and living out one's baptism as a disciple of Christ. <i>see</i> Stewardship, Discipleship
Torah	the Pentateuch (Greek for "five books") designates the first five books of the Jewish and Christian Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). Jewish tradition calls the five books Torah (Teaching, Law) because of the centrality of the Sinai covenant and legislation mediated through Moses. (See USCCB>Bible>The Pentateuch) <i>see</i> Pentateuch
Tradition of the Church	living transmission of the message of the Gospel in the Church. The oral preaching of the Apostles, and the written message of salvation under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (Bible), are conserved and handed on as the deposit of faith through the apostolic succession in the Church. Both the living Tradition and the written Scriptures have their common source in the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. The theological, liturgical, disciplinary, and devotional traditions of the local churches both contain and can be distinguished from this apostolic Tradition. (CCC #75-83) <i>see</i> Revelation, Deposit of Faith
Transcendence	God's supreme nature, existing apart from and not subject to the limitations of the material universe, in contrast to his Immanence. <i>see</i> Immanence
Transept	in a cruciform church building, the part that intersects the nave. <i>see</i> Nave, Monstrance

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(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Transfiguration	mysterious event in which Jesus, seen speaking with Moses and Elijah on the mountain, was transformed in appearance - in the sight of Peter, James, and John - as a moment of disclosure of his divine glory. (CCC #554) <i>see</i> Hypostatic Union
Transubstantiation	academic term used to designate the unique change of the Eucharistic bread and wine into the body and Blood of Christ. "Transubstantiation" indicates that through the consecration of the bread and wine there occurs the change of the entire substance of the bread into the substance of the Body of Christ, and the entire substance of the wine into the blood of Christ - even though the appearances or "species" of bread and wine remain. (CCC #1376) <i>see</i> Real Presence
Triduum	liturgical celebration of three days' duration, as in the Easter Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday - these three days celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ, His passion, death and Resurrection, and together constitute a single liturgical event. (CCC #1168) For some of the faithful, the three days of All Saints, All Souls, and the Eve preceding them, known as Halloween, constitute a triduum of sorts. <i>see</i> Paschal Mystery, Halloween
Trinity	mystery of one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The revealed truth of the Holy Trinity is at the very root of the Church's living faith as expressed in the Creed. The mystery of the Trinity in itself is inaccessible to the human mind and is the object of faith only because it was revealed by Jesus Christ, the divine Son of the eternal Father. (CCC #232, 237, 249, 253-256) <i>see</i> First, Second, and Third Person
Trinity Sunday	feast day celebrated a week after Pentecost Sunday in honor of the most Holy Trinity, our core Christian belief. <i>see</i> Feast Days and Pentecost
Typology	study of types or archetypes in Scripture, indicates the dynamic movement toward the fulfillment of the divine plan when "God will be everything to everyone." Certain events in covenant history prefigure events in the life of Christ. As an old saying put it, the New Testament "lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New." (CCC #129, 130) A classic example is Jonah, who was swallowed by the great fish for three days, as a type for Christ, who was swallowed by the tomb and on the third day rose. Understanding how Jesus and the sacraments were prefigured in the Old Testament has been a task of Christians ever since the disciples at Emmaus. We also commonly refer to Mary as the New Eve, the archetypal Woman whom Jesus addresses in Cana and at Calvary. <i>see</i> Prefiguration, Covenant
Unity	one of the four marks of the Church that was earnestly prayed for by Christ the night before he died in his last homily to the Apostles, "that they may be one as the Father and I am one." There is no other entity than the Church that has the fullness of the means of salvation, even if a ray of truth enlightens all. <i>see</i> Protestants, Four Marks
Universal Church	The Church is universal because it is sent by the risen Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Good News throughout the world to each person and "to unite in one eucharistic fellowship men and women of every race, culture, and social condition in every generation." (CCC #34.) The Eucharist actualizes and expresses the Church's unity across time and space since those who share in it have "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all" (Ephesians 4.5-6a) <i>see</i> Catholic
Vatican	hill in Rome upon which is situated the governing structure of the Catholic Church, which is both a nation with political boundaries, the Vatican City-State, the world's smallest country, and also a spiritual reality that acts diplomatically in relations with other nations, known as the Holy See. <i>see</i> Holy See

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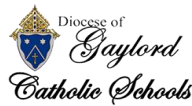
(Religion Standards Important Terms)

TERMS	DEFINITION
Venerable	refers to a deceased person whose cause for canonization has moved to the next phase when, after a thorough examination of the person's life and writings, they are declared worthy of veneration by the faithful of a particular diocese, who may seek the person's intercession. <i>see</i> Beatification, Canonization
Veneration	not to be confused with Idolatry, when we venerate a Saint, we give honor to what Christ has wrought in the life of a holy woman or man. Whereas adoration/worship is given to God alone, veneration or <i>dulia</i> is accorded to a creature not equal to God, and <i>hyperdulia</i> is accorded to Our Lady as being above the other saints in glory, though never equal to her Son. Ultimately the honor is shown to the Creator, who effected holiness in that soul that renders them worthy of our emulation. <i>see</i> Adoration
Venial Sin	act of disobedience which does not destroy the divine life in the soul, as does mortal sin, though it diminishes and wounds it. Venial sin is the failure to observe necessary moderation, in lesser matters of the moral law, or in grave matters acting without full knowledge or complete consent. (CCC #1855, 1862) <i>see</i> Mortal Sin
Vespers	service of evening prayer in the Divine Office. <i>see</i> Liturgy of the Hours, Lauds
Vessels, Sacred	Items used in service of the liturgy, e.g. chalice, ciborium, paten
Vestments	garments of ceremonial attire and insignia worn by ecclesiastical officiants and assistants as indicative of their rank and appropriate to the rite being celebrated. When vesting, the priest prays specific prayers associated with each garment; thus the garments worn are sacramentals, just like a scapular. <i>see</i> Sacramentals
Via Crucis	literally, in Latin, it means the 'Way of the Cross' and consists traditionally of fourteen stations marking the events along the path that Jesus walked during his Passion (for that reason it is also known as the Stations of the Cross). The faithful may practice this pious devotion with a mind to meditate on his Passion and share his sorrow. Our accompaniment with the Lord should turn us towards all our brothers and sisters in need. Pope St. John Paul the Great added a scriptural Way of the Cross into the devotional life of the faithful that differs from the traditional form by starting at the Agony in the Garden and omitting St. Veronica, who is to be viewed as a foil for the penitent praying the Via Crucis. <i>see</i> Sorrowful Mysteries, Devotions, Passion, Piety, Works of Mercy
Viaticum	name for Eucharist when 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 reception of Holy Communion as Viaticum constitute the "last sacraments" of the Christian. (CCC #1524) <i>see</i> Anointing of the Sick
Vicar	a priest of a parish given faculties to serve in the Bishop's stead as a parochial vicar, but does not minister as Pastor of the parish. <i>see</i> Pastor, Parish
Vigil	the evening prior to a holy day is considered liturgically inseparable from it. This was a practice of Jews, who began the Sabbath at sundown on the Friday evening prior, and it carried over into the practice of the Church. We begin our Lord's Day at 4pm on Saturday, and it continues through all of Sunday. That is why we can attend the vigil Mass each weekend, and it fulfills our Sunday obligation. It is why the Christmas season begins on Dec.24, and the Lenten season ends on Holy Thursday at 4pm. <i>see</i> Sabbath, Halloween, Easter Vigil, Holy Day
Virtue	habitual and firm disposition to do the good. The moral virtues are acquired through human effort aided by God's grace; the theological virtues are gifts of God. (CCC #1803) <i>see</i> Cardinal Virtues, Theological Virtues

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TERMS	DEFINITION
Visit the Sick	one of the Corporal Works of Mercy (CCC #2447), by which we practice the art of hospitality in the fashion of the Good Samaritan.
Vocation	calling or destiny we have in this life and hereafter. God has created the human person to love and serve him, and the fulfillment of this vocation is eternal beatitude. Christ calls the faithful to the perfection of holiness at their baptism into priestly, prophetic royalty as Children of God and co-heirs to the Kingdom. The vocation of the laity consists in seeking the kingdom of God by engaging in temporal affairs and directing them according to God's will. Priestly and religious vocations are dedicated to the service of the Church as the universal sacrament of salvation. (CCC #1, 358, 1700, 825) The vocation of the deacon is to do both. <i>see</i> Kingdom, Faithful, Baptism, Beatitudes, Laity, Consecrated life, Religious life
Vow	promise or oath made before Christ to belong in a particular way to him, either in spousal relationship to him as described in the Sacraments of Matrimony and Holy Orders, the spousal vow a layperson makes to their community and its superiors when entering into religious life, or the singular vow a layperson makes in consecration, either in actual Consecrated life or in Third Orders or enrollment and other such expressions. "A vow is a deliberate and free promise made to God concerning a possible and better good which must be fulfilled by reason of the virtue of [piety]. A vow is an act of devotion in which the Christian dedicates himself to God or promises him some good work." (CCC # 2102) <i>see</i> Piety, Devotions, Matrimony, Religious life, Consecrated life, Third Orders
Wedding Feast at Cana	following his Baptism, anointing, and retreat into the desert for forty days, Jesus attended a family wedding feast in Cana, where his first public miracle took place at the bidding of his mother, the archetypal New Eve. He would change water into wine, a foretaste of the wine that would turn to blood at the Last Supper, and a fulfillment of the prophecies that the Messiah would bring an abundance of wine to Israel. Thus, for those with eyes of faith, the miracle was a public manifestation that Jesus was in fact the long-awaited Messiah. It also serves to underscore the sanctity of Matrimony. <i>see</i> Baptism of the Lord, Epiphany, Matrimony, and Messiah
Wedding Ring	frequently mistaken as the sign of the Sacrament of Matrimony, the wedding rings symbolize an eternal covenant made with Christ that bonds the man and woman in mutual self-gift. It is the man and woman themselves, in the conjugal embrace, who are the actual sign of Matrimony. <i>see</i> Eternity, Covenant, Sacrament, and Matrimony
Will of God	most clearly defined in John 7:17, the Will of God is the Truth revealed to us by the Triune God so that we can respond obediently and of our own free will. Obeying this teaching means to do the will of the one who sends you: Jesus does the will of the Father, the Holy Spirit does the will of the Father and the Son, and the Church does the will of the Triune God who gave us the Great Commission. Man is created to receive this revelation and conform to this will freely, rather than willfully decline to heed the Truth being revealed. <i>see</i> Holiness, Our Father, Kingdom of God
Wisdom	spiritual gift which enables one to discern the will, the purpose and the plan of God; one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit (CCC #1831). Wisdom is also the name of one of the books of the Old Testament. (CCC #120) Proverbs says, "the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord." <i>see</i> Gifts of the Holy Spirit, Fear of the Lord
Wisdom Books of the Old Testament	section of the Bible sharing more figurative literary forms that reveal the deep contemplation of its authors: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, Wisdom, Sirach/Ecclesiasticus. <i>see</i> Contemplation, Psalms, Proverbs



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TERMS	DEFINITION
Word of God	entire content of revelation as expressed in Scripture and proclaimed by the Church when exercising its Magisterium. In John's Gospel, God's <i>Logos</i> means his only-begotten Son, who is the fullness of God's revelation and who took flesh (the Word incarnate) for the sake of our salvation. (CCC #65, 81, 101, 241, 461; cf. 2653) According to the Second Vatican Council, the Word is not a book but a Person, with whom we enter communion. <i>see</i> Ambo, Revelation, Incarnation, Magisterium, Second Person
Works of Mercy	charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbors in their spiritual and corporal (bodily) necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity; also a work of justice pleasing to God. (CCC #1460, 1038, 1969, 1004) <i>see</i> Almsgiving
Worship	adoration and honor given to God, which is the first act of the virtue of religion. (CCC #2096) Public worship is given to God in the Church by the celebration of the Paschal Mystery of Christ in the liturgy. (CCC #1067) Not to be confused with veneration, worship is given to God alone and never to his saints. <i>see</i> Adoration, Veneration
Yahweh	another name for God that means "I am who am." (CCC #205-206) <i>see</i> Adonai