

Glossary

A

absolution The forgiveness of sin by God. In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, we say that we are sorry for our sins. Then the priest offers us God's absolution.

altar The table in the church on which the bread and wine are offered to God the Father and become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ

ambo A raised stand from which a person reads the Word of God during Mass

angel A messenger from God



ambo

Apostle One of the 12 men chosen by Jesus to join him in preaching and healing and to continue his work after he returned to his Father in heaven

B

Baptism The first sacrament. Baptism makes us part of God's family, the Church.

Bible The collection of books about God's promise to care for us, especially through his Son, Jesus. These writings were inspired by the Holy Spirit and written by human beings. The Bible is the Word of God.

bishop A man who is an ordained leader in the Church and a successor to the Apostles. Bishops teach and lead us as followers of Jesus.

Blessed Sacrament The Eucharist that has been consecrated by the priest at Mass. It is kept in the tabernacle for adoration and for people to take Holy Communion to those who are sick.

blissing A prayer that calls for God’s power and care for some person, place, thing, or significant activity

Body and Blood of Christ What is sacramentally present after the priest prays the consecration of the bread and wine at Mass. In the Sacrament of the Eucharist, all of the risen Lord Jesus Christ—Body, Blood, soul, and divinity—is present under the appearances of bread and wine.

C

catholic A word that means “universal.” It is one of the four characteristics of the Church. The Church is catholic because Jesus has given the Church to the whole world.

Christ A title, like *Messiah*, that means “anointed one.” *Christ* is the name given to Jesus after the Resurrection.

Christian The baptized who follow Christ and live as he taught us to live

Christmas December 25, the day on which we celebrate the birth of Jesus

Church The name given to the People of God, all baptized members throughout the world who believe in and follow Jesus. When spelled with a small c, the church is the building where we gather to pray to God.

commandment A rule that tells us how to live as God wants us to live

confession The act of telling our sins to a priest in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

Confirmation The sacrament that completes the grace we receive in Baptism. Confirmation seals, or confirms, this grace through the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit that we receive as part of Confirmation. This sacrament also unites us more closely with Jesus Christ.



confession

conscience The inner voice that helps each of us know what God wants us to do

consecration The action by the power of the Holy Spirit and the words of the priest through which the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ

contrition The true sadness we feel when we know that we have sinned and wish to be forgiven

creation Everything that God has made. God said that all of creation is good.

Creator God, who made everything that is

D

deacon A man who is ordained to serve the Church. Deacons participate with the bishop and priests in the work of the Church.

disciple A person who knows, loves, and follows Jesus Christ and lives according to his teaching



deacon

E

Easter The celebration of the bodily raising of Jesus Christ from the dead. Easter is the most important Christian feast.

Emmanuel A name that means “God with us.” Because Jesus is always with us, we sometimes call him Emmanuel.



forgiveness

Eucharist The sacrament in which we give thanks to God the Father for his gifts, most especially for the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus, which is made present in this sacrament. The Body and Blood of Christ that we receive at Mass brings us into union with Jesus and his saving Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. All of the risen Lord Jesus Christ—Body, Blood, soul, and divinity—is present under the appearances of bread and wine.

examination of conscience The prayerful act of asking ourselves how we have loved or failed to love God and others. An examination of conscience is an important part of our preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

F

faith A gift from God that helps us believe in him and all he has made known

forgiveness The act of granting pardon to people who have said that they are sorry after hurting us. God always forgives us when we say that we are sorry. We forgive others the way God forgives us.

G

genuflect To touch your knee to the floor to show respect in church, especially in front of the tabernacle



genuflect

Gospel The Good News of God's saving mercy and love. The Good News is made known in Jesus' life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. The story is presented to us in four books in the New Testament: the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

grace The gift of a relationship with God, given to us by God without our earning it. Grace helps us live as God wants us to live.

Great Commandment Jesus' important teaching that love of God and love of neighbor must never be separated

H

heaven Our eternal life with God, unending and full of joy, after this life

holy A description of something or someone set aside for God's purposes

Holy Communion The reception of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ during Mass

Holy Family The family made up of Jesus; his mother, Mary; and his foster father, Joseph

Holy Matrimony The sacrament in which a baptized man and a baptized woman make a solemn agreement to become husband and wife and to raise a family if that is what God allows



Holy Communion



Jesus

Holy Orders The sacrament through which the mission, or task, given by Jesus to his Apostles continues in the Church. A baptized man receives the Sacrament of Holy Orders and serves the Church as a deacon, priest, or bishop.

Holy Spirit The Third Person of the Trinity who is sent to us as our helper, filling us with God’s life. The Holy Spirit comes to us through Baptism and Confirmation.

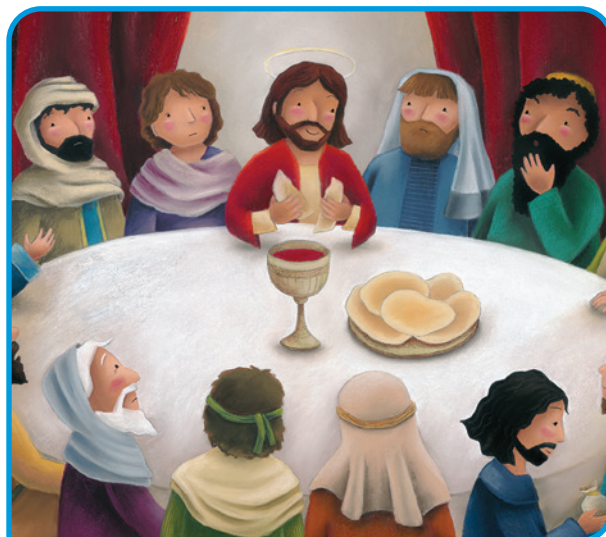
J

Jesus The Son of God, who was born of the Virgin Mary, crucified, raised from the dead, ascended into heaven, and saves us so that we can live with God forever. The name *Jesus* means “God saves.”

Joseph The foster father of Jesus, who was engaged to Mary when the angel announced that Mary would have a child through the power of the Holy Spirit

L

Last Supper The last meal that Jesus ate with his Apostles on the night before he died. Every Mass is a remembrance of that last meal.



Last Supper

Liturgy of the Eucharist A major part of the Mass in which the bread and wine are consecrated and become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. We receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion.

Liturgy of the Word A major part of the Mass in which we listen to God’s Word from Scripture and consider what it means for us today

Lord’s Day Sunday, the day on which Jesus rose from the dead. It is a special day for Christians to worship God.

M

Mary The mother of Jesus. She is blessed and “full of grace” because God chose her to be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God. Mary is the Mother of the Church.

Mass The most important act of worship in our Catholic faith. At Mass, we listen to God’s Word from Scripture and receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ under the appearances of bread and wine.



Mary

miracle An act of God that cannot be explained by natural causes. In the Gospels, Jesus works miracles as a sign that the Kingdom of God is present in his ministry.

missionary A person sent by church authority to spread the Good News. Missionaries may serve in areas where few people have heard about Jesus or in small, underserved communities of isolated believers.

N

New Testament The second part of the Bible that tells about Jesus’ life and teaching and the early Church

O

obedience The act of willingly following what God asks us to do for our salvation. The Fourth Commandment requires children to obey their parents, and all people are required to obey civil authority when it acts for the good of all.

Old Testament The first part of the Bible that tells about God’s love and his plan for all people before the time of Jesus

Original Sin Our human tendency to sin, which is the result of the sin of Adam and Eve. They chose to follow their own will rather than God’s will.

P

parish A community of Catholics who meet regularly to worship God together and serve one another

Passover The Jewish festival that celebrates God’s freeing of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt. In the Eucharist, we celebrate our passover from death to life through Jesus’ Death and Resurrection.



parish

peace The calmness that comes from being in God’s love and friendship

penance An action we perform to show we are turning away from sin so that we can live as God wants us to live

pope The Bishop of Rome, successor of Saint Peter, and leader of the entire Catholic Church

prayer The act of talking and listening to God

priest A baptized man who is ordained to serve the Church. Priests guide the Church and lead it in the celebration of the sacraments.

R

real presence The way in which the risen Jesus Christ is really and truly present in the Eucharist

reconciliation The act of repairing a friendship after it has been broken by some action or lack of action. In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, we are reconciled with God, the Church, and others.

Resurrection The bodily raising of Jesus Christ from the dead on the third day after he died on the Cross

S

sacrament A sign of grace, given to the Church by Jesus, by which God's life is shared with us. The celebration of the sacrament brings about (or makes present) the grace it is a sign of. We encounter Jesus in the sacraments. The seven sacraments are Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Penance and Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, and Holy Orders.

sacred The description of a person, place, object, or action connected to God and having a religious purpose

sacrifice A gift given to God to give him thanks. Jesus' Death on the Cross was the greatest sacrifice. It made up for all human sins.

saint A holy person who has died as a true friend of God and now lives with God forever in heaven

Savior Jesus, the Son of God, who became man to forgive our sins and make us friends with God again

Sign of the Cross The action of blessing oneself in the name of the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit



Sign of the Cross

sin A choice we make that offends God and hurts our relationship with others. A sin is an offense against God.

T
tabernacle The sacred box or container in which the Blessed Sacrament is kept so that Holy Communion can be taken to those who are sick

temptation A thought or feeling that can lead us to disobey God. Temptation can come either from outside us or inside us.

Ten Commandments The 10 rules that God gave to Moses. The Ten Commandments sum up God's Law of Love and show us how to live as his children.

Trinity The mystery of one God existing in Three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit



tabernacle