

Glossary:

Vocabulary For Religion Curriculum

Ambo / Pulpit	A place for Scripture proclaiming and preaching.
Assembly	Also known as a congregation, it is a community of believers gathered for worship as the Body of Christ.
Body of Christ	A term which when capitalized designates Jesus' body in the Eucharist, or the entire Church, which is also referred to as the Mystical Body of Christ.
Cardinal Virtues	Based on the Latin word for "pivot," four virtues that are viewed as pivotal or essential for full Christian living: <i>prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance.</i>
Catechumenate	(from the Greek: <i>katecheein</i> , to put in the ear, or echo). The period of time devoted to preparing and instructing those seeking initiation into the Catholic Church. The presentation of the Gospels takes place during the catechumenate.
Church	In common Christian usage, the term Church is used in three related ways: 1.) The entire people of God throughout the world; 2.) The diocese, which is also known as the local church; and 3.) The assembly of believers gathered for the celebration of the liturgy, especially the Eucharist. In the creed, the Church is recognized as one, holy catholic, and apostolic — traits which together are referred to as "marks of the Church."
Communion of Saints	The three states of the Church: Faithful pilgrims on earth, souls being purified, and the blessed in heaven. All members of the Church, living and dead. As members of the communion of saints and in the spiritual goods won by Jesus.
Deposit of Faith	The Church teaches everything that we need to know about God; everything we need to know for our eternal union with him has been revealed in Christ. Nothing more needs to be added or taken away – although we keep coming to new and deeper insights by reflecting on everything Jesus did and taught. We know who Jesus is and what he revealed about God in two sources: Apostolic Tradition and the Sacred Scriptures . Scripture and Tradition are two sources of Revelation, but they are closely connected, and together form a single sacred deposit of truth under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Church looks to God's Revelation as the only authentic and complete source for our knowledge about God and God's will for the whole human race. Another way to think of the Deposit of Faith is all the truths entrusted by Christ to the apostles and the early Church, found in Scripture and Tradition.
Evangelization	Giving witness to our faith by proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to the world through our words and actions. The word evangelization means "sharing good news." It is the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus through word and witness.
The Golden Rule	A good example of natural moral law. Call it common sense or basic moral sense, but natural law dictates that we should treat people the way we want to be treated. Jesus reminds us of the wisdom of the Golden Rule (Mt 7:12), but Christians have no monopoly on it. Other great world religions, including Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and

Taoism, espouse it as well, although they may have a different way of saying it. Even people who profess no belief in God may adhere to the Golden Rule.

Guided Meditation	Led by one person, or a group, this is a proven method of leading children or adults, by touching their imagination, to a quiet time of meeting Jesus in prayer. It is commonly used in association with Ignatian prayer practices. See Appendix L, Prayer Traditions.
Homily	A more or less brief instructive discourse on a passage of Scripture wherein the spiritual lesson of the scriptural text is made clear, especially the readings assigned to the Sundays or days of obligation. Part of the Liturgy of the Word .
Infallibility	In its Catholic doctrinal meaning infallibility is the end result of divine assistance given the Church whereby she is preserved from the possibility and liability of error in teachings on matters of faith and morals. That infallibility was always present in the Church, even from apostolic times, is frequently affirmed by actions and declarations of the Apostles and spoken of by the fathers of the Church as the "charisma of truth." The doctrine of infallibility was defined by Vatican Council I and promulgated on July 18, 1870. The doctrine of infallibility is the assured guarantee of the unfolding of the apostolic deposit of faith by authority of the Church whereby Christ's doctrine must and well be handed on by an infallible Church guided by the Holy Spirit. It is distinguished from both biblical inspiration and revelation. <i>"The Roman Pontiff is not pronouncing judgment as a private person. Rather as the supreme teacher of the universal Church, as one in whom the charism of the infallibility of the Church herself is individually present, he is expounding or defending a doctrine of Catholic Faith."</i> (LG 25)
Lectio Divina	A form of meditative prayer, usually focused on a passage of Scripture that involves repetitive readings and periods of reflection; can serve as either private or communal prayer. (See Appendix L, under Benedictine Prayer & Spirituality for explanation of the steps of Lectio Divina.)
Lectionary	The official liturgical book of Scripture readings used for liturgical proclamation at Mass. The lectionary readings for Sunday Masses and holy days are organized into a three-year repeating cycle. Over the course of the cycle, the assembly hears a great portion of the Bible. The present lectionary was introduced March 22, 1970, and revised in 1998. It consists of: a three-year cycle of Sunday readings; a two-year weekday cycle; a one-year sanctoral cycle (or proper of the saints); a variety of other readings for various occasions; and responsorial psalms and alleluia verses.
Lectern	The place for song-leading and all non-scriptural speaking.
Litanies	(From the Greek: <i>litanos</i> , "entreaty,") is a prayer consisting of a series of supplications and responses said alternately by a leader and a group. Since Vatican II (1962-1965) these are the formally indulgenced litanies: Holy Name, Precious Blood, St. Joseph, Sacred Heart, Blessed Virgin, and All Saints. Other litanies, not indulgenced but approved for the faithful, number over a hundred. Each begins with an invocation of the Trinity.
Liturgy	(From the Greek: <i>leitourgia</i> , "work of the people," or "public work") the official public worship of the Church, the heart and high point – or source and goal – of which is the Eucharist.

- Liturgy of the Eucharist** The second major part of the Mass, it comprises the preparation of the gifts, the Eucharistic prayer and the rite of Holy Communion.
- Liturgy of the Hours** The official non-sacramental, communal prayer of the Catholic Church. It is one way that the Church prays always. At any one time, even if prayed alone, this prayer unites us with the Body of Christ throughout the world and with Christ, continually praising the Father. Today the Liturgy of the Hours consists of a structured pattern of prayers that includes hymns, psalms, antiphons, Scripture meditation, the Lord's Prayer, other readings and responses. It follows a four-week cycle.
- Liturgy of the Word** The first major part of the Mass, it comprises two or three scriptural readings, Responsorial psalm, a homily, the Nicene Creed and General Intercessions.
- Marian Devotions** Catholics believe that Mary is not only the Mother of Christ, but also the mother of the Church. This belief distinguishes Catholics from other Christians. Mary also stands as a model of prayer for us. Before the Incarnation and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, her human heart was completely attuned to the will of the Father. She shows us how to be wholly God's and that he is worthy of our complete trust. From her, we learn that we, too, are capable of such faith. Because of this, the Church has developed a tradition of praying to Mary for special needs. We do not adore Mary, or imagine that she bestows special favors—although like any good mother, we expect her to sympathize with our needs and concerns and to bring those needs before God. The Catholic Church teaches that when we pray to Mary, we are acknowledging her special role in God's plan. Along with Mary, we praise God for the great things he does for us and for all humankind.

Principal Apparitions

Guadalupe, Mexico — Four times in 1531 to Juan Diego

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Paris, France — Three times in 1830 to Catherine Laboure

LaSalette, France — To two children on Sept. 19, 1846 as sorrowing and weeping figure

Lourdes, France — Eighteen times in 1858 to fourteen-year-old Bernadette Soubirous as the Immaculate Conception

Fatima, Portugal — Six times in 1917 to three children, popularizing devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary.

Knock, Ireland --- August 21, 1879

Banneux, Belgium --- in 1933

Beauraing, Belgium --- Nov. 29, 1932 to Jan. 3, 1933

These are not to be accepted as articles of faith, even though the Church has approved certain appearances and honors them with feasts or celebrations

- Marks of the Church** **One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic** — these are the four identifying marks of the Church, or essential features of the Church begun by Jesus Christ. Through these features, the Church is known and recognized. It is by Christ and through the Holy Spirit that the Church is *one, holy, catholic, and apostolic*.
- Meditation** Use of thoughts, imagination, emotion and desires to ponder God's presence and activity in your life and in the world, to discover the movements that stir your heart. Regardless of how you enter meditation, Christian meditation is not Zen or Eastern meditation, or relaxation or mere psychological activity, but a path to the knowledge of the love of Christ and union with Him.

Mystagogia	A time for learning about and reflecting on the mysteries of faith. Specifically, this is the time following baptism, more generally, following any sacrament.
Mystery of salvation	The pursuit of the unknowable by the human person is the salvific will of God directed toward the individual by grace. "(He) for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit from the Virgin Mary." This divine mystery of salvation is revealed to us and continued in the Church, which the Lord established as His own body. In this Church, adhering to Christ and having communion with all His saints, the faithful must also venerate the memory 'above all of the glorious and perpetual Virgin Mary, Mother of our God and Lord Jesus Christ. Now, before He was taken up into heaven, He founded His Church as the sacrament of salvation, and sent His apostles into all the world just as He Himself had been sent by His Father.
Nicene Creed	The Nicene Creed was a response to the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ. It takes its name from Nicaea, city of an ecumenical council in A.D. 325. Subsequent to the meeting in Nicaea, the original creed underwent some changes—at meetings in Constantinople in 381 and Chalcedon in 450. The Nicene Creed is the only Christian Creed accepted as authoritative by the Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican and major Protestant Churches.
Nihil Obstat Quominus Imprimatur	"Nothing hinders it from being printed." The term is usually seen in two parts: the <i>nihil obstat</i> , or the judgment of the censor that there is nothing contrary to the faith or morals, nothing "stands in the way:" and the <i>imprimatur</i> , the official permission to print, especially from Church authorities or a censor. It represents the approval by a bishop for the publication of a religious work and is for material other than that of the teaching Church itself (like council, synod, or bishop). This judgment of the Church comes from the office of the bishop of either the petitioner's residence or the publisher's location.
Novena	A prayer with a specific intention offered nine days in a row, originating in the nine (novem) days of prayer by the disciples and Mary between the Ascension and Pentecost. Many novenas have been highly indulgenced by the Holy See over the centuries. A "novena of grace" was traditionally prayed in March. A "Christmas Novena" begins December 16 and honors the mystery of Christmas. Today, the recommended (and only scriptural) novena is the one before Pentecost.
Paschal Mystery	The saving mystery of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. We celebrate the Paschal mystery at every Eucharist. The word <i>Paschal</i> refers to the Hebrew word for Passover, the feast that celebrates God's saving love for the people of Israel. Jesus' sacrifice extended that love and salvation to all people. We share the pattern of Paschal Mystery in our own human lives whenever we patiently bear our own crosses, die to our own desires and center our lives in the will of God so we can walk in new life.
Prayer	Talking to and listening to God. Prayer can be private or public; spoken, sung, or silent; formal or spontaneous. The five reasons for prayer are blessing and adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praise. Although we tend to use them interchangeably, there is a difference between petition and intercession:

Prayer of petition: Asking God for something you need – the objects of which are:

- The grace of forgiveness
- The fullness of the reign of God
- Every need

Prayer of Intercession: --Asking God's help for another person.

Precepts of the Church The duties of Catholic Christians were originally approved by the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1884. The second one includes what was commonly referred to as "Easter Duty" in the days when frequent Communion was not the norm. "Traditional" precepts:

1. To keep holy the day of the Lord's resurrection: to worship God by participating in Mass every Sunday and holy day of obligation; to avoid those activities that would hinder renewal of soul and body; for example, needless work and business activities, unnecessary shopping, and so forth.
2. To lead a sacramental life: to receive Holy Communion frequently and the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly; minimally, to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a year (obligatory annually only if serious sin is involved); minimally to receive Holy Communion at least once a year, between the first Sunday of Lent and Trinity Sunday.
3. To study Catholic teaching in preparation for Confirmation, to be confirmed, and then to continue to study and advance the cause of Christ.
4. To observe the marriage laws of the Church: to give religious training (by example and word) to one's children; to use the parish schools and religious education programs.
5. To strengthen and support the Church, one's own parish community and parish priest, the worldwide Church and the Holy Father.
6. To do penance, including abstaining from meat and fasting from food on the appointed days.
7. To join in the missionary spirit and apostolate of the Church.

Note: The **Catechism of the Catholic Church** (#s 2041-2046, 2048) quotes five precepts and cites the *Code of Canon Law* on each.

1. **You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.** Sanctify these days by participating in the Eucharistic celebration when the Christian community gathers together on the day commemorating the resurrection of the Lord (CCL #s 1246-1248). *Holy Days of Obligation (observed in the United States): Christmas, the Nativity of the Lord, December 25; Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, January 1; Ascension of the Lord (40 days after Easter) Assumption, August 15; All Saints' Day, November 1; and Immaculate Conception, December 8. (Holy Days are not observed when they fall on Saturday or Monday with the exception of Christmas and Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Ascension is celebrated in most dioceses on the Sunday before Pentecost.)*
2. **You shall confess your (serious) sins at least once a year.**

This ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, continuing the conversion and forgiveness of Baptism (CCL #989).

3. **You shall receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season.** This precept guarantees as a minimum the reception of Communion in connection with the Paschal feasts (CCL #920).
4. **You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.** This ensures the times of penance, which prepare us for the liturgical feast and joins us in a common observance as a community (CCL #1249-1253).
5. **You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church.** The faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, according to their ability (CCL #222).

R.C.I.A. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

First and foremost – a sacramental rite, an act of worship, an official liturgical document that is part of the Roman Ritual of the Catholic Church. The process by which adults become members of the Catholic Church. It is a commitment, lasting up to a year or more. During the process those who hope to become Catholics spend time learning about the Catholic faith. They learn about our history, beliefs, rituals, spirituality and much more. This is a time of learning and of forming close relationships with members of the parish.

The Rite of Election or Enrollment of Names is celebrated, usually on the First Sunday of Lent; it is during this ceremony that the Church formally acknowledges the catechumen's readiness for initiation. Lent is the time of reflection and final preparation. As part of the Easter Vigil, the elect are initiated into the Church through the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. After reception of the sacraments, it is customary to provide a period of Mystagogia, so neophytes (new members) may learn how to integrate the experience of the mystery of the sacraments into their new life in the Church.

Rosary

The Rosary is called the *Psalter of Mary* because all fifteen of its mysteries, with their 150 Aves, correspond to the number of the psalms. It was the laity's desire to share in the Church's daily prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours, which led in the 12th century to the Rosary prayer form. In those days, many of the faithful were unable to read, so praying the Aves from memory took the place of the written prayer texts used by the more educated clergy. The well-known and symbolically powerful beads were adopted simply as a counting aid. Such are the scriptural, liturgical roots of this symbol of prayer. The Rosary is the most well-known and used form of chaplet (a devotion using beads; from a French word meaning "crown" or "wreath"). Pope John Paul II recently added another set of mysteries to the rosary, highlighting events from our Savior's life; these are the Luminous Mysteries.

Real Presence

The belief that Jesus Christ Himself is truly present in the Eucharist. Celebration of the Eucharist is not merely a memorial of Christ, but at the Consecration, the bread and wine (the Eucharistic "species") become inhabited with the very being of Christ. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament are forms of devotion that acknowledge and venerate the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

Sacramentals

Holy objects, actions and blessings used by the Church and in private devotions. They help us recognize the sacredness of our lives. Among the most common are rosaries, medals, holy water, holy oil, candles, blessed ashes and palms.

Sacraments

There is "a certain resemblance between the stages of natural life and the stages of the spiritual," the CCC (#1210) showing how they form an "organic whole," each sacrament in its own vital place. Sacraments are celebrations in which Jesus joins with the assembled community in liturgical actions that are signs and sources of God's grace. The sacraments seal our relationships with God and the Christian community.

1. Jesus is the Sacrament:
 - in whom life is found
 - in whom the Father is encountered
2. The Church is a kind of sacrament
 - the "body" of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-27)
 - in which Jesus' Person and saving actions is incarnate
3. The seven-fold ministry of the sacraments is sacramental
 - outward signs instituted by Christ to give grace
 - signs of worship communicating the grace of Jesus' dying and rising
 - tangible expressions of intangible grace, accomplishing what they signify

Sacraments of Christian Initiation ("birth and increase")

Baptism
Confirmation
Eucharist

Sacraments of Healing

Reconciliation
Anointing of the Sick

Sacraments of Mission (service of community/mission of the faithful)

Holy Orders
Matrimony

Three sacraments impart an indelible spiritual mark and therefore cannot be repeated: Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.

The meaning & importance of Baptism: "God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, but God is not bound by his sacraments" (CCC # 1257).

Baptism by blood (CCC # 1258). Those who die for the faith without being baptized are baptized by their death for and with Christ (it brings the fruits without the sacrament).

Desire for Baptism (CCC #1259) The explicit desire of catechumens to be baptized along with repentance for their sins and charity, brings the assurance of salvation they were not able to receive in Baptism (having died before their Baptism).

Christ's redemption for all (CCC # 1260) "Since Christ died for all ... and since all are in fact called to one and the same destiny, which is divine, we must hold that the Holy Spirit offers to all the possibility of being made partakers, in a way known to God, of the Paschal Mystery." (GS 22.5)

God's mercy to unbaptized children: As regards children who have died without Baptism, the Church can only entrust them to the mercy of God, as she does in her funeral rites for them. Indeed, the great mercy of God who desires that all ... should be saved, and Jesus' tenderness toward children ... allow us to hope that there is a way of salvation for children who have died without Baptism (CCC #1261).

Sanctuary Lamp	A light indicating the presence of the reserved Sacrament, the Real Presence of Christ. Normally this consists of a lit candle in a red glass holder.
Stewardship	An attitude that we do not own the gifts God has given us, but are trustees of those gifts. We have an obligation to share our time, talent, and material treasures with others. We have the will and intelligence to be in charge—not to dominate or overpower, but to create a just and reasonable society, using earth’s resources.
Tabernacle	A safe-like, secure place of reservation for, and worship of the Blessed Sacrament, the consecrated hosts to be used as Communion for those who are homebound, sick, and dying, and sometimes for those at Mass. (The watch-shaped container for transporting the host is called a <i>pyx</i> .)
Theological Virtues	The name for the God-given virtues of <i>Faith, Hope, Love</i> . These virtues enable us to know God as God and lead us to union with God in mind and heart.
Tradition	The truths and beliefs, both written and oral, which have come down to us from the time of Jesus and the apostles. These truths and beliefs are found in the creeds and other important Church documents. Tradition and Scripture together make God’s mystery present to us. The Holy Spirit helped the Apostles remember and understand all that Jesus did and taught. These truths about Jesus and his teaching are therefore called the <i>Apostolic Tradition</i> , or sometimes <i>Tradition</i> . It can be thought of as the entirety of the word of God entrusted to the apostles by Christ and the Holy Spirit and passed on through the successors of the apostles, the bishops.
tradition	Literally means “a handing on.” When used with a small “t” tradition in the Church refers to customs, folklore, and stories about the Church, the saints, etc, whether church-wide, national or ethnic in origin. The Hispanic celebration of El Día De Los Muertos or Day of the Dead on All Souls Day is one such tradition. Other examples are making pretzels for Lent, having a lily in the hand of a statue of St. Joseph to symbolize his purity, or having Mary dressed in blue. These did not come down to us through scripture or in the deposit of faith, but have developed over the centuries through common practice and acceptance by the faithful.
Triduum	The ancient Great Three Days, to which the entire liturgical year leads and flows, celebrate the heart of Christian faith: Jesus’ redemptive death and resurrection. Related to the Church as Sunday is related to each week, the Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, continues through Good Friday and Holy Saturday, culminates in the Easter Vigil and concludes with Evening Prayer of Easter Sunday. With the renewal of the Triduum: Lent is observed until the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. The Great Three Days are celebrated. The Great Feast (Easter) is sustained for fifty days. The first day of the Triduum , the Christian Passover, is from Holy Thursday sunset until Good Friday sunset; it is the day of Jesus’ death. It includes the liturgies of “The Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper” and “The Celebration of the Lord’s Passion.” The second day of the Triduum , from Good Friday sunset until Holy Saturday sunset, is the Paschal Sabbath, the day of rest. In burial, the Lord rested, and we rest in him (even from liturgy). The third day of the Triduum , beginning Holy Saturday at sunset, is the great surprise, the Easter surprise. This third day begins with the holiest night of the year, the vigil of

Easter, leading into the day of days, Easter Sunday, the most important feast of the Church Year.

Trinity

God revealed in three Persons: the Father (who is God, but is not the Son or the Holy Spirit), the Son (Jesus, who is God, but is not the Father or the Holy Spirit), and the Holy Spirit (who is God, but is not the Father or the Son).

The Dogma of the Holy Trinity

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one and the same God.

The divine Persons are distinct from one another.

The purpose of the divine missions of the Son and the Holy Spirit is to bring us to share in the life, light and love of the Trinity.

Works of Mercy

Works of mercy are actions we take to help others who are suffering. They are based on Christ's teachings and Christian practice since the apostles.

Corporal

Feed the hungry.
Give drink to the thirsty.
Shelter the homeless.
Clothe the naked.
Care for the sick.
Help the imprisoned.
Bury the dead.

Spiritual

Warn the sinner
Teach the ignorant.
Counsel the doubtful.
Comfort the sorrowful.
Bear wrongs patiently.
Forgive injuries.
Pray for the living and the dead.

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