

VOCABULARY – STUDENT DEFINITIONS

Some Glossary terms are included in the student vocabulary section. These offer definitions suitable for elementary students. They also reference associated article numbers from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.



ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

August 1, 2014

Vocabulary Definitions (Student)

Abraham: husband of Sarah, father of Isaac and chosen by God to be the father of his people. (CCC #59; 72; 145; 705; 762; 2570)

Absolution: the forgiveness of sin you receive from God through the Church and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. (CCC #1424; 1442; 1449; 1453; 1480)

Adam: first man created by God. (CCC #359; 375; 388; 390; 402-404; 504)

Advent: a time to get ready to celebrate the coming of the Son of God. (CCC #522-524)

Alleluia: means "praise God." Sung or recited before the Gospel except during Lent.

Altar: the table, in Church, where the Eucharist is celebrated. (CCC #1182; 1383)

Ambo: also called the lectern. Place where the Word of God is proclaimed and the homily given. (CCC#1184)

Angel: a messenger of God. (CCC #334-336; 350-352)

Annunciation: when the angel asked Mary to be the mother of his Son, Jesus. (CCC #484; 494)

Anointing of the Sick: the sacrament by which God's grace and comfort are given to those who are seriously ill or suffering because of their age. Sacrament of Healing. (CCC#1499; 1520; 1523; 152601532)

Apostles: twelve men chosen by Jesus. (CCC #857)

Ark of the Covenant: a wooden box in which the tablets of the Ten Commandments were kept. (CCC #2578; 2594; 2130; 2058)

Baptism: is the beginning of our new life in God's family. (CCC #977; 1213)

Beatitudes: Jesus' teachings about how to live and find real happiness in God. (CCC #1717; 1728)

Vocabulary Definitions (Student)

Bethlehem: the city where Jesus was born.

Bible: the Church's holy book. (CCC #105)

Bishop: is a leader of a diocese, and chief teachers of the Catholic Church (CCC #1557; 861; 886)

Blessed Sacrament: another name for the Eucharist. (CCC #1330)

Cain: committed the first murder when he killed his brother Abel.

Canonization: a solemn declaration by the Pope that a deceased member of the faithful may be proposed as a model and venerated as a saint. (CCC #828)

Cardinal Virtues: prudence, justice, fortitude, temperance. (CCC #1805; 1834)

Catholic: means "universal". (CCC #750; 830)

Chalice: cup used by the priest at Mass.

Chrism: perfumed oil blessed by the bishop. (CCC #1241; 1289; 1291; 1294)

Christian: a person who is baptized and follows Jesus. (CCC #1289)

Christmas: when we celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus. (CCC #1171)

Church: the community of all baptized people who believe in God and follow Jesus. (CCC #752; 811)

Vocabulary Definitions (Student)

Confirmation: the sacrament by which we receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit in a special way. Sacrament of Initiation. (CCC #1285)

Consecration: through the power of the Holy Spirit and the words and actions of the priest, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus. (CCC #1352-1353)

Conversion: turning to God with all one's heart. (CCC #1427; 1431; 1423)

Corporal Works of Mercy: loving actions by which we respond to the basic physical needs of people. (CCC #2447)

Council of Nicaea: was the first ecumenical council called in 325. The Nicene Creed was developed at this council.

Council of Trent: a general council of the Church (1545) that clearly explained the teachings of the Church and worked to eliminate abuses.

Covenant: an agreement between persons or groups of people. God made a special covenant with his people. (CCC #56; 62; 66)

Creed: a statement of the Church's beliefs. (CCC #187)

Crucifixion: how Jesus died.

David: chosen by God to be the second king of the Israelites.

Deacon: a person who is ordained to serve the parish community in many ways. (CCC #1569; 1571)

Deposit of Faith: all the truths entrusted by Christ to the apostles and the early Church, found in Scripture and tradition. (CCC #84)

Vocabulary Definitions (Student)

Disciple: a person who chose to follow Jesus. (CCC #767; 787)

Doctrine: refers to an official teaching or a body of official teachings of the Church. (CCC #88)

Dogma: beliefs that cannot be changed such as the creeds. (CCC #88)

Easter: the day we celebrate Jesus' new life. (CCC #1169)

Encyclicals: letters from the Pope to all the members of the Church throughout the world in which the Pope clarifies or reinforces Catholic teachings. (CCC #892)

Epistles: "letters" written to the early Christian communities.

Eucharist: the sacrament in which Jesus shares himself, and the bread and wine become his Body and Blood. (CCC #1332ff; 2177)

Evangelist: another name for a Gospel writer. (CCC #125; 120)

Eve: first woman created by God. (CCC #369; 375; 511)

Examination of Conscience: a prayerful way we look at our thoughts, words, and actions. (CCC #1454)

Exodus: the biblical word describing the Israelites' departure from slavery to freedom. (CCC #1363)

Free Will: is the freedom and ability to choose. (CCC #1730-1739)

Fruits of the Holy Spirit: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity. (CCC #1832)

Genesis: first book in the Old Testament. (CCC #120)

Vocabulary Definitions (Student)

Gifts of the Holy Spirit: help us to know and love God and live as his followers. The gifts are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord. (CCC #1830)

Gospel: means “good news.” Tells us about the life of Jesus. (CCC #571; 1946; 75; 124; 514)

Grace: sharing in God’s life and love. (CCC #1996; 2000)

Heaven: living and being happy with God forever. (CCC #1023)

Hell: punishment for those who reject God’s life and love. (CCC #1033)

Holy Communion: Holy Bread and Wine that you receive in Eucharist. (CCC #1382; 959)

Holy Family: the name of the human family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Holy Orders: the sacrament in which men are ordained to serve the Church as deacons, priests, and bishops. Sacrament of Vocation/Service. (CCC #1536)

Holy Spirit: the third Person of the Trinity. (CCC #685; 152; 243)

Holy Week: the week before Easter that begins on Palm Sunday. (CCC #1169)

Hosea: prophet in the Old Testament. He spoke out against idolatry and injustices against the poor.

Host: another name for the bread used for Holy Communion. (CCC #1992; 1378)

Immaculate Conception: the belief that Mary was free of original sin from the moment she was conceived. (CCC #491)

Immortal Soul: the spiritual part of every person; it is created by God. (CCC #363; 366)

Vocabulary Definitions (Student)

Incarnation: God's Son becoming man, one like us, Jesus Christ, who is both human and divine. (CCC #461; 464)

Infallibility: the gift of the Holy Spirit that keeps the Church from error – in believing and teaching – in matters concerning revelation and the deposit of faith. (CCC #92)

Isaiah: prophet in the Old Testament. Called the kings to act justly on behalf of God's people.

Israelites: God's Chosen People. (CCC #62)

Jeremiah: prophet in the Old Testament. Warned the people about being unfaithful to the covenant.

Jerusalem: is known as the "city of David." Where the Temple was located.

Jesus: the Son of God and God's greatest gift to us. (CCC #184 f.; 430, 436; cf. 127)

Joseph: the step-father of Jesus and Mary's husband. (CCC #437)

Lent: a time when we are asked to pray, act as Jesus did and find ways to care for others. (CCC #540; 1095; 1438)

Liturgical Year: the celebration in the liturgy of events in the life of Jesus. (CCC #1168)

Liturgy: the public worship of the Church. It includes the Sacraments and forms of daily prayer. (CCC #1067-1069)

Liturgy of the Eucharist: the second main part of the Mass where the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ. (CCC #1345-1355)

Liturgy of the Word: the first main part of the Mass in we hear the Word of God in the Scriptures. (CCC #1103; 1154; 1346; 1349; 2183)

Vocabulary Definitions (Student)

Manna: a sweet bread-like food that God provided for the Israelites in the desert. (CCC #1094; 1334)

Marks of the Church: the four characteristics of the Church: one, holy, catholic and apostolic. (CCC #811)

Marriage: the sacrament in which a man and woman become husband and wife and promise to be faithful to each other for the rest of their lives. Sacrament of Vocation/Service. (CCC #1601)

Mary: the Mother of Jesus. (CCC #148; 495; 722; 726; 963)

Messiah: it means “anointed” Jesus was the Messiah. (CCC #436)

Miracle: a sign or wonder which Jesus performed. (CCC #547)

Morals: goodness or evil of human acts. (CCC #1749)

Mortal Sin: serious sin that cuts people off from God’s life. (CCC #1855; 1857)

Moses: led the Israelites out of slavery. Received the Ten Commandments from God. (CCC #62; 204)

Nativity: story of Jesus’ birth.

Nazareth: town where Jesus grew up.

New Testament: the second part of the Bible that tells of the life and teaching of Jesus, his followers, and the early Church. (CCC #124; 128)

Old Testament: tells the stories of God’s chosen people, the Israelites (Jews). Also called the Hebrew Scriptures. (CCC #120-121)

Vocabulary Definitions (Student)

Ordinary Time: part of the Liturgical Year.

Original Sin: the first sin committed by the first people. (CCC #396-412)

Parable: a story Jesus told that teaches something about God. (CCC #546)

Paschal Candle: special candle used on Holy Saturday, turning the Easter season, at baptisms and funerals.

Paschal Mystery: the passion, death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus. (CCC #1067; 1076; 1362-1372)

Passover: the event in which God passed over the whole of Egypt, taking the lives of every firstborn Egyptian and saving the Israelites. (CCC #571; 608; 671; 1334-1340)

Penance: a prayer or an act to make up for sin. (CCC #1431; 1434; 2043)

Pentecost: the day the Holy Spirit first came upon the disciples and the Church. (CCC #726; 731; 1076)

Pharisees: Jewish religious leaders who accepted the written laws of the Old Testament and tradition.

Pontius Pilate: Roman procurator who condemned Jesus to death.

Pope: successor of Peter. Leader of the universal Catholic Church. (CCC #880-882)

Prayer: talking and listening to God. (CCC #2559-2565)

Precepts of the Church: laws that help us know and fulfill our responsibilities as members of the Church. (CCC #2041)

Vocabulary Definitions (Student)

Priest: one called by God to lead the community in worship and to serve. (CCC #784; 1119; 1546-1547)

Prophet: someone who speaks on behalf of God, defends the truth, and works for justice. (CCC #702; 64; 120; 522; 2581; 721)

Proverbs: brief sayings that give wise advice.

Psalms: poetic prayers designed to be sung or chanted to some kind of musical instrument. (CCC #2585)

Purgatory: a process of final purification after death in which those who have died in the state of grace grow in the holiness they need to enter heaven. (CCC #1031)

Reconciliation: the sacrament in which God's forgiveness for sin is given through the Church. (CCC #1442-1445)

Resurrection: the name for Jesus being raised from the dead to new life. (CCC #638)

Sacraments: holy signs that come from Jesus and give life. (CCC #1131, 774; 1210)

Saint: a person who lived a good life and loved God. (CCC #823; 946)

Sanctifying Grace: the gift of sharing in God's life which we receive in the sacraments. (CCC #1999)

Satan: another name for the devil. (CCC #391; 395; 2851)

Schism: a tragic split, as in the split between the Western Church and the Eastern Church. (CCC #2089)

Sin: choosing to disobey God. It is doing what you know is wrong. (CCC #1849; 1853-1854)

Sins of Commission: when we sin by doing what we know is wrong. (CCC #1849-1854)

Vocabulary Definitions (Student)

Sins of Omission: when we sin by failing to do what we know is right. (CCC #1849-1854)

Spiritual Works of Mercy: loving actions by which we respond to the basic spiritual needs of people. (CCC #2247)

Stewardship: responsibility for caring for and protecting God's creation and God's people.

Synagogue: local church for Jews.

Temple: the house of worship built in Jerusalem by Solomon as God's dwelling-place. (CCC #583; 797)

Temptation: choices that may hurt our friendship with God and others. (CCC #538)

Ten Commandments: God's laws about loving God and others. (CCC #2058; 2067)

Theological Virtues: three spiritual qualities - faith, hope and charity – that come from God and help us become more holy. (CCC #1812-1813; 1840-1841)

Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. These three days celebrate Jesus' passion, death and Resurrection. (CCC #1168)

Trinity: name for three Persons in one God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (CCC #232; 237; 249; 253-256)

Vatican Council II: (1958 to 1963) last council called. Called by Pope John XXIII to "update the Church."

Venial Sin: a less serious sin that does not completely remove a person from God's life and love. (CCC #1855; 1862)

Viaticum: the name for Holy Communion when it is given to the dying. (CCC #1524)

Vocabulary Definitions (Student)

Vocation: we are called to use our talents to carry on Christ's mission in the world. (CCC #1; 358; 1700; 825)

Worship: when the Church community gathers to praise God. (CCC #2096; 1067)

Yahweh: another name for God that means "I am who am." (CCC #205)