

## 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*.



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## 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)