

Glossary

A

Abba an informal name for *Father* in the language Jesus spoke. Jesus called God the Father “Abba.” [\[Abba\]](#)

absolution the forgiveness God offers us in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. After we say that we are sorry for our sins, we receive God’s absolution from the priest. [\[absolución\]](#)

Advent the four weeks before Christmas. It is a time of joyful preparation for the celebration of Jesus’ birth as our Savior. [\[Adviento\]](#)

All Saints Day November 1, the day on which the Church honors all who have died and now live with God as saints in Heaven. This group includes those who have been declared saints by the Church and many others known only to God. [\[Día de Todos los Santos\]](#)

All Souls Day November 2, the day on which the Church remembers all who have died as friends of God. We pray that they may rest in peace. [\[Día de Todos los Fieles Difuntos\]](#)

Alleluia a prayer of praise to God. It is usually sung as the Gospel Acclamation before the Gospel Reading at Mass except during Lent. [\[Aleluya\]](#)

almsgiving the practice of giving money to those in need as an act of love [\[limosna, dar\]](#)

altar the table in the church on which the priest celebrates Mass, during which the sacrifice of Christ on the cross is made present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The altar represents two aspects of the mystery of the Eucharist. First, it is where Jesus Christ offers himself for our sins. Second, it is where he gives us himself as our food for eternal life. [\[altar\]](#)

ambo a raised stand from which a person reads the Word of God during Mass [\[ambón\]](#)

Amen the final word in any prayer. *Amen* means “This is true.” When we pray “Amen,” it shows that we really mean what we have just said. [\[Amén\]](#)

angel a spiritual creature who brings a message from God [\[ángel\]](#)

Angelus a Catholic devotion recited three times a day—morning, noon, and evening. The devotion recalls the mystery of the Annunciation beginning with the coming of the angel to Mary, her acceptance of the invitation to be Jesus’ mother, and on the Word made flesh. [\[Ángelus\]](#)

Annunciation the announcement to Mary by the angel Gabriel that God had chosen her to be the mother of Jesus [\[Anunciación\]](#)

Anointing of the Sick one of the seven sacraments. In this sacrament a sick person is anointed with holy oil and receives the strength, peace, and courage to overcome the difficulties that come with illness. [\[Unción de los Enfermos\]](#)

apostle one of twelve chosen men who accompanied Jesus in his ministry and were witnesses to the Resurrection [\[apóstol\]](#)

Apostles’ Creed a statement of Christian belief. The Apostles’ Creed, developed out of a creed used during Baptism in Rome, lists simple statements of belief in God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The profession of faith used in Baptism today is based on the Apostles’ Creed. [\[Credo de los Apóstoles\]](#)

apostolic one of the four Marks of the Church. The Church is apostolic because it hands on the teachings of the apostles through their successors, the bishops.

[apostólica]

Ascension the return of Jesus to Heaven. In the Acts of the Apostles, it is written that Jesus, after his Resurrection, spent 40 days on earth, instructing his followers. He then returned to his Father in Heaven. [Ascensión]

Ash Wednesday the first day of Lent, on which we receive ashes on our foreheads. The ashes remind us to prepare for Easter by showing sorrow for the choices we make that offend God and hurt our relationships with others. [Miércoles de Ceniza]

B

Baptism one of the three Sacraments of Initiation. Baptism frees us from Original Sin and gives us new life in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. [Bautismo]

Beatitudes the eight ways we can behave to live a blessed life. Jesus teaches us that if we live according to the Beatitudes, we will live a happy Christian life. [Bienaventuranzas]

Bible the history of God's promise to care for us and his call for us to be faithful to him. God asked that people be faithful first through the beliefs of the Jewish people and then through belief in the life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. [Biblia]

bishop a man who has received the fullness of Holy Orders. He has inherited his duties from the original apostles. He cares for the Church today and is a principal teacher in the Church. [obispo]

Blessed Sacrament the Eucharist that has been consecrated by the priest at Mass. It is kept in the tabernacle to adore and to be taken to those who are sick.

[Santísimo Sacramento]

blessing a prayer that calls for God's power and care upon some person, place, thing, or special activity [bendición]

Body and Blood of Christ consecrated by the priest at Mass. It still looks like bread and wine, but it is truly the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. [Cuerpo y Sangre de Cristo]

Bread of Life a title for Jesus that tells us that he is the Bread that is food for the faithful [Pan de Vida]

C

capital sins those sins that can lead us to more serious sin. The seven capital sins are pride, covetousness, envy, anger, gluttony, lust, and sloth. [pecados capitales]

cast lots to throw down small stones or pebbles called lots to help determine a decision needing divine guidance. Lots were cast to choose the disciple to replace Judas in Acts of the Apostles 1:23–26. Roman soldiers also cast lots to divide Jesus' clothing among them as in John 19:24. [echar a suertes]

catholic one of the four Marks of the Church. The Church is catholic because Jesus is fully present in it and because Jesus has given the Church to the whole world. [católica]

celebrant a bishop or priest who leads the people in praying the Mass. A deacon who baptizes or witnesses a marriage is also a celebrant. [celebrante]

celebrate worshiping and praising God with prayers and songs, especially in the celebration of the Eucharist [celebrar]

charity a virtue given to us by God. Charity helps us love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves. [caridad]

chasuble the visible liturgical vestment worn by the bishop or priest at Mass. A newly ordained priest receives a chasuble as part of the ordination ritual. [casulla]

Christ a title that means “anointed with oil.” It is from a Greek word that means the same thing as the Hebrew word *Messiah*, or “anointed.” It is the name given to Jesus after the Resurrection. [Cristo]

Christian the name given to all those who have been anointed through the gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism and have become followers of Jesus Christ [cristiano]

Christmas the day on which we celebrate the birth of Jesus (December 25) [Navidad]

Church the name given to all of Christ’s followers throughout the world. It is also the name of the building where we gather to pray to God and the name of our community as we gather to praise God. [Iglesia]

commandment a standard, or rule, for living as God wants us to live. Jesus summarized all the commandments into two: love God and love your neighbor. [mandamiento]

Communion of Saints the union of all who have been saved in Jesus Christ, both those who are alive and those who have died [Comunión de los Santos]

community Christians who are gathered in the name of Jesus Christ to receive his grace and live according to his values [comunidad]

compassion God’s fundamental attitude toward his people. This is best seen in Jesus’ reaching out to care for those in need. Acting with compassion and mercy toward those in need identifies a person as belonging to God. [compasión]

confession the act of telling our sins to a priest in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. The sacrament itself is sometimes referred to as confession. [confesión]

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 in Jesus Christ. [Confirmación]

conscience the inner voice that helps each of us to know the law that God has placed in our hearts. It guides us to do good and avoid evil. [conciencia]

consecration the making of a thing or person to be special to God through a prayer or blessing. At Mass the words of the priest are a consecration of the bread and wine that become the Body and Blood of Christ. People or objects set apart for God in a special way are also consecrated. For example, churches and altars are consecrated for use in liturgy. In the same way, bishops are consecrated as they receive the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders. [consagración]

contrition the sorrow we feel when we know that we have sinned, followed by the decision not to sin again. Contrition is the most important part of our celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.

[[contrición](#)]

conversion the change of heart that directs each person away from sin and toward God

[[conversión](#)]

Corporal Works of Mercy kind acts by which we help our neighbors with their everyday material needs. Corporal Works of Mercy include feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick and the imprisoned, and burying the dead.

[[obras de misericordia corporales](#)]

Covenant a solemn agreement between people or between people and God. God made covenants with humanity through agreements with Noah, Abraham, and Moses. These covenants offered Salvation. God's new and final covenant was established through Jesus' life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. [[alianza](#)]

covet the excessive desire to possess something of value belonging to another person to the point of letting envy destroy the relationship [[codiciar](#)]

creation God's act of making everything that exists outside himself. Creation is everything that exists. God said that all of creation is good. [[creación](#)]

Creator God, who made everything that is and whom we can come to know through everything he created [[Creador](#)]

creed a brief summary of what people believe. The Apostles' Creed is a summary of Christian beliefs. [[credo](#)]

crozier the staff carried by a bishop. This staff shows that the bishop cares for us in the same way that a shepherd cares for his sheep. It also reminds us that he represents Jesus, the Good Shepherd. [[báculo](#)]

D

deacon a man ordained through the Sacrament of Holy Orders to help the bishop and priests in the work of the Church [[diácono](#)]

diocese the members of the Church in a particular area, gathered under the leadership of a bishop [[diócesis](#)]

disciple a person who has accepted Jesus' message and tries to live as Jesus did [[discípulo](#)]

discipleship for Christians, the willingness to answer the call to follow Jesus. The call is received in Baptism, nourished in the Eucharist, and practiced in service to the world. [[discipulado](#)]

Dismissal the part of the Mass in which the people are sent forth by the priest or deacon to do good works and praise and bless God [[despedida](#)]

Divine Praises a series of praises beginning with "Blessed be God," traditionally prayed at the end of the worship of the Blessed Sacrament in benediction [[divinas alabanzas](#)]

E

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

[Pascua de Resurrección]

Emmanuel a name from the Old Testament that means “God with us.” Because Jesus is always with us, we often call him by the name *Emmanuel*. [Emanuel]

envy a feeling of resentment or sadness because someone has a quality, a talent, or a possession that we want. Envy is one of the seven capital sins, and it is contrary to the Tenth Commandment. [envidia]

Epiphany the day on which we celebrate the visit of the Magi to Jesus after his birth. This is the day that Jesus was revealed as the Savior of the whole world. [Epifanía]

epistle a letter written by Saint Paul or another leader to a group of Christians in the early Church. Twenty-one of the 27 books of the New Testament are epistles. [epístola]

eternal life living happily with God in Heaven when we die in grace and friendship with him [vida eterna]

Eucharist the sacrament in which we give thanks to God for the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. This sacrament brings us into union with Jesus Christ and his saving Death and Resurrection. [Eucaristía]

Evangelists the four men credited with writing the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John [evangelistas]

examination of conscience the act of prayerfully thinking about what we have said or done that may have hurt our relationship with God or with others. An examination of conscience is an important part of preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. [examen de conciencia]

F

faith a gift of God that helps us to believe in him and live as he wants us to live. We express our faith in the words of the Apostles’ Creed. [fe]

fasting limiting the amount we eat for a period of time to express sorrow for sin and to make ourselves more aware of God’s action in our lives [ayuno]

forgiveness the willingness to be kind to people who have hurt us but have then said that they are sorry. Because God always forgives us when we say that we are sorry, we forgive others in the same way. [perdón]

fortitude the strength to do the right thing even when that is difficult. Fortitude is one of the four central human virtues, called the cardinal virtues, by which we guide our Christian life. It is also one of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. [fortaleza]

free will our ability to choose to do good because God has made us like him [libre voluntad]

Fruits of the Holy Spirit the ways in which we act because God is alive in us [frutos del Espíritu Santo]

G

genuflect to show respect in church by touching a knee to the ground, especially when we are before the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle [\[genuflexión, hacer una\]](#)

gestures the movements we make, such as the Sign of the Cross or bowing, to show our reverence during prayer [\[gestos\]](#)

gift of peace the peace that Jesus gives to us that flows from his relationship with his Father. This is the peace that the world cannot give, for it is the gift of Salvation that only Jesus can give. [\[don de la paz\]](#)

God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: one God in three distinct Persons. God created us, saves us, and lives in us. [\[Dios\]](#)

godparent a witness to Baptism who helps the baptized person follow the path of Christian life [\[padrino/madrina de Bautismo\]](#)

Gospel the good news of God's mercy and love. We experience this news in the story of 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. [\[Evangelió\]](#)

grace the gift from God given to us without our deserving it. Sanctifying grace fills us with God's life and enables us always to be his friends. Grace also helps us to live as God wants us to live. [\[gracia\]](#)

Great Commandment Jesus' essential teaching that we are to love both God and our neighbor as we love ourselves [\[Mandamiento Mayor\]](#)

guardian angel the angel who has been appointed to pray for and help the person live a holy life [\[ángel de la guarda\]](#)

H

Heaven the life with God that is full of happiness and never ends [\[cielo\]](#)

holy one of the four Marks of the Church. It is the kind of life we live when we share in the life of God, who is all holiness. The Church is holy because of her union with Jesus Christ. [\[santa\]](#)

Holy Communion the reception of the Body and Blood of Christ during Holy Mass. It brings us into union with Jesus Christ and his saving Death and Resurrection. [\[Sagrada Comunión\]](#)

Holy Days of Obligation the principal feast days, other than Sundays, of the Church. On Holy Days of Obligation, we celebrate the great things that God has done for us through Jesus Christ and the saints. [\[días de precepto\]](#)

Holy Family the family made up of Jesus; his mother, Mary; and his foster father, Joseph [\[Sagrada Familia\]](#)

Holy Orders the sacrament through which the mission, or task, given by Jesus to his apostles continues in the Church. Holy Orders has three degrees: deacon, priest, and bishop. [\[sacramento del Orden\]](#)

Holy Spirit the third Person of the Trinity, who is sent to us as our helper, and, through Baptism and Confirmation, fills us with God's life [\[Espíritu Santo\]](#)

Holy Thursday the Thursday of Holy Week on which the Mass of the Lord's Supper is celebrated, commemorating the institution of the Eucharist. The season of Lent ends with the celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper. [\[Jueves Santo\]](#)

holy water the water that has been blessed and is used as a sacramental to remind us of our Baptism [\[agua bendita\]](#)

Holy Week the celebration of the events surrounding Jesus' establishment of the Eucharist, his suffering, Death, and Resurrection. Holy Week commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the gift of himself in the Eucharist on Holy Thursday, his Death on Good Friday, and his Resurrection at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. [\[Semana Santa\]](#)

Homily an explanation of God's Word. The Homily explains the Word of God that we hear in the Bible readings at church. [\[homilía\]](#)

honor giving God or a person the respect that they are owed. God is given this respect as our Creator and Redeemer. All people are worthy of respect as children of God. [\[honrar\]](#)

hope the trust that God will always be with us. We also trust that he will make us happy now and help us to live in a way that keeps us with him forever. [\[esperanza\]](#)

I
idolatry in the Bible, the false, pagan worship of physical images given adoration as gods. For Christians today idolatry occurs whenever someone honors and reveres something in place of God. This can mean giving honor to power, pleasure, race, ancestors, money, or the state rather than giving God the honor owed to him. [\[idolatría\]](#)

J
Jesus the second Person of the Trinity. The Son of God, who was born of the Virgin Mary and who died, was raised from the dead, and ascended into Heaven so that we can live with God forever. *Jesús* means "God saves." [\[Jesús\]](#)

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 [\[José\]](#)

justice the strong, firm desire to give to God and others what is due them. Justice is one of the four central human virtues, called the cardinal virtues, by which we guide our Christian life. [\[justicia\]](#)

K
Kingdom of God God's rule over us. We experience the Kingdom of God in part now, and we will experience it fully in Heaven. The Kingdom of God was announced in the Gospel and is present in the Eucharist. [\[Reino de Dios\]](#)

L
Lamb of God the title for Jesus that emphasizes his willingness to give up his life for the Salvation of the world. Jesus is the Lamb without blemish or sin who delivers us through his sacrificial Death. [\[Cordero de Dios\]](#)

Last Supper the last meal Jesus ate with his disciples on the night before he died. At the Last Supper, Jesus took bread and wine, blessed them, and said that they were his Body and Blood. Every Mass is a remembrance of this last meal. [\[Última Cena\]](#)

Lectionary for Mass the book that contains all the Bible stories we read at Mass
[[Leccionario](#)]

Lent six weeks during which we prepare to celebrate, with special prayers and action, the rising of Jesus from the dead at Easter. Jesus rose from the dead to save us. [[Cuaresma](#)]

Light of the World a name that helps us to see that Jesus is the light that leads us to the Father. Jesus lights up our minds and hearts with knowledge of God. [[Luz del Mundo](#)]

liturgical year the calendar that tells us when to celebrate the feasts of Jesus' birth, life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension
[[año litúrgico](#)]

liturgy the public prayer of the Church that celebrates the wonderful things God has done for us in Jesus Christ [[liturgia](#)]

Liturgy of the Eucharist a main part of the Mass in which the bread and wine are consecrated and truly become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. We then receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. [[Liturgia de la Eucaristía](#)]

Liturgy of the Word a main part of the Mass in which we listen to God's Word from the Bible and consider what it means for us today [[Liturgia de la Palabra](#)]

M

Magnificat Mary's song of praise to God for the great things he has done for her and for his plans for us through Jesus [[Magnificat](#)]

Marks of the Church the four most important characteristics of the Church. The Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. [[atributos de la Iglesia](#)]

Mary the mother of Jesus. She is called blessed and "full of grace" because God chose her to be the mother of the Son of God. [[María](#)]

Mass the most important sacramental celebration of the Church. The celebration of the Mass was established by Jesus at the Last Supper as a remembrance of his Death and Resurrection. At Mass we listen to God's Word from the Bible and receive the Body and Blood of Christ. [[misa](#)]

Matrimony a solemn agreement between a woman and a man to be partners for life, both for their own good and for raising children. Marriage is a sacrament when the agreement is properly made between baptized Christians. [[Matrimonio](#)]

mercy the gift to be able to respond to those in need with care and compassion. The gift of mercy is a grace given to us by Jesus Christ. [[misericordia](#)]

Messiah a title that means "anointed with oil." It is from a Hebrew word that means the same thing as the Greek word *Christ*, the name given to Jesus after the Resurrection. [[Mesías](#)]

ministry service or work done for others. Ministry is also done by bishops, priests, and deacons in the celebration of the sacraments. All those baptized are called to different kinds of ministry in the liturgy and in service to the needs of others. [[ministerio](#)]

miracle the healing of a person, or an occasion when nature is controlled that can only be recognized as God's action [[milagro](#)]

mission the work of Jesus Christ that is continued in the Church through the Holy Spirit. The mission of the Church is to proclaim Salvation through Jesus' life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. [\[misión\]](#)

monastery a place where men or women live out their solemn promises of poverty, chastity, and obedience. They live a stable, or firm, community life; they spend their days in public prayer, work, and meditation. [\[monasterio\]](#)

moral choice a choice to do what is right. We make moral choices because they help us grow closer to God. We make them also because we have the freedom to choose what is right and to avoid what is wrong. [\[decisión moral\]](#)

moral law a rule for living that has been established by God and people in authority who are concerned about the good of all people. Moral laws are based on God's direction to us to do what is right and avoid what is wrong. [\[ley moral\]](#)

mortal sin a decision to turn away from God by doing something that we know is seriously wrong and so cuts us off from God's life [\[pecado mortal\]](#)

Mystical Body of Christ the members of the Church formed into a spiritual body and bound together by the life communicated by Jesus Christ through the sacraments. Christ is the center of this body and the source of its life. In it we are all united. Each member of this body receives from Christ gifts fitting for him or her. [\[Cuerpo Místico de Cristo\]](#)

N

Nativity scene a picture or crèche that shows Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in the stable after the birth of Jesus as described in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke [\[escena de la Natividad\]](#)

neighbor according to Jesus, every person, as each person is made in God's image. We are meant to form mutually supportive relationships with our neighbors. [\[prójimo\]](#)

New Testament the 27 books of the second part of the Bible, which tell of the teaching, ministry, and saving events of the life of Jesus. The four Gospels present Jesus' life, Death, and Resurrection. The Acts of the Apostles tells the story of Jesus' Ascension into Heaven. It also shows how Jesus' message of Salvation spread through the growth of the Church. Various letters instruct us in how to live as followers of Jesus Christ. The Book of Revelation offers encouragement to Christians living through persecution. [\[Nuevo Testamento\]](#)

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. [\[obediencia\]](#)

obey follow the teachings or directions given by God or by someone who has authority over us [\[obedecer\]](#)

oil of the sick the oil blessed by the bishop during Holy Week and used in the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, which brings spiritual and, if it is God's will, physical healing [\[óleo de los enfermos\]](#)

Old Testament the first 46 books of the Bible, which tell of God's Covenant with the people of Israel and his plan for the Salvation of all people. The first five books are known as the Torah. The Old Testament is fulfilled in the New Testament, but God's Covenant presented in the Old Testament has permanent value and has never been revoked or set aside. [\[Antiguo Testamento\]](#)

one one of the four Marks of the Church. The Church is one because of its source in the one God and because of its founder, Jesus Christ. Jesus, through his Death on the cross, united all to God in one body. Within the unity of the Church, there is great diversity because of the variety of the gifts given to its members. [\[una\]](#)

ordained those men who have received the Sacrament of Holy Orders so that they may preside at the celebration of the Eucharist and serve as leaders and teachers of the Church [\[ordenado\]](#)

Ordinary Time the longest liturgical season of the Church year. It is divided into two periods—the first after the Christmas season and the second after Pentecost. The first period focuses on Jesus' childhood and public ministry. The second period focuses on Christ's reign as King of Kings. [\[Tiempo Ordinario\]](#)

Original Sin the result of the sin by which the first human beings disobeyed God and chose to follow their own will rather than God's will. Because of this act, all human beings lost the original blessing that God had intended, and they became subject to sin and death. In Baptism we are restored to life with God through Jesus Christ. [\[pecado original\]](#)

P

Palm Sunday the celebration of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem on the Sunday before Easter. It begins a week-long commemoration of the saving events of Holy Week. [\[Domingo de Ramos\]](#)

parable one of the stories that Jesus told to show us what the Kingdom of God is like. Parables present images, or scenes, drawn from everyday life. These images show us the radical, or serious, choice we make when we respond to the invitation to enter the Kingdom of God. [\[parábola\]](#)

parish a community of believers in Jesus Christ who meet regularly in a specific area to worship God under the leadership of a pastor [\[parroquia\]](#)

Paschal Mystery the work of Salvation accomplished by Jesus Christ through his Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. The Paschal Mystery is celebrated in the liturgy of the Church. We experience its saving effects in the sacraments. [\[Misterio Pascual\]](#)

pastor a priest who is responsible for the spiritual care of the members of a parish community [\[párroco\]](#)

peacemaker a person who teaches us to be respectful in our words and actions toward one another [\[paz, los que trabajan por la\]](#)

penance what we do to show we are turning away from sin with a desire to change our life and more closely live the way God wants us to live. We express our penance externally by praying, fasting, and helping those who are poor. This is also the name of the action that the priest asks us to take or the prayers that he asks us to pray after he absolves us in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. (See Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.) [\[penitencia\]](#)

Pentecost the 50th day after Jesus was raised from the dead. On this day the Holy Spirit was sent from Heaven, and the Church was born. [\[Pentecostés\]](#)

People of God another name for the Church. In the same way that the people of Israel were God's people through the Covenant he made with them, the Church is a priestly, prophetic, and royal people through the new and eternal covenant in Jesus Christ. [\[Pueblo de Dios\]](#)

personal sin a sin we choose to commit, whether serious (mortal) or less serious (venial). Although the result of Original Sin is to leave us with a tendency to sin, God's grace, especially through the sacraments, helps us to choose good over sin. [\[pecado personal\]](#)

petition a request of God, asking him to fulfill a need. When we share in God's saving love, we understand that every need is one that we can ask God to help us with through petition. [\[petición\]](#)

plague a natural calamity or disease that is seen as being inflicted by God as a remedial event to make people more conscious of their duties toward God and one another. (Numbers 14:37) In Exodus 7:14—12:30, the plagues inflicted on the Egyptians are seen as the means by which God convinced the Egyptians to free the Hebrew people from slavery. [\[plaga\]](#)

pope the bishop of Rome, successor of Saint Peter, and leader of the Roman Catholic Church. Because he has the authority to act in the name of Christ, the pope is called the Vicar of Christ. The pope and all of the bishops together make up the living, teaching office of the Church, the Magisterium. [\[papa\]](#)

praise the expression of our response to God, not only for what he does, but simply because he is. In the Eucharist the whole Church joins with Jesus Christ in expressing praise and thanksgiving to the Father. [\[alabanza\]](#)

prayer the raising of our hearts and minds to God. We are able to speak to and listen to God in prayer because he teaches us how to do so. [\[oración\]](#)

Precepts of the Church those positive requirements that the pastoral authority of the Church has determined as necessary. These requirements describe the minimum effort we must make in prayer and the moral life. The Precepts of the Church ensure that all Catholics move beyond the minimum by growing in love of God and love of neighbor. [\[mandamientos de la Iglesia\]](#)

pride a false image of ourselves that goes beyond what we deserve as God's creation. Pride puts us in competition with God. It is one of the seven capital sins. [\[soberbia\]](#)

priest a man who has accepted God's special call to serve the Church by guiding it and building it up through the celebration of the sacraments [\[sacerdote\]](#)

prudence the virtue that directs us toward the good. It also helps us to choose the correct means to achieve that good. Prudence is one of the cardinal virtues that guide our conscience and influence us to live according to the law of Christ. [\[prudencia\]](#)

psalm a prayer in the form of a poem. Psalms were written to be sung in public worship. Each psalm expresses an aspect, or feature, of the depth of human prayer. Over several centuries 150 psalms were gathered to form the Book of Psalms, used in worship in the Old Testament. [\[salmo\]](#)

R

reconciliation the renewal of friendship after that friendship has been broken by some action or lack of action. In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, through God's mercy and forgiveness, we are reconciled with God, the Church, and others. [\[reconciliación\]](#)

Redeemer Jesus Christ, whose life, Death on the cross, Resurrection from the dead, and Ascension into Heaven set us free from sin and brings us redemption [\[Redentor\]](#)

redemption our being set free from sin through the life, Death on the cross, Resurrection from the dead, and Ascension into Heaven of Jesus Christ [\[redención\]](#)

repentance our turning away from sin with a desire to change our lives and live more closely as God wants us to live. We express our penance externally by prayer, fasting, and helping those who are poor. [\[arrepentimiento\]](#)

Resurrection the bodily raising of Jesus Christ from the dead on the third day after his Death on the cross. The Resurrection is the crowning truth of our faith. [\[Resurrección\]](#)

Revelation God's communication of himself to us through the words and deeds he has used throughout history. Revelation shows us the mystery of his plan for our Salvation in his Son, Jesus Christ. [\[Revelación\]](#)

rite one of the many forms followed in celebrating liturgy in the Church. A rite may differ according to the culture or country where it is celebrated. *Rite* also means "the special form for celebrating each sacrament." [\[rito\]](#)

Rosary a prayer in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. When we pray the Rosary, we meditate on the mysteries of Jesus Christ's life while praying the Hail Mary on five sets of ten beads and the Lord's Prayer on the beads in between. [\[Rosario\]](#)

S

sacrament one of seven ways through which God's life enters our lives through the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus gave us three sacraments that bring us into the Church: Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. He gave us two sacraments that bring us healing: Penance and Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. He also gave us two sacraments that help members serve the community: Matrimony and Holy Orders. [\[sacramento\]](#)

sacramental an object, a prayer, or a blessing given by the Church to help us grow in our spiritual life [\[sacramental\]](#)

Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation the sacrament in which we celebrate God's forgiveness of our sins and our reconciliation with God and the Church. Penance includes sorrow for the sins we have committed, confession of sins, absolution by the priest, and doing the penance that shows our sorrow. [\[sacramento de la Penitencia y la Reconciliación\]](#)

Sacraments of Initiation the sacraments that are the foundation of our Christian life. We are born anew in Baptism, strengthened by Confirmation, and receive in the Eucharist the food of eternal life.

[\[sacramentos de la Iniciación\]](#)

Sacrifice of the Mass the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, which is remembered and made present in the Eucharist [\[sacrificio de la misa\]](#)

saint a holy person who has died united with God. The Church has said that this person is now with God forever in Heaven. [\[santo\]](#)

Salvation the gift of forgiveness of sin and the restoration of friendship with God. God alone can give us Salvation. [\[Salvación\]](#)

Savior Jesus, the Son of God, who became man to forgive our sins and restore our friendship with God. *Jesus* means “God saves.” [\[Salvador\]](#)

Scriptures the holy writings of Jews and Christians collected in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible [\[Sagradas Escrituras\]](#)

seal of confession the obligation on the part of the priest not to reveal what he has heard in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation under any circumstances [\[sigilo sacramental\]](#)

Sermon on the Mount the words of Jesus, written in Chapters 5 through 7 of the Gospel of Matthew, in which Jesus reveals how he has fulfilled God’s Law given to Moses. The Sermon on the Mount begins with the eight Beatitudes and includes the Lord’s Prayer. [\[Sermón de la Montaña\]](#)

Sign of Peace the part of the Mass in which we offer a gesture of peace to one another as we prepare to receive Holy Communion [\[Rito de la Paz\]](#)

Sign of the Cross the gesture that we make that signifies our belief in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit [\[Señal de la Cruz\]](#)

sin a choice we make that offends God and hurts our relationships with others. Some sin is mortal and needs to be confessed in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Other sin is venial, or less serious. [\[pecado\]](#)

sloth a carelessness of heart that leads a person to ignore his or her development as a person, especially spiritual development and a relationship with God. Sloth is one of the seven capital sins, and it is contrary to the First Commandment. [\[pereza\]](#)

solidarity the principle that all people exist in equal dignity as children of God. Therefore, individuals are called to commit themselves to working for the common good in sharing material and spiritual goods. [\[solidaridad\]](#)

Son of God the title revealed by Jesus that indicates his unique relationship to God the Father [\[Hijo de Dios\]](#)

soul the part of us that makes us human and an image of God. Body and soul together form one unique human nature. The soul is responsible for our consciousness and for our freedom. [\[alma\]](#)

Spiritual Works of Mercy the kind acts through which we help our neighbors meet needs that are more than material. The Spiritual Works of Mercy include counseling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, admonishing sinners, comforting the afflicted, forgiving offenses, bearing wrongs patiently, and praying for the living and the dead. [\[obras de misericordia espirituales\]](#)

T

tabernacle a container in which the Blessed Sacrament is kept so that Holy Communion can be taken to those who are sick and dying [\[sagrario\]](#)

temperance the cardinal virtue that helps us to control our attraction to pleasure so that our natural desires are kept within proper limits. This moral virtue helps us choose to use created goods in moderation. [\[templanza\]](#)

Temple the Temple in Jerusalem, the most important place where the Jewish people came to pray. They believed that this was the place where they could be closest to God. Jesus often came to pray in the Temple. [\[Templo \(judío\)\]](#)

temptation an attraction, from outside us or from inside us, that can lead us to not follow God's commands [\[tentación\]](#)

Ten Commandments the ten rules that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai that sum up God's Law and show us what is required to love God and our neighbor [\[Diez Mandamientos\]](#)

Theological Virtues those virtues given to us by God, not by human effort. They are faith, hope, and charity. [\[virtudes teologales\]](#)

Torah the Hebrew word for "instruction" or "law." It is also the name of the first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. [\[Torá\]](#)

transubstantiation when the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. When the priest speaks the words of

consecration, the substance of the bread and wine is changed into the substance of Christ's Body and Blood. [\[transubstanciación\]](#)

trespasses unlawful acts committed against the property or rights of another person, or acts that physically harm a person [\[ofensas\]](#)

Trinity, Holy the mystery of one God existing in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit [\[Trinidad, Santísima\]](#)

U

universal Church the entire Church as it exists throughout the world. The people of every diocese, along with their bishops and the pope, make up the universal Church. [\[Iglesia universal\]](#)

V

venial sin a choice we make that weakens our relationship with God or with others. It wounds and diminishes the divine life in us. [\[pecado venial\]](#)

Vicar of Christ the title given to the pope who, as the successor of Saint Peter, has the authority to act in Christ's place. A vicar is someone who stands in for and acts for another. [\[Vicario de Cristo\]](#)

virtue an attitude or a way of acting that helps us do good [\[virtud\]](#)

Visitation Mary's visit to Elizabeth to share the good news that Mary is to be the mother of Jesus. Elizabeth's greeting of Mary forms part of the Hail Mary. During this visit Mary sings the Magnificat, her praise of God. [\[Visitación\]](#)

vocation the call each of us has in life to be the person God wants us to be. Our vocation is also the way we serve the Church and the Kingdom of God. Each of us can live out his or her vocation as a layperson, as a member of a religious community, or as a member of the clergy. [\[vocación\]](#)

W

witness the passing on to others, by our words and by our actions, the faith that we have been given. Every Christian has the duty to give witness to the good news about Jesus Christ that he or she has come to know. [\[testimonio\]](#)

worship the adoration and honor given to God in public prayer [\[culto\]](#)