

Glossary

A

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

Advent the four weeks before Christmas. It is a time of joyful preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth. [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. These saints include all 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 los Fieles Difuntos]

Alleluia a prayer of praise to God. It is usually sung before the Gospel Reading at Mass. [Aleluya]

altar the table in the church on which the priest celebrates Mass. On this table the bread and wine are offered to God and become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. [altar]

ambo a platform from which a person reads the Word of God during Mass [ambón]

Amen the last word in any prayer that we pray. *Amen* means "This is true." We pray "Amen" to show that we really mean the words we have just said. [Amén]

angel a messenger from God [[ángel](#)]

Ash Wednesday the first day of Lent. We receive ashes on our foreheads on this day to remind us to show sorrow for the choices we make that hurt our friendships with God and with others. [[Miércoles de Ceniza](#)]

B

Baptism the first of the three sacraments by which we become members of the Church. 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 in order to lead a Christian life. Jesus explains that if we live according to the Beatitudes, we are living as his followers. [[Bienaventuranzas](#)]

Bible the written story of God's promise to care for us, especially through his Son, Jesus [[Biblia](#)]

bishop a leader in the Church. Bishops teach us what God is asking of us as followers of Jesus today. [[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](#)]

Body and Blood of Christ the Bread and Wine that has been consecrated by the priest at Mass [[Cuerpo y Sangre de Cristo](#)]

Bread of Life a title for Jesus that tells us he is the Bread, or food, for the faithful [[pan de vida](#)]

C

catholic a word that means “all over the world.” The Church is catholic because Jesus gave the Church to the whole world. [[católico](#)]

celebrant a bishop or priest who leads the people in praying the Mass [[celebrante](#)]

celebrate to praise and worship God in a special way [[celebrar](#)]

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

Christ a title, like *Messiah*, that means “anointed with oil.” It is the name given to Jesus after the Resurrection. [[Cristo](#)]

Christian the name given to people who want to live as Jesus taught us to live [[cristiano](#)]

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

Church the name given to the followers of Christ all over the world. Spelled with a small *c*, *church* is the name of the building in which we gather to pray to God. [[Iglesia](#)]

commandment a rule that tells us how to live as God wants us to live [mandamiento]

confession the act of telling our sins to a priest in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation [confesión]

Confirmation the sacrament that completes the grace we receive in Baptism [Confirmación]

conscience the inner voice that helps each of us know what God wants us to do [conciencia]

consecration the making of a thing or person to be special to God through prayer. At Mass the words of the priest are a consecration of the bread and wine. This makes them the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. [consagración]

contrition the sadness we feel when we know that we have sinned [contrición]

creation everything that God has made. God said that all of creation is good. [creación]

Creator God, who made everything that is [Creador]

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. [báculo]

D

deacon a man who accepts God's call to serve the Church. Deacons help the bishop and priests in the work of the Church. [diácono]

disciple a person who is a follower of Jesus and tries to live as he did [discípulo]

E

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

Emmanuel a name that means “God with us.” It is a name given to Jesus. [Emanuel]

eternal life living happily with God in Heaven after we die [vida eterna]

Eucharist the sacrament in which we give thanks to God for giving us Jesus Christ [Eucaristía]

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

examination of conscience thinking about what we have said or done that may have hurt our friendship with God or with others [examen de conciencia]

F

faith a gift of God. Faith helps us to believe in God and live as he wants us to live. [fe]

forgiveness the act of being kind to people who have hurt us but then have said that they are sorry. God always forgives us when we say that we are sorry. We forgive others the way God forgives us. [perdón]

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 in front of the tabernacle [genuflexión, hacer la]

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

God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God created us, saves us, and lives in us. [Dios]

godparent a witness to Baptism. A godparent helps the baptized person to live as a follower of Jesus. [padrino/madrina de Bautismo]

grace the gift of God given to us without our earning it. Sanctifying grace fills us with God's life and makes us his friends. [gracia]

Great Commandment Jesus' important teaching that we are to love both God and other people [Mandamiento Mayor, el]

guardian angel the angel who has been appointed to help a person grow close to God [ángel de la guarda]

H

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

holy showing the kind of life we live when we cooperate with the grace of God [santa]

Holy Communion the consecrated Bread and Wine that we receive at Mass, which is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ [Sagrada Comunion]

Holy Days of Obligation those days other than Sundays on which we celebrate the great things God has done for us through Jesus Christ [días de precepto]

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

Holy Spirit the third Person of the Trinity, who comes to us in Baptism and fills us with God's life [Espíritu Santo]

holy water water that has been blessed. It is used to remind us of our Baptism. [agua bendita]

Holy Week the week that celebrates the events of Jesus' giving us the Eucharist, his suffering, Death, and Resurrection [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 to God or a person the respect that they are owed [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]

J

Jesus the Son of God, who was born of the Virgin Mary, died, was raised from the dead, ascended into Heaven, and saves us so that we can live with God forever [\[Jesús\]](#)

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 [\[José\]](#)

K

Kingdom of God God's rule over us. We experience the Kingdom of God in part now. We will experience it fully in Heaven. [\[reino de Dios\]](#)

L

Last Supper the last meal Jesus ate with his disciples on the night before he died. Every Mass is a remembrance of that last meal. [\[Última Cena\]](#)

Lectionary for Mass the book from which the stories from the Bible are read at Mass [\[Leccionario\]](#)

Lent six weeks during which we prepare to celebrate, with special prayers and actions, 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 see that Jesus is the light that leads us to the Father [\[luz del mundo\]](#)

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 become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. We 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. [Liturgia de la Palabra]

M

Magnificat Mary's song of praise to God. She praises him for the great things he has done for her and for his plans for us through Jesus. [Magnificat]

Mary the mother of Jesus. She is "full of grace" because God chose her to be Jesus' mother. [María]

Mass our most important means of praying to God. At Mass we listen to God's Word, the Bible. The bread and wine are consecrated and become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. [misa]

Messiah a title, like *Christ*, that means "anointed with oil." *Messiah* also means "Savior." [Mesías]

ministry the service, or work, done for others. Ministry is 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 serving the needs of others. [ministerio]

miracle the healing of a person, or an occasion when nature is controlled because of God's action [milagro]

moral choice a choice to do what is right. We make moral choices because they help us grow closer to God. [opción moral]

mortal sin a serious choice to turn away from God [pecado mortal]

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 del Señor]

neighbor for a Christian, every other person, as each person is made in God's image [prójimo]

New Testament the story of Jesus and the early Church [Nuevo Testamento]

O

obey to follow the teachings given by God or by someone who has the right to direct us [obedecer]

Old Testament the story of God's plan for Salvation before the birth of Jesus [[Antiguo Testamento](#)]

Ordinary Time the longest liturgical season of the Church. It is divided into two periods—one after the Christmas season and one after Pentecost. [[Tiempo Ordinario](#)]

Original Sin the result of the sin of Adam and Eve. They disobeyed God and chose to follow their own will rather than God's will. [[pecado original](#)]

P

parable one of the simple stories that Jesus told to show us what God wants for the world [[parábola](#)]

parish a community of believers in Jesus Christ who meet regularly to worship God together [[parroquia](#)]

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 so that we can live as God wants us to live (*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](#)]

petition a request we make to God, asking for what we need since we know that he created us and wants to give us what we need [[petición](#)]

pope the bishop of Rome, successor of Saint Peter, and leader of the Roman Catholic Church [**Papa**]

praise our telling of the happiness we feel simply because God is so good [**alabanza**]

prayer our talking to God and listening to him in our hearts [**oración**]

priest a man who accepts God's special call to serve the Church. Priests guide the Church and lead it in the celebration of the sacraments. [**sacerdote**]

R

reconciliation making friends again after a friendship has been broken by some action or lack of action. In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, we are reconciled with God, the Church, and others. [**Reconciliación**]

Resurrection the bodily raising of Jesus Christ from the dead on the third day after he died on the cross [**Resurrección**]

rite the special form followed in celebrating each sacrament [**rito**]

S

sacrament the way in which God enters our life. Through simple objects such as water, oil, and bread, Jesus continues to bless us. [**sacramento**]

Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation the sacrament in which we celebrate God's forgiveness of our sins when we say to the priest that we are sorry for them [sacramento de la Penitencia y de la Reconciliación]

Sacraments of Initiation the sacraments that make us members of God's Church. They are Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. [sacramentos de iniciación]

Sacrifice of the Mass remembering the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. We remember Jesus' sacrifice every time we celebrate Mass. [Sacrificio de la misa]

saint a holy person who has died as a true friend of God and now lives with God forever [santo]

Savior Jesus, the Son of God, who became man to make us friends with God again. *Jesus* means "God saves." [Salvador]

seal of confession refers to the fact that the priest must keep absolutely secret the sins that are confessed to him in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation [sigilo sacramental]

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]

sin a choice we make that hurts our friendships with God and with other people [pecado]

Son of God the name given to Jesus that reveals his special relationship to God the Father [Hijo de Dios]

T

tabernacle the container in which the Blessed Sacrament is kept so that Holy Communion can be taken to those who are sick [sagrario]

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 a thought or feeling that can lead us to disobey God. Temptation can come either from outside us or inside us. [tentación]

Ten Commandments the ten rules that God gave to Moses. The Ten Commandments sum up God's law and show us how to live as his children. [Diez Mandamientos]

transubstantiation when the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ [transubstanciación]

trespasses acts that harm others [ofensas]

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

V

venial sin a choice we make that weakens our relationships with God or with other people [pecado venial]