APPENDICES 1 – 12
Appendix 1: God’s Plan of Salvation -- A Summary

(Used with permission, Diocese of Green Bay, WI)

It is very important that before we dive into the religion Course of Study each year, we set the stage with an overview of God’s plan of salvation – the adventurous story of God’s unfailing love for us, his persistence in drawing us back to himself, and the characters along the way who succeed and fail in their quest for holiness.

The context of the Story of Salvation will provide the proper foundation for the rest of your catechetical instruction. The Story can be taught as a one-day lesson, or a week long lesson. Each teacher must make a determination of how long they will take to present the Story to their students.

It is important that the story be presented so that each of us can understand our place and purpose in the larger plan of God, as well as how the Church is central to God’s plan of salvation for the world.

An overview of God’s plan is to be presented at the beginning of each year, and should be revisited periodically during the year as the subject matter or liturgical season warrants. Please make the presentation appropriate to the grade level.

1. God is a communion of Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The three Persons in one God is the Blessed Trinity. God has no beginning and no end. (CCC 234, 232, 237)

2. God is our Father Who loves us and cares for us. God created each person to be united with Him. (CCC 426, 301, 759, 305, 375, 2014)

3. God created everything out of nothing. (CCC 296-298, 338)

4. God created angels as spiritual beings. Angels are God’s messengers. We all have our own personal guardian angel. Our guardian angel keeps constant, watchful care over us and guides us and protects us on our journey to God in Heaven. (CCC 328-329, 331-333, 336)

5. All of the angels were put to a test to see if they would be faithful to God. Lucifer and some of the angels completely rejected God and they became Satan and his demons. (Revelation 12:7-9) (CCC 391-395)

6. God created Adam and Eve in His image and likeness. He created Adam and Eve and the whole human race to know, love and serve Him so that we can be united with Him both here and forever in Heaven. Adam and Eve were united fully with God through sanctifying grace within their souls, a participation in God’s Divine Life. (CCC, 362-366, 356-357, 374-376, 1934)

7. Adam and Eve were put to a test to see if they would be faithful to God. Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan and they disobeyed God. The first sin of Adam and Eve (the Original Sin) separated them from God. They and all their descendants lost the union with God for which they had been created. They no longer had sanctifying grace within their souls. (CCC 396-400, 402-406, 418)

8. God alone could fix the problem of sin and reunite all people to Himself. Thankfully, God promised a Savior (Genesis 3:15). Only the Savior could bring us back to the purpose for which we were created being united with God (communion with God). In the Old Testament, God began to form His people through Abraham. Moses was given the Law so that the people knew how to live in order to be faithful
to the one true God. The Israelites could not be faithful to the God’s Law because they did not have sanctifying grace, a share in God’s life, to strengthen them. The prophets told the people to prepare for the Messiah, who would bring about a salvation which would include all the nations. Through the Savior, God would keep His promise to reunite us with Himself as adopted children. (CCC 410-412, 420-421, 54-64, 2570-2589)

9. Jesus is God. Jesus was born as man on the first Christmas as our Savior. This is called the Incarnation. (CCC 464, 461, 463, 443-445)

10. Mary’s “yes” to God to be the Mother of Jesus made our salvation possible. Since Mary is the Mother of Jesus and Jesus is God, we rightly call Mary the Mother of God. (CCC 494-495, 497, 509, 485, 723)

11. Jesus began the foundation of the Church by preaching the Good News, instituting the seven sacraments and establishing the Church. The structure consisted of the twelve Apostles with Peter as the head. He taught about love and the forgiveness of God who wanted to be in relationship with us. (CCC 763-766, 759, 1114)

12. Jesus suffered, died on the cross and rose on Easter Sunday. Jesus did this to save us from the power of sin and death and to reunite us with Himself. (CCC 612, 616, 619, 629, 639-640, 654)

13. The Church was born from the flow of blood and water from the open side of the crucified Christ: the water of Baptism and the Blood of the Eucharist. (CCC 766)

14. Christ’s work of redemption was accomplished by His Suffering, Death, Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven. These four events are called the Paschal Mystery. (CCC 1067)

15. Forty days after the Resurrection, Jesus ascended to His Father, which we celebrate on the Ascension. Ten days later, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit on Pentecost to remain with us until the end of time. (CCC 665, 731-732, 233)

16. At Pentecost the Holy Spirit strengthened the Apostles to imitate Christ. The Holy Spirit empowered them to administer the Sacraments, to teach what Jesus had taught them and to lead the Church. Pentecost is when we celebrate the public manifestation of the Catholic Church. (CCC 767, 747, 771-773, 1585, 780, 1076)

17. Christ’s Paschal Mystery restores the gift of God’s indwelling presence (sanctifying grace) lost through the sin of Adam and Eve. This indwelling presence is a participation in God’s Divine Life. We are only able to live the Christian life with the aid of supernatural grace received through the Church by the Sacraments and from actual grace through a life of daily prayer and discipleship. (CCC 1226-1228, 1265-1266, 747, 1996-2000)

18. Jesus will come again in glory with the Kingdom of God in its fullness. He will judge the living and the dead and those who have chosen to follow Jesus will reign forever with Him. He will bring His Family into full union with Him and put an end to suffering and death forever. (CCC 1040, 1042-1045)
Appendix 2: PreK-8 Developmental Characteristics and Catechesis

(Used with permission, Diocese of Green Bay, WI)

Characteristics of a Pre-School/Kindergarten Child

- They are beginning to understand turn taking
- Show difficulty following through on a task
- Become easily distracted
- They are still not able to wait very long regardless of their reward
- Learn best when they engage in hands on, tactile experiences
- Become overexcited in group activities
- Learn well by singing songs, finger plays, and rhymes
- Will begin to talk in groups about family experiences
- Can retell a story with three to four steps or details
- Will try and write their own name
- Can string small beads and do simple patterns
- Can draw simple shapes and simple people
- Show difficulty sharing objects
- Ask many who, what, where, when questions but have a more challenging time responding to questions of this nature back to them

Faith and Moral Development Characteristics/Needs

- Learn who Jesus is through stories
- Desire to be loved and affirmed
- Learn virtue by practicing and modeling good behavior and modeling poor behavior to deter them from sinful behavior

Catechetical Implications

- As a prime role model for the Children, the teacher of the faith needs to have a strong relationship with God through prayer and active involvement with a faith community

Prayers to Learn

Children in pre-school/kindergarten should be introduced to the new prayers and encouraged to practice the previously learned prayers. They should be able to recite with some guidance.

- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be
- Prayer before Meals
- Guardian Angel Prayer
- Short Mass Responses
Children of this age group should be participating in the following forms of prayer:

- Spontaneous Prayer
- Gestures: Genuflection, Sign of the Cross, blessing oneself with Holy Water
- Song as prayer
- Reflection: thinking about God and listening while reading from Scripture
- Silence: at Mass or in the Church
- Participate in a decade of the rosary/introduce joyful mysteries
- Saint intercession

Children of this age should know and recognize the following sacramental:

- Crucifix
- Bible
- Images of Jesus and Mary
- Rosary – as a way to pray with Mary
- Items in the Church: Tabernacle, Presider’s chair, Holy Water font, Crucifix, candles, chalice, altar
1st Grade

**Characteristics of a 1st grade Child**

- Is able to attend to and engage in classroom activities for longer than kindergarten.
- Thrive in a structured environment.
- Learning to read and write and other related intellectual skills.
- Memorization is helpful tool for children to learn at this age.
- They understand the concept of “story” and can retell them from beginning to end.
- Some may even begin to interpret the “moral” or “lesson” to be taught in the story. Others can be told the moral and understanding of that moral can be achieved.
- Is moving from ego-centric behavior toward an awareness of others.
- Entering with excitement into peer groups/exercising social skills that develop friendships.
- May need guidance in handling conflict, boundaries and social skills among peers.
- Recognizes basic unity of society is family and that he/she is part of a family.
- Recognizes that friends and family are special and different than stranger.
- Enjoy being part of the “action”, like to be first and like to win.
- Recognizes differences between “good” and “bad”.
- Self-worth is fragile, so children must be corrected and disciplined in a manner in which their self-worth is not damaged.
- Moving further along in the Obedience and Punishment phase: they are beginning to understand on their own when something is wrong.
- May fall into a “tattling” habit at this age.

**Faith and Moral Development Characteristics/Needs**

- Six-year olds, in order to develop spiritually, emotionally, physically, intellectually and socially need to be loved so as to love. Faith has its roots in love.
- Faith, Hope and Love must be taught and fostered at this age.
- Security and belonging is important at this age.
- Recognizes that he/she belongs to the family of God.
- Should be taught the stories of their family in faith (stories first from Scripture then from the Church and the lives of the saints).
- Needs to be recognized and appreciated as a unique individual created in God’s image and is precious.
- Are capable of recognizing symbols of liturgy.
- Tour of the Church.
- Sacred Vessels.
- Sacramentals: rosary, holy water etc.
- Needs to be involved in group prayer and religious activities and needs to be taught and encouraged to do one on one prayer.
- Are able to learn virtue through different training opportunities: Virtues are like muscles; they develop as we use them.
- Obedience, generosity, kindness, prudence.
- Can be taught virtues from Jesus and other models from Scripture and their own ;ives (priests, parents, grandparents).
- Is able to show respect and love for others because that is the “good” and “right” thing to do.
- Are capable of understanding that actions have consequences.
Need to be taught to be responsible and independent making decisions so as not to cause unwanted consequences

Opportunities for self-reflection are possible

Is able to ask and give forgiveness

Beginning to identify when another is in need and they should help

Need to begin to learn the structure of the Church Hierarchy

Should be encouraged to ask the question: What does God want me to be? (we must begin to instill in them the concept of God as a divine architect of our lives)

**Catechetical Implications**

As a prime role model for the children, the teacher of the faith needs to have a strong relationship with God through prayer and active involvement with a faith community

Catechists should be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church

**Prayers to Learn**

Children in first grade should be introduced to the new prayers and encouraged to practice the previously learned prayers. They should be able to recite with some guidance.

- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be and Fatima Prayer
- Prayer before Meals
- Guardian Angel Prayer
- Introduce the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary
- Mass Responses

Children of this age group should be participating in the following forms of prayer:

- Spontaneous Prayer
- Gestures: Genuflection, Sign of the Cross, blessing oneself with Holy Water
- Song as prayer
- Reflection: thinking about God and listening while reading from Scripture
- Silence: at Mass or in the Church
- Participate in a decade of the rosary/introduce joyful mysteries
- Saint intercession

Children of this age should know and recognize the following sacramental:

- Crucifix
- Bible
- Images of Jesus and Mary
- Rosary – as a way to pray with Mary
- Items in the Church: Tabernacle, Presider’s chair, Holy Water font, Crucifix, candles, chalice, altar
2nd Grade

Characteristics of a 2nd grade child

- Are beginning to develop a set of actions and patterns based on those whom they love and admire in their lives
- Have an interest in how things are made/work
- Are reaching the age of reason and are cognizant of “right” and “wrong” and the freedom they have to choose between the two
- Their attention span is slowly growing to a 15-20 minute attention span (depending on the task and the abstract thinking that is involved)
- Abstract learning is developing, but concrete examples and learning are still the best way to educate at this level
- Memorization and questions are a positive way to learn at this age: Prayers and Scripture
- Routine and habits help them to achieve independence which in turn helps to build self-esteem
- Appreciates family situations and social networks (church, scouts etc.) and rituals
- Are capable of working in a group and are developing social circles and closer individual friendships (may pair off with friends whom they prefer)

Faith/Moral Characteristics and Needs

- Show an interest in God’s greatness and beauty
- Appreciates identity as a member of a group and/or family, yet recognizes uniqueness of individuals within the group
- Can identify situations in which another may need help and takes responsibility to offer help
- Needs opportunity to offer their gifts and talents; to know they are needed in some capacity
- Need freedom to make choices and need help to realize what the effects of the different choices may be
- Need to be taught that faith is our response to God. He gives himself to us and we make a choice to respond in faith
- Children should be taught to be “good” out of love for God and not out of fear of punishment
- Need to hear what Christ taught and see what he did in order to make a choice to follow and live as he lived (Lives of the saints as examples
- Consciences can be formed in 7 year olds by charitable yet firm discipline
- Are capable of giving and receiving mercy from another person and also from God
- Need to be taught the value of prayer, not just as talking to God or asking him for something but rather as an opportunity to deepen our relationship with him/to be with him
- Need to experience aspects of the faith by listening and thinking and also by imitating and doing
- Need to understand and handle constructively their feelings and emotions
**Catechetical Implications**

- As a prime role model for the children, the teacher of the faith needs to have a strong relationship with God through prayer and active involvement with a faith community.
- As they learn to imitate adults, the adult faith influences in their lives must be very deliberate in what they choose to model.
- Need help and demonstration in the development of the examination of Conscience (may have trouble with things in the recent and the long time past).
- Catechists must be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church.

**Prayers to Learn**

Children in second grade should be introduced to the new prayers and encouraged to practice the previously learned prayers. They should be able to recite with some guidance. Prayers particular to this grade are in bold.

- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be and Fatima Prayer
- Prayer before Meals
- Guardian Angel Prayer
- Introduce the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary
- Mass Responses
- Act of Contrition
- Introduced to Apostles’ and Nicene Creed
- Introduced to Stations of the Cross

Children of this age group should be participating in the following forms of prayer:

- Spontaneous Prayer
- Gestures: Genuflection, Sign of the Cross, blessing oneself with Holy Water
- Song as prayer
- Reflection: thinking about God and listening while reading from Scripture
- Silence: at Mass or in the Church
- Participate in a Rosary
- Saint intercession
- Participate in the Stations of the Cross

Children of this age should know and recognize the following sacramental:

- Crucifix
- Bible
- Images of Jesus and Mary
- Rosary – as a way to pray with Mary
- Items in the Church: Tabernacle, Presider’s chair, Holy Water font, Crucifix, candles, chalice, altar, vestments, ciborium, hosts, wine, ambo, purificator, corporal, cruets, thurible, incense, missal
- Images of Saints
3rd Grade

Characteristics of a 3rd Grader

- Take on group identity at this age
- Because of group consciousness they like to do events and activities where they plan and complete the activity
- Looks forward to social activities and situations
- Learning at this age to take responsibilities seriously, their self-image is fragile and can be easily disturbed or hurt by an influential adult at this age. Support and encouragement is needed.
- Are learning “good girl” and “nice boy” social expectations (may be critical or judge themselves according to these standards)
- Tend to identify with groups of friends of the same sex and dislike being identified with the opposite sex
- May be moody and sensitive at this age
- Begin to enjoy reading and writing for entertainment
- Have independent computer knowledge and technology skills
- Increased self-confidence and less cautious than younger children
- Greater physical energy and growing curiosity in various interests
- Developing ability to feel empathy and compassion

Faith and Moral Development Needs

- Eight-year olds need stimulating personal and group relationships that foster feelings of belonging and being cared for and caring for others
- They need positive reassurance for their fragile self-images - from adults who also do the discipline and correction. They need examples of firm discipline with unconditional love.
- They need positive experiences of the Christian community and the Church (exposure to catechists, priests and bishops who love and support the community)
- Children at this time are starting to appreciate independent and “alone time”. They need opportunities to grow in meditative prayer and reading Scripture. It is helpful for 3rd graders to be given opportunities to reflect, pray, and write about what has been presented to them.
- Confidence and social awareness may foster attitudes of arrogance or categorizing of others: children need for charity and love of all people to be enforced to see all people, even though they are different are God’s creation and deserve respect
- Children at this age need to learn that true joy and peace in life come from a relationship and life lived with God. Following Christ and living his commands bring us real happiness
- Instructors go beyond just forming virtuous habits in the children, they now need it posed as a choice all are called make. To be virtuous is to choose to do good things.
- Need to be taught the differences between choosing worldly attitudes and choosing to have a Godly attitude. They are capable of recognizing that those who love God are different than those who choose to not know God.
- Need to be taught to resist temptations that may be presented in a group
- Third graders are in a phase when they begin to emulate “heroes”; they need to be presented with Godly heroes who will help them to be the saints they are called to be
- Lives of the saints
- Priests, bishops, popes
- Parents, friends, family who live the faith
**Catechetical Implications**

- As a prime role model for the children, the teacher of the faith needs to have a strong relationship with God through prayer and active involvement with a faith community.
- Catechists should be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church.

**Prayers to Learn**

Children in third grade should be introduced to the new prayers and encouraged to practice the previously learned prayers. They should be able to recite with some guidance. Prayers particular to this grade are in bold.

- **Sign of the Cross**
- **Our Father**
- **Hail Mary**
- **Glory Be and Fatima Prayer**
- **Prayer before Meals**
- **Guardian Angel Prayer**
- **Mass Responses**
- **Act of Contrition**
- **Introduced to Apostles’ and Nicene Creed**
- **Introduced to Stations of the Cross**
- **Mysteries of the Rosary: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious**

Children of this age group should be participating in the following forms of prayer:

- **Spontaneous Prayer**
- **Gestures: Genuflection, Sign of the Cross, blessing oneself with Holy Water**
- **Song as prayer**
- **Reflection: thinking about God and listening while reading from Scripture**
- **Silence: at Mass or in the Church**
- **Participate in a Rosary**
- **Saint intercession**
- **Participate in the Stations of the Cross**

**Prayer Journaling**

Children of this age should know and recognize the following sacramental:

- **Crucifix**
- **Bible**
- **Images of Jesus and Mary**
- **Rosary – as a way to pray with Mary**
- **Items in the Church: Tabernacle, Presider’s chair, Holy Water font, Crucifix, candles, chalice, altar, vestments, ciborium, hosts, wine, ambo, purificator, corporal, cruets, thurible, incense, missal, images of Saints, Icons**
4th Grade

Characteristics of a 4th grade Child

- Enthusiasm, activity and self-confidence characterize this year
- Steady growth physically and mentally: Developing athletic skills
- Become fixated and engrossed in what they love
- More independent and motivated than even one year prior
- Mood swings can occur more significantly at age 9-from timid to bold, from cheerful to grumpy
- Learns from observation as well as direct instruction
- Like to plan and know where they are going. After starting a task it brings great accomplishment for them to follow it through
- Starting to organize time and may develop lists or schedules
- Starting to apply academic skills to real life: may start to save money to buy a much wanted item
- Reading and writing for personal enjoyment
- Starting to collect things: interests are very unique and distinct
- Want to please adults but peer group is central in importance
- Not only follows rules, but sees the need and importance for them; they want others to live by the rules and become frustrated when rules are not followed
- Have an interest in world affairs and global situations: cultures, people, government etc.
- Growing in awareness of Justice, and social justice issues
- Has an interest in preteen culture (music, movies, books etc.)
- Continuing to develop relationships primarily with the same sex
- Enjoy shared experiences with family and friends

Faith and Moral Development Characteristics/Needs

- Because they are prone to mood swings and get emotional when they are overtaxed, adults need to be patient and understanding while encouraging them. Try not to be irritated or impatient with their emotions.
- Because they want to be part of the group and be accepted, they need help in learning to resolve and deal with differences and conflict among peers. They need help accepting that people may think differently-this is acceptable. Learning to love and care for those who are unique and different is a very Godly way to live.
- They need to be free to make choices and encouraged when they choose the virtuous and moral path
- They need to be encouraged in their “rule following” “obedience” tendencies to look to the church for direction and instruction. This is a great opportunity to instill following Christ’s law of love and the 10 commandments.
- The desire to dive into interests should also include faith related activities not just interests in pop culture: faith related books, movies, saints, devotions etc.
- Need to learn about global and local social ills. Need to be encouraged to participate in caring of bringing solutions to those in need.
- Because they are “coming into their own” and are finding confidence in who they are, this is a great time to encourage them to reflect on what God might be asking them of their lives. When we form conscience it should be a reflection on “How does God want us to act”. Or when choosing a path in life, “What does God want me to be?”
- Encourage to participate in daily prayer: reading Scripture, learn about saints, journaling etc.
Catechetical Implications

As a prime role model for the children, the teacher of the faith needs to have a strong relationship with God through prayer and active involvement with a faith community. Catechists should be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church.

Prayers to Learn

Children in fourth grade should be introduced to the new prayers and encouraged to practice the previously learned prayers. They should be able to recite with some guidance. Prayers particular to this grade are in bold.

- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be and Fatima Prayer
- Prayer before Meals
- Guardian Angel Prayer
- Mass Responses
- Act of Contrition
- Introduced to Apostles’ and Nicene Creed
- Introduced to Stations of the Cross
- Mysteries of the Rosary: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious,
- Luminous
- Memorare
- Hail Holy Queen
- Angelus

Children of this age group should be participating in the following forms of prayer:

- Spontaneous Prayer
- Gestures: Genuflection, Sign of the Cross, blessing oneself with Holy Water
- Song as prayer
- Reflection: thinking about God and listening while reading from Scripture
- Silence: at Mass or in the Church
- Participate in a Rosary
- Saint intercession
- Participate in the Stations of the Cross
- Novena to Sacred Heart of Jesus

Children of this age should know and recognize the following sacramental:

- Crucifix
- Bible
- Images of Jesus and Mary
- Rosary – as a way to pray with Mary
- Items in the Church: Tabernacle, Presider’s chair, Holy Water font, Crucifix, candles, chalice, altar, vestments, ciborium, hosts, wine, ambo, purificator, corporal, cruets, thurible, incense, missal
- Images of Saints/Icons
- Introduce the Catechism
- Relics
**Characteristics of a 5th grade Child**

- Fifth graders are no longer little children but are not quite adolescents. They are in a phase of pre-adolescence.
- They develop with spurts of energy and also periods of laziness.
- Girls are beginning to show physical signs and awareness of approaching puberty. Boys show less signs concerns and less physical maturity. (Demonstrated differences in size and shape even among people of the sex)
- Personalities are well developed and have a wide range of interests.
- Like sports and outdoor activities; ae deeply involved in personal interests (joining sports teams and clubs, may be involved in more than one activity)
- Have developed overall sense of well-being and peace with the world.
- Relationships are a focus for children this age: boys are more fluid and harmonious as opposed to upheaval and intense relationships among girls
- Talents and abilities are beginning to be identified (not just as interest)
- Admires talents and abilities in peers, famous people, adult examples: sports, talents, jobs etc. and can be influenced by such individuals
- Generally, they like school and are becoming more and more conscientious in personal school work
- They are open to the world around them and well on their way to understand the world’s diversity and immensity
- Are still open to close family relationships and companionship
- They make friends easily at this age and are able to make valuable contributions to the groups they are involved with
- They have a strong desire for peer acceptance
- At a time when they begin to appreciate the aesthetic value/poetic value to life and all creation
- Have begun a time in life when they may want to begin to volunteer or serve on a regular basis (they are of valuable service to the people around them)

**Faith and Moral Development Characteristics/Needs**

- Need acceptance by the peers in their lives. From them they develop a sense of self-worth and ability to find themselves in a group. Children should be supported to know that if not cared for by their peers that they are loved and valued by God and others.
- Need key adults to help them understand the growth and changes that are happening in their personal development: growth in gifts and talents. They should be encouraged to thank God for their gifts and consider what he may intend them to use them for.
- Teachers need to help students experience God’s love no matter how awkward or unsure they may feel.
- Need parents and/or key adults to help them understand the physical and emotional changes happening to persons their age.
- Adults need to help develop aesthetic-the good, true and the beautiful that is in all God made and in the Church. This is an appropriate time to explore the depth and beauty of the catholic life and the sacraments.
Liturgy and being united in the Body of Christ is key to their commitment to the Church; need to be encouraged to share faith with friends and look for ways they can be incorporated into the community.

They need help now seeing God as a partner as one who walks with them in life. He is the ultimate peer. He is someone who will always accept them, be silent with them and love them unconditionally.

They should be encouraged to participate in daily prayer, reading of Scripture, meditation and journaling.

This is also a key time to be introducing concepts of the Dignity of the Human Person. This is to include opportunities and ways to serve those in need especially through the gift of prayer. Current areas of concern are world peace, hunger, rights of the oppressed, and the right to life for all people.

**Catechetical Implications**

- As a prime role model for the children, the teacher of the faith needs to have a strong relationship with God through prayer and active involvement with a faith community.
- Catechists should be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church.

**Prayers to Learn**

Children in fifth grade should be introduced to the new prayers and encouraged to practice the previously learned prayers. They should be able to recite with some guidance. Prayers particular to this grade are in bold.

- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be and Fatima Prayer
- Prayer before Meals
- Guardian Angel Prayer
- Mass Responses
- Act of Contrition
- Introduced to Apostles’ and Nicene Creed
- Introduced to Stations of the Cross
- Mysteries of the Rosary: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, Luminous
- Memorare
- Hail Holy Queen
- Angelus
- **St. Michael Prayer**
- Litanies

Children of this age group should be participating in the following forms of prayer:

- Spontaneous Prayer
- Gestures: Genuflection, Sign of the Cross, blessing oneself with Holy Water
- Song as prayer
- Reflection: thinking about God and listening while reading from Scripture
Silence: at Mass or in the Church
Participate in a Rosary
Saint intercession
Participate in the Stations of the Cross, Novena, Sacred Heart of Jesus

Children of this age should know and recognize the following sacramental:

- Crucifix
- Bible
- Images of Jesus and Mary
- Rosary – as a way to pray with Mary
- Items in the Church: Tabernacle, Presider’s chair, Holy Water font, Crucifix, candles, chalice, altar, vestments, ciborium, hosts, wine, ambo, purificator, corporal, cruets, thurible, incense, missal
- Images of Saints/Icons
- Introduce the Catechism
- Relics
Characteristics of a 6th grade Child

- Can vary in behavior and energy level from alert and outgoing to lethargic and lazy
- Likes now to “hang out” in peer groups
- May feel like “they don’t fit” are not young children but not quite in adolescence yet
- Can become easily argumentative, sad, and sensitive due to hormonal changes
- Is developing loyalty to close friends and highly influenced by peer opinions
- Is developing increased awareness of the opposite sex but may not have appropriate social skills to express this interest
- Increased sensitivity to criticism especially in front of peers
- Beginning to challenge authority
- Looking for heroes or individuals to emulate in popular culture
- Is aware of a sense of history – where did they come from
- Depends on support of the family while wanting at the same time to be independent of the family
- They have increased physical growth and are developing new emotional patterns
- They have increased interest in body development, sexual curiosity intensifies and they need to begin taking care of their own bodies (some may be ambivalent to this). They take interest in clothes and things that will improve physical appearance (this has nothing to do with if it actually does improve appearance!)
- They are very comfortable with abstract reasoning and are interested with historical truths and are beginning to seek the Truth

Faith and Moral Development Characteristics/Needs

- Because of self-consciousness they need to be led to understand to accept themselves as they are, created in God’s image with the potential to mature into adult with a unique and valuable role in the world and in the Church
- They are beginning to question and possibly rebel. They need reasonable and rational explanations to their questions about the meaning of life
- They need to learn to think rationally through things and make moral judgments based on the truth and Christian principles (realizing that each choice or decision they make can cause harm to themselves, their relationship with God and their relationships with others)
- They have a true sense of history, they need to learn where they came from as a person of faith. They need to learn the good and the bad of the people of God-but always focusing on God’s plan to save us.
- Pre-adolescents, because of their awareness of themselves, their impulses and their feelings, develop definite ideas about their life work. The catechist should encourage them to learn about vocations and especially consider vocations to priesthood and religious life. Ask questions, “what might God want you to do with your life?”
- Since these students are beginning to experience the inner “world” of emotions, confusion, indolence, the catechist can help to develop the realization that in every situation we have human temptation and passions, but we also have intellect and will. WE ALWAYS HAVE A CHOICE. They should be encouraged to make virtuous ones.
It is necessary to foster in these students the virtue of hope. They have a strong understanding of evil in the world and good that God has done. They should know that with God all things are possible. They need a safe and secure place to ask questions and be heard (and understood). They are trying to integrate all they are learning into the reality of their existence. They need a forum to be accepted and encouraged to love God and make him real in their lives. Peer pressure is huge at this point in their lives, they need to be taught to encourage one another in virtuous and good ways. In teaching them to pray the catechist should remember that learning to pray is much different than learning prayers. They should be encouraged to pray daily. To take their needs to God to listen to him and to take to God the decisions that need to make in their daily lives. This encouragement to discern indicates to them that God is the Master Architect for their lives and he is invested in all things— he cares even about the smallest details of their lives.

**Catechetical Implications**

As a prime role model for the children, the teacher of the faith needs to have a strong relationship with God through prayer and active involvement with a faith community.

**Prayers to Learn**

Children in sixth grade should be introduced to the new prayers and encouraged to practice the previously learned prayers. They should be able to recite with some guidance. Prayers particular to this grade are in bold.

- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be and Fatima Prayer
- Prayer before Meals
- Guardian Angel Prayer
- Mass Responses
- Act of Contrition
- Introduced to Apostles’ and Nicene Creed
- Introduced to Stations of the Cross
- Mysteries of the Rosary: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, Luminous
- Memorare
- Hail Holy Queen
- Angelus
- St. Michael Prayer
- Litanies
- **Divine Mercy Chaplet**

Children of this age group should be participating in the following forms of prayer:

- Spontaneous Prayer
- Gestures: Genuflection, Sign of the Cross, blessing oneself with Holy Water
- Song as Prayer
- Reflection: thinking about God and listening while reading from Scripture
- Silence at Mass or in the Church
- Participate in a Rosary
Saint Intercession
Participate in the Stations of the Cross, Novena, Sacred Heart of Jesus

Adoration

Children of this age should know and recognize the following sacramental:

- Crucifix
- Bible
- Images of Jesus and Mary
- Rosary – as a way to pray with Mary
- Items in the Church: Tabernacle, Presider’s chair, Holy Water font, Crucifix, candles, chalice, altar, vestments, ciborium, hosts, wine, ambo, purificator, corporal, cruets, thurible, incense, missal
- Images of Saints/Icons
- Introduce the Catechism
- Relics
7th Grade

Characteristics of a 7th grade Child

- One characteristic of 12-year olds is rapid growth: physical, emotional, social and spiritual. As a result they feel awkward, self-conscious and uncertain. Their interior turmoil and self-doubt are often expressed in symptoms associated with adolescence: boredom, frustration, sharp mood swings, withdrawal and apathy.
- Between different children of this age variation in physical, emotional social and spiritual development is great.
- Twelve-year olds may be experiencing sudden, sharp, and short lived pains in various parts of their bodies; they are growing and maturing.
- Very aware of the changes in persons of the opposite sex.
- Are impacted greatly by his/her changing body and newly acquired ability to think abstractly.
- Struggle to express autonomy and need.
- They thrive when are able to experience new opportunities to have positive experiences with new gifts and talents from both mind and body.
- Are challenged when encouraged to think and engage in experiences that elicit deep compassion for another.
- Have great introspective tendencies (great for journaling and meditation).
- Demonstrates a desire to see justice and fairness for all.
- Experiences affirming and positive relationships with both sexes.
- Beginning to question all forms of authority in their lives- may act rebellious, antagonistic and negative toward adults.
- May consider peer approval more important than adult approval.

Faith and Moral Development Characteristics/Needs

- Twelve-year olds need to come to terms with the influence of peers and responsible decision making. They need to cultivate the courage and strength to make the right decisions.
- They need to learn to develop self-discipline and sensitivity to others – this could be a very selfish time as well as one that fosters respect/disrespect for others.
- They need to learn to deal positively with their own mistakes and failures. They should be encouraged by God’s unconditional promise of love and presence. Acceptance and love can be found in the Church.
- Young adolescents need to experience love, freedom, belonging, trust, support and acceptance. They need to be respected as persons. This speaks to them of their dignity – they should be assured of their hope and salvation through Christ and Baptism.
- Young people should be encouraged and need to understand sexuality and the Humanity we have been given as a gift from God. It should not be disrespected or treated casually.
- Adults should encourage friendships with both sexes that foster respect for the dignity of each person.
- Adolescents must be taught to live virtuously, that true happiness does not come from following friends or worldly examples, but rather true happiness comes from following Christ.
- The Catechist needs to lead the young people to continued knowledge of the faith, more involvement in the sacraments, a deeper prayer life, and to reflection on Christian living.
- Young people want to know practical knowledge of Catholic tradition and how to apply the teachings of the church to everyday life. They need adults to offer and foster examples of this.
Adolescents are bombarded with the profane in their lives. Adults should offer to deepen the experience of the sacred—things that are true, good and beautiful. Expose them to opportunities to learn reverence and the presence of God (tabernacle, adoration etc.)

At this age, the need to understand and appreciate the operations of the various powers of intellect, will and the sense appetite. Adults should teach that the interior turmoil they feel is typical of most maturing individuals. They need to be patient with themselves while doing all they can to master these inner struggles. They should also be taught the grace that comes from God through sacraments and prayer. They simply need to go to God for help.

Catechetical Implications

As a prime role model for the children, the teacher of the faith needs to have a strong relationship with God through prayer and active involvement with a faith community

Catechists should be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church

Prayers to Learn

Children in seventh grade should be introduced to the new prayers and encouraged to practice the previously learned prayers. They should be able to recite with some guidance. Prayers particular to this grade are in bold.

- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be and Fatima Prayer
- Prayer before Meals
- Guardian Angel Prayer
- Mass Responses
- Act of Contrition
- Introduced to Apostles’ and Nicene Creed
- Introduced to Stations of the Cross
- Mysteries of the Rosary: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, Luminous
- Memorare
- Hail Holy Queen
- Angelus
- St. Michael Prayer
- Litanies
- Divine Mercy Chaplet
- **Divine Praises**
- **Anima Christi**

Children of this age group should be participating in the following forms of prayer:

- Spontaneous Prayer
- Gestures: Genuflection, Sign of the Cross, blessing oneself with Holy Water
- Song as Prayer
- Reflection: thinking about God and listening while reading from Scripture
- Silence at Mass or in the Church
- Participate in a Rosary
- Saint Intercession
Participate in the Stations of the Cross, Novena, Sacred Heart of Jesus
Adoration
**Daily examination of conscience**

Children of this age should know and recognize the following sacramental:

- Crucifix
- Bible
- Images of Jesus and Mary
- Rosary – as a way to pray with Mary
- Items in the Church: Tabernacle, Presider’s chair, Holy Water font, Crucifix, candles, chalice, altar, vestments, ciborium, hosts, wine, ambo, purificator, corporal, cruets, thurible, incense, missal
- Images of Saints/Icons
- Introduce the Catechism
- Relics
8th Grade

Characteristics of an 8th grade Child

- The 13th year of life is one of complex transition involving body, mind and personality. The transition comes sometimes very unexpectedly. Changes in body build and body chemistry affect posture, coordination, appearance, voice and attitude. Body changes intensify awareness of becoming more adult-like. Moods can fluctuate between despair an optimistic self-confidence all the way to arrogance at times.
- They are often the oldest children in the school to which they belong
- They are not always open and communicative. Their lack of communication at times may appear to be apathetic or uninterested (especially when a topic or subject does not stir their interests)
- The young person is beset by interpersonal demands from family, peers, and teachers. Home, school, and peers often conflict and aggravate confusion
- Yet, in the midst of pressures, adolescents usually preserve self-identity and achieve new measures of independence. They meet struggles with heightened awareness of themselves and the world in which they live.
- At 13, they are in a momentous transition. They long for and need security, sympathetic understanding, attention and supportive love in spite of their inability to recognize the need and respond to it appropriately.
- Express a desire for isolation from family
- Tend to be withdrawn, sensitive and uncommunicative
- Worry about body, physical features and personality
- Eighth-graders continue to seek approval from adults and peers and are eager to have friends. They prefer 1 or 2 close friends to large groups (just a few years earlier). They tend to form cliques and identify strongly with peer groups and interests.
- The all-encompassing, all-important question to a 13-year-old is WHO AM I?

Faith and Moral Development Characteristics/Needs

- They need to learn to accept themselves, and their good characteristics and their weaknesses together will help the young person build a strong sense of worth
- Learning to live as Jesus did requires training and guidance this is an age where they can begin to incorporate into their lives the habits and disciplines that will continue to grow virtue and holiness in their lives for the rest of their lives
- Junior-high students also closely identify and begin to form habits of a particular “hero” or person they admire. This is an important time to help them develop “heroes” in the faith. They need to seek out holy examples to model themselves after.
- This is the time where students also begin to form consciences. Junior high students must be taught the appropriate ways to grow their consciences (Scripture, the sacraments, study etc.)
- This is also a tumultuous time in growing in their understanding of sexuality. A real and honest teaching on The Theology of the Body is necessary in this time
- As they are searching for identity in this time it is important to reinforce their identity in Christ and in the Church
- As these young people prepare for high school and eventually adulthood they will be looking to social circles and peers for answers (about life, truth, identity, etc.) it is important that we give them a strong foundation to discern when they are faced with an untruth or serious immoral actions. We have an obligation to help form their consciences.
Catechetical Implications

As a prime role model for the children, the teacher of the faith needs to have a strong relationship with God through prayer and active involvement with a faith community. Catechists must be practicing Catholics in good standing with the Church.

Prayers to Learn

Children in eighth grade should be introduced to the new prayers and encouraged to practice the previously learned prayers. They should be able to recite with some guidance. Prayers particular to this grade are in bold.

- Sign of the Cross
- Our Father
- Hail Mary
- Glory Be and Fatima Prayer
- Prayer before Meals
- Guardian Angel Prayer
- Mass Responses
- Act of Contrition
- Introduced to Apostles’ and Nicene Creed
- Introduced to Stations of the Cross
- Mysteries of the Rosary: Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, Luminous
- Memorare
- Hail Holy Queen
- Angelus
- St. Michael Prayer
- Litanies
- Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Divine Praises
- Anima Christi
- Prayer to Know One’s Vocation

Children of this age group should be participating in the following forms of prayer:

- Spontaneous Prayer
- Gestures: Genuflection, Sign of the Cross, blessing oneself with Holy Water
- Song as Prayer
- Reflection: thinking about God and listening while reading from Scripture
- Silence at Mass or in the Church
- Participate in a Rosary
- Saint Intercession
- Participate in the Stations of the Cross, Novena, Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Adoration
- Daily examination of conscience
- Examen and Lectio Divina
Children of this age should know and recognize the following sacramental:

- Crucifix
- Bible
- Images of Jesus and Mary
- Rosary – as a way to pray with Mary
- Items in the Church: Tabernacle, Presider’s chair, Holy Water font, Crucifix, candles, chalice, altar, vestments, ciborium, hosts, wine, ambo, purificator, corporal, cruets, thurible, incense, missal
- Images of Saints/Icons
- Introduce the Catechism
- Relics
Appendix 3: Catholic Prayers

(Used with permission, Diocese of Green Bay, WI)

“Acquire the habit of speaking to God as if you were alone with Him, familiarly and with confidence and love, as to the dearest and most loving of friends.” – St. Alphonsus Ligouri

The Sign of the Cross
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Sign of the Cross is made with the right hand by touching the forehead at the word "Father," the chest at "Son," and the left and right shoulders at "Holy Spirit."

Our Father (Lord’s Prayer)
Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name, Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary
Hail, Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory be to the Father
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Fatima Prayer
O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to heaven, especially those most in need of Thy mercy.

Prayer Before Meals
Bless us Oh Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive, from thy bounty, through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Guardian Angel Prayer
Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom God's love commits me here,
Ever this day, be at my side,
To light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

Act of Contrition
O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of Thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin.

OR

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.
The Apostles' Creed
I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Nicene Creed
I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Mass Responses
Students should be able to participate in Mass by saying the proper responses. For example, when the celebrant says, “The Lord be with you,” students should know to respond, “And with your spirit.”

Stations of the Cross
1st Station: Jesus is condemned to death
2nd Station: Jesus carries His cross
3rd Station: Jesus falls for the first time
4th Station: Jesus meets his mother
5th Station: Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry his cross
6th Station: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus
7th Station: Jesus falls the second time
8th Station: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
9th Station: Jesus falls a third time
10th Station: Jesus is stripped of his clothes
11th Station: Jesus is nailed to the cross
12th Station: Jesus dies on the cross
13th Station: The body of Jesus is taken down from the cross
14th Station: Jesus is laid in the tomb
Mysteries of the Rosary

The Five Joyful Mysteries are traditionally prayed on the Mondays, Saturdays, and Sundays of Advent:
1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Nativity
4. The Presentation in the Temple
5. The Finding in the Temple

The Five Sorrowful Mysteries are traditionally prayed on the Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays of Lent:
1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion and Death

The Five Glorious Mysteries are traditionally prayed on the Wednesday and Sundays outside of Lent and Advent:
1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption
5. The Coronation of Mary

The Five Luminous Mysteries are traditionally prayed on Thursdays:
1. The Baptism of Christ in the Jordan
2. The Wedding Feast at Cana
3. Jesus' Proclamation of the Coming of the Kingdom of God
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

Memorare
Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Hail, Holy Queen
Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee to we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Angelus (traditionally prayed at 6am, noon, and 6pm)
The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Behold the handmaid of the Lord: Be it done unto me according to Thy word.
Hail Mary . . .

And the Word was made Flesh: And dwelt among us. Hail Mary . . .
Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:
Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

St. Michael Prayer
St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Hosts, by the Power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Divine Mercy Chaplet (prayed using a rosary)
1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross, 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary and The Apostles Creed.
2. Then on the Our Father Beads say the following: Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.
3. On the 10 Hail Mary Beads say the following: For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
   (Repeat steps 2 and 3 for all five decades).
4. Conclude with (three times): Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Litanyes
Expose students to various types of litanies
(such as the litany of the saints, litany of humility, etc.)

Divine Praises (often prayed during Benediction)
Blessed be God.
Blessed be His Holy Name.
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.
Blessed be the name of Jesus.
Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.
Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed be God in His angels and in His Saints.
**Anima Christi** (prayer widely used after Receiving Jesus in the Eucharist)

Soul of Christ, sanctify me  
Body of Christ, save me  
Blood of Christ, inebriate me  
Water from Christ’s side, wash me.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.  
O good Jesus, hear me.  
Within Thy wounds hide me.  
Suffer me not to be separated from Thee.  
From the malicious enemy defend me  
In the hour of my death call me and bid me come unto Thee  
That I may praise thee, with Thy saints, and with Thy angels forever and ever.  
Amen.
Appendix 4: Guide to the Gospels

(Used with permission, Diocese of Green Bay, WI)

1. Essential Stories of Jesus/Mary/John the Baptist

   - Promise of the Baptist’s Birth (Luke 1:5-25)
   - Annunciation – angel asks Mary to be the Mother of God (Luke 1:26-38)
   - Visitation – Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56)
   - Birth of the Baptist (Luke 1:57-80)
   - Birth of Jesus (Mat. 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-20)
   - Visit of the Magi (Matt. 2:1-12)
   - Flight into Egypt (Matt. 2:13-23)
   - Circumcision/Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:21-40)
   - Jesus Lost in the Temple at Age Twelve (Luke2:41-52)
   - John the Baptist (Matt. 3:1-6; Mark 1:6; Luke 3:1-6)
   - The First Preaching in Galilee (Matt. 4:12-17; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:14-15)
   - The Call of the First Disciples (Matt. 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11)
   - The Call of the Twelve (Matt. 10:1-4; Mark 3:13-19a; Luke 6:12-16)
   - Death of John the Baptist (Matt. 14:3-12; Mark 6:17-29)
   - The Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36)
   - Second Prediction of the Passion (Matt. 17:22-23; Mark 9:30-32; Luke 9:43b-45)
   - The Temple Tax (Matt. 17:24-27)
   - Would-be Followers of Jesus (Matt. 8:19-22; Luke 9:57-62)
   - The Return of the Seventy (Mark 16:17-18; Luke 10:17-20)
   - Jesus’ Gratitude to the Father (Matt. 11:25-27; Luke 10:21-22)
• The Lawyer’s Question (Matt. 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 10:25-28)
• Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42)
• Departure from Galilee (Luke 13:31-33)
• The Day of the Son of Man (Matt. 24:26-28; Luke 17:22-37)
• Third Prediction of the Passion (Matt. 20:17-19; Mark 10:32-34; Luke 18:31-34)
• Jesus and the Sons of Zebedee (Matt. 20:20-28; Mark 10:35-45; Luke 22:24-27)
• Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10)

2. Teaching of Jesus

• Sermon on the Mount (Matt. chapters 5-7 – begins with the Beatitudes Matt. 5:3-12)
• Sermon on the Plain (Luke 6:20-49)
• On Divorce (Matt. 5:31-32; Mark 19:9; Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18)
• Almsgiving (Matt. 6:1-4); On Prayer (Matt. 6:5-8) and Fasting (Matt. 6:16-18)
• The Lord’s Prayer (Matt. 6:9-15 – one said at Mass, 7 petitions; Luke 11:2-4 – only 4 petitions)
• On Treasures (Matt. 6:19-21; Luke 12:33-34)
• The Sound Eye (Matt. 6:22-23; Luke 11:34-36)
• Serving Two Masters (Matt. 6:24; Luke 16:13)
• On Anxiety - “do not worry” (Matt. 6:25-34; Luke 12:22-31)
• God’s Answering of Prayer (Matt. 7:7-11; Luke 11:9-13)
• The Golden Rule (Matt. 7:12; Luke 6:31)
• The Narrow Gate (Matt. 7:13-14; Luke 13:23-24)
• The Test of a Good Person (Matt. 7:15-20; Luke 6:43-45)
• On Self-Deception (Matt. 7:21-23; Luke 6:46)
• Hearer and Doers of the Word (Matt. 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49)
• Questions on Fasting (Matt. 9:14-17; Mark 2:18-22; Luke 5:33-39)
• Sending out of the Twelve (Matt. 9:35-10:16; Mark 6:6b; Luke 6:13-16, 9:1)
• Divisions in Households (Matt. 10:34-36; Luke 12:51-53)
• Welcoming Jesus (Matt. 10:40 – 11:1)
• John’s Question to Jesus (Matt. 11:2-6; Luke 7:18-23)
• Jesus’ Word about John (Matt. 11:7-19; Luke 7:24-35)
• Revealing to the Children (Matt. 11:25-27; Luke 10:21-22)
• Jesus’ Yoke is Light (Matt. 11:28-30)
• On Judging (Matt. 7:1-5; Luke 6:37-42)
• The Test of a Good Person (Matt. 7:16-21; Matt. 12:33-35; Luke 6:43-46)
• Hearer and Doers of the Word (Matt. 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49)
• Woman with the Ointment (Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:36-50)
• The Ministering Women (Luke 8:1-3)
• Against Seeking for Signs (Matt. 12:38-42; Luke 11:29-30,32)
• Jesus’ True Relatives (Matt. 12:46-50; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21)
• Conditions of Discipleship (Matt. 16:24-28; Mark 8:34-9:1; Luke 9:23-27)
• Dispute over Greatness (Matt. 18:1-5; Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46-48)
• On Temptation (Matt. 18:6-9; Mark 9:42-48; Luke 17:1-2)
• On Reproving Another Believer (Matt. 18:15-20; Luke 17:3)
• On Forgiveness (Matt. 18:21-22; Luke 17:4)
• Friend at Midnight (Luke 11:5-8)
• The Answer to Prayer (Matt. 7:7-11; Luke 11:9-13)
• The Beelzebul Controversy (Matt. 12:22-30; Mark 3:22-27; Luke 11:14-23)
• The Return of the Unclean Spirit (Matt. 12:43-45; Luke 11:24-26)
• The Sign of Jonah (Matt. 12:36-42; Luke 11:29-32)
• The Light of the Body (Matt. 5:15; Luke 11:33-36)
• Jesus the Cause of Division (Matt. 10:34-36; Luke 12:49-56)
• Settling with One’s Accuser (Matt. 5:25-26; Luke 12:57-59)
• Repentance or Destruction (Luke 13:1-8)
• The Narrow Door (Matt. 7:13-14; Luke 13:22-30)
• Teaching on Humility (Luke 14:7-14)
• About the Law and About Divorce (Matt. 11:12-13; Luke 16:16-18)
• On Causing Sin (Matt. 18:6-7; Mark 9:42; Luke 17:1-2)
• On Forgiveness (Matt. 18:15; Luke 17:3-4)
• On Faith (Matt. 17:20; Luke 17:5-6)
• On the Kingdom of God (Luke 17:20-21)
• Marriage and Divorce (Matt. 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12)
3. **Parables of Jesus**

- Parables of Salt & Light (Matt. 5:13-16; Mark 9:49-50; Luke 14:34-35)
- House Built on a Rock (Matt. 7:24-27; Luke 6:47-49)
- The Sower (Matt. 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-12; Luke 8:4-10)
- Purpose of the Parables (Matt. 13:12; Mark 4:21-25; Luke 8:16-18)
- Jesus’ Use of Parables (Matt. 13:34-35; Mark 4:33-34)
- The Seed Grows Secretly (Mark 4:26-29)
- The Weeds (Matt. 13:24-30; 36-43)
- The Hidden Treasure (Matt. 13:44)
- The Precious Pearl (Matt. 13:45-46)
- The Net (Matt. 13:47-50)
- The Unmerciful Servant (Matt. 18:23-35)
- The Laborers in the Vineyard (Matt. 20:1-16)
- The Two Sons (Matt. 21:28-32)
- The Wedding Garment (Matt. 22:11-14)
- The Ten Virgins (Matt. 25:1-13)
- The Sheep and the Goats (Matt. 25:31-46)
- The Two Debtors (Luke 7:36-50)
- The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37)
- The Friend at Midnight (Luke 11:5-8)
- The Vigilant and Faithful Servants (Luke 12:35-48)
- Barren Fig Tree (Luke 13:6-9)
- The Last Seat (Luke 14:7-11)
- The Great Supper (Luke 14:15-24)
- The Lost Sheep (Matt. 18:10-14; Luke 15:3-7)
- the Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10)
- The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)
4. **Entry into Jerusalem**
   - Jesus Cleanses the Temple (Matt. 21:10-17; Mark 11:11, 15-19; Luke 19:45-48)
   - The Cursing of the Fig Tree (Matt. 21:18-19; March 11:12-14)
   - The Lesson of the Withered Fig Tree (Matt. 21:20-22; Mark 11:20-26)
   - Jesus Denounces the Scribes and Pharisees (Matt. 23:1-36; Mark 12:37b-40)
   - The Day and Hour are unknown except to God (Matt. 24:34-36; Mark 13:30-32; Luke 32-36)
   - Last Judgment (Matt. 25:31-46)

   - The Anointing at Bethany (Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:36-50, John 12:1-11)
   - Washing of the Feet (John 13:1-20)
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6. The Resurrection/Ascension

• The Bribing of the Soldiers (Matt. 28:11-15)
• The Commissioning of the Disciples (Matt. 28:16-20)
• The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13:53)
• Jesus Appears to the Disciples (Luke 24:36-49, John 20:19-23)
• Appearance with Thomas (John 20:24-30)
• Appearance to Mary Magdala (John 20:11-18)
• Appearance of the Risen Lord on the shore of Lake Tiberias (John 21: 1-14)
• Risen Lord with Peter at Lake Tiberias (John 21:15-19)
• Appearances after the Resurrection (Mark 16:9-20)
• The Ascension (Luke 24:50-53)

7. Miracles of Jesus (4 types)

• Nature
  → Change water into wine (John 2:1-11)
  → Calming of the storm (Matt. 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25)
  → Multiplication of Loaves - Feeding 4,000 - Matt. 15:32-38; Mark 8:1-9)
  → Walking on Water (Matt. 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:16-21)
  → Coin in the fish’s mouth (Matt. 17:24-27)
  → Cursing the fig tree (Matt. 21:18-19; Mark 11:12-14)
• **Healings**

  → Jesus Heals the Multitude (Matt. 12:15-21; Mark 3:7-12; Luke 6:17-19)
  → Healing at Gennesaret (Matt. 14:34; Mrk 6:53-56)
  → Healing of the royal official’s son (John 4:46-54)
  → Cleansing a leper (Matt. 8:2-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-14)
  → Cure of Peter’s mother-in-law (Matt. 8:14-15; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-41)
  → The Centurion’s Servant (Matt. 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10)
  → The Sick Healed at Evening (Matt. 8:16-17; Mark 1:32-34; Luke 4:40-41)
  → Healing a paralytic (Matt. 9:1-8; Mark 2:3-12; Luke 5:18-26)
  → Healing a sick man at Bethzatha (John 5:1-9)
  → Healing the blind and mute person (Matt. 12:22)
  → Healing a woman with a hemorrhage (Matt. 9:20-22; Mark 5:25-34; Luke 8:43-48)
  → Two blind men healed (Matt. 9:27-31)
  → Healing of a deaf and mute man (Mark 7:31)
  → Opening the eyes of a blind person at Bethsaida (Mark 8:22-26)
  → Opening of the eyes of a person born blind (John 9:1-41)
  → Restoring an infirm woman (Luke 13:10-17)
  → Healing of a man with dropsy (Luke 14:1-6)
  → Cleansing the lepers (Luke 17:12-19)
  → Opening the eyes of the blind man (Matt. 20:29-34; Bartimaeus - Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43)
  → Healing Malchus’ ear (Matt 26:51-52; Mark 14:47; Luke 22:49-51; John 18:10-11)

• **Casting out Devils**

  → Numerous in general (Mark 1)
  → Demoniac at Capernaum (Mark 1:23-28; Luke 4:33-37)
  → Mute Demoniac (Matt. 9:32-34)
  → Daughter of Syro-Phoenician woman (Matt. 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30)
  → Infirm Woman (Luke 13:10-17)

• **Resuscitation** (People Jesus brought back to life, but they still had to die to this life)

  → Daughter of Jairus (Matt. 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:41-56)
  → Son of the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17)
    → Lazarus (John 11:1-44)
8. **Jesus’ Prayer**
   - “I thank you, Father” (Luke 10:21-22)
   - Answer to Prayer (Matt. 7:7-11; Luke 11:9-13)

9. **John’s Gospel Seven “Signs”**
   (Seven Miracles found first part of John’s Gospel called “Book of Signs” – chapters 1-13)
   - Changing water into wine at Cana (John 2:1-11)
   - Cure of royal official’s son (John 4:46-54)
   - Cure on a Sabbath feast (John 5:1-15)
   - Multiplication of loaves at Passover (John 6:1-15)
   - Walking on the sea (John 6:16-21)
   - Cure of the man born blind (John 9:1-34)
   - Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-44)

10. **John’s Gospel - the 7 “I AM” statements**
   - John 6: I am the bread of life
   - John 8:12 “I am the light of the world”
   - John 10:7 “I am the gate for the sheep”
   - John 10:11,14 “I am the good shepherd”
   - John 11:25 “I am the Resurrection”
   - John 14:10 “I am the way the truth and the life.”
   - John 15:1,5 “I am the vine”

11. **John’s Discourses**
   - John 3:1ff Nicodemus
   - John 4:1f The Samaritan Woman at the Well
   - John 6:22-59 I am the Bread of Life [ 
   - John 8:1-11 Woman Caught in Adultery
   - John 9:1-41 The Man Born Blind
   - John 11:1-44 The Raising of Lazarus
   - John chapters 14-17 Last Supper Discourses
   - “Do not let your hearts be troubled” (John 14:1-14)
   - The Advocate (John 14:15-31)
   - The Vine and the Branches (John 15:1-17)
   - Jesus’ Departure and the Coming of the Advocate (John 16:4b-33)
   - Prayer of Jesus (John 17:1-26)
Appendix 5: Glossary

This Glossary is intended to facilitate a common understanding of terms for both teachers and students.

**ABORTION** the deliberate killing of a fetus or developing baby; abortion is a moral evil since life is a gift of God, and the right of every human being and must be protected from the moment of conception. (CCC 2273)

**ABSOLUTION** the ritual prayer given by the priest to announce God’s forgiveness or pardon of sin.

**ABSTINENCE** a traditional form of penance; the Church requires Catholics to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.

**ACOLYTE** name given to Mass servers or a minister who assists the priest or bishop at the altar; this is also a rite of institution.

**ACT OF CONTRITION** prayer said to express one’s sorrow for sin. Such a prayer is said by the penitent during the Rite of Reconciliation. For example:

> My God, Lord Jesus, Son of God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart, have mercy on me a sinner. In choosing to do wrong, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.

**ACTS OF THE APOSTLES** the New Testament (Christian Scripture) book that tells the story of the beginnings of the early Church.

**ADVENT** season beginning the liturgical year; four weeks of preparing for Jesus’ coming in history, mystery and majesty.

**ADVENT WREATH** evergreen wreath with four candles used to symbolize the four weeks of waiting; originated with the German Lutherans; wreaths are symbolic of victory and glory and the light of the candles gradually pushes away the darkness with the coming of the Messiah, the Light of the World.

**ALB** the full-length white robe worn by priests and other ministers during liturgical functions.

**ALTAR** a table-like structure, usually made of wood or stone, where the liturgy of the Eucharist is celebrated; originally, in house churches, the ordinary family table.

**ALTAR CLOTH** a simple cloth spread on the altar during the preparation of the gifts; at one time, these cloths were made of precious materials and three were required in case of a spilled sacred element; the antependium or large cloth “hanging in front of” the altar was originally one of these cloths.

**AMBO** see Pulpit; also called Lectern.

**ANGELS/ARCHANGELS** spiritual beings created by God, most commonly serve as messengers of God to humanity. Three archangels (high-ranking angels) are named in Scripture: Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael; belief in angels is a doctrine of the Catholic Church.
ANNULMENT Official declaration by competent authority that, for lawful reasons, a previous act or contract was invalid and consequently null and void. In ecclesiastical law, annulments mainly apply to marriage contracts over which the Church has the right to determine their validity. (Modern Catholic Dictionary, Doubleday and Company, 1980)

ANNUNCIATION the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary asking her to become the Mother of God. This feastday is celebrated on March 25.

ANointing of the Sick (Sacrament of the) the sacrament for the faithful who are in danger due to sickness or old age. It may be received more than once during a person’s life. Every priest, and only a priest, validly administers the anointing of the sick.

ANointing of the Sick (Rites of the Sacrament of the) there are two rites for this sacrament: the first rite is personal and the second rite is communal.

ApoCalyptic Literature a Biblical style of writing that developed during the Exile (587-538 B.C.) and especially the postexilic age. The apocalyptic writers wrote as though they had received a vision involving God’s cosmic kingdom and his eschatological battle to establish it. Apocalyptic writing evolved out of an earlier prophetic style of preaching. (New Catholic Encyclopedia. McGraw-Hill, 1967) The New Testament Book of Revelation is an example of apocalyptic literature.

Apostles' Creed an early form of the baptismal creed; adopted as the common form said in the Mass during the Carolingian liturgical reform; this was changed in the liturgical reform of Vatican II:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell [to the dead]; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Ascension Thursday the day we celebrate Jesus’ ascension to Heaven; celebrated 40 days after Easter; this is a holy day of obligation in the United States. The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord has been transferred from Thursday to the 7th Sunday of Easter.

Ashes used on Ash Wednesday to sign crosses on the foreheads of people as a reminder to do penance; the ashes are made by burning palm branches used on Passion (Palm) Sunday from the previous year.

Assembly the coming together of the People of God to worship; the assembly by reason of their baptism have a right and duty to full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy. (cf. Vatican II document Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy #14)

Assisted Suicide a person helping another person to kill him/ herself. Any act or omission which causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder which is contrary to the dignity of the human person and the respect due to God as Creator. (CCC 2277)

Assumption of Mary the dogma that Mary was taken into heaven, both body and soul; also called the Dormition (falling asleep); this feast is a holy day of obligation in the United States and is celebrated on August 15.

Baptism (Sacrament of) sacrament by which original sin and all personal sins committed since birth are removed. Baptism gives new life in Christ and makes a person a member of the Church; one of the three initiation sacraments along with Confirmation and Eucharist.
BAPTISM (Rite of) water poured over the person’s head as the words “I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” are said; the ordinary minister is the priest, but in necessity, anyone may serve as an extraordinary minister by using the words and water.

BAPTISMAL FONT the basin or bowl-like container in which baptisms are performed.

BAPTISMAL PROMISES the formal promises made by the person being baptized or by the parents and godparents, in the case of an infant or child; the promises are renewed at Easter by the entire assembly; they are also renewed during the rite of Confirmation.

BEATITUDES the eight blessings proclaimed by Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount, found in Matthew’s Gospel, Chapters 5-7:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right, for they shall be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

BIBLE (from the Greek: biblia, “books”) Also called “Sacred Scripture.” The collection of 73 writings or books recognized by the Catholic Church as divinely inspired by God, and thus contain the written expression of God’s revelation. 46 books make up the Old Testament, and 27 books make up the New Testament.

CANDIDATE a person who has already been baptized, either as a Catholic or in another Christian tradition, and is seeking, through the RCIA, to become Catholic.

CANDLES used during celebrations of the Eucharist and other devotions as signs of the presence of Jesus, the Light of the World; they are also a reminder of the life of grace shared by humanity. Usually candles are made of beeswax.

CANTOR the leader of song during worship.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT refers to use of the death penalty for those convicted of serious crimes; since human life is sacred, “if non-lethal means are sufficient to defend people’s safety against an aggressor, public authority should limit itself to such means, as these are more in keeping with the concrete conditions of the common good and are more in conformity to the dignity of the human person.” (CCC 2267)

CARDINAL VIRTUES see Moral Virtues

CATECHUMEN a non-baptized person being instructed in the Catholic Faith as part of the RCIA process, in order to receive baptism and be admitted into the Catholic Church.
(Modern Catholic Dictionary, Doubleday and Company, 1980)

CATHOLIC one of the four marks of the Church; catholic means that the church is universal, of interest to all people and includes all people.
CENSER a metal container in which incense is burned. It is usually shaped like a vase or cup with a cover and is suspended by chains. (Modern Catholic Dictionary, Doubleday and Company, 1980)

CENTERING PRAYER a method of prayer designed to facilitate the development of contemplative prayer by preparing one’s faculties to cooperate with this gift; usually the person using the centering prayer form repeats a mantra (word, phrase, etc.) to help center themselves.

CHALICE the cup set aside for the wine which is consecrated during Mass.

CHARISMS special gifts of the Holy Spirit which are bestowed on individuals for the good of others, the needs of the world, and in particular for building up the Church. The discernment of charisms is the responsibility of the magisterium.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER prayer that usually takes place within the context of a group, and emphasizes the devotional use of Scripture, and is open to various gifts of the Holy Spirit, including glossolalia (speaking in tongues).

CHARITY The third and greatest of the theological virtues (cf. 1 Corinthians 13:13). A divinely infused habit, inclining the human will to cherish God for his own sake above all things, and one’s neighbor for the sake of God.

CHASTE LIFE living chastity according to one’s vocation. In marriage this means reserving all sexuality to one’s marriage partner. In vowed religious life, the ordained priesthood, and the single life, this means celibacy.

CHASUBLE the outermost garment worn by bishops and priests during the celebration of the Mass. It represents the yoke of Christ, and is a symbol of the all-encompassing nature of Christian charity. (Modern Catholic Encyclopedia, Liturgical Press, 1994)

CHILDREN (respect for) the Church states that parents must regard their children as children of God and respect them as human persons; also, parents have the responsibility to educate and nurture children so that they may be able to choose their vocations in life; parents are responsible for providing for their children’s physical and spiritual needs; when this does not occur, the dignity of the human person is threatened. (CCC 2221-2231) (cf. also Human Dignity, p9)

CHOSUNPEOPLE the Jewish (Hebrew) people God chose to be his own and to whom he gave the promise of a Messiah.

CHRISM (SACRED CHRISM) perfumed oil, consecrated by the bishop, which signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit. Chrism is used for consecration in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders. (CCC 1241,1289,1291,1294)

CHRISTIAN a person who believes in Jesus as Lord and Savior, and follows him as his disciple. The term “Christian” was first used in Antioch during the early Church period, to refer to those who acted in a visibly loving manner. Christians revere the Bible as the Word of God and as a sure guide for the life of faith.

CHRISTMAS celebrates the birth of Christ, and honors the Incarnation --- that the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity became a man. Christmas is celebrated on December 25.

CHURCH 1) the new Israel and New Covenant family of God. Jesus founded his Church on the rock of St. Peter, the foundation of the Apostles, and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost; 2) a building where Christian prayer and liturgical celebration take place.

CIBORIUM a covered container used to hold the consecrated small Hosts. It is similar to a chalice but covered and larger. (Modern Catholic Dictionary)
CONFESSION  the reciting of one’s sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

CONFIRMATION  a Sacrament of Initiation in which a baptized Christian, through prayers, imposition of hands and the anointing with Sacred Chrism receives the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Bishop is the ordinary minister of Confirmation.

CONSCIENCE  conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed. In all he says and does, man is obliged to follow faithfully what he knows to be just and right. It is by the judgment of his conscience that man perceives and recognizes the prescriptions of the divine law... (CCC 1778)

CONCUPISCENCE a consequence of original sin which leaves fallen human nature wounded in its natural powers, and with an inclination to sin, but without being totally corrupted.

CONSECRATION  during Mass, the consecration is that part of the Eucharistic Prayer in which Christ’s words of institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper are recited by the priest, making Christ’s body, blood, soul and divinity sacramentally present under the species of bread and wine. (CCC 1352,1353)

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER  is a special gift of interior prayer from the Holy Spirit that makes one deeply aware of the presence of God; it is a form of prayer in which reasoning and structure give way to a simple experience of God’s presence.

CONTRITION  sorrow for sin with a promise to try to avoid sin again; a desire for forgiveness of sin.

CORPORAL  a square white linen cloth on which the paten and chalice are placed during the Mass. It is also used under the monstrance at Benediction or under the Blessed Sacrament at any time. (Modern Catholic Dictionary)

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY  are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They "are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs" (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, p. 508; cf. Matthew 25:34-40; Isaiah 58:6-10):

1. feed the hungry
2. give drink to the thirsty
3. clothe the naked
4. shelter the homeless
5. visit the sick
6. visit the imprisoned
7. bury the dead

COVENANT  a pledge or promise made between two parties which requires one’s complete faithfulness to the terms of the covenant. The covenant remains in force, even if one party breaks his/her pledge. The term is used in the Bible to describe the relationship between the Lord and his Chosen People (the Jews); this term is also used in the Sacrament of Matrimony to describe the relationship between husband and wife. A covenant is much more solemn than a contract. While a contract exchanges goods and services, a covenant involves a promise of one’s entire self to the other.

CROSS BEARER  the person who carries the cross in procession during the celebration of liturgy.

DALMATIC  A liturgical garment worn by a deacon at Mass and in solemn processions. It has wide short sleeves, reaches to the knees, and is open at the sides. Like the chasuble worn by priests and bishops, it is an outer vestment and is supposed to match the liturgical color of the day.
DEVOTIONAL CELEBRATIONS all celebrations, prayer services and devotions which are not contained within the liturgical rituals and rites of the Church, (e.g., public recitation of the rosary, novenas, stations of the cross, etc.)

DOGMA the revealed teachings of Christ which are proclaimed by the fullest expression of the authority of the Church’s Magisterium. The faithful are obliged to believe the truths or dogmas contained in divine Revelation and defined by the Magisterium. (CCC 88)

EASTER the Feast of the Resurrection of Christ. The most important Christian celebration; the central event of our Christian faith because Jesus saved us by dying on the cross and rising from the dead; Easter is a movable feast and is celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon after the vernal(spring) equinox.

EASTER TIME 50 days between Easter and Pentecost, including Ascension.

EASTER TRIDUUM from the Latin, meaning “three days.” The highpoint of the liturgical year. The three days commemorating the Institution of the Eucharist and the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday.

ECUMENISM refers to the efforts of the Catholic community, and other Christian churches, to work toward full unity.

ENCYCLICALS formal pastoral letters written by the popes to all members of the church throughout the world.

EPIPHANY Greek word meaning “manifestation” of Jesus to all people as told in the story of the Magi recorded in the Infancy Narrative of Matthew’s Gospel.

EPISTLE Greek word meaning “letter” or “message.” The epistles are letters which contain statements of Christian belief, and addressed various needs and local situations in the early Church. Many were written by St. Paul. Some were written before the gospels.

ESCHATOLOGY 1) the study of the Last Things (death, judgment, heaven, hell --- and the Second Coming of Christ) and 2) Christ’s announcement of the coming kingdom/reign of God, the public ministry of Jesus, his death and resurrection, and outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Both of these aspects are important for a complete understanding of eschatology.

EUCHARIST Greek word meaning “thanksgiving.” Used to describe the ritual meal of the Passover at the Last Supper, during which Jesus instituted the first Eucharist. The term is used for the sacrament in which the Paschal Mystery of Jesus is commemorated by the worshipping community. Through the ministry of the ordained priest, the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ is made present under the appearances of bread and wine. The Eucharist is one of the Sacraments of Initiation. The term is also used to refer to the Mass (i.e., the “Eucharistic” Liturgy).

EUTHANASIA the act or practice of putting people to death, because they or others decide it will avoid pain, or relieve others of the burden of caring for them. The Catholic Church teaches that this practice constitutes murder and is contrary to the dignity of the human person, and contrary to the respect due to the Creator and the Commandments. (CCC 2277)

EVANGELIZATION sharing the Good News of salvation in Christ; any activity designed to help spread the Gospel of Christ and his Church. It is based upon his Great Commission to make disciples of all the nations. (cf. Matthew 28:18-20)

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE the prayerful review of one’s life on the basis of gospel values; after Vatican II, the examination of conscience in the renewed rite of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is presented as a prayerful consideration of one’s past, God’s mercy, and a focus on deeper personal conversion.
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION a person trained and commissioned to distribute the Eucharist during the liturgy, or to people who are unable to come to Mass.

FAITH one of the three Theological Virtues. Faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit empowering one to believe in God and trust in him, and to believe all that he has revealed to us and all that the Church proposes for our belief because God is Truth itself. Though it is a gift from God, we must also strengthen and deepen it by our own choices and actions.

FASTING a spiritual practice of limiting one’s intake of food. The Church requires Catholics to fast (defined as eating only one full meal) on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

FREEDOM (FREE WILL) the human capacity to be responsible for one’s personal decisions and actions. God gives each person this gift which points to the dignity and uniqueness of every human being.

FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT the effects of the Holy Spirit active in one’s life, enabling us to live in a humble and unselfish manner. Traditionally listed as: charity, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, mildness, faith, endurance, modesty, self-control and chastity (cf. Galatians 5:22-23)

FUNDAMENTALISM refers to an overly literal reading of Scripture, without taking into account its historical context, literary form/genre, the intention of the biblical writers, and the living tradition and guidance of the Church’s Magisterium. (cf. CCC 50-141)


GLOBAL AWARENESS to be conscious of what is happening to the People of God throughout the world.

GLORY BE an ancient Trinitarian prayer; also called the Doxology:

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.


GOSPEL VALUES values inspired by, and based upon, the teaching of Jesus. Followers of Jesus strive to live by these values. Some are described in the Beatitudes (Matthew chapter 5) and listed as the “Fruits of the Spirit” in the Letter to the Galatians (5:22-23).

GRACE the gift of God by which we share in God’s life; the presence of God dwelling within us by virtue of our Baptism.

GRACE AT MEALS prayers of blessing and thanksgiving that came from the Jewish tradition of blessing:

Before:
Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive, from Thy bounty (goodness), through Christ our Lord. Amen.

After:
We give you thanks, almighty God, for these and all Thy gifts, which we have received from Thy bounty (goodness), through Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT COMMANDMENT “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and
with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (cf. Matthew 22:34-40)

HAIL MARY popular Catholic prayer to honor Mary, the Mother of God; the first part of the prayer is taken from the Gospel of Luke:

_Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you, blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen._

HEAVEN eternal life with God; communion of life and love with the Blessed Trinity and all the blessed. Heaven is the state of supreme and definitive happiness, the goal of the deepest longings of humanity. (CCC 1023)

HELL the state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed; reserved for those who refuse by their own free choice to believe and be converted from sin, even to the end of their lives. (CCC 1033)

HERESY the persistent assertion of a theological position or doctrine that goes against a defined dogma of the Church. The obstinate denial after Baptism of a truth which must be believed with divine and Catholic faith. (CCC 2089; cf. 465)

HOLY DAYS (of obligation) days dedicated by the Church in the liturgical calendar to honoring the Lord Jesus and his Mother, Mary. The dates for these celebrations in the United States have been determined by the U.S. Conference of Bishops as follows:

_Solemnity of:_
Mary, Mother of God: January 1
Ascension: Thursday of the sixth week of Easter
Assumption of Mary: August 15
All Saints’ Day: November 1
Immaculate Conception: December 8
Christmas: December 25

HOLY ORDERS (Sacrament of) the sacrament in which men are ordained for the ministry of a deacon, priest, or bishop. The ordained man is united with the ministry of Jesus and the apostolic Church and empowered to minister in Christ’s name.

HOLY WATER ordinary water which has been blessed by a priest, is used as a sacramental --- especially as a reminder of Baptism.

HOMILY the talk that the priest or deacon gives at Mass to explain the Scripture readings, and how to live by them.

HOPE is the theological virtue by which we desire and await from God eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit to merit it and to persevere to the end of our earthly life.

HUMAN DIGNITY the irreducible element that each person has; the human person, fashioned in God’s image, has inherent rights which demand protection and promotion. Respect for human life, liberty, and the quality of life are elements of human dignity. (cf. “Children, respect for,”)

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION truth that Mary was conceived without original sin. This belief had been held from the early days of the Church, and was finally proclaimed as a dogma of the Church by Pope Pius XI on December 8, 1854. The Immaculate Conception is celebrated on December 8 and is a holy day of obligation in the United States.
INCARNATION  the truth that the Son of God assumed a human nature and became a man, in order to accomplish our salvation in that same human nature. (CCC 461, 464)

INFALLIBILITY  a gift from the Holy Spirit that protects the pope from leading the Church into error in matters of faith and morals. It does not apply to everything a pope says or does, but is limited to faith and morals, and to certain conditions. The Holy Spirit also protects the teaching of an ecumenical council, as long as it’s teaching is in union with a pope. This gift also protects the body of Christ, the Church, from falling into error to the extent that the baptized are united with the teaching of the pope, and the bishops in union with the pope, regarding faith and morals.

INSPIRATION (biblical) a gift of the Holy Spirit by which human writers were enabled to express the Word of God, in human speech.

JESSE TREE  named for the father of King David. Symbols representing the ancestors of Jesus are gradually added to the branches of a tree during the weeks of Advent. Often Jesse is placed at the root of the tree.

JESUS CHRIST  the Son of God (second person of the Trinity) who became a man, who suffered and died on the cross for the salvation of the world, and who rose from the dead on the third day. Our Lord and Savior.

JESUS PRAYER  the prayer is: “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner.” It arose among hermits in the early Church to express their devotion to the name of Jesus, and sorrow for sin. It is repeated frequently as a way of maintaining an inner silence and awareness of the presence of God.

JEWS  also known as God’s chosen people, they are the descendants of the Hebrew nation.

JUDAISM  the religious perspectives, practices, and way of life of the Jewish people over the centuries; the religion of the Hebrew Bible and of the contemporary Jewish community. Those who follow Judaism believe in one God as revealed in the Torah (Pentateuch), the prophets, and the history of the Hebrew nation through the centuries. All people are thought to be part of a human family under one God. Morality comes from God’s law as reflected in the Torah. Worship centers on prayer, reading of the Scriptures, observance of the Sabbath, and observance of certain religious festivals. There are still expectations of a messiah fulfilling the covenant made between God and humanity, the judgment by God of human beings, and the establishment of God’s everlasting reign.

JUSTICE  that which is right, fair, honest; social justice is that area of justice which works for right relationships among persons and groups by applying the Gospel to the structures, systems and institutions of society in order to promote the well-being of all people.

LAWS OF THE CHURCH  also called Precepts; official number set worldwide by St. Robert Bellarmine in 1589; U.S. bishops added the seventh to the list:

1. To keep holy the day of the Lord’s resurrection; to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation; to avoid those activities that would hinder renewal of soul and body on the Sabbath.
2. To lead a sacramental life; to receive Holy Communion at least once a year during the Easter season.
3. To study Catholic teaching in preparation for the Sacrament of 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 parish schools and catechetical programs.
5. To do penance, including observing the prescribed days of fasting and abstinence.
6. To strengthen and support the Church--one’s own parish community, the parish priests, the worldwide Church, and the Pope.
7. To join in the missionary spirit and apostolate of the Church.

LECTERN  see PULPIT; also called Ambo.

LECTIONARY  book of Scripture readings used during the Liturgy of the Word at Mass and the celebration of the
sacraments.

LECTOR or READER, the person who proclaims the First or Second Reading during the Liturgy.

LESSER SIN (cf. Venial Sin); a moral transgression not considered serious enough to rupture a person’s relationship with God.

LITURGY the word used to describe the official public worship of the Church. This includes Mass, the seven sacraments, and the Liturgy of the Hours. The celebration of Holy Mass is the Church’s central and highest liturgical act of worship.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS the Church’s official prayers during the day and night, especially morning and evening prayers.

LITURGICAL POSTURES and GESTURES:

1) Bowing: the custom of Catholics in the Eastern church instead of genuflecting; symbolic of one’s smallness or humility, in the presence of the Lord; borrowed from the court etiquette of the Roman Empire; popular tradition in the Western church was to bow slightly when the name of Jesus and Mary occurred in prayer;

2) Folding Hands - traditional prayer gesture; symbolic of placing joined hands between those of the local lord when taking an oath of allegiance; borrowed from the German people during the Middle Ages.

3) Genuflecting - a sign of adoration and greeting directed toward Jesus’ presence in the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle; since Vatican II, the Blessed Sacrament and tabernacle are often located in a special chapel.

4) Kneeling - a sign of penance, supplication and adoration; a popular devotional position for private prayer that was gradually introduced into the Mass during modern times because of a growing emphasis placed on the divinity of Christ and the unworthiness of the human person.

5) Standing - a natural expression of respect, reverence and readiness; one of the most ancient of liturgical positions; to the early Christians it had a special meaning of freedom as baptized children of God in a world where kneeling was the position of servitude and slavery.

LITURGICAL SEASONS the cycle of seasons and feasts celebrated by the Church: the seasons are Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time. The three-day Easter Triduum (q. v.) forms a bridge between the seasons of Lent and Easter.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST second of the two main parts of the Eucharistic celebration (Mass); includes the Eucharistic prayer, the priest’s consecration of the bread and wine, the Lord’s Prayer, and the sharing of the Eucharist by the assembly.

LITURGY OF THE WORD first of the two main parts of the Eucharistic celebration (Mass); Scripture verses are proclaimed and a homily is preached, followed by the profession of the Nicene Creed (on Sundays and Feast Days) and concluding with the Universal Prayer.

LORD the proper name of the God of Israel as revealed to Moses. (Ex. 3:14)

LOVE (or CHARITY) the theological virtue by which we love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.

MAGISTERIUM teaching authority and teaching office of the Church, as guided by the Holy Spirit.
MARTYR a witness to the truth of the faith, in which the martyr endures even death to be faithful to Christ.  (CCC 1258,2473)

MASS also called the Eucharistic Liturgy; the name comes from the Latin missa or “being sent” of those assembled.

MATRIMONY (Sacrament of) also called Marriage; a sacrament uniting a man and a woman in a loving covenant as husband and wife. The couple become a visible, loving sign of the relationship between Christ and the Church.

MEDITATION a prayer form which consists of mentally resting on, or visualizing, passages from Scripture, or some other devotional text, while pondering its meaning and significance in one's life.

MESOPOTAMIA land between the rivers. A crescent-shaped area located in the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. It runs along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea as far as Egypt. Also called the Fertile Crescent because of its rich farmland. It includes a portion of modern Iraq, all of Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Jordan.

MINISTRY in general, all works that advance the kingdom of God. In a more narrow sense, it refers to all Church-designated, commissioned or ordained service in the name of the Christ and his Church.

MIRACLE an extraordinary, supernatural intervention of God into human life and affairs. An occurrence that cannot be accounted for by mere natural means. An event that indicates a divine suspension of the laws of nature.

MISSIONARY a baptized person called to proclaim the reign of God; this takes place in three ways: 1) to the unchurched in our own society and culture; 2) to cultures in other societies; and 3) nourishing and deepening the Gospel for others already committed to it.

MONSTRANCE a special container designed to hold a consecrated Host and to place the Holy Eucharist before an assembly for prayer and adoration. The monstrance originated in fourteenth-century Germany and France and is used most often today to hold and elevate the Host during the service of Exposition and Benediction.

MORALITY the standard of right and wrong by which a person lives his/her life. For Catholic Christians, that means living by the Commandments of the Lord and the teachings his Church.

MORAL VIRTUES are prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. These are also called the Cardinal Virtues.

MORTAL SIN sin which ruptures our relationship with God. There are three conditions: it involves a serious matter; is committed with full knowledge; and free consent.

NICENE CREED developed at the Council of Nicea in 325 and modified in 381 at the Council of Constantinople. It is recited at the Sunday Eucharist:

*I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.*

*I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.*
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I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

NEW COVENANT established by Jesus through his death and resurrection. The new covenant promises life and friendship with God forever, for those who accept Jesus’ teachings, follow him, and live their lives in accord with the values and challenges of the Gospel.

NEW TESTAMENT the 27 books of the Bible that relay the story of Christ’s life, ministry, death, resurrection and ascension into heaven; as well as the stories of those associated with him (Mary, St. Joseph, the apostles, St. Paul, etc.; and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the spread of the Gospel, and development of the early Church. The New Testament proclaims the fulfillment of the preparation and promises of the Old Testament.

NOVENA a period of prayer that may last either for nine days, or for one day per week for nine weeks, and is prayed for a specific intention(s). This form of prayer was inspired by the days of prayer leading up to the Feast of Pentecost. An example of a modern novena is the novena in honor of the Divine Mercy.

OLD COVENANT established between the Lord and the Israelites. The old covenant promised friendship with God for those who were faithful to his covenant, and was to last forever. History shows that great misfortune and sorrow fell upon the people of Israel whenever they made choices that broke the covenant with the Lord. Yet, the Lord continued to remain faithful to the covenant and restored the broken friendship again and again.

OLD TESTAMENT the 73 books of the Bible that relay the story of creation, the temptation and fall of Adam and Eve, and the story of God’s unfolding plan of salvation culminating in the coming of the Messiah (Anointed One) and Savior and Son of God, Jesus Christ. The relationship of the Old and New Testaments is that of promise to fulfillment.

ORAL TRADITION the passing on of the words and deeds of God by word of mouth. Oral tradition preceded the written texts of the Old and New Testaments.

ORDINARY TIME the 33 or 34 weeks of the Liturgical year between the other liturgical seasons; not the Advent, Christmas, Lent, or Easter seasons; from the word “ordo” which means order or pattern.

ORDO a calendar which schedules the daily and weekly celebration of the proper Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours in use throughout the Roman Rite. (New Catholic Encyclopedia)

ORIGINAL SIN the basic condition or state of the world affected by sin into which every member of the human race (except Jesus and Mary) is born.

OUR FATHER the example of prayer that Jesus used to teach his disciples how to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
PALM BRANCHES branches from the palm tree (common in Israel) are blessed and used to remember Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on Passion (Palm) Sunday. Blessed palms are often taken home on Passion Sunday and used as a sign of God’s protection of homes.

PARABLES stories drawn from ordinary life or nature that Jesus used to teach a lesson, to make an important point, or to illustrate a moral truth.

PASCHAL CANDLE (or Easter Candle) a candle that is lit from the new fire at the Easter Vigil, and burns until the feast of Pentecost; it is also used at baptisms and funerals to symbolize Christ as the Light of the World.

PASCHAL CANDLE (Symbols on the) the Easter candle is “decorated” at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday and in the following way: a cross is cut or traced into it with the proclamation: “Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end.” The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, “Alpha and Omega,” are also traced on the candle. The numbers of the current year are added in the four angles of the cross with the proclamation:

“All time belongs to him and all the ages; to him be glory and power through every age forever. Amen.” Four grains of incense, sealed in red wax nails, are inserted at the ends of the cross and one is inserted where the crossbars meet as these words are said: “By his holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard us and keep us. Amen.”

PASCHAL MYSTERY phrase used to refer to the redemptive work of Christ, and includes his Passion, death, Resurrection, and glorification. It stands at the center of the Christian faith because God’s saving plan was accomplished once for all by the redemptive death of his Son Jesus Christ. (cf. Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, #112)

PASSOVER the Jewish feast, celebrated with a Seder meal, that commemorates the Exodus. Passover calls to mind how the Lord delivered his people, the Israelites, out of their slavery in Egypt.

PATRIARCH a title given to the venerable ancestors, or “fathers,” of the Semitic peoples: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who received God’s promise of election. (CCC 887)

PEACE a right relationship with God; the final, full realization of God’s salvation when all creation will be made whole.

PENANCE a part of the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation by which the penitent is assigned by the priest some act of atonement for one’s sins. Often this penance takes the form of specific prayers to be said, or acts of charity.

PENANCES practices to heal the damage done by sin. The practice of penance developed in the early Church as expressions of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These gave concrete expression to one’s inner conversion, and helped to strengthen and deepen it. St. Augustine listed penances as: prayer, fasting, almsgiving, endurance of the sufferings of daily life, forgiveness of insults, works of service and praying the Our Father in the liturgical assembly.

PENTATEUCH the first 5 books of the Bible, also called the Law or Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

PENTECOST a feast day on which we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. Often referred to as the birthday of the Church. This feast is celebrated fifty days after Easter.

PERMANENT DEACONS men who receive the Sacrament of Orders and are ordained to serve the needs of the community, especially in the service of the Word of God, and the poor and needy. Permanent deacons can be married, but must be already married prior to being ordained. They cannot remarry or marry after being ordained a deacon.
PERSONAL SIN  a personal act of wrongdoing. A conscious and freely chosen act in violation of the Commandments of God (see also Sins of Commission).

POLLUTION  that which makes the environment unclean; the stewardship granted by the Creator over the mineral, vegetable and animal resources of the universe cannot be separated from respect for moral obligations, including those toward generations to come, to respect the earth as tenants. (CCC 2456)

POPE  the human leader of the Catholic Church. The word “pope” is from the Latin “papa,” a term of affection for a father. The Pope is also known as the Bishop of Rome.

PRAYER  talking and listening to God. The act by which one enters into a conscious and loving communion with God.

PRECEPTS of the CHURCH  (see Laws of the Church)

PRESIDER  one who leads a Christian assembly in some form of prayer or worship (i.e., the Eucharist, the liturgy of the hours, litanies, liturgies of the Word, prayer services, etc.) While some of these assemblies can be led by lay persons, others can be led only by an ordained minister.

PROPHET  one sent by God to deliver his word and help form the people of the Old Covenant in the hope of salvation and the expectation of a coming Anointed One or Messiah. Prophets were messengers and interpreters of God’s word and will to the Israelites. The prophets also authored some books of the Old Testament. (CCC 702)

PROVERBS  short, pithy sayings that express practical wisdom for daily living. Also the title of one of the books of the Old Testament.

PULPIT also called the lectern and ambo. The podium from which the Scripture readings and the homily are proclaimed.

PURGATORY  a state of purification after death, and before entrance into heaven, for those who died in God’s friendship, but were only imperfectly purified in this life. A final cleansing of human imperfection before one is able to enter the joy of heaven. (CCC 1031; cf. 1472)

PURIFICATOR  a small piece of white linen, marked with a cross in the center, used by the priest in the celebration of Mass. It is folded in three layers and used by the priest to dry his fingers, and the chalice and paten, after Holy Communion. (Modern Catholic Dictionary)

PYX  a box or vessel in which the Blessed Sacrament is kept or carried. It is usually a small round metal case (generally gold-plated) used by a priest (or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion) to carry a few hosts for his visitation to the sick. (Modern Catholic Dictionary)

RCIA  “Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults” is the process by which adults are received into the Church. Catechumens journey through the process until they receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil. Candidates (i.e., those already baptized) who wish to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church also participate in the process.

REAL PRESENCE  the dogma that the bread and wine consecrated by a priest become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. He is really and truly present (Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity) under the form, or appearance, of bread and wine.

RECONCILIATION (rites of) there are three different forms that the sacrament takes: (1) communal:
celebrated with the community with individual confession offered; (2) individual: celebrated with just the priest and the individual; and (3) communal with general absolution.

RECONCILIATION (Sacrament of) is one of the seven sacraments of the Church. To reconcile is to heal and restore to friendship. The purpose of this sacrament is to (through the ministry of the priest) reconcile sinners with the Lord, his Church, and one another. It is also commonly called the Sacrament of Confession or Penance. The essential elements of this celebration are contrition, confession, absolution and penance.

REDEMPTION the process by which humanity is brought back, through the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, into full friendship with God.

REFLECTIVE PRAYER also called Contemplative Prayer (q.v.)

RESURRECTION the event at the core of all Christian beliefs and practices which proclaims that, Jesus of Nazareth, after his suffering and death, rose from the grave, thereby conquering sin, death and the devil forever.

REVELATION refers to the words and deeds by which God reveals himself and his plan of salvation for humanity, especially as recorded in the Bible. The fullness of Divine Revelation is in Jesus Christ who is himself both the mediator and the sum total of Revelation.

REVERENCE an attitude of deep respect, love and awe --- especially toward God and holy things.

RITE another name for ritual; rituals are symbols that include language, actions, gestures, prayers, vessels, or movements used in worship. Like other symbols, they have deeper meanings than immediately meets the eye.

ROMAN MISSAL (SACRAMENTARY) the liturgical book used by the celebrant of Mass, containing prayers, rituals, and guidelines. The formal title is the Roman Missal.

ROSARY a Catholic prayer devotion dedicated to the honor of Mary and the life and teaching of Jesus. The name implies a garland of flowers. The rosary combines meditation on the Mysteries of Faith with the recitation of vocal prayers. A “decade” of the rosary consists of ten Hail Mary’s, which are preceded by an Our Father and followed by a Glory Be to the Father. Altogether there are twenty mysteries commemorating some aspects of the lives of Jesus and Mary: five joyful mysteries, five luminous mysteries, five sorrowful mysteries, and five glorious mysteries.

SACRAMENT a visible sign, instituted by Christ, which confers the grace it signifies. There are seven such sacraments in the Catholic Church: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders and Matrimony. Through these sacraments, participants receive gifts of God’s grace specific to that particular sacrament. All the graces of the sacraments flow from Christ’s Passion, death, and Resurrection.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION the three sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist are sacraments of initiation because they fully initiate a person into the Catholic Church.

SACRAMENTALS objects, prayers or blessings that are identified by the Church as sacred in Catholic tradition and the spiritual life in a unique way. These include holy water, medals, the rosary, the Sign of the Cross, blessed palm branches, blessed ashes, the crucifix, blessed oils, candles, holy pictures, statues and icons, the Stations of the Cross, Grace before and after meals, etc.

SACRARIUM A sacrarium is a special sink found in the sacristy of a church. It drains to bare earth, rather than to a sewer. The purpose of the sacrarium is to drain away the water used to wash the sacred vessels used for Holy Communion in Mass.

SACRISTY a part of the church where the clergy vest for sacred functions and where the vestments and sacred vessels used in divine worship are kept. (Modern Catholic Dictionary)
SALVATION the eternal union with God and all the blessed in heaven made possible by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

SANCTUARY the area in Catholic church buildings where the main altar is placed and the Eucharistic Liturgy is celebrated.

SANCTUARY LAMP/ LIGHT also called the Tabernacle Light. This light is kept burning before the presence of Christ reserved in the Blessed Sacrament. This tradition began in England in the 13th century and was made obligatory everywhere in the 17th century.

SEAL OF CONFESSION any sin revealed to the priest must be kept completely secret for all time.

SEDER MEAL sacred meal eaten by the Jews during the Passover, and the meal from which the ritual elements of the Mass were taken.

SERIOUS SIN also called Mortal Sin (q.v.)

SIGN OF THE CROSS a sacramental action that proclaims one’s faith in the Blessed Trinity, and originates in the early centuries of the Church. Usually combined with the Trinitarian formula: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” while signing the forehead, heart and shoulders with a cross.

SIN (definition) a conscious turning away from God through personal wrongdoing. Choosing, with freedom and knowledge, what is unloving and immoral.

SIN OF COMMISSION an act in which a person knowingly does something sinful.

SIN OF OMISSION failure to do what a person knows is the right thing.

SOCIAL SIN the evil that creeps into organizations, communities or societies as a result of human sin and selfish actions and attitudes. Unless it is rooted out, it tends to be perpetuated in these structures, thereby having a negative effect on individuals and communities.

SINAI the sacred place where the covenant between God and the Israelites was inaugurated. Sinai is the name of the triangular peninsula between Africa and Asia. It designates the wilderness in which Mount Sinai is located. On the mountain itself God delivered the law to Moses. (The Harper Collins Encyclopedia of Catholicism, Harper, San Francisco, 1995)

SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY:
1. instruct the ignorant
2. counsel the doubtful
3. admonish sinners
4. bear wrongs patiently
5. forgive offenses
6. comfort the afflicted
7. pray for the living and the dead

STATIONS OF THE CROSS also called the Way of the Cross, a devotion that consists of walking with Jesus and remembering the people and sites he met on his way to his death on Calvary. Originally, this devotion substituted for the pilgrimage made to the Holy Land in order to walk in the footsteps of Jesus to Calvary. Stations began in the Middle Ages and were walked out-of-doors. Stations have varied in number from five to twenty until Pope Clement XII set the number at fourteen. In the mid-18th century, Stations were allowed in church. In the 1960’s it became popular to add a fifteenth station representing the Resurrection.
STEWARDSHIP a concept of Scripture and Catholic social teaching that the earth, and all of creation, belong to God and that human beings are to care for and share the fruits of creation today, and to conserve these gifts for the generations to come.

TABERNACLE a box-like container placed in a Catholic Church or Chapel in which consecrated Hosts are reserved. Comes from the Latin meaning “little house.” This tradition has biblical precedents in the Old Testament Tabernacle, and the Jerusalem Temple, which housed the Holy of Holies.

TEN COMMANDMENTS The ten moral laws given by the Lord to Moses for the moral and religious welfare of God’s chosen people, the Israelites (Ex. 20:2-17; Dt. 5:6-21).

THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES supernatural habits or graced dispositions given by the Holy Spirit in Baptism, enabling one to have a supernatural faith, hope and love in God, and love others with the love of God. (cf. I Corinthians 13:13; see also “Virtues”)

TRADITION the rich and dynamic process by which the story of salvation and the of people of God is handed on to diverse peoples and cultures. This includes liturgy, doctrine, customs, prayers, practices, rituals, etc. Tradition is inseparably united with the Scriptures, which were written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, who guides the Church in handing on Tradition. Tradition is the context within which the Scriptures are properly understood.

TRANSITIONAL DEACON a person who is on the way to being ordained as a priest; the transitional diaconate follows after the ministries of acolyte and lector.

TRANSUBSTANTIATION the scholastic term used to articulate the unique change of the consecrated bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ. (CCC 1376)

TRIDUUM see Easter Triduum

TRINITY (Holy Trinity) the central/core doctrine of the Catholic Faith which states that God is one divine nature existing as three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; the term “Trinity” is a specifically Christian way of speaking of God.

VATICAN II worldwide council of the Catholic Church called by Pope John XXIII and held from 1962-1965. Sixteen documents were promulgated emphasizing renewal and modernization of the Church, as well as ecumenism among Christian churches.

VENIAL SIN (cf. Lesser Sin) sins that are not of a serious nature; or sins involving serious matter, but lacking full knowledge or complete consent. Venial sin may weaken, but does not break, one’s relationship with God.

VESTMENTS special garments worn by ministers during official services of the Church. Vestments include: the alb, a basic white tunic; dalmatic, an outer garment worn by a deacon; the stole, a long strip of cloth (worn over the shoulders down the front by priests, and over one shoulder and under the arm by deacons); the chasuble, a cloak-like over-garment, the colors of which are changed to correspond with the Liturgical Seasons.

VIATICUM the Eucharist received by a dying person. It is the spiritual food for one’s “passing over” to the Father from this world. With Penance and the Anointing of the Sick, the reception of Holy Communion as Viaticum constitute the “last sacraments” of the Christian. (CCC 1524)

VIRGIN BIRTH the belief that Mary remained a virgin before, during, and after she gave birth to her Son Jesus. Jesus became a human being without the participation of a human father. God is Jesus’ father, while Joseph is his foster father.
VIRTUE a good habit of acting. An enduring quality of character or intellect, through which an individual is enabled to live a good, moral life. (cf. Moral [Cardinal] Virtues, Theological Virtues)

VOCATION the living out of one’s baptismal commitment in a Christian lifestyle as called by God: single, married, ordained, or vowed religious.
Appendix 6: Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

1. The Life and Dignity of the Human Person
2. Call to Family, Community, and Participation
3. Rights and Responsibilities
4. Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
5. The Dignity of Work and Rights of Workers
6. Solidarity
7. Care for God’s Creation
Appendix 7: WORKS OF CHARITY GUIDE

GOAL: The students will be enabled and encouraged to give witness to, and integrate into their lives, the message and mission of Jesus through works of charity.

INTRODUCTION:
Works of charity (Christian service) is integral to the Christian life, and also to the religion Course of Study. Each year students should become actively involved in various works of charity, either through teacher-directed projects or independent family and home activities.

Christian service should:

1. Be seen as a response to our call as Christians (i.e., should not be designed as merely a “field trip,” for example).
2. Be within the capabilities and interests of the students.
3. Grow out of the lesson and relate to a thematic focus for the particular grade.
4. Involve students in planning the activity.
5. Involve one or two well-chosen projects, which will be more effective as a growth-promoting experience, than a series of haphazard activities.
6. Involve the opportunity to reflect on what students have experienced and what they have learned. This follow-up is a vital part of the role of works of charity in our faith formation endeavors.

(cf. “Works of Charity Reflection Form”)
Appendix 8: WORKS OF CHARITY REFLECTION FORM

STUDENT: ___________________________ DATE: ________________

TEACHER: ________________________________

TITLE OF PROJECT: ________________________________

DATE STARTED: ________________ DATE COMPLETED: ________________

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: ________________________________

______________________________

THIS ACTIVITY SERVED: Family School Parish

City Country World

REFLECTION:

1. What specific work of charity did you do?
2. What talent/skill of yours did you share?
3. What did you learn from this experience?
4. How did you feel during your time of service?
5. Do you believe your work of charity was helpful to whom you ministered? How so?

THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION:

1. What would Jesus have done in this situation?
2. What attitudes would he have had?
3. What were your attitudes during this time of service?
4. How were you living out the teaching of Jesus, “Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do to me”?
5. Silent reflection time… for a prayer, a journal entry, a new insight, etc.
## Appendix 9: Vocation Chart

### VOCATION CHART

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAY</th>
<th>Married</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Single</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORDAINED</th>
<th>Priest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Permanent Deacon</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VOWED RELIGIOUS LIFE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Priest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sister</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vocation Lessons helps students listen to God's call for their lives—whether to marriage, the priesthood, or religious life.

HOW DO I ACCESS VOCATION LESSONS?

At VocationLessons.com, teachers have one access code, and students have a different access code.

Teacher View vs. Student View

When you login using your teacher access code, then visit a lesson's web page, you will see all the teacher material and student material.

When a student logs in using the student access code, he or she sees only the pertinent student material.

Teachers can toggle between Teacher View and Student View. This is useful, for example, when displaying content for students on a computer or Smart Board.

DIOCESE OF TOLEDO
OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

Teacher Access Code:
ToledoRosary867

Student Access Code:
ToledoRosary431

Vocation Lessons was created by Vocation Vocations and a team of talented Catholic educators.

www.vocationlessons.com

877-585-1351
WHAT IS Vocation Lessons?

Vocation Lessons is an online curriculum supplement for Catholic schools, parish religious education, and youth ministry. It focuses on teaching students about the vocations to marriage, the priesthood, and religious life, and also helps them listen for God's call in their lives.

There are no textbooks; the content is 100% online. However, you can print out PDFs of the lesson plans and worksheets, if desired.

- 100% online at VocationLessons.com
- Works on Smartboards
- Also includes printable PDFs
- Online form for teachers to offer feedback on lessons
- Ongoing updates & improvements
- Family Feature can be emailed to parents

WHY IS AN EMPHASIS ON VOCATIONS NEEDED?

It's not just the number of priests that are in decline. Healthy vocations to marriage and religious life are also in crisis. Thus, we need to be more deliberate in teaching students about the beauty of each vocation, and how to listen for God's call.

AGE-APPROPRIATE CONTENT

The material for grades K-8 is fun and creative. For example, the 1st grade curriculum includes a story called "Super Priests," a light-hearted tale that shows the power of the priesthood.

For grades 6-8, the content deepens students' knowledge of all the vocations. It includes readings, videos, and interactive activities to help students begin to listen for God's call.

The high school curriculum is academically challenging and includes numerous teaching options. Students engage in role-playing activities, such as reenacting the ordination rite in class.

HOW MUCH CLASS TIME DOES IT TAKE?

For Catholic Schools

Vocation Lessons for grades K-12 takes up one week of religion classes. There are four lessons: marriage, the priesthood, religious life, and discernment; plus an assessment and family feature.

For Parish Religious Education

Vocation Lessons offers one class per year for parish religious education, grades K-8. The lesson covers marriage, priesthood, religious life, and discernment.

For Youth Ministry

For Youth Ministry, there are four meeting options, each covering all the vocations. This way, a ninth grader will cover all the material during his or her line in high school youth ministry.

Lessons contain videos, original stories, and inspiring excerpts, such as Pope Francis' message about vocations on World Youth Day.