

# Key Catholic Words

**Absolution:** **Absolution** is a special prayer the priest says in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation that absolves, or forgives, our sins with the authority of Jesus. *(Lesson 26)*

**Accidentals:** **Accidentals** are characteristics of a thing that can change without changing the thing itself such as colors, shape, smell, taste. *(Lesson 37)*

**Act of Contrition:** The **Act of Contrition** is a prayer telling God we are sorry for our sins, we need His help to do better next time, and to remember that Jesus died to save us from sin. *(Lesson 25)*

**Actual Grace:** **Actual grace** is spiritual help from God in each moment of our lives to choose what is good and avoid what is evil. *(Lesson 20)*

**Advocate:** An **advocate** is someone who speaks on behalf of someone else to help them. *(Lesson 32)*

**Alleluia:** **Alleluia** means “praise God” or “praise the Lord” and is a joyful exclamation of praise and worship to God. *(Lesson 29)*

**Annunciation:** The **Annunciation** is the event in which the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce that she would be the Mother of Jesus. *(Lesson 9)*

**Apostle:** An **Apostle** is one who is sent. Jesus called twelve men to be His Apostles. *(Lesson 13)*

**Apostolic Succession:** **Apostolic Succession** is the handing on of authority from the Apostles to their successors, the bishops, through the laying on of hands. *(Lesson 13)*

**Ascension:** The **Ascension** is the historical event in which Jesus went up, or ascended, into Heaven in His glorified body 40 days after His Resurrection. *(Lesson 30)*

**Assumption:** The **Assumption** is the event in which Mary was assumed, or taken up, into Heaven, body and soul, at the end of her earthly life. Mary is now in Heaven with her Son, crowned Queen of Heaven and seated at His right hand. *(Lesson 9)*

**Authority:** **Authority** is the ability and power to do something. *(Lesson 23)*

**Baptism:** **Baptism** is the first Sacrament of Initiation that makes us members of the Church, forgives our sins, and gives us new life in Christ. The celebration of Baptism involves being immersed in water or having water poured over one’s head in the name of the Holy Trinity. *(Lesson 19)*

**Beatific Vision:** The **Beatific Vision** is when we will see God face-to-face as He is in Heaven. *(Lesson 22)*

**Beatitudes:** The **Beatitudes** are Jesus’ teachings in the Sermon on the Mount about how to live our lives on earth so that we can be perfectly happy in Heaven. *(Lesson 14)*

**Begotten:** To be **begotten** is to have been brought into existence by a father. *(Lesson 7)*

**Bible:** The **Bible** is the written Word of God, the record of His revelation of Himself. Also called Sacred Scripture. *(Lesson 41)*

**Bishop:** A **bishop** is typically the leader of a diocese and a main teacher of the Catholic faith. He makes the Sacraments available to the people of his diocese. He is a successor to the Apostles. *(Lesson 13)*

**Blasphemy:** **Blasphemy** is something we say, think, or do that is insulting to God, His Church, or people or things dedicated to God. *(Lesson 3)*

**Blessing and Adoration:** **Blessing and adoration** is the form of prayer in which we tell God that we love Him because He is God our Father and we are His children. *(Lesson 5)*

**Body:** The **body** is the physical part of who we are. *(Lesson 23)*

**Bread of Life:** The **Bread of Life** is a title for the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ given to us as spiritual food in the Eucharist. *(Lesson 35)*

**Chalice:** A **chalice** is a special cup to be used at a special feast. *(Lesson 35)*

**Chrism:** **Chrism** is a blessed and perfumed oil that is used to anoint a person at their Baptism and when they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. *(Lesson 19)*

**Commandment:** A **commandment** is a rule or law that God gave to His people to learn to love Him and to love each other. *(Lesson 3)*

**Concluding Rites:** The **Concluding Rites** are the last parts of the Mass that include the final blessing and the dismissal. *(Lesson 4)*

**Concupiscence:** **Concupiscence** is the effect of Original Sin that makes us more likely to sin. *(Lesson 18)*

**Confession:** **Confession** is the part of the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation when we tell all our sins to a priest, who acts in the place of Christ. *(Lesson 26)*

**Confiteor:** The **Confiteor** is a prayer that can be said during the Penitential Act during Mass in which we confess our general sinfulness. *(Lesson 24)*

**Conscience:** **Conscience** is a judgment of reason by which we recognize right and wrong. It is the voice of God speaking within us that guides us to do good and avoid evil. *(Lesson 26)*

**Consubstantial:** **Consubstantial** means “of the same substance.” *(Lesson 7)*

**Contrition:** **Contrition** is sorrow for our sins and making the choice to not sin again. *(Lesson 26)*

**Corporal Works of Mercy:** The **Corporal Works of Mercy** are actions Jesus taught us to show great kindness to people in their bodily needs, such as giving them food, clothing, and shelter. *(Lesson 14)*

**Covenant:** A **covenant** is a solemn agreement between persons that makes a sacred and permanent family relationship. *(Lesson 2)*

**Creator:** **Creator** is the name for God that tells us that He made all that exists out of nothing. *(Lesson 4)*

**Custom:** A **custom** is a tradition, or something that a person or a group of people do frequently as an habitual practice. *(Lesson 10)*

**Diocese:** A **diocese** is a group of parishes within a specific geographic area led by a bishop. *(Lesson 13)*

**Disciple:** A **disciple** is a student or follower. Jesus had many disciples. *(Lesson 3)*

**Divine Mercy:** **Divine Mercy** is the infinite loving kindness and forgiveness of God. *(Lesson 25)*

**Ecumenical Council:** An **ecumenical council** is a meeting of all the world’s bishops together in union with the pope. *(Lesson 7)*

**Enmity:** **Enmity** means “hatred.” (Lesson 18)

**Eternal:** To be **eternal** is to be without beginning or end. (Lesson 7)

**Eucharist:** The **Eucharist** is The Sacrament in which we receive the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ under the appearances of bread and wine. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian life. It is spiritual food for the soul. It is not merely a symbol; it is Jesus’ true flesh and blood. (Lesson 34)

**Eucharistic Adoration:** **Eucharistic Adoration** is a special kind of prayer in which we worship our Lord in His Real Presence in the Eucharist displayed in a monstrance. (Lesson 38)

**Eucharistic Fast:** The **Eucharistic fast** is when we do not eat or drink anything at least an hour before receiving the Eucharist. (Lesson 39)

**Examination of Conscience:** An **Examination of Conscience** is a list of statements or questions that help us to identify and confess all our sins. (Lesson 25)

**Exorcism:** An **exorcism** is one of the types of miracles that Jesus performed in which He cast out demons that had possessed people. (Lesson 15)

**Extraordinary:** **Extraordinary** means amazing, wonderful, unusual, or out of the ordinary. (Lesson 10)

**Fiat:** **Fiat** is the Latin word for “Let it be done.” Mary’s yes to God is her *fiat*. (Lesson 9)

**Final Age:** The **Final Age** is the days and years before the end of time, beginning with Jesus’ Ascension into Heaven. (Lesson 30)

**Free Will:** **Free Will** is the power of the soul that make choices and acts upon them. (Lesson 1)

**Gifts of the Holy Spirit:** The **Gifts of the Holy Spirit** are characteristics of Jesus given to us at our Baptism and strengthened in Confirmation to help us become more like Jesus and listen to the Holy Spirit. They are wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord. (Lesson 32)

**Gospel:** **Gospel** means “good news.” (Lesson 18)

**Grace:** **Grace** is the free gift of God’s love and life in our souls that is given to us by the Holy Spirit. (Lesson 9)

**Heaven:** **Heaven** is where those who die in God’s grace and friendship go after death. It is a place of eternal happiness with God together with the angels and saints. (Lesson 22)

**Hell:** **Hell** is where those who die in a state of mortal sin go after death. Those who have freely chosen to reject God’s love and mercy will be separated from Him forever. The primary punishment in Hell is the eternal separation from God. (Lesson 22)

**Holy Spirit:** The **Holy Spirit** is the third Person of the Holy Trinity. He makes us holy and guides us to become more like Jesus. (Lessons 4 and 23)

**Holy Trinity:** The **Holy Trinity** is the Christian mystery revealed to us by God that He is three Persons in One God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (Lesson 4)

**Holy Water:** **Holy Water** is water that has been blessed by a priest. It reminds us of our Baptism, bestows certain graces, and helps us on our way to Heaven. (Lesson 19)

**Immaculate Conception:** The **Immaculate Conception** is the truth that, from the beginning of her life, the Virgin Mary was saved from all sin, including Original Sin. Mary was prepared by God to be a holy vessel for our salvation. (Lesson 9)

**Imperfect Happiness:** **Imperfect happiness** is the kind of happiness that we can know during our earthly lives. This happiness does not last and may go away over time. (*Lesson 14*)

**Incarnation:** The **Incarnation** is the fact that the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Son of God, assumed a human nature in the Person of Jesus Christ. (*Lesson 8*)

**Inspiration:** **Inspiration** is the process by which the human authors of Scripture were guided by the Holy Spirit to write the truth God wanted known for our salvation. (*Lesson 41*)

**Intellect:** The **intellect** is the power of our soul that thinks and understands things. (*Lesson 1*)

**Intercession:** **Intercession** is the form of prayer in which we ask God to help others. (*Lesson 5*)

**Introductory Rites:** The **Introductory Rites** are the beginning parts of the Mass that include the entrance of the priest, opening greeting and prayers, the Penitential Acts, the singing of the Gloria (on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation), and the Collect. (*Lesson 4*)

**Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary:** The **Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary** are important events in the lives of Mary and Jesus that we reflect upon while praying the Rosary. (*Lesson 43*)

**Justice:** **Justice** is the will or desire to give to God and man what is due to them. (*Lesson 17*)

**Kingdom:** A **kingdom** is a place where a king rules, or reigns. (*Lesson 12*)

**Kingdom of God (Kingdom of Heaven):** The **Kingdom of God**, or **Kingdom of Heaven**, is God's reign or rule over all things. (*Lesson 12*)

**Kyrie:** The **Kyrie** is a prayer during the Penitential Act during Mass in which we ask for Christ's mercy. (*Lesson 24*)

**Lamb of God:** **Lamb of God** is a title given to Jesus that describes His sacrifice to free us from sin. In the Old Testament, a lamb was sacrificed for the temporary forgiveness of sin. Jesus' sacrifice makes the forgiveness of sin possible for everyone for all time. (*Lesson 34*)

**Last Judgment:** The **Last Judgment** happens at the end of time when Jesus returns in glory. The light of Christ will reveal how the good we have done or failed to do has affected everyone and everything. (*Lesson 33*)

**Last Supper:** The **Last Supper** is the final meal Jesus shared with His Apostles. There, Jesus changed bread and wine into His Body and Blood to eat in the Eucharist and commanded His Apostles to do the same in memory of Him. (*Lesson 35*)

**Lectio Divina:** **Lectio Divina** is an ancient form of praying with Scripture that is a slow and thoughtful encounter with the Word of God. It is Latin for "divine reading." (*Lesson 28*)

**Liturgical Calendar:** The **liturgical calendar** is the cycle of liturgical seasons during one calendar year, which includes Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Triduum, and Easter. (*Lesson 31*)

**Liturgy:** **Liturgy** is the "public work" of the Church. The liturgy is our public worship as Christians. (*Lessons 4 and 36*)

**Liturgy of the Eucharist:** The **Liturgy of the Eucharist** is the third part of the Mass, in which we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. (*Lesson 4, Lesson 36*)

**Liturgy of the Word:** The **Liturgy of the Word** is the second part of the Mass, in which we receive the written Word of God. (*Lesson 4, Lesson 36*)

**Love:** **Love** is wanting and choosing what is good for someone else. (*Lesson 2*)

**Manna:** **Manna** is the mysterious “bread from Heaven” that God provided to the Israelites as they wandered the desert for 40 years. (Lesson 34)

**Marian Apparitions:** **Marian apparitions** are places and times when Mary appeared to bring the message of her Son, Jesus, after she was assumed into Heaven. (Lesson 42)

**Mass:** The **Mass** is the liturgical celebration and memorial of Christ’s sacrifice on the Cross and His Resurrection from the dead. (Lesson 36)

**Meek:** To be **meek** is to be patient, quiet, and gentle. (Lesson 14)

**Memorial:** A **memorial** is a way of remembering and celebrating the past. (Lesson 36)

**Memorial Acclamation:** The **Memorial Acclamation** is the proclamation of the Paschal Mystery in prayer at every Mass. (Lesson 31)

**Mercy:** **Mercy** is loving kindness and forgiveness shown to others. (Lesson 14)

**Miracle:** A **miracle** is a supernatural act of God that demonstrates His power over all things. (Lesson 15)

**Missal:** A **missal** is a book containing all the prayers, responses, and instructions for the congregation at Mass. (Lesson 5)

**Monstrance:** A **monstrance** is a special, ornate vessel made to hold the Eucharist so that we may look at it and worship our Lord in Adoration. (Lesson 38)

**Mortal Sin:** **Mortal Sin** is serious sin that we freely choose to commit even though we know it is wrong. Mortal sin separates us from God and completely rejects His love for us. (Lesson 21)

**Mother of God (Theotokos):** **Mother of God (Theotokos)** is a title for Mary that describes her motherhood of Jesus, who is fully man and fully God. *Theotokos* is a Greek word that means “Mother of God.” (Lesson 9)

**Mourn:** To **mourn** is to show sadness over the loss of something or someone. (Lesson 14)

**Mystery:** A **mystery** is a truth about God we can come to know only with God’s help. (Lesson 4)

**New Heavens and the New Earth:** The **New Heavens and the New Earth** refers to the renewal and transformation of all things at the end of time when we will be united fully with God without sin, suffering, or death. (Lesson 33)

**New Testament:** The **New Testament** is the 27 books of the Bible that appear after the Old Testament. They tell the story of Jesus’ life, teachings, Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension and the beginning of His Church guided by the Holy Spirit. (Lesson 41)

**Nicene Creed:** The **Nicene Creed** is the profession of faith typically said at Sunday Mass. In the Creed, we profess belief in the Holy Trinity and in the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. (Lesson 7)

**Obey:** To **obey** is to follow the direction of someone who has authority over us. (Lesson 11)

**Old Testament:** The **Old Testament** is the first 46 books of the Bible. They tell the story of how God revealed Himself to us in Salvation History to prepare us for His Son to come into the world. (Lesson 41)

**Ordinary:** **Ordinary** means common, usual, or typical. (Lesson 10)

**Original Justice:** **Original Justice** was the state of perfect relationship with God and each other in which Adam and Eve lived before the Fall. (Lesson 17)

**Original Sin:** **Original Sin** is the wounded human nature that every person is born into because of the first sin of Adam and Eve. *(Lesson 18)*

**Our Father:** The **Our Father** is the prayer given to us by Christ when He taught us to pray in the Gospels. *(Lesson 16)*

**Parable:** A **parable** is a short story that uses familiar things to help explain something in a way that is easier for us to understand. *(Lesson 12)*

**Parish:** A **parish** is a local community of Christian people, led by a pastor, who receives the Sacraments and all of God's gifts — everything we need to know, love, and serve God. *(Lesson 13)*

**Particular Judgment:** The **Particular Judgment** happens at our death when we will be judged according to how we loved and served God and our neighbor as Jesus taught us. *(Lesson 33)*

**Paschal Mystery:** The **Paschal Mystery** refers to the suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus. *(Lesson 31)*

**Passover:** **Passover** was an important Jewish feast that celebrates God's freeing of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. *(Lesson 34)*

**Pastor:** A **pastor** is a priest who leads and cares for a parish. *(Lesson 13)*

**Peacemaker:** A **peacemaker** is a person who treats others the way he or she would want to be treated, with humility, gentleness, patience, and loving kindness. *(Lesson 14)*

**Penance:** A **penance** is an act the priest gives us during the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation to help us repair our relationship with God, His Church, and those whom we may have hurt by our sin. *(Lesson 26)*

**Penitential Act:** The **Penitential Act** is the part of the Introductory Rites of the Mass where we acknowledge our sinfulness and ask for God's forgiveness and infinite mercy as well as for the prayers of Mary, the saints, and each other. *(Lesson 24)*

**Pentecost:** **Pentecost** is a special feast day in the Church, 50 days after Jesus' Resurrection, that celebrates the day Jesus fulfilled His promise to send the Holy Spirit. *(Lesson 32)*

**People of God:** The **People of God** is another name for the Church. It describes how God has called us out to share His life with us, so that we can be His sons and daughters. As the People of God, we are called to spread His name and do His works in the world. *(Lesson 40)*

**Perfect Happiness:** **Perfect happiness** is the kind of happiness we will only know when we are in Heaven with God. This happiness will last forever. *(Lesson 14)*

**Person:** A **person** is a unique individual who can know and love. *(Lesson 4)*

**Petition:** **Petition** is the form of prayer in which we ask God for good things. *(Lesson 5)*

**Pharisees:** The **Pharisees** were religious leaders in Jesus' time. Many Pharisees were enemies of Jesus. *(Lesson 3)*

**Pope:** The **pope** is the Bishop of Rome and the successor to St. Peter as the head of the Church on earth. *(Lesson 13)*

**Prayer:** **Prayer** is the way we speak to God and listen for His voice. *(Lesson 5)*

**Pride:** **Pride** is the belief that what we want is better than what God wants for us. It is at the root of all sin. *(Lesson 21)*

**Priest:** A **priest** is a co-worker with his bishop. He preaches the Gospel of Christ and makes the Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist, available to the People of God. *(Lesson 13)*

**Protoevangelium:** *Protoevangelium* means “first gospel.” In Genesis 3:15 God promised to send a Savior to crush the head of the serpent and defeat sin and death. (Lesson 8, Lesson 18)

**Purgatory:** **Purgatory** is where those who die in God’s grace and friendship, but who still need to be purified from the effects of mortal sin on their souls, go after death. (Lesson 22)

**Real Presence:** The **Real Presence** refers to the truth that Jesus is fully and entirely present in the Eucharist, under the humble appearance of bread and wine. (Lesson 36)

**Reconciliation:** **Reconciliation** means to repair a hurt relationship and make it like new again. (Lesson 26)

**Redeem:** To **redeem** is to free someone from something that burdens or harms him. Jesus freed us from sin by His sacrifice on the Cross. (Lesson 29)

**Repent:** To **repent** is to be sorry and ask for forgiveness. (Lesson 26)

**Resurrection:** **Resurrection** is the act of coming back to life. (Lessons 15 and 29)

**Resurrection:** The **Resurrection** is when Jesus rose from the dead on the third day after His Death on the Cross. (Lessons 15 and 29)

**Righteousness:** **Righteousness** is the quality of fairness and justice. (Lesson 14)

**Rosary:** The **Rosary** is a special prayer said with a chain of beads during which we reflect on the important events in the lives of Jesus and Mary. (Lesson 9)

**Sacrament:** A **sacrament** is a sign of God’s grace that gives the grace that it signifies. The seven Sacraments are Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance and Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Holy Matrimony. (Lesson 19)

**Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation:** The **Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation** is the sacrament in which we confess our sins when we are truly sorry for them and receive forgiveness from God through a priest. This sacrament reunites us with God and His Church and fills us with sanctifying grace. (Lesson 21)

**Sacraments at the Service of Communion:** The **Sacraments at the Service of Communion** are the Sacraments we receive to help other get to Heaven and build up the People of God. They are Holy Orders and Matrimony. (Lesson 6)

**Sacraments of Healing:** The **Sacraments of Healing** are the sacraments where Jesus makes our souls healthy again. They are the Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick. (Lesson 6)

**Sacraments of Initiation:** The **Sacraments of Initiation** are the Sacraments that bring us into Christ’s Church on earth and strengthen us for Heaven. They are Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist. (Lesson 6)

**Sacrifice:** To **sacrifice** is to give something up freely and willingly. (Lesson 34)

**Salvation History:** **Salvation History** is the story of God’s love and mercy revealed to us throughout human history. (Lesson 41)

**Samaritans:** The **Samaritans** were people living in Israel during the time of Jesus who were not friends with the Jewish people. (Lesson 3)

**Sanctifier:** The **Sanctifier** is a title for the Holy Spirit because He makes all things holy. (Lesson 4)

**Sanctify:** To **sanctify** is to make holy. (Lesson 40)

**Sanctifying grace:** **Sanctifying grace** is the free gift of God's love and life in our souls that is given to us by the Holy Spirit through the sacraments. *(Lesson 20)*

**Savior:** A **savior** is someone who saves, or rescues, someone from danger. Jesus is our **Savior** because He saves us from sin and death. *(Lesson 4)*

**Seal of Confession:** The **Seal of Confession** is the obligation of priests in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation to keep secret everything confessed to them. *(Lesson 27)*

**Sermon on the Mount:** The **Sermon on the Mount** is Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven, presented to a large crowd of disciples, during which He gave us the Beatitudes. *(Lesson 14)*

**Sin:** A **sin** is something that we say, do, think, or fail to do that does not love God, our neighbor, or ourselves, as God has taught us. *(Lesson 18)*

**Son of God:** The **Son of God** is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ, Son of the Father. He is God Himself. *(Lesson 7)*

**Soul:** The **soul** is the spiritual part of who we are that gives our bodies life. It allows us to communicate with God. Our soul lives on even when our body dies. *(Lesson 23)*

**Spiritual Works of Mercy:** The **Spiritual Works of Mercy** are actions Jesus taught us to help love our neighbor by meeting his or her spiritual needs, such as offering forgiveness, comfort, and prayer. *(Lesson 16)*

**Steward:** A **steward** is person who takes care of something for someone else. *(Lesson 1)*

**Stole:** A **stole** is a long thin strip of cloth that a priest wears over his shoulders while performing His priestly duties. *(Lesson 26)*

**Substance:** **Substance** is what a thing is. *(Lesson 7, Lesson 37)*

**Symbol:** A **symbol** is something that stands for or represents something else. *(Lesson 19)*

**Temptation:** A **temptation** is something that attracts or lures a person to sin. *(Lesson 18)*

**Ten Commandments:** The **Ten Commandments** are God's Law given to Moses in the Old Testament. Breaking one of these Commandments is a serious sin. *(Lesson 21)*

**Thanksgiving:** **Thanksgiving** is the form of prayer in which we thank God for the good things He has given us. *(Lesson 5)*

**Transubstantiation:** **Transubstantiation** is the change that occurs when the priest says the words of consecration; the bread and wine change in substance into the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus. *(Lesson 37)*

**Twelve Apostles:** The **Twelve Apostles** were the twelve men whom Jesus called to follow Him during His earthly life and who continued His work after His Death and Resurrection. Jesus gave them the authority to teach, heal, and forgive sins in His name. *(Lesson 23)*

**Venial Sin:** **Venial Sin** is less serious sin that hurts our relationship with God but does not destroy it. *(Lesson 21)*

**Virtue:** **Virtue** is the habit of doing what is good. *(Lesson 10)*

**Witness:** A **witness** is someone who sees something happen and tells others about what he saw. *(Lesson 30)*

**Word of God:** The **Word of God** is a title for Jesus Christ, who is the fullness of God's revelation of Himself. *(Lesson 8)*