

## Key Catholic Words

**Abba:** **Abba** is the Hebrew word for Father. Jesus taught us to call God “Abba, Father” when we pray. *(Lesson 3)*

**Absolution:** **Absolution** is the fourth step in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation during which the priest prays the prayer of absolution, forgiving our sins in Jesus’ name and welcoming us back into communion with the Church. *(Lesson 32)*

**Act of Contrition:** An **Act of Contrition** is a formal prayer telling God we are sorry for our sin, want His forgiveness, and need His help to do better next time. We say an Act of Contrition before receiving absolution when we receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. *(Lesson 27)*

**Ambassador:** An **ambassador** is a person from one nation who represents his nation in a foreign land. Jesus is the ambassador of God’s Kingdom. *(Lesson 7)*

**Angelus:** The **Angelus** is a traditional prayer led by the pope every Sunday afternoon, often from his window, overlooking St. Peter’s Square in the Vatican. Afterward, he typically gives a brief message or teaching. *(Lesson 40)*

**Annunciation:** The **Annunciation** is the moment the angel Gabriel invited the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of God’s Son. Mary’s yes marks the moment of the Incarnation. *(Lesson 34)*

**Anointing:** **Anointing** is rubbing or marking with oil. Holy oil is spread on our foreheads in Baptism and Confirmation, and again in the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. *(Lesson 29)*

**Apostle:** An **apostle** is one who is sent. Jesus called twelve men to be His Apostles. *(Lesson 23)*

**Ascension:** The **Ascension** is Jesus’ return to Heaven in His glorified body 40 days after His Resurrection. There, He is seated at the right hand of the Father in all His glory. *(Lesson 38)*

**Assumption:** The **Assumption** is the taking up of the Virgin Mary, body and soul, into Heaven 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 34)*

**Baptism:** **Baptism** is the first Sacrament of Initiation. It makes us members of the Church, forgives sins *(including Original Sin)*, and gives us new life in Christ. It is necessary for salvation. *(Lesson 2)*

**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 22)*

**Blessing:** A **blessing** is God’s power and care upon a person, place, thing, or action. God’s blessing can be requested in prayer. *(Lesson 36)*

**Body of Christ:** The **Body of Christ** is another name for the Church. Just as a body has many parts, so too does the Church have many members, each with an important role to play. Together we continue Christ’s work in the world as His hands and feet. *(Lesson 20)*

**Breaking of the Bread:** The **Breaking of the Bread** is another title for the Mass used in the New Testament. *(Lesson 30)*

**Bridegroom:** A **bridegroom** is a man who is about to be married, or who has recently been married. *(Lesson 9)*

**Charism:** A **charism** is a special gift of grace from God that helps us follow God's plan for us. (*Lesson 39*)

**Charity:** **Charity is the Theological Virtue** by which we love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God. (*Lesson 21*)

**Christ:** **Christ** is the Greek word for "anointed one." See Messiah. (*Lesson 9*)

**Communion:** **Communion** is a title for the Eucharist that refers to how all who receive the Body and Blood of Christ are united to Him and one another. (*Lesson 30*)

**Confession:** **Confession** is the second step in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, during which we confess our sins to a priest who acts in the Person of Christ, and pray an Act of Contrition. (*Lesson 32*)

**Confirmation:** The **Sacrament of Confirmation** is the Sacrament in which the gift of the Holy Spirit received at Baptism is confirmed, strengthened, and perfected in us. Confirmation helps us live the Christian life courageously and spread the faith to others. (*Lesson 29*)

**Conscience:** **Conscience** is God's voice in our hearts. It is the gift God gave human beings to be able to use reason in order to judge right from wrong. (*Lesson 27*)

**Conserve:** To **conserve** means to protect from harm or destruction. (*Lesson 19*)

**Contrition:** **Contrition** means sorrow. During the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, we express true sorrow for our sins by praying an Act of Contrition after we have confessed our sins to the priest. (*Lesson 32*)

**Conversion:** **Conversion** is the first step in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, during which we recognize that we have sinned and are sorry for our actions. (*Lesson 32*)

**Cornerstone:** A **cornerstone** is a large, strong stone placed at the bottom corners of a building to make it stable. Jesus is called "the cornerstone" because He is the foundation of our entire Catholic Faith. (*Lesson 23*)

**Corporal Works of Mercy:** The **Corporal Works of Mercy** are loving actions taught to us by Christ that help us meet a person's physical needs. Corporal means "of the body." The Corporal Works of Mercy are: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. (*Lesson 12*)

**Creation:** **Creation** refers to everything God has made. God gave us the responsibility to care for His creation. (*Lesson 19*)

**Creed:** A **creed** is a statement of belief. As Catholics, we profess our faith in the Trinity and what the Church believes and teaches when we pray the Nicene Creed or Apostles' Creed. (*Lesson 2*)

**Custom:** A **custom** is a tradition or something that a person or a group of people do frequently as a habitual practice. (*Lesson 7*)

**Dignity:** **Dignity** is the honor and respect due to every person because he or she is made in God's image and likeness. (*Lesson 16*)

**Diocese:** A **diocese** is a geographic area into which the Church is organized throughout the world. Each diocese is made up of many parishes, and is led by a bishop. (*Lesson 40*)

**Disciple:** A **disciple** is a student. The disciples were followers, or students, of Jesus. Jesus had thousands of disciples. All Christians are His disciples today. (*Lesson 13*)

**Divine:** **Divine** means of God, like God, or godly. (Lesson 5)

**Doctrine:** **Doctrine** is another word for the teachings of the Church. (Lesson 22)

**Dominion:** **Dominion** is the power or rule of a king. (Lesson 6)

**Dwell:** To **dwell** means “to live in” or “to be present someplace.” (Lesson 17)

**Eucharist:** The **Eucharist is the Sacrament** in which we receive the true 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. (Lesson 30)

**Examination of Conscience:** An **Examination of Conscience** is a list of statements of questions that helps us to identify and confess all of our sins. (Lesson 27)

**Faith:** **Faith** is both a gift from God and man’s response to God by believing in Him, the truth He has made known to us, and the way of living we are invited to by the Church. (Lesson 2)

**False god:** A **false god** is someone or something that is worshiped instead of God. For example, a pagan god, money, or fame. (Lesson 2)

**Family of God:** The **Family of God** is a title for the Church. By our Baptism, we are made sons and daughters of God and members of His family, the Church. (Lesson 22)

**Foreshadow:** To **foreshadow** is to hint at a future event before it happens. (Lesson 11)

**Forgive:** To **forgive** someone is to let go of anger towards someone who has harmed you. It can also mean to cancel a debt someone owes you. (Lesson 21)

**Four Marks of the Church:** The **four marks of the Church** are four defining characteristics of the Church given to her by Jesus. The Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. The Holy Spirit works in and through the Church to help her fulfill these marks. (Lesson 39)

**Gifts of the Holy Spirit:** The **Gifts of the Holy Spirit** are seven gifts of grace given to us in an outpouring of the Holy Spirit at our Baptism and again in Confirmation. They make us more like Christ and help us to respond to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. They are wisdom, knowledge, understanding, counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord. (Lesson 29)

**Gospel:** **Gospel** means “Good News.” The heart of the Christian message is the Good News that God loved the world so much that He sent His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him will not die, but have eternal life. (Lesson 6)

**Grace:** **Grace** is the free gift of God’s life within us. (Lesson 14)

**Gratitude:** **Gratitude** is the quality or feeling of being thankful. (Lesson 18)

**Great Commandments:** The **great commandments** are Jesus’ summary of the Law and the prophets: Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself. (Lesson 15)

**Hierarchy:** The **hierarchy** is the leadership of the Church. The pope is the head of the Church on earth and the bishop of Rome. He works together with all of the world’s bishops to teach all that Jesus commanded and make disciples of all the world. (Lesson 40)

**Holy Oil:** **Holy Oil** is a blessed and perfumed oil that is used to anoint a person at Baptism and Confirmation. (Lesson 28)

**Honor:** To **honor** someone is to respect that person, showing him or her gratitude and admiration, and taking great care to be considerate of his or her feelings and wishes. *(Lesson 18)*

**Immaculate Conception:** The **Immaculate Conception** refers to how God saved Mary from Original Sin from the beginning of her life so that she could bear Jesus in her womb. *(Lesson 34)*

**Incarnation:** The **Incarnation** is the assumption of a human nature by the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Son of God. The Son of God became man in the divine Person Jesus Christ. *(Lesson 5)*

**Intellect:** **Intellect** is a person's ability to know and understand. All human beings have an intellect. *(Lesson 5)*

**Intercede:** To **intercede** is to stand up for another person or ask for something for her when she is in need or in trouble. *(Lesson 9)*

**Kingdom:** A **kingdom** is the place where a king rules. *(Lesson 7)*

**Kingdom of Heaven:** The **Kingdom of Heaven** (also called the Kingdom of God) is God's reign or rule over all things. *(Lesson 6)*

**Last Supper:** The **Last Supper** was the last meal shared between Jesus and His Apostles on the night before He died on the Cross. Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper. *(Lesson 30)*

**Laying on of Hands:** **Laying on of Hands** is placing hands upon another person's head. In Confirmation, the bishop places his hands on the head of the person receiving the Sacrament as a sign of being chosen. *(Lesson 29)*

**Leprosy:** **Leprosy** is a terrible skin disease that many people had during Jesus' time. People with leprosy were made to live outside their city or village because the disease was easy to catch. *(Lesson 16)*

**Liturgy:** **Liturgy** is the public worship of the Church. It is the participation of the People of God in the "work of God," our salvation from sin. *(Lesson 30)*

**Liturgy of the Eucharist:** The **Liturgy of the Eucharist** is the second major part of the Mass, in which we receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. *(Lesson 31)*

**Liturgy of the Word:** The **Liturgy of the Word** is the first major part of the Mass, in which we receive the written Word of God. *(Lesson 31)*

**Magisterium:** The **Magisterium** is the teaching authority of the Church. *(Lesson 39)*

**Magnificat:** The **Magnificat** is the prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God Mary prayed when she visited her cousin Elizabeth after the Annunciation. *(Lesson 34)*

**Marriage:** **Marriage** (Holy Matrimony) is the Sacrament in which one man and one woman are joined together in a lifelong union of love. They promise to be faithful to each other and raise children in the Christian faith. *(Lesson 9)*

**Mass:** The **Mass** is the liturgical celebration and memorial of Christ's sacrifice on the Cross and Resurrection from the dead. *(Lesson 30)*

**Memento Mori:** **Memento mori** is a Latin phrase meaning "remember you must die," or "remember your death." *(Lesson 33)*

**Memorial:** A **memorial** is a way of remembering the past. The word "remember" means "to make present again." In the Eucharist, Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross is made present to us again. *(Lesson 30)*

**Merchant:** A **merchant** is someone who buys and sells goods. (*Lesson 8*)

**Messiah:** **Messiah** is the Hebrew word for “anointed one.” God had promised the Chosen People that He would send the Messiah to free them from sin. Jesus is God’s promised Messiah and Savior. (*Lesson 9*)

**Miracle:** A **miracle** is an act of God that shows His power over all things. (*Lesson 10*)

**Miraculous Medal:** The **Miraculous Medal** is a sacramental medal with an image of Mary imprinted on it and the words, “O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.” All who wear this medal around their neck with confidence will receive many graces. (*Lesson 36*)

**Mortal Sin:** **Mortal Sin** is serious sin that we choose to commit even though we know it is wrong. Mortal sin destroys our relationship with God and completely rejects His love for us. (*Lesson 24*)

**Mystery:** A **mystery** is a truth about God that can come to know only with God’s help. (*Lesson 1*)

**Natural Resources:** **Natural Resources** are the things of nature available to us that we use to make or build everything else. (For example, water, trees, fossil fuels, and so forth.) (*Lesson 19*)

**Nature:** The **nature** of something is what it is. (*Lesson 5*)

**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 39*)

**Obedience:** **Obedience** is the behavior and attitude that shows respect to those who have authority over us (*Lesson 18*)

**Original Sin:** **Original Sin** is the wounded human nature resulting from the first sin of Adam and Eve that is inherited by all human beings. Baptism is necessary to wash away the stain of Original Sin, though certain consequences remain, such as a tendency to sin. (*Lesson 24*)

**Parable:** A **parable** is a short story that uses earthly things to reveal spiritual, heavenly truths. To understand parables, we must listen with the ears of faith. (*Lesson 8*)

**Parish:** A **parish** is a local community of Christian faithful led by a pastor, where we receive the Sacraments and all of God’s gifts — everything we need to know, love, and serve God. (*Lesson 41*)

**Pastor:** A **pastor** is a priest who leads and cares for a parish with the authority of his bishop. (*Lesson 41*)

**Peace:** **Peace** is living in harmony with others, including God (*Lesson 4*)

**Penance:** **Penance** is a prayer, good work, or other act given to us by a priest in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation that we must say or do to make up for our confessed sins. (*Lesson 27*)

**Pentecost:** **Pentecost** is the day, 50 days after Jesus’ Resurrection, that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit upon Mary and the Apostles, who were emboldened to go out and proclaim the Gospel to the world. (*Lesson 38*)

**Person:** A **person** is a unique individual who has knowledge of him or herself, free will, and a capacity for love. (*Lesson 5*)

**Pope:** The **pope** is the Bishop of Rome and the successor to St. Peter as the head of the Church on earth. (*Lesson 22*)

**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 22)*

**Proceed:** To **proceed** means to come forth from. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son. *(Lesson 1)*

**Prodigal:** **Prodigal** means “reckless” or “wasteful.” *(Lesson 32)*

**Rebuke:** To **rebuke** someone is to scold them harshly. *(Lesson 16)*

**Reign:** To **reign** is to rule with the authority of a king by making and enforcing laws and by judging people by those laws. *(Lesson 7)*

**Repent:** To **repent** means to be sorry, ask for forgiveness, and turn away from sin. *(Lesson 6)*

**Respect:** **Respect** is the care, honor, and admiration given to others according to what is due to them. *(Lesson 4)*

**Resurrection:** The **Resurrection** is the crowning truth of the Christian Faith that Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day after His Death on the Cross. *(Lesson 25)*

**Reverence:** **Reverence** is the honor or respect given to someone or something. The Second Commandment requires us to use God’s name with reverence. *(Lesson 2)*

**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 35)*

**Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick:** The **Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick** is the Sacrament by which the sick and dying receive the grace of Christ to face their suffering with dignity, the strength of the Holy Spirit to persevere, and if it is God’s will, are healed. *(Lesson 33)*

**Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation:** The **Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation** is the sacrament through which sins committed after Baptism can be forgiven, and true reconciliation with God and community can be brought about. *(Lesson 27)*

**Sacramental:** A **sacramental** is an object or action that is a sacred sign of God’s grace that prepares us to receive His grace and cooperate with it. Examples include blessings and objects such as medals, crosses, scapulars, and Rosaries when they are blessed by the Church. *(Lesson 36)*

**Sacraments:** The **Sacraments** are signs of God’s grace that give us grace. Jesus founded seven Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance and Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Holy Matrimony. *(Lesson 22)*

**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 28)*

**Sacrifice:** To **sacrifice** is to give something up freely and willingly. *(Lesson 31)*

**Samaritan:** A **Samaritan** is a member of a group of people living in Israel during the time of Jesus who were not friends with the Jewish people. *(Lesson 15)*

**Sanctifying Grace:** **Sanctifying Grace** is the free gift of God’s love and life given within our souls given to us by the Holy Spirit. Sanctifying grace heals us of sin and makes us holy. We receive sanctifying grace in the sacraments. *(Lesson 24)*

**Satisfaction:** **Satisfaction** is the third step in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, during which the priest gives us a penance to make up for our sins. We must do our penance as soon as we can after our Confession. *(Lesson 32)*

**Scapular:** A *scapular* is a sacramental typically made with two small pieces of cloth connected by a cord worn around the neck. It is worn as a sign that we are faithful to God and our baptismal promises. *(Lesson 36)*

**Shepherd:** A **shepherd** is a person who tends and feeds a flock of sheep. Jesus is called the “Good Shepherd” because Jesus loves us, cares for us, and leads us just as a shepherd cares for and leads His flock. *(Lesson 23)*

**Sin:** A **sin** is something we intentionally say, do, or think that goes against God’s teachings. We can sin both by doing wrong and by failing to do the good that we should *(Lesson 27)*

**Solemnity:** A **solemnity** is a special feast day in the liturgical year of the highest ranking. *(Lesson 37)*

**Sower:** A **sower** is someone who scatters or spreads seeds. *(Lesson 8)*

**Spiritual Works of Mercy:** The **Spiritual Works of Mercy** are loving actions taught to us by Christ that help us meet the needs of a person’s soul. They are: instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, admonish sinners, bear wrongs patiently, forgive offenses willingly, comfort the afflicted, and pray for the living and the dead. *(Lesson 12)*

**Successor:** A **successor** is one who follows or comes after. The bishops are the successors of the Apostles. *(Lesson 40)*

**Temple:** A **temple** is a place of worship. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew people built the Temple of Jerusalem to be God’s dwelling place on earth for people from all over the world to come to worship Him. *(Lesson 17)*

**Temple of the Holy Spirit:** The **Temple of the Holy Spirit** is a title for the Church. The Holy Spirit dwells in the Church and guides the Church to holiness. The Holy Spirit is the soul of the Church and unites all of its members. *(Lesson 22)*

**Ten Commandments:** The **Ten Commandments** are the rules God gave us to teach us to love as we should. The first three Commandments teach us how to love God and the last seven teach us how to love others. *(Lesson 15)*

**The Church:** The **Church** is the People of God, the community of disciples founded by Jesus that will exist until the end of time. The Church is, at the same time, human and divine. *(Lesson 13)*

**Theological Virtues:** The **Theological Virtues** are faith, hope, and charity (or love). They are free gifts from God infused into our souls that help relate us to God and adapt our human nature to live in relationship with Him. *(Lesson 4)*

**Theotokos:** **Theotokos** is a Greek title for Mary that means “God-bearer” or “Mother of God.” *(Lesson 34)*

**Tradition:** **Tradition** is the Word of God handed on by words and actions. *(Lesson 39)*

**Transubstantiation:** **Transubstantiation** is the word used to describe the change of the bread and wine at Mass into the Body and Blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. *(Lesson 30)*

**Trinity:** The **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 1)*

**Venial Sin:** **Venial Sin** is less serious sin that hurts our relationship with God, but does not destroy it. *(Lesson 24)*

**Virtue:** **Virtue** is the habit of doing good. Some virtues we build through our own efforts with God's grace. Others are gifted to us by God and we are free to use them to grow more like Him. *(Lesson 4)*

**Wage:** A **wage** is the price paid in exchange for labor. *(Lesson 25)*

**Widow:** A **widow** is a woman whose husband has died. *(Lesson 10)*

**Will:** **Will** is the power (or ability) of the human soul to choose freely and to act. *(Lesson 5)*

**Yahweh:** **Yahweh** is the sacred name of God, which means, "I AM," or "I AM who AM." God revealed His name to Moses in the burning bush. *(Lesson 3)*