

## Key Catholic Words

**Abolish:** **Abolish** means “to do away with.”  
(Lesson 15)

**Actual Grace:** **Actual grace** is special help from God in each moment of our lives to choose what is good and avoid what is evil.  
(Lesson 37)

**Adoration:** **Adoration** is a form of prayer in which we worship God and express our love for Him.  
(Lesson 15)

**Adultery:** **Adultery** is treating someone who is not your spouse as though they are your spouse in a romantic way. Adultery goes against God’s loving plan for marriage and is forbidden by the Sixth Commandment.  
(Lesson 16)

**Advocate:** An **advocate** is someone who speaks for someone else. It is a title for the Holy Spirit.  
(Lesson 37)

**Agapē:** **Agapē** is sacrificial or self-giving love. It is the highest form of love, the love God has for us and that He calls us to.  
(Lesson 25)

**Annunciation:** The **Annunciation** is the moment when the Angel Gabriel invited the Blessed Virgin Mary to be the mother of God’s divine Son. Through Mary’s “yes,” the Annunciation marks the moment of the Incarnation.  
(Lesson 20)

**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 38)

**Beatific Vision:** The **Beatific Vision** refers to when we finally see God in Heaven face-to-face, as He is. *Beatific* means “bliss, happiness, or blessing.”  
(Lesson 28)

**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 38)

**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 37)

**Cardinal Virtues:** The **Cardinal Virtues** are prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. They help us recognize and choose what is good and avoid evil. They can be acquired through our own efforts and play an important role in the exercise of other virtues. They help prepare us for communion with God’s love.  
(Lesson 11)

**Catholic Social Teaching:** **Catholic social teaching** is an important part of moral theology, rooted in Jesus’ commands to love God and neighbor, that outlines how we ought to build and live in a good and just human society.  
(Lesson 26)

**Charity:** **Charity** is self-giving love. It is the theological virtue by which we love God above all things for His own sake, and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.  
(Lesson 5)

**Church:** The **Church** is the People of God, the community of disciples founded by Jesus that will exist until the end of time.  
(Lesson 38)

**Common Good:** The **common good** is the sum total of social conditions that allows people — both as individuals and groups — to live as they ought to live more fully and easily. *(Lesson 27)*

**Concupiscence:** **Concupiscence** is the tendency to sin that is an effect of Original Sin. *(Lesson 8)*

**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 4)*

**Consecrated Life:** **Consecrated life** is the vocation by which a person publicly professes vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in a stable state of life recognized by the Church. Examples include religious sisters and brothers, and consecrated virgins. *(Lesson 36)*

**Contemplative Prayer:** **Contemplative prayer** is an expression of prayer in which we sit with God in silence and allow Him to speak to us. *(Lesson 37)*

**Corporal:** **Corporal** means “of the body” or “relating to the body.” *(Lesson 22)*

**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. They 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 22)*

**Covet:** To **covet** is to wrongfully want something that does not belong to you. *(Lesson 16)*

**Creation:** **Creation** is everything that has God made, both visible and invisible. God created all things out of nothing. Everything that God makes is good. Therefore, all of creation is good. *(Lesson 1)*

**Enmity:** **Enmity** means “hatred” or “conflict.” *(Lesson 8)*

**Eros:** **Eros** is passionate love, including the romantic love between a man and woman who get married and the human desire for the divine that can only be satisfied by God. *(Lesson 25)*

**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 just a symbol but is Jesus’ true flesh and blood. *(Lesson 18)*

**Ex Nihilo:** **Ex nihilo** is Latin for “out of nothing.” *(Lesson 1)*

**Freedom:** **Freedom** is the ability to choose to act one way or another, or not to act at all. True freedom is found when it is directed towards God, who is all-good. *(Lesson 13)*

**Golden Rule:** The **Golden Rule** is Jesus’ moral teaching to do unto others as you would have them do unto you. *(Lesson 16)*

**Grace:** **Grace** is the free gift from God of His life within us. *(Lesson 37)*

**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 14)*

**Heart:** The **heart** is a person’s innermost self, from which his or her actions and words flow. *(Lesson 32)*

**Holiness:** **Holiness** means being holy; living the Christian life to the fullest by loving and serving God and our neighbor as Jesus taught us. *(Lesson 1)*

**Holy Days of Obligation:** **Holy days of obligation** are important feast days in the life of the Catholic Church on which, in addition to Sundays, Catholics are obligated to attend Mass. (Lesson 15)

**Icon:** An **icon** is a painted representation of a holy subject, such as Jesus, Mary, or a great saint. Everything in the icon has symbolic meaning. (Lesson 40)

**Idolatry:** **Idolatry** is the worship of idols, or false gods, or the worship of someone or something as if it was God. (Lesson 15)

**Imperfect Happiness:** **Imperfect happiness** is the temporary pleasure that comes from earthly goods, but which will never fully satisfy or fulfill us. (Lesson 29)

**Intellect:** The **intellect** is a person's ability to know and understand. It is one of the powers of the human soul. (Lesson 3)

**Intercession:** **Intercession** is the form of prayer in which we ask God to help others. (Lesson 37)

**King:** A **king** rules over his kingdom and its subjects. King is one of the original roles God gave to Adam in the Garden of Eden. (Lesson 2)

**Love:** To **love** is to will the good of someone. (Lesson 18)

**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 2)

**Mediator:** A **mediator** is the person who represents everyone else entering a covenant with God. (Lesson 35)

**Meditation:** **Meditation** is an expression of prayer in which we use our minds and hearts to reflect on God and the things of God, often using spiritual readings from Scripture. (Lesson 37)

**Meek:** To be **meek** is to be gentle, humble, teachable, and patient while bearing wrongs. (Lesson 31)

**Mercy:** **Mercy** is compassion, kindness, and forgiveness shown to others. God has infinite mercy for us. Jesus taught us to show mercy to others. (Lesson 1)

**Moral:** Being **moral** means choosing what is good according to God's law. (Lesson 4)

**Mortal Sin:** **Mortal sin** is serious sin we freely choose to commit even though we know it is wrong. It destroys sanctifying grace in our souls and is a rejection of God's love. (Lesson 8)

**Mourn:** To **mourn** is to feel sorrow and sadness for loss or for something we do not have. (Lesson 30)

**Obedience:** **Obedience** is respecting and following the rules of someone with authority. (Lesson 20)

**Ordained Priesthood:** **Ordained priesthood** is the vocation by which men who have been called by God to the Sacrament of Holy Orders are consecrated priests, deacons, or bishops. (Lesson 36)

**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 8)

**Parish:** A **parish** is a local community of believers. (Lesson 38)

**Passions:** **Passions** are feelings or emotions. They are the way our body and soul respond to something experienced by our senses. They are neither morally good nor morally bad. They only become morally good or bad when we choose to act upon them. *(Lesson 6)*

**Peacemaker:** A **peacemaker** is someone who treats others the way he or she would want to be treated. *(Lesson 33)*

**Perfect Happiness:** **Perfect happiness** is the ultimate fulfillment or perfection of the human person, which will only be found when we behold the Beatific Vision in Heaven. In Scripture this is also called “blessedness.” *(Lesson 29)*

**Petition:** **Petition** is the form of prayer in which we ask God for good things. *(Lesson 37)*

**Philia:** **Philia** is the love between friends or brotherly love. *(Lesson 25)*

**Poor in Spirit:** The **poor in spirit** are those who share in Jesus’ own poverty. We are called to be poor in spirit by removing from our lives everything that prevent us from truly loving Christ and our neighbor as Jesus taught us. *(Lesson 30)*

**Pope:** The **pope** is the head of the Catholic Church on earth, the Bishop of Rome, and the successor of St. Peter. *(Lesson 38)*

**Praise:** **Praise** is the form of prayer in which we tell God He is good not because of what He has done, but because of who He is. *(Lesson 37)*

**Prayer:** **Prayer** is the raising of our hearts and minds to God and asking Him for good things. It is talking with Jesus and listening to Him. We can ask Him questions and tell Him what is on our minds. We also learn to listen for His voice in our hearts. *(Lesson 37)*

**Priest:** A **priest** offers sacrifice on behalf of others as a way to worship God. Old Testament priests also guarded the tabernacle and served the Lord. “Priest” is one of the original roles God gave to Adam in the Garden of Eden. *(Lesson 2)*

**Prophet:** A **prophet** A prophet is someone who speaks for God. Prophet is one of the original roles God gave to Adam in the Garden of Eden. *(Lesson 2)*

**Protoevangelium:** **Protoevangelium** is Latin for “first Gospel.” It is God’s first promise of salvation by sending His Son as our Savior found in Genesis 3:15. *(Lesson 8)*

**Reconcile:** To **reconcile** is to restore or be restored to friendship again. *(Lesson 33)*

**Repentance:** **Repentance** is the act of turning away from sin and committing to changing one’s life by avoiding future sin. *(Lesson 10)*

**Rest:** **Rest** is the absence of motion, or the state of being still or at peace. *(Lesson 29)*

**Righteousness:** **Righteousness** is moral uprightness. To be righteous is to be just and without guilt or sin. *(Lesson 31)*

**Sabbath:** The **Sabbath** is the Lord’s Day, which God commanded us to keep holy by worshiping Him, spending time with family and loved ones, doing good works, and resting from unnecessary work. Christians observe the Sabbath on Sundays, the day Jesus Christ rose from the dead. *(Lesson 15)*

**Salvation History:** **Salvation History** is the story of God’s mercy and saving love in human history. We read about Salvation History in the Bible. *(Lesson 35)*

**Sanctifying Grace:** Sanctifying grace is the free gift of God’s love and life in our souls that is given to us primarily through the Sacraments. *(Lesson 8)*

**Sermon on the Mount:** The **Sermon on the Mount** is the central teaching of Jesus’ public ministry. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught the Beatitudes, the Lord’s Prayer, about the Kingdom of God, and how we are to act towards God and one another as His disciples. *(Lesson 28)*

**Sin:** Sin is something that we say, do, think, or fail to do that does not love God, our neighbor, or ourselves. *(Lesson 8)*

**Society:** A **society** is a group of people that are united by a common purpose or principle that goes beyond or is bigger than each of them individually. *(Lesson 26)*

**Solidarity:** **Solidarity** is the commitment to bear each other’s sufferings together. *(Lesson 26)*

**Soul:** The **soul** is that which gives life to a body. The human soul is immortal and, united with the human body, is made in God’s image and likeness. It is the innermost part of a person. *(Lesson 3)*

**Spiritual:** **Spiritual** means “of the soul” or “relating to the soul.” *(Lesson 22)*

**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 22)*

**Storge:** **Storge** is the feeling of affection or enjoyment we have for someone or something. *(Lesson 25)*

**Synoptic Gospels:** The **synoptic Gospels** are the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, which present the story of Christ’s life in a similar way, and even borrow stories and the structure of their Gospels from each other. The word *synoptic* means “to see together.” *(Lesson 17)*

**Temptation:** **Temptation** is an attraction, either from outside oneself or from within, to act contrary to right reason and the law of God. *(Lesson 4)*

**Ten Commandments:** The **Ten Commandments** are the rules God gave to the Israelites — and 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 14)*

**Thanksgiving:** **Thanksgiving** is the form of prayer in which we thank God for the good things He has given us. *(Lesson 37)*

**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 11)*

**Theology:** **Theology** is the study of God and divine things. *(Lesson 3)*

**Transfiguration:** The **Transfiguration** is the Gospel event during which Jesus was transformed in His divine glory and was seen speaking with the prophets Moses and Elijah by the Apostles Peter, James, and John. *(Lesson 34)*

**Vain:** Doing something in **vain** means doing means doing it without reverence or respect. *(Lesson 15)*

**Venial Sin:** **Venial sin** is less serious sin that hurts our relationship with God but does not destroy it. *(Lesson 8)*

**Vice:** **Vice** is a habit of doing evil. (*Lesson 11*)

**Virtue:** **Virtue** is a habit of doing what is good. We build virtues through our own efforts and with God's grace. (*Lesson 11*)

**Vocation:** A **vocation** is God's calling to every person. He calls each of us to holiness by living our lives loving Him and others as He has taught us. He also calls each of us to a permanent state of life: ordained priesthood, consecrated life, or marriage. (*Lesson 36*)

**Will:** The **will** is a person's ability to freely choose and act. It is one of the powers of the human soul. (*Lesson 3*)

**Worship:** **Worship** is the love and honor we give to God alone. When we worship God, we place Him at the center of our lives and show Him the love and honor He deserves. (*Lesson 15*)