

# Glossary



## A

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

**altar** the table in the church at which the priest celebrates Mass.

**ambo** a platform from which a person reads the Word of God during Mass

**angel** a messenger from God

**Anointing of the Sick** a sacrament of healing that unites a sick person's suffering with that of Christ and brings comfort, forgiveness of sins, and, if God wills, physical healing. The signs of the sacrament are the oil of the sick and the priest's laying on of hands.

**apostle** one of twelve special men who followed Jesus and saw him after the Resurrection. These were the people sent to preach the Gospel to the whole world.



## Baptism

## B

**Baptism** the first of the three sacraments by which we become members of the Church. Baptism frees us from Original Sin and gives us new life in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.

**Bible** the written story of God's promise to care for us, especially through his Son, Jesus

**bishop** a leader in the Church. Bishops teach us what God is asking of us as followers of Jesus today.

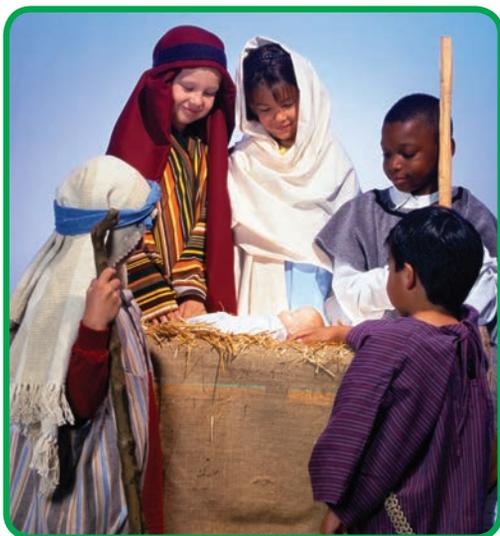
**Blessed Sacrament** the Body of Christ. The consecrated hosts kept in the tabernacle to be adored and to be taken to the sick and the dying.

**Body and Blood of Christ** following the prayer of consecration by the priest, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ under the appearances of bread and wine

## C

**catholic** a word that means “all over the world.” The Church is catholic because Jesus gave the Church to the whole world.

**Christ** a title, like *Messiah*, that means “anointed.” This name is given to Jesus after the Resurrection.



Christmas

**Christian** the name given to people who want to live as Jesus taught us to live

**Christmas** the day on which we celebrate the birth of Jesus

**Church** the name given to the followers of Christ all over the world. Spelled with a small *c*, the church is the building where we gather to pray to God.

**commandment** a rule that tells us how to live as God wants us to live

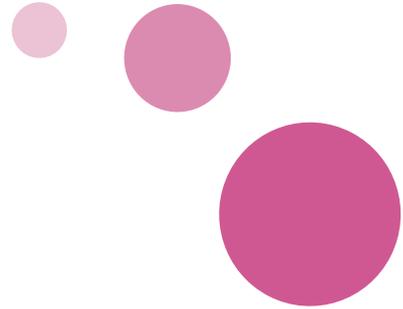
**confession** the act of telling our sins to a priest in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

**Confirmation** the sacrament that completes the grace we receive in Baptism

**contrition** the sadness we feel when we know that we have sinned

**creation** everything that God has made. God said that all creation is good.

**Creator** God, who made everything that is



Easter

**D**

**deacon** a man who accepts God’s call to serve the Church. Deacons help the bishop and priests in the work of the Church.

**disciple** a person who is a follower of Jesus and tries to live as he did

**E**

**Easter** the celebration of the raising of Jesus Christ from the dead. Easter is the most important Christian feast.

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



disciple

**Eucharist** the sacrament in which we give thanks to God for giving us Jesus Christ. The Body and Blood of Christ which we receive at Mass brings us into union with Jesus’ saving Death and Resurrection.



The **Gospel** is read at Mass.

**evangelization** the sharing of the good news, by word or example, of the salvation we have received in Jesus Christ. Jesus commissioned his disciples to go forth into the world and tell the good news. Evangelization is the responsibility of every Christian. The New Evangelization calls believers to a deeper faith and invites those who have heard the Gospel but not been transformed by it to have a true encounter with Christ.

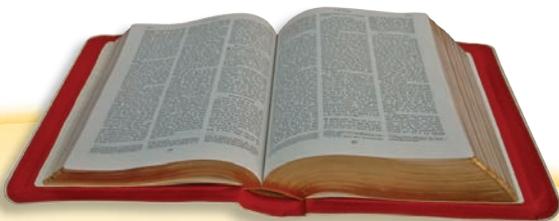
## F

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

## G

**Gospel** the good news of God's love for us. We learn this news in the story of Jesus' life, Death, and Resurrection. The story is presented to us in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

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



**Great Commandment** Jesus' important teaching that we are to love both God and other people

## H

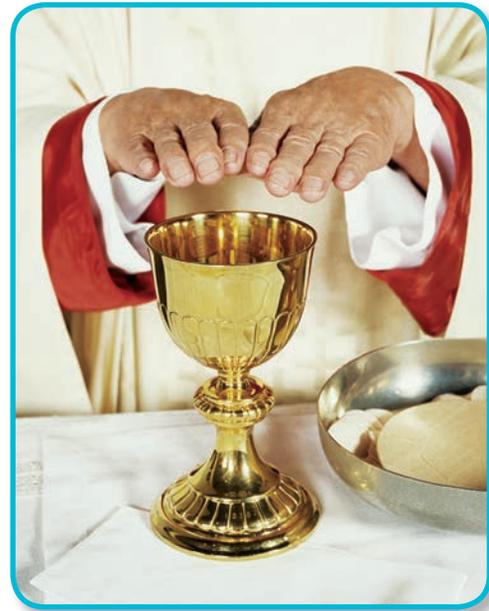
**heaven** the life with God that is full of happiness and never ends

**holy** describing the kind of life we live when we cooperate with the grace of God

**Holy Communion** the reception of the Body and Blood of Christ during holy Mass

**Holy Family** the family made up of Jesus; his mother, Mary; and his foster father, Joseph

**Holy Orders** a sacrament that ordains men to serve the Church as priests, deacons, or bishops



**Holy Communion**

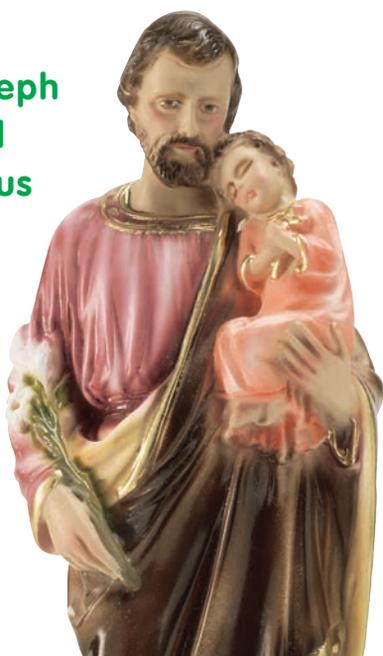
**Holy Spirit** the third Person of the Trinity, who comes to us in Baptism and fills us with God's life

## J

**Jesus** the Son of God, who was born of the Virgin Mary, died, was raised from the dead, and saves us so that we can live with God forever

**Joseph** the foster father of Jesus, who was engaged to Mary when the angel announced that Mary would have a child through the power of the Holy Spirit

**Joseph  
and  
Jesus**



### L

**Last Supper** the last meal Jesus ate with his disciples on the night before he died. Every Mass is a remembrance of that last meal.

**Lord's Day** Sunday, the day on which Jesus rose from the dead. It is a special day for Christians to worship God.

### M

**Mary** the mother of Jesus. She is called "full of grace" because God chose her to be Jesus' mother.

**Mass** our most important means of praying to God. At Mass we listen to God's Word from the Bible and receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion.

**Matrimony** a sacrament that unites a baptized man and woman with each other for life as a sign of the unity between Jesus and his Church

**miracle** acts of wonder that cannot be explained by natural causes. They are works of God. In the Gospels, Jesus works miracles as a sign that God is present in his ministry.

**missionary** a person who is sent to spread the Good News at home or in faraway places among people who have not heard or accepted it. All missionaries bring Jesus' love.

### N

**New Testament** the story of Jesus and the early Church

### O

**Old Testament** the story of God's plan for the salvation of all people



## parish

**Original Sin** the result of the sin of Adam and Eve. They disobeyed God and chose to follow their own will rather than God's will.

## P

**parish** a community of believers in Jesus Christ who meet regularly to worship God together

**Passover** the Jewish festival that commemorates the delivery of God's people from slavery in Egypt. In the Eucharist we celebrate our passover from death to life through Jesus' Death and Resurrection.

**penance** the turning away from sin because we want to live as God wants us to live (*See Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation.*)

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

**prayer** the raising of our hearts and minds to God. We are able to speak to and listen to God in prayer because he teaches us how to do so.

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

## R

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

**Resurrection** the bodily raising of Jesus Christ from the dead on the third day after he died on the Cross

## S

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

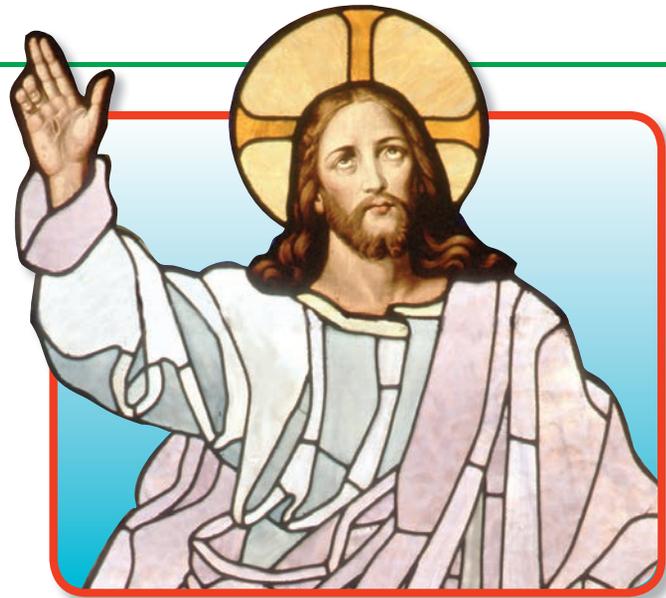
**Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation** the sacrament in which we celebrate God's forgiveness of our sins when we say to the priest that we are sorry for them

**sacrifice** a gift given to God to give him thanks. Jesus' Death on the Cross was the greatest sacrifice.

**saint** a holy person who died as a true friend of God and now lives with God forever

**Savior** Jesus, the Son of God, who became human to make us friends with God again. The name *Jesus* means "God saves."

**sin** a choice to do what is wrong on purpose. A sin is when you say no to God.



Savior

## T

**tabernacle** the container in which the Blessed Sacrament is kept so that Holy Communion can be taken to the sick and the dying

**temptation** a thought or feeling that can lead us to disobey God. Temptation can come either from outside us or inside us.

**Ten Commandments** the 10 rules that God gave to Moses. The Ten Commandments sum up God's law and show us how to live as his children.

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