

Glossary of Terms for Parents - Year 1

Adam and Eve	First parents of the human race created in God's own image and likeness; God gave them stewardship over all creation.
Advent	Four weeks of joyful preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas (Incarnation and Nativity). This special season is also the beginning of the Church year.
Advent Wreath	An evergreen wreath with four candles that are lighted during the weeks of Advent to symbolize the coming of Christ, the Light of the World.
Angel	A spiritual being who worships God in heaven and serves as God's messenger. There are many kinds of angels (guardian, archangel, etc.)
Apostle	One of twelve men who accompanied Jesus in his ministry and were witnesses to the Resurrection. Apostle means "one sent." They were sent by Jesus to preach the Gospel to the whole world.
Baptism	The first of the seven sacraments. Baptism is the initiation sacrament through which God the Father gives us new life in Christ through the Holy Spirit, frees us from original sin which opens the gates of heaven to humanity, and incorporates us into the Church.
Bible	The written revelation of God's love for His people, also called sacred Scriptures. These writings are inspired by the Holy Spirit and written by human beings. It includes 46 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament.
Christmas	The special day and season that celebrates the birth (nativity) of Jesus.
Church	The people of God throughout the whole world, or diocese (the local Church), or the community of those gathered together to worship God.
Creation	God's act of making everything that exists outside himself. The story of the creation of the world and its inhabitants by God is told in the book of Genesis.
Disciple	A person who studies and accepts Jesus' message of salvation, who then and tries to live as He did and continues his mission.
Easter	Commemorates Christ's Resurrection from the dead, which completes our redemption from sin and grants us eternal life. This special season is the central Christian feast and is celebrated for fifty days.

Eucharist	The third Sacrament of Initiation in which we give thanks to God for giving us Jesus Christ. The Body and Blood of Christ, which we receive at Mass and brings us into union with Jesus' saving death and resurrection. Can be called the "Blessed Sacrament" and "Holy Communion"; it is also another word for "Mass."
Faith	The theological virtue by which we believe in and come to know God.
Forgiveness	The act of pardoning those who have hurt us. Because God always forgives us when we are sorry, we forgive others in the same way.
Genuflect	A gesture of touching the right knee to the ground to show respect for the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, which is reserved in the tabernacle; we turn towards the tabernacle and make this gesture before entering a pew in church.
God	The Supreme Being who is, was, and always will be; the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—one God in three distinct persons. God has created all that exists, saves all people from sin and death, and sanctifies (blesses with His life, truth and love) all creation.
God the Father	First person of the Trinity who is creator of heaven and earth.
Grace	The gift of God, given to us without our meriting it. Grace is the Holy Spirit alive in us, helping us to respond to His call, to choose love, to do good, and to avoid evil.
Heaven	Union with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in life and love that never ends. Heaven is a state of happiness and the deepest wish and ultimate goal of the human heart.
Holy Communion	The consecrated bread and wine that we receive at Mass, which is the Body and Blood of Jesus. It brings us into union with Jesus Christ and His saving death and resurrection.
Holy Week	The celebration of the events surrounding Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. It commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the gift of Himself in the Eucharist and mandate to serve others on Holy Thursday, His death on Good Friday, and His resurrection that is celebrated at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.
Holy Spirit	The third person of the Trinity, who was sent to us as a helper and guide through the sacraments of baptism and confirmation; the Holy Spirit fills us with God's life and love.
Hope	The theological virtue by which we trust in God and His promises for us.

Incarnation	When Mary said yes to God's invitation to be the Mother of his Son, the Word of God took on human flesh in Mary's womb so that Jesus could be born and be one like us in all things except sin.
Jesus	The second person of the Trinity (also known as the Son or the Word of God), who was incarnate (took on human flesh) and born of the Virgin Mary, who lived like us in all ways except sin, who suffered death and was buried, and who rose from the dead and ascended into heaven so that we can live with God forever.
Lent	The forty days before Easter during which we prepare through prayer, fasting and almsgiving to change our lives and live the Gospel message more completely. This special season begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.
Liturgical Year	The celebration throughout the year of the mysteries of the Lord's birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension. It begins in Advent and ends with the Feast of Christ the King. The liturgical year is divided into the special seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and ordinary time.
Lord	Old Testament title for God; one of the titles given to Jesus in the New Testament.
Lord's Prayer	The prayer that Jesus taught His disciples; it is also called the "Our Father."
Love	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.
Magi	Wise men who were led by the star to pay homage to the infant Jesus in Bethlehem.
Mary	Mother of Jesus. She is called "blessed" or "full of grace" because God chose her to be the mother of His Son.
Mass	The most important sacramental celebration of the Church. Established by Jesus at the Last Supper as a remembrance of His death and resurrection. At Mass, we listen to God's word from the Bible and receive the Real Presence of Jesus in the bread and wine that at the consecration has become His Body and Blood.
Miracle	A sign or act of wonder that cannot be explained by natural causes but can only be attributed to God.
Nativity	The feast of the birth of Jesus; also known as Christmas.

Parish	A community of believers in Jesus Christ who meet regularly in a particular church within the diocese under the leadership of a pastor for the celebration of the Eucharist.
Pastor	A priest who is responsible for the spiritual care of the members of a parish community. This leadership is entrusted to him by the bishop. The word “pastor” means “shepherd.”
Pentecost	The fiftieth (50 th) day after Jesus was raised from the dead. On this day, the Church was born as the Holy Spirit was sent upon Jesus’ apostles, Mary, and other disciples.
Praise	An expression or form of prayer which honors God not only for what God does but simply because God is. In the Eucharistic prayer, the whole Church joins Jesus in expressing praise and thanks to God the Father, through His Son and in the unity of the Holy Spirit.
Prayer	Raising our hearts and minds to God. We are able to speak to and listen to God in prayer because He teaches us to pray. Prayer is private, communal, or liturgical.
Respect	The attitude of treating a person or object with kindness and thoughtfulness.
Rosary	A set of beads on which prayers are said (the Lord’s Prayer, the Hail Mary, and Glory Be), while meditating on the mysteries of Jesus’ and Mary’s lives.
Sacrament	One of the seven ways through which God’s life enters our lives through the work of the Holy Spirit. Sacraments are visible signs that convey the invisible reality of God’s grace. Jesus gave us three sacraments of initiation that bring us into His family, the Church: baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist. He also gave us two sacraments of healing: reconciliation and anointing of the sick; and he gave us two sacraments at the service of Communion: matrimony (marriage) and holy orders (becoming a deacon, priest, or bishop).
Sacramental	An object, a prayer, or a blessing given by the Church to help us grow in our spiritual life. Some well-known sacramentals are blessings by a priest, holy items such as water, ashes and palms, blessed medals, scapulars, and rosaries.

**Sacraments
of Initiation**

As Christians, these sacred signs are the foundation of our lives in God and the Church. We are born anew in the waters of baptism, strengthened by an anointing with sacred chrism (oil) in confirmation, and nourished throughout our lives by the consecrated bread and wine in the Eucharist.

Saint

A holy person who lives in union with God and God's will and laws. A person who has manifested heroic virtue during his/her life and who is officially honored by the Church after his/her death as one who has entered heavenly glory.

Sin

Ignoring, injuring or rejecting our relationship with God or others. A deliberate thought, word, deed, or failure to act that offends God and hurts our relationship with other people. Some sin is mortal (serious or deadly) and needs to be confessed in the sacrament of penance, also called reconciliation. Other sin is venial (less serious).

Soul

The part of us that makes us human and in the image of God. Our body and soul together form one unique human nature. The soul is responsible for our consciousness and freedom. The soul does not die and will be reunited with the body in the final resurrection.

Sunday

The Lord's Day when we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. The Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life, and Sunday is the day when the community is obliged to come together to celebrate Christ's paschal mystery.

Trinity

The mystery of one God existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.