

## Vocabulary for Grades 6-8

*From the Handbook of Faith Development by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Raleigh North Carolina*

The following definitions are found in Our Sunday Visitor's Catholic Dictionary. This is not an exhaustive list.

**Advent** - The liturgical season approximately four weeks before Christmas during which themes of expectation and conversion prepare the faithful for the remembrance of Christ's birth.

**Annunciation** - The announcement by the angel Gabriel to Mary that she will conceive a son Who will be the Son of God.

**Apostolic** - rooted in the Apostles, ones who represent the Sender with authority.

**Canon Law** - the official body of laws by which the Church is governed.

**Catechumen** - someone who is receiving formal instruction in the Catholic faith, with a view to reception into the Church.

**catholic** (with a small "c") - universal

**Conscience** - the inner core of the human person that identifies morally good and evil choices in accord with right reason and the teachings of the Church.

**Conversion** (in the Christian context) - an embracing of Jesus Christ and a disavowal of whatever keeps one from God.

**Discipleship** (in the Christian context) - being a follower of Jesus Christ.

**Epistles** - a type of letter (see the correspondence of Paul, Peter, John, etc.)

**Evangelist** - one who proclaims the Gospel; common reference to the Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

**Holiness** - one of the four marks of the Church, arises from the communion of faithful members under the Headship of Christ.

**Immaculate Conception** - the doctrine affirming the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from all stain of Original Sin.

**Incarnation** - the doctrine that the Son of God assumed our humanity, body and soul, and was born of the Virgin Mary, to live among us in order to accomplish the work of our redemption.

**Infinite** - having no limits or bounds.

**Lent** - the forty day liturgical season of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving in preparation for Easter.

**Liturgical Year** - the year of the Church, starting with Advent, Christmastime, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter Season, and Ordinary Time again.

Mortal Sin - a violation of the law of God that concerns grave moral matter, is done with full knowledge, deliberation, freedom, and consent, and concerns serious moral transgressions, not light insignificant issues.

Paschal Mystery - the passion, death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ.

Pentecost - the day on which the Holy Spirit was poured out onto the Apostles; the liturgical celebration of that event 50 days after Easter.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) - process by which adults are received into full communion with the Catholic Church. There are four stages: pre-catechumenate (inquiry), catechumenate, election, final initiation.

Real Presence - reference to the actuality that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist.

Redemption - the deliverance of humanity from sin and the restoration of grace due to the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Reign of God - the Kingdom of God; the salvation that has come with power and might, which we are to witness in the final days.

Stewardship - the management of physical and spiritual things which are to be used and administered responsibly, because all things ultimately belong to God.

Triduum - a period of three days for the most exalted liturgical celebration of the year beginning with Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday evening and concluding with Vespers on Easter Sunday.

Trinity - the central doctrine of the Christian faith which states that the one God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Three Persons sharing one nature.

Venial Sin - a violation of the law of God that concerns a light moral matter or is done without adequate knowledge, full consent, or adequate freedom.