

## Vocabulary for Pre-K to Grade 2

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

These definitions are intended to be simple, user friendly, and understandable for a child.

They may not express an adult theological perspective and are not exhaustive.

*\*Denotes expanded definition in the vocabulary for the grade 3-5 child.*

Advent\* - the season of waiting and preparing for the coming of Jesus at Christmas.

Altar - the table used for the Eucharist.

Ambo - the stand from which the Scriptures are read and the homily is given.

Amen - a word we speak, sing, or shout that means we agree with what has just been said.

Angel\* - a messenger from God.

Annunciation - in scripture the angel Gabriel asks Mary if she will be the Mother of God.

Anointing of the Sick - a sacrament of healing where the priest rubs the oil of the sick on the forehead and hands of the sick and prays for him/her.

Apostle\* - one of the twelve close followers of Jesus.

Ascension - the day when we celebrate Jesus' return to his Father.

Baptism - a sacrament of welcoming which makes us a child of God and a member of the Church. The symbols are water, oil, light, and a white garment.

Baptismal Font - the pool or font containing the water where people are baptized. Holy water fountains at the Church entrance also reminds us of baptism.

Bible (Scripture)\* - God's inspired written word.

Bishop - a leader of a diocese.

Bowing - bending one's body from the waist; a sign of respect.

Candles - a symbol of the light of Christ; they remind us that Jesus is here with us.

Catholic - a word meaning "universal" or "for everyone".

Chalice - the cup that holds the wine that will become the Blood of Jesus.

Christmas\* - a feast and a season that celebrates the birth of Jesus.

Church\* - the family of God's people; the building where God's people gather.

Conscience - our inner ability to know what is right and wrong.

Consecration - the making holy and changing the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus.

Contrition - expressing sorrow for our sins.

Creator - God, the Father, who made all things.

Crucifix - a cross with an image of the body of Jesus on it.

Crucifixion - the way Jesus died on the cross.

Diocese - an area in which all the people and parishes are cared for by a bishop.

Easter\* - the feast and season that celebrates Jesus' resurrection and return to God.

Eucharist\* - the sacrament of Jesus' Body and Blood present as bread and wine.

Examination of Conscience - a time when we remember the things we have done wrong and think about making our lives better.

Genuflecting - bending one knee to the floor; a sign of respect.

God, the Father - the creator and source of all life; the first person of the Trinity.

God, the Holy Spirit - the third person of the Trinity sent by Jesus to be with us.

Good Friday - the Friday before Easter; we remember that Jesus died on the cross for us.

Gospel\* - the "good news" of Jesus Christ written in the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Grace - a gift where God shares his life and love with us.

Host - the bread that we eat at our celebration of the Eucharist. There this bread is blessed and becomes the Body of Christ.

Jesus Christ\* - the Son of God; the second person of the Trinity; our teacher, prophet, savior, and brother.

Kingdom of God - the special world God has created for each of us; it is in heaven, on earth, and within each of us.

Kneeling - being on one's knees; a sign of humility.

Last Supper - the meal that Jesus shared with his apostles on the night before he died; here he gave us the Eucharist.

Lectionary - the book that contains the Scripture readings proclaimed at Mass.

Lent\* - a season of preparation before Easter.

Liturgy - the way we pray as a community; the way we publicly celebrate the Eucharist and the other sacraments.

Liturgy of the Eucharist - the second part of the celebration of the Eucharist where we remember, receive, and give thanks for the gift of Jesus' Body and Blood.

Liturgy of the Word - the first part of the celebration of the Eucharist where we hear God's Word.

Mary - the Mother of Jesus and our best example of faith.

Mass - another name for the Eucharist where we hear God's Word and receive his Body and Blood.

Paschal (Easter) Candle - a large candle; the symbol of Jesus, the Light of the World.

Paten - the plate that holds the bread that will become the Body of Jesus.

Penance - a sacrament of forgiveness. We express sorrow for our sins to God through the Church and celebrate God's forgiveness. The symbol is the blessing with the words of absolution.

Pentecost - the birthday of the Church when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the apostles.

Pope - the leader of the Catholic Church throughout the world.

Prayer - talking and listening to God.

Presider's Chair - the chair used by the person leading the service.

Priest - an ordained minister who explains God's Word, celebrates the sacraments, and cares for all God's people.

Processing - a sign of being on a journey and moving to the kingdom of God

Processional Cross - the cross carried in at the beginning of Mass.

Raising arms and hands - a sign of praising God in prayer.

Reconciliation Room (Confessional) - the special room where the priest listens to us as we express sorrow for our sins and gives us absolution.

Resurrection - Jesus' return to life after his suffering and death. This is his victory over sin and death.

Sacrament\* - a sign through which we share in God's Life.

Sacramentary - the book containing the prayers for the celebration of the Eucharist.

Saint - a person who lived as God wanted.

Sanctuary - the space of the church for the altar, the ambo, and the presider's chair.

Sign of the Cross - moving your hand from your forehead, to your chest and to both shoulders; a sign that you belong to Jesus.

Sin - choosing to do what we know is wrong; choosing not to love God and others as we should.

Sitting - a sign of listening.

Standing - a sign of attention.

Temptation - the feeling that we want to do something that we know is wrong.

Trinity - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.