

# Vocabulary for Unit 5

## Terms for Mastery

**actio** Action and life changes that result from *lectio divina*.

**breviary** A prayer book that contains the prayers for the Liturgy of the Hours.

**contemplatio** A form of prayer in which one simply and silently rests in the presence of God.

**devotional prayers** Also known as devotions, these are personalized prayers that have developed outside, but should lead to, the liturgy of the Church.

**lectio** Slow and attentive reading of a passage from Sacred Scripture.

**lectio divina** A Latin term meaning “divine reading.” *Lectio divina* is a form of meditative prayer focused on a Scripture passage. It involves repetitive readings and periods of reflection and can serve as either private or communal prayer.

**Liturgy of the Hours** Also known as the Divine Office, the official public, daily prayer of the Catholic Church. The Divine Office provides standard prayers, Scripture readings, and reflections at regular hours throughout the day.

**meditatio** Reflecting on a Scripture passage to understand what God intends to communicate.

**opus dei** A Latin phrase meaning the “work of God.”

**oratio** Speaking to God in prayer.

**prayer** Lifting up of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from him. The five basic forms of prayer are blessing, praise, petition, thanksgiving, and intercession. In prayer we communicate with God in a relationship of love.

**Rosary** A devotional prayer that honors the Virgin Mary and helps us meditate on Christ's life and mission. We pray the Rosary using rosary beads, which are grouped into “decades.” Each decade consists of praying the Lord's Prayer followed by ten Hail Marys and the Glory Be while meditating on an event from Christ's life and mission.



## Terms Introduced for Later Mastery

**charism** A special gift or grace of the Holy Spirit given to an individual Christian or community, commonly for the benefit and building up of the entire Church.

**Eucharistic Prayer** The part of Mass that includes the Consecration, beginning with the Preface and concluding with the Great Amen.

**liturgy** The Church's official, public, communal prayer. It is God's work, in which the people of God participate. The Church's most important Liturgy is the Eucharist, or the Mass.

**morality** Refers to the goodness or evil of human acts. The morality of an act is determined by the nature of the action, the intention, and the circumstances.

**Satan** The fallen angel or spirit of evil who is the enemy of God and a continuing instigator of temptation and sin in the world.

**temptation** An invitation or enticement to commit an unwise or immoral act that often includes a promise of reward to make the immoral act seem more appealing.

## Terms Previously Mastered or for General Knowledge

**Gregorian chant** A monophonic, unaccompanied style of liturgical singing that takes its name from Pope Gregory the Great (540–604).

**hallowed** Holy, sacred, or revered.

**Holy Communion** Another name for the Sacrament of the Eucharist.

**homily** A brief liturgical sermon that explains the Scripture readings, helps the people of God accept Sacred Scripture as the Word of God, and encourages them to put the teachings of Scripture into practice in their daily lives.

**psalmody** From the Greek word *psalmos*, meaning “a song sung to a harp,” and *aeidein*, meaning “to sing.” The word has multiple meanings: the art of singing the psalms, the arranging or composing of psalms for singing, or a collection of psalms for singing or reciting.

**Via Dolorosa** Latin for “way of sorrow,” referring to the path Jesus journeyed in the last hours of his life, which is commemorated in the devotion of the Stations of the Cross.

