

# Vocabulary for Unit 1

## Terms for Mastery

**Christ** From the Greek translation of the Hebrew *Messiah*, meaning “anointed.” It became the name proper to Jesus because he accomplished perfectly the divine mission of priest, prophet, and king, signified by his anointing as Messiah.

**Christological** Having to do with the branch of theology called Christology. Christology is the study of the divinity of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Second Divine Person of the Trinity, and his earthly ministry and eternal mission.

**divine economy** Also known as the economy of salvation, this refers to God's eternal plan and his actions for the salvation of humanity.

**Ecumenical Council** A gathering of the Church's bishops from around the world convened by the Pope or approved by him to address pressing issues in the Church.

**Eucharist, the** Also called the Mass or Lord's Supper, and based on a word for “thanksgiving,” it is the central Christian liturgical celebration, established by Jesus at the Last Supper. In the Eucharist, the sacrificial Death and Resurrection of Jesus are both remembered and renewed. The term sometimes refers specifically to the consecrated bread and wine that have become the Body and Blood of Christ.

**filial** Having to do with the relationship of a child to his or her parent.

**heresy** The conscious and deliberate rejection of a truth of the faith by a baptized person of a truth of faith that must be believed.

**incarnate, Incarnation** From the Latin, meaning “to become flesh,” referring to the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Divine Son of God, becoming man. In the Incarnation, Jesus Christ became truly man while remaining truly God.

**Last Judgment** The judgment of the human race by Jesus Christ at his Second Coming. It is also called the Final Judgment.

**Messiah** Hebrew word for “anointed one.” The equivalent Greek term is *christos*. Jesus is the Christ and the Messiah because he is the Anointed One.

**Nicene Creed** The formal statement or profession of Christian belief originally formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325 and amplified at the Council of Constantinople in 381.

**parables** Short stories that use everyday images to communicate religious messages. Jesus used parables frequently in his teaching as a way of presenting the Good News.



**Pentecost** The fiftieth day following Easter, which commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the early Apostles and disciples.

**Theotokos** A Greek title for Mary meaning “God bearer.”

**Trinity** From the Latin *trinus*, meaning “threefold,” referring to the central mystery of the Christian faith that God exists as a communion of three distinct and interrelated Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The doctrine of the Trinity is a mystery that is inaccessible to human reason alone and is known through Divine Revelation only.

## Terms Introduced for Later Mastery

**beatitude** The state of eternal happiness with God in Heaven.

**doctrine** An official, authoritative teaching of the Church based on the Revelation of God.

**Fathers of the Church (Church Fathers)** During the early centuries of the Church, those teachers whose writings extended the Tradition of the Apostles and who continue to be important for the Church’s teachings.

**Paraclete** A term meaning “advocate” or “helper,” used in the Gospel of John to describe the Holy Spirit, the Third Divine Person of the Trinity, whom Jesus promised to the disciples as an advocate and counselor.

**Reign of God** The reign or rule of God over the hearts of people and, as a consequence of that, the development of a new social order based on unconditional love. The fullness of God’s Reign will not be realized until the end of time. Also called the Kingdom of God.

## Terms Previously Mastered or for General Knowledge

**covenant** A personal, solemn promise of faithful love that involves mutual commitments and creates a sacred relationship.

**monotheism** The belief in and worship of only one God.

**philosophy** In Greek this word literally means “love of wisdom.” It refers to the study of human existence using logical reasoning.

**sacred** The quality of being holy, worthy of respect and reverence; set apart for God.

**solemnities** Important holy days in the Catholic liturgical calendar, such as Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, and All Saints’ Day.

