

Name _____

Unit 1 Vocabulary

Terms for Mastery

A–L

atonement Reparation for wrongdoing or sin and reconciliation with God, accomplished for mankind by Christ's sacrifice.

Davidic Covenant The unconditional covenant made between God and David in which God promised David that he would establish an everlasting kingdom through David's descendants, and that the Messiah would come from David's lineage.

Easter Vigil The liturgy celebrated on Holy Saturday night. It celebrates the coming of the light of Christ into the world and is also the time when adults and older children are received into the Church through the Sacraments of Christian Initiation.

etiology A story that explains something's cause or origin.

Exsultet Sung during the Easter Vigil, this triumphant hymn of praise proclaims, "Christ is Risen!" It announces that on this night, humanity and all creation receive the good news of salvation. Also called the Easter Proclamation.

figurative language A literary form that uses symbolic images, stories, and names to point to a deeper truth.

hesed A Hebrew word for *mercy* that expresses God's loving forgiveness for the Chosen People.

love Also called "charity," the Theological Virtue by which we love God above all things and, out of that love of God, love our neighbors as ourselves.

M–P

messianic hope The Jewish belief and expectation that a messiah would come to protect and unite Israel and lead the nation to freedom.

Paschal candle Also called Easter candle, this is the large, tall candle lit at the Easter Vigil by a flame from the new fire; the symbol of the Risen Christ.

Paschal Lamb In the Old Testament, the sacrificial lamb shared at the Seder meal of the Passover on the night the Israelites escaped from Egypt; in the New Testament, the Paschal Lamb is Jesus, the Incarnate Son of God who dies on a cross to take away "the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

Paschal Mystery The work of salvation accomplished by Jesus Christ mainly through his Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension.

Passover The night the Lord passed over the houses of the Israelites marked by the blood of the lamb, and spared the firstborn sons from death. It also is the feast that celebrates the deliverance of the Chosen People from bondage in Egypt and the Exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land.

Protoevangelium From the Greek *protos*, meaning "first," and *evangelion*, meaning "good news." It refers to the passage in the Book of Genesis (see 3:15) that announces the future coming of a messiah and a savior: the first announcement of the Good News.



S–Y

scapegoat This term refers to the ritual in the Old Testament of symbolically placing the sins of the Chosen People on a goat and then driving the goat into the desert (see Leviticus, chapter 16).

Sinai Covenant The covenant established with the Israelites at Mount Sinai that renewed God's covenant with Abraham's descendants. The Sinai Covenant establishes the Israelites as God's Chosen People.

Yom Kippur This Hebrew term refers to the Day of Atonement, a Jewish holy day that is observed with prayer and fasting in accordance with Leviticus, chapter 16.

Terms Introduced for Later Mastery

Eucharist, the The celebration of the entire Mass. The term can also refer specifically to the consecrated bread and wine that have become the Body and Blood of Christ.

grace The free and undeserved gift that God gives us to empower us to respond to his call and to live as his adopted sons and daughters. Grace restores our loving communion with the Holy Trinity, lost through sin.

Sanhedrin The highest council of the ancient Jews, consisting of seventy-one members exercising authority in religious matters.

Theology of the Body The name given to Pope Saint John Paul II's teachings on the human body and sexuality.

Terms Previously Mastered or for General Knowledge

A–C

angel Based on a Greek word meaning “messenger,” a personal and immortal creature with intelligence and free will who constantly glorifies God and serves as a messenger of God to humans to carry out God's saving plan.

concupiscence The tendency of all human beings toward sin, as a result of Original Sin.

conditional Used to describe something (such as an agreement) that will happen only if something else will happen.

covenant A solemn agreement between human beings or between God and a human being in which mutual commitments are made.

D–J

Devil From the Greek *diabolus*, meaning “slanderer” or “accuser”; refers in general to the fallen angels, those spiritual beings who sinned against God.

Fall, the Also called the Fall from Grace, the biblical revelation about the origins of sin and evil in the world, expressed figuratively in the account of Adam and Eve in Genesis.

judges The eleven men and one woman who served the Hebrew people as tribal leaders, military commanders, arbiters of disputes, and enliveners of faith.



M–P

Messiah Hebrew word for “anointed one.” The equivalent Greek term is *Christos*. We call Jesus the Christ and the Messiah because he is the Anointed One who brings salvation through his life, death, and resurrection.

omniscient From the Latin *omnia*, meaning “all,” and *scientia*, meaning “knowledge.” Refers to the divine attribute that God is able to know everything past, present, and future.

original holiness The original state of human beings in their relationship with God, sharing in the divine life in full communion with him.

original justice The original state of Adam and Eve before the Fall; sharing in the Divine life, they were in a state of complete harmony with God, with themselves, with each other, and with all of creation.

Original Sin From the Latin *origo*, meaning “beginning” or “birth.” The term has two meanings: (1) the sin of the first human beings, who disobeyed God’s command by choosing to follow their own will and thus lost their original holiness and became subject to death, (2) the fallen state of human nature that affects every person born into the world, except Jesus and Mary.

paradox A statement that seems contradictory or opposed to common sense and yet is true.

parity treaty An agreement made between two equal parties binding them in mutual respect and cooperation.

patriarchy The familial, social, cultural, and political worldview that claims that men are destined to hold positions of power over, and make decisions for, women and children.

prophet A person God chooses to speak his message of salvation. In the Bible, primarily a communicator of a divine message of repentance to the Chosen People, not necessarily a person who predicted the future.

S–V

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.

synoptic Gospels From the Greek for “seeing the whole together,” the name given to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, because they are similar in style and content.

typology The discernment of God’s work in the Old Testament as a prefiguration of what he accomplished through Jesus Christ in the fullness of time. Typology illuminates the unity of God’s plan in the two Testaments, but does not devalue the Old Covenant or its ongoing relevance and value for the Jewish people.

vassal treaty An agreement made by two unequal parties. The superior power receives absolute loyalty, service, and submission from the lesser party, the vassal.

