

Vocabulary for Unit 7

adoration: The prayerful acknowledgment that God is God and Creator of all that is.

blessing: A prayer asking God to care for a particular person, place, or activity. A simple blessing is usually made with the Sign of the Cross.

Chrism Mass: A special Mass usually celebrated during Holy Week in each diocese. During the Mass the bishop blesses the sacred oils and consecrates the Sacred Chrism used throughout the year, and diocesan priests renew their promises to their bishop.

contemplation: A form of wordless prayer in which one is fully focused on the presence of God; sometimes defined as “resting in God.”

doxology: The Christian prayers of praise that are usually directed to the Trinity.

Easter candle: A large candle symbolizing the light of Christ that is first lit at the Easter Vigil and then is lit for all the liturgies during the Easter Season. It is also called the Paschal candle.

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 joining the Church receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation.

Good Friday: The second day of the Easter Triduum on which we have the Celebration of the Lord's Passion.

Holy Thursday: The beginning of the Easter Triduum, starting with the evening celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper.

intercession: A prayer on behalf of another person or group.

litany of the saints: A prayer in the form of a chant or a responsive petition in which the great saints of the Church are asked to pray for us.

liturgical year: The annual cycle of religious feasts and seasons that forms the context for the Church's worship. During the liturgical year, we remember and celebrate God the Father's saving plan as it is revealed through the life of his Son, Jesus Christ.

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.

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.

meditation: A form of prayer involving a variety of methods and techniques, in which one engages the mind, imagination, and emotions to focus on a particular truth, biblical theme, or other spiritual matter.



mysticism: An intense experience of the presence and power of God, resulting in a deeper sense of union with God; those who regularly experience such union are called mystics.

Oil of the Catechumens: Blessed olive oil used to anoint those preparing for Baptism.

Oil of the Sick: Blessed olive oil used in the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick to anoint the forehead and hands of people who are seriously ill or near death.

petition: A prayer form in which one asks God for help and forgiveness.

praise: A prayer of acknowledgment that God is God, giving God glory not for what he does, but simply because he is.

prayer: Lifting up of one's mind and heart to God in praise, petition, thanksgiving, and intercession; communication with God in a relationship of love.

Sacrament: An efficacious and visible sign of God's invisible grace, instituted by Christ. The Seven Sacraments are Baptism, the Eucharist, Confirmation, Penance and Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, and Holy Orders.

Sacred Chrism: Perfumed olive oil that has been consecrated. It is used for anointing in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.

spirituality: In general, the values, actions, attitudes, and behaviors that characterize a person's relationship with God and others. In particular, it refers to different schools of Christian prayer and action.

Stations of the Cross: Images based on fourteen events in the Passion of Christ found on display in most Catholic churches. Also the devotional practice of private or communal prayer using these fourteen stations.

Taizé prayer: A form of prayer developed by an ecumenical monastic community of men founded in the town of Taizé, France, by Br. Roger Schultz. The music used in this form of prayer repeats simple phrases from the Scriptures. Meditative in nature, the prayer encourages contemplation of the Paschal Mystery.

thanksgiving: A prayer of gratitude for the gift of life and the gifts of life. Thanksgiving characterizes the prayer of the Church which, in celebrating the Eucharist, offers perfect thanks to the Father through, with, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

Triduum: The three-day period of the liturgical year that begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday and ends with evening prayer on Easter Sunday.

venerate: To show respect and devotion to someone or something.

vocal prayer: A prayer that is spoken aloud or silently, such as the Lord's Prayer.

