

GLOSSARY

Catechesis – efforts which help individuals and communities acquire and deepen Christian faith and identity.

Catechist – the individual who leads a group of children or adults to acquire and deepen Christian faith and identity.

Eucharist – the Church community’s celebration of the sacramental meal Jesus had with his friends on the night before he died. Also called the “Lord’s Supper” and the “Mass”.

Initiation - the step-by-step process by which a person becomes a full member of the community of the Church. This process includes instruction, formation, and special liturgical rites, culminating in the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

Liturgy – public worship offered to God by the Church, particularly in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Mass - the most common term used to designate the celebration of the Eucharist.

Para-liturgy - formal prayer service.

Reconciliation – the sacrament of Reconciliation, also called Penance (once called Confession) is a special experience of God’s love. It renews our bond with God and others that is injured or broken by sin. The Eucharist also is a sacrament of Reconciliation. Through it we receive forgiveness for our daily faults and are drawn closer to God and each other.

Sacrament - a high point in the manifestation of God’s love for us, and a high point of our response to that love. The Church designates seven events in its liturgy as sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Marriage, Holy Orders and Anointing of the Sick.