

Glossary--Tenth Grade

- **Allegorical Sense** – the spiritual interpretation of Scripture that shows how people and events in salvation history point forward to other times. The allegorical sense of Abraham sacrificing Isaac is God’s sacrifice of his own son, Jesus.
- **Analogical sense** – the spiritual interpretation of Scripture that shows how events in Scripture point to what will be in heaven.
- **Anna** – a prophetess who recognized the Messiah when Jesus was presented at the Temple.
- **Annunciation of the Lord**– the visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Messiah. The story of the Annunciation is found in Luke. The feast of the Annunciation is celebrated on March 25.
- **Antioch** – a great metropolis in Syria. The second center of Christianity after Jerusalem. The name “Christian” was first used in Antioch.
- **Apocalypse** - Literally “unveiling”; the Book of Revelation commonly attributed to St. John the Apostle; a prophetic work foretelling the fall of Rome and the final victory of Christ and his Church; it is subject to numerous legitimate interpretations.
- **Apocryphal** – term referring to books that were rejected from the bible because they lacked genuineness and canonicity.
- **Apostle** – one who is sent. The Twelve Apostles were chosen by Jesus Christ to spread his message throughout the world. The word is used to describe the Twelve and St. Paul.
- **Ascension** – the entry of Jesus’ humanity into divine glory in God’s heavenly domain, forty days after his Resurrection.
- **Augustus** – the first Roman emperor. After many years of civil war, he established peace throughout the Mediterranean.
- **Baptize** – to wash ceremonially. The baptism of John the Baptist was an external sign of repentance. The sacrament of Baptism washes away the stain of original sin.
- **Barnabas** – a Christian missionary who was Paul’s companion in some of his travels. He introduced Paul to the apostles in Jerusalem.
- **Beatitude** – happiness or blessedness, especially the eternal happiness of heaven which is described as the vision of God, or entering into God’s rest by those whom he makes partakers of the divine nature.
- **Bethlehem** – the city where Jesus Christ was born. It was the ancestral home of David, which is why Joseph being of the house of David had to go there to be “enrolled”.
- **Bible** - Sacred Scripture: the books which contain the truth of God’s revelation and were composed by human authors inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Bible contains forty-six books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament.

- **Bishop** – Greek for “overseer.” A successor of the apostles, the bishop is the teacher, leader, and Shepherd of a particular church (called a *diocese*). A bishop is one who has received the fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders.
- **Blasphemy** – the crime of insulting God or of claiming godlike attributes. Jesus was accused of blasphemy for identifying himself as the Son of God and Christ.
- **Caesar** – a title used by all the Roman emperors. When a New Testament writer mentions “Caesar,” he means the emperor who was reigning at the time.
- **Caiaphas** – the reigning high priest who had been appointed by the Roman government.
- **Canon** - the Church’s complete list of sacred books of the Bible.
- **Capernaum** – a town on the Sea of Galilee that became Jesus’ home during his Galilean ministry.
- **Catechism of the Catholic Church** – a book containing a summary of Catholic teaching promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 1997.
- **Catechumen** – one who is preparing for baptism to gain entry to the Church.
- **Catholic** – Universal. Catholic can describe the Church or one of its members.
- **Catholic Epistles** – Letters written to the “universal” church (James, 1 and 2 Peter, Jude, 1,2,3 John) as distinct from letters written to a particular region (Romans, Colossians, etc).
- **Cephas** – Aramaic for “Peter” or “Rock”.
- **Christian** – one who believes Jesus is the Christ, the anointed one of God. The Church Fathers sometimes spoke of Abraham, David, and other faithful people of the Old Testament as Christians because they believed in the future coming of Christ.
- **Church** – the faithful. This can refer to the Roman Catholic Church or an individual diocese (e.g. Diocese of Scranton).
- **Cleopas** – one of the followers of Jesus who met him on the road to Emmaus.
- **Convert** – one who has changed his religion.
- **Council of Jerusalem** – a meeting of Church leaders. There it was decided Gentile converts to Christianity did not have to keep the whole Law of Moses.
- **Covenant** – an agreement that establishes a sacred family bond between persons. A covenant is more than a contract; a contract establishes a temporary relationship beneficial to both parties, whereas a covenant is intended to bind both persons in kinship forever.
- **Crucifixion** – a form of execution used by the Romans in which the victim is nailed to a wooden cross and left to die slowly.
- **Cup of Consummation** – the last cup in the Passover ceremony. At the Last Supper, Jesus ended the meal before the Cup of Consummation; his death on the Cross was to be the consummation of his Passover sacrifice.
- **Damascus** – an ancient city in Syria. Paul was on his way to arrest Christians there when he encountered Christ.
- **Demon** – one of the fallen angels who rebelled against God. Jesus Christ’s power over demons was one of the signs of his divinity.

- **Deposit of Faith** – the heritage of faith contained in Sacred Scripture and Tradition, handed on in the Church from the time of the apostles, from which the Magisterium draws all that it proposes for belief as being divinely revealed.
- **Deuterocanonical** – those books and passages of the Old and New Testaments about which there was controversy in early Christian history.
- **Doctrine** - Revealed teachings of Christ which are proclaimed by the fullest extent of the exercise of the authority of the Church's Magisterium. The faithful are obligated to believe the truths or dogmas contained in Divine Revelation and defined by the Magisterium.
- **Emmaus** – a small village a few hours away from Jerusalem. After his Resurrection, two of Jesus' followers met him on the road to Emmaus, but did not recognize him until he broke bread with them.
- **Epiphany** - the manifestation of Jesus as the Christ. The feast of Epiphany (January 6) celebrates the adoration of the Christ child by the royal visitors from the east.
- **Epistle** – Letter. Much of the New Testament consists of epistles written to individuals, to whole congregations, or to the Church as a whole.
- **Eschatology** – the study of the end of time.
- **Ethiopia** – an ancient civilization in eastern Africa. The first Gentile baptized as a Christian was an Ethiopian.
- **Evangelist** – one who works actively to spread and promote the Christian faith.
- **Fast** – to go without food. Fasting is an ancient religious practice that denies the wants of the body in order to strengthen the spirit.
- **Gethsemane** – means “olive press.” A garden outside Jerusalem where Jesus went to pray after the Last Supper. He was betrayed and arrested there.
- **Golgotha** - a hill outside Jerusalem where Jesus was crucified. The name means “place of the skull”.
- **Gospel** – Good News. Specifically, a book that tells the Good News. The four Gospels were written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- **Hail Mary** – the words with which the angel Gabriel greeted Mary at the Annunciation: “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.”
- **Herod the Great** – a wickedly ambitious king who took over the government of Palestine with the support of the Romans. He was an Edomite, but he portrayed himself as a Jew returned from exile.
- **Holy Spirit** – the third person of the Trinity. Jesus promised his followers the Holy Spirit to guide and protect them after he ascended to his Father. That promise was fulfilled ten days later at Pentecost. God the Holy Spirit continues to guide and protect the Church today.
- **Humility** – the virtue by which a Christian acknowledges that God is the author of all good; avoids inordinate ambition or pride, and provides the foundation for turning to God in prayer; poverty of spirit.
- **Immaculate Conception** – Mary was conceived without the stain of original sin.
- **Incarnation** – the coming of God in human form. Latin for “becoming flesh”.
- **Inerrant** – making no mistakes. Scripture is inerrant; that is, it always teaches truth, never falsehood.

- **Infallible** – incapable of failing. The Bible and the teaching of the Church are infallible because of a special protection by God.
- **Inspired** – Guided by God. From a word meaning “breathed in.” The human writers of Scripture wrote in their own language, but through God’s inspiration they wrote what God intended them to write and nothing more.
- **James** – a “brother” (that is, close relative) of Jesus who became the leader of the Church in Jerusalem. James was famous for keeping the whole Law of Moses most faithfully.
- **Jesus Christ** – the long promised Anointed One, God the Son in human form. Jesus Christ was truly God and truly human. His human nature was not merely an appearance, but God on earth.
- **John the Baptist** – a cousin of Jesus, older by six months. His baptizing and preaching in the wilderness prepared the way for Jesus.
- **Joseph of Arimathea** – an influential member of the Sanhedrin who buried Jesus’ body in his own tomb.
- **Judas Iscariot** - one of the Twelve. He betrayed Jesus to the authorities.
- **Justification** – being made right with God. It is a free and undeserved gift God gives us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- **Keys of the Kingdom** – the power to bind and loose given by Christ to St. Peter and his successors. Also the badge of office of the prime ministers of the Davidic Kingdom.
- **Lamb of God** – a title given not only to the Passover sacrifice at the Exodus but also to Jesus Christ as the perfect sacrifice “who takes away the sins of the world”.
- **Last Supper** - the Passover meal that Jesus and his disciples celebrated before his arrest. Jesus instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper.
- **Law and the Prophets** – the Old Testament Scriptures. Jesus said that he had come to fulfill the Law and the Prophets.
- **Literal Sense** – the meaning of Scripture based on the meaning of the words in the literary and historical context.
- **Liturgy** – the “work of people” in worshiping God. One liturgy is the Mass; there are other liturgies dating back to the beginning of the Church.
- **Liturgy of the Word** – the first part of the Mass, during which the Scriptures are read and interpreted by the priest or deacon. It parallels the liturgy of the Jewish synagogue.
- **Magisterium** – the teaching authority of the Church which, guided by the Holy Spirit, interprets Scripture and Tradition.
- **Mary Magdalene** – one of the women who followed Jesus. She was the first person to have seen the risen Lord.
- **Mass** – the Eucharist or principal sacramental celebration of the Church. From the Latin “*Ite missa est*” at the end of the Mass.
- **Matthias** – the disciple chosen to replace Judas as one of the Twelve.
- **Meekness** – quality of relying on God’s mysterious plan; kindness or indulgence as opposed to anger; see hope, humility.

- **Mercy** – the loving kindness, compassion, or forbearance shown to one who offends.
- **Minister** – a servant; in particular, the servant of a king. Bishops, priests, and deacons are ordained ministers.
- **Moral Sense** – the spiritual interpretation of Scripture that shows us how the heroes of Scripture portray a pattern for our own lives.
- **Mortify** – to overcome sin and one’s sinful tendencies by various exercises.
- **Nazarene** – someone from the town of Nazareth. This is how a placard identified Jesus on the cross.
- **New Israel** – the Church, made up of all the faithful people of God. All the promises the prophets made for Israel are fulfilled in the Church.
- **New Jerusalem** – the heavenly city, of which all the faithful are citizens.
- **New Testament** – the twenty-seven books of the Bible written by the sacred authors in apostolic times, which have Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God- his life, teachings, Passion and glorification, and the beginnings of his Church- as their central theme.
- **Oral Tradition** – the living transmission of the message of the Gospel in the Church. The oral preaching of the apostles is conserved and handed on as the deposit of faith through the Church.
- **Our Father** – the prayer Jesus taught his disciples; also called the Lord’s Prayer.
- **Parable** – a story or example based on a familiar experience that illustrates a principle. It uses familiar ideas to explain unfamiliar ideas.
- **Paradox** – an apparent contradiction that is really true. Jesus used paradoxes like “the first shall be last” to show how different the Kingdom of Heaven would be from the state of things on earth.
- **Paul** – the leader of persecutions against Christians. He was chosen by Christ to be an apostle.
- **Pentecost** – a Jewish festival, fifty days after Passover, celebrating the giving of the law to Moses at Sinai. Also the birthday of the Church. On the Pentecost after Jesus’ resurrection, the Holy Spirit descended on the Twelve and Mary.
- **Peter** – one of Jesus’ disciples who became the leader of the Twelve and of the Church. Named Simon, Jesus gave him the name Peter, which means “Rock”.
- **Pharisee** - during the time of Jesus, an avid, contentious student and/or teacher of Jewish law.
- **Pharisees** – a Jewish sect that believed in keeping separate from the Gentiles. They followed the Law of Moses strictly and added many traditional interpretations and regulations of their own.
- **Philip** – the first Christian to baptize a Gentile. The Holy Spirit led him to an Ethiopian court official who had been reading the prophet Isaiah.
- **Pontius Pilate** – The Roman governor of Judea. Although he found Jesus guilty of nothing, he sentenced him to death by crucifixion.
- **Pope** – the bishop of Rome. The direct successor of St. Peter. The vicar of Christ on earth and visible head of the Church.
- **Praetorium** – the center of Roman government in a province.

- **Private Revelation** – revelations made in the course of history which do not add to or form part of the deposit of faith, but rather may help people live out their faith more fully. Some have been recognized by the authority of the Church.
- **Prodigal** – “wasteful.” In the story of the Prodigal Son, a young man wastes his entire inheritance and has to return to his father with nothing.
- **Protocanonical** – those books of the Bible, especially in the Old Testament, whose inspired character has never been questioned (by any Church Father). Can be misleading because it was not the Church Fathers, but the Magisterium under the Pope that was divinely authorized.
- **“Q”** – a hypothetical collection of Jesus’ sayings that many scholars think was used by the Gospel writers. No one knows for certain whether the document ever existed; all the evidence for it comes from scholarly analysis of the Gospels.
- **Rabbi** – in the Old Testament, it referred to a holder of an office. A rabbi was a teacher of the Jewish Scriptures. It was the name disciples used for their teacher.
- **Reconciliation** – the sacrament by which Christ forgives sins. Jesus gave his Apostles – who passed it on to their successors down to this day- the power to forgive and retain sins.
- **Resurrection** – Jesus’ coming to life again on the third day. There were many witnesses who saw the risen Jesus.
- **Revelation** – the name of the last book of the New Testament, so called because it contains the things that were revealed to St. John.
- **Revelation** – the truths about God and his will which he has communicated freely to humanity by means of Sacred Scripture and Tradition.
- **Righteousness** – justice, uprightness; conformity of life to the requirements of the divine or moral law; virtue, integrity.
- **Rome** – the capital of the Roman Empire, and the greatest city of the ancient world. Peter- the first pope- and Paul died there on the same day after having organized the Church.
- **Sadducees** – a Jewish sect that believed in accommodating Judaism to modern life. They held most of the positions of power in the priesthood. Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection and denied the existence of angels and spirit.
- **Salvation History** – the story of God’s plan to save humanity from the consequences of sin. This plan begins with Creation, is unfolding now, and will continue until the end of time.
- **Sanhedrin** – the Jewish governing council. Its responsibilities were mainly religious; the Romans had taken over its governmental functions.
- **Sanhedrin** – the supreme council and court of justice among the Jews.
- **Saul of Tarsus** – the Jewish name of St. Paul.
- **Scribe** – well educated Jew who studied and explained the law; not a priest; some were members of the Sanhedrin.
- **Septuagint** – A pre-Christian translation of the Hebrew Scriptures made by Jewish scholars and later adopted by Greek-speaking Christians.
- **Simeon** – a priest who recognized the Christ child when Jesus was presented at the Temple.

- **Simone of Cyrene** – the man who was forced to help carry Jesus’ cross to Golgotha.
- **Son of David** – a title that belongs not only to Solomon but also to Jesus Christ as the promised heir of the Davidic kingdom.
- **Spiritual sense** – the interpretation of Scripture that sees not only the words of the text but also the people, thing, and events they describe as signs. The Spiritual senses flow out of the literal meaning of the words. The three kinds of spiritual sense in Scripture are the allegorical, moral and anagogical senses.
- **Stephen** – the first Christian martyr. A popular deacon whose death marked the first wave of persecution against Christians.
- **Synagogue** – a Jewish house of meeting. Sacrifices could be offered only at the Temple in Jerusalem, but Jews all over the world went to local synagogues to worship and to hear the Scriptures read and interpreted.
- **Synoptic Gospels** – Matthew, Mark, and Luke. They are called “synoptic” (Greek for “seeing together”) because they have a similar point of view when contrasted with the Gospel of John.
- **Tempt** – to test, usually by offering something forbidden. The devil offered Jesus food, divine protection, and earthly glory in exchange for worshiping Satan.
- **Testament** – the name given to the two major parts of the Bible; a synonym for covenant. The Old Testament recounts the history of salvation before the time of Christ (46 books), and the New Testament unfolds the saving work of Jesus and the Church (27 books).
- **Thomas** – one of the Twelve. He was not present when Jesus appeared to the rest and refused to believe Jesus had risen unless he could see for himself. He became a zealous missionary traveling to India.
- **Timothy** – a friend of Paul to whom Paul addressed two letters.
- **Titus** – The Roman general whose army captured and destroyed Jerusalem. He later become emperor.
- **Tradition** – the living transmission of the message of the Gospel in the Church.
- **Trinity** – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Trinity refers to three persons but one God.
- **Upper Room** – the room where Jesus celebrated the Last Supper. The locked gathering place for the first Christians before Pentecost. One of the first Christian churches.