

HELPFUL EIGHTH GRADE VOCABULARY

MESSIAH: Jesus' title, "God's anointed one," the Savior

CONSCIENCE: The ability we have to judge whether an action is right or wrong.

PENTECOST: The day on which the Holy Spirit came upon the followers of Christ; usually referred to as the "birthday" of the Church.

INCARNATION: The Word of God, Jesus, became flesh, and took on our human nature

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: Mary was free from original sin from the moment she was conceived

MOSES: The leader of the Israelites to whom God gave the Ten Commandments

JESUS: the fullest revelation of God; to know Jesus is to know God the Father because Jesus and the Father are perfectly united in mind and heart

FAITH: the conviction we have that God loves us, cares for us, reveals Himself without deceit, draws close to us and is just toward all

ANNUNCIATION: the moment when the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that God wanted to use her body to give flesh to His Son, Jesus

BLESSED TRINITY: the mystery of God's nature – that God is three distinct Persons but only one Divine Nature

MORTAL SIN: a serious act of disobedience against the law of God; this choice causes a complete break in one's relationship with God

HOLINESS: the habit of living one's life faithfully in response to God's love and loving and serving people in need

ADULTERY: infidelity in marriage; unfaithfulness to one's husband or wife

PORNOGRAPHY: a degrading portrayal of human sexuality

CHASTITY: the virtue by which we use our sexuality in a respectful, responsible and loving way

TEMPERANCE: the virtue by which we bring our feelings and desires into balance

RESURRECTION: Jesus' return to life after being dead for three days

INFANCY NARRATIVES: Gospel stories about the birth and early childhood of Jesus

ETERNAL LIFE: life that never ends; heaven

PASCHAL MYSTERY: the saving life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus

PRIEST: a man ordained to minister five of the seven sacraments: all except Confirmation and Holy Orders

DIOCESE: a geographic area under the leadership of a Cardinal or Bishop

CANDIDATE: a person who is being considered for acceptance (In the RCIA it is a person being considered for acceptance into the Catholic Church)

BISHOP: a man who has received the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders and is ordained to minister all seven sacraments

CELEBRANT: an ordained minister who leads the public worship of the people of God

DEACON: an ordained minister who assists the priest in service to the people of God. He is able to minister two of the sacraments – Baptism and Marriage.

SPONSOR: a person chosen to be a reliable guide, mentor and support for someone who is seeking to grow and learn

CATECHUMEN: an adult person seeking to learn the Catholic way of life in order to receive the sacraments of initiation

COVENANT: a pledge or promise of irrevocable faithfulness

SALVATION: the act or series of actions that ultimately prevents serious harm despite the danger that is close at hand

PROVIDENCE: that which God provides for the well being of his creation

MERCY: the generous love that gives someone more than justice

DIVINE INSPIRATION: when God the Holy Spirit acts THROUGH a person in order to reveal God's truth or ways (For example, the writers of the Bible were inspired by God to write)

DIVINE REVELATION: when God Himself acts to communicate who he is and what he wants us to know (For example, Jesus, who is God, came in our human flesh to proclaim God's truth and love)

GRACE: the gift of God's life