

**Catholics only...** This information is for Catholics only. It must not be divulged to non-Catholics. The less they know about our rituals and code words, the better off they are.

**AMEN:** The only part of a prayer that everyone knows.

**BULLETIN:** Your receipt for attending Mass.

**CHOIR:** A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the Parish to lip-sync.

**HOLY WATER:** A liquid whose chemical formula is H2OLY.

**HYMN:** A song of praise usually sung in a key three octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN:** The last song at Mass often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

**INCENSE:** Holy Smoke!

**JESUITS:** An order of priests known for their ability to find colleges with good basketball teams.

**JONAH:** The original "Jaws" story.

**JUSTICE:** When kids have kids of their own.

**KYRIE ELEISON:** The only Greek words that most Catholics can recognize besides gyros and baklava.

**MAGI:** The most famous trio to attend a baby shower.

**MANGER:** Where Mary gave birth to Jesus because Joseph wasn't covered by an HMO. (The Bible's way of showing us that holiday travel has always been rough.)

**PEW:** A medieval torture device still found in Catholic churches.

**PROCESSION:** The ceremonial formation at the beginning of Mass consisting of altar servers, the celebrant, and late parishioners looking for seats.

**RECESSIONAL:** The ceremonial procession at the conclusion of Mass led by parishioners trying to beat the crowd to the parking lot.

**RELICS:** People who have been going to Mass for so long, they actually know when to sit, kneel, and stand.

**TEN COMMANDMENTS:** The most important Top 10 list not given by David Letterman.

**USHERS:** The only people in the parish who don't know the seating capacity of a pew.