

## DID YOU KNOW > > >

Catholicism is filled with so much history and tradition that it is virtually impossible to know it all. These “tidbits” are designed to be used as short bulletin quotes, newsletter fillers, or any other way you may choose to use them.

The word **Lent** comes from the Anglo-Saxon word for springtime, *lencten*. It describes the gradual *lengthening* of daylight after the winter solstice. A holy season of Lenten preparation didn't exist until the early fourth century.

**Sin** is a thought or action that is contrary to the love and will of God. If these thoughts or actions aren't corrected, then they can become a real problem! But, **reconciliation** helps to uncover and correct these patterns.

Don't be afraid when you hear the phrase “**Fear of the Lord.**” This is a gift of the Holy spirit, and it refers to the Old Testament idea of trembling in awe at the wonder of God. So, when we hear it today, we mean that God is great and awesome, not a God to be afraid of!

**Grace** is God's life and love at work in our soul.

In the early church, sin meant excommunication from the rest of the community. The sinner did penance in public, including wearing sackcloth and ashes, and had to be absolved by the bishop. **Penance** didn't become private until around 700 C.E.

*Tradition* is a two-letter word. *Tradition* refers to the material of scriptures, doctrines, writings and liturgies handed down through the centuries. *Tradition* refers to everyday customs and practices.

**Hocus-Pocus** really comes from the most sacred moment in our catholic ritual: the consecration of the bread and wine. When Christ said “This is my

**Ah-Choo!** “God bless you,” St. Gregory replied. During a severe pestilence in which a sneeze was a deathly symptom, St. Gregory originated this blessing by recommending it's prayerful use when someone sneezed.

**When is Easter?** The date of Easter is based on the resurrection of Jesus. While there has been much debate, the council of Nicea placed Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon after march 20 (vernal equinox, also spring). Easter may be as early as March 22 and as late as April 25.

While she is the patroness of prostitutes, there is nothing in the scriptures that portray **Mary Magdalene** as a prostitute. Stories began confusing her with other women who were prostitutes around the fourth century. She has been called the “Apostle to the Apostles,” and her feast day is July 22.