Vocabulary for Unit 2

**analogy of faith:** The coherence of individual doctrines with the whole of Revelation. In other words, as each doctrine is connected with Revelation, each doctrine is also connected with all other doctrines.

**Annunciation:** The event in which the Archangel Gabriel came to Mary to announce that she had found favor with God and would become the mother of the Messiah

**Ark of the Covenant:** A sacred chest that housed the tablets of the Ten Commandments. It was placed within the sanctuary where God would come and dwell.

**Christological:** Having to do with the branch of theology called Christology. Christology is the study of the person and life of Jesus Christ, his ministry, and his mission.

**circumcision:** The act, required by Jewish law, of removing the foreskin of the penis. Since the time of Abraham, it has been a sign of God’s Covenant relationship with the Jewish people.

**clement:**  Merciful.

**confederation:**  An alliance of tribes or nations with no central authority.

**Exile, the:** The period of the Israelite captivity in Babylon after the destruction of Jerusalem in 587 BC.

**expiation:** The act of atoning for sin or wrongdoing.

**foreshadow:** To represent or prefigure a person before his or her life or an event before it occurs.

**fratricide:** To kill one’s own brother or sister.

**Immaculate Conception:** The dogma that Mary was conceived without Original Sin and remained free from personal sin throughout her entire life.

**Incarnation:** From the Latin, meaning “to become flesh,” referring to the biblical Revelation that Jesus is both true God and true man.

**literal sense:** A form of biblical interpretation that considers the explicit meaning of the text. It lays the foundation for all other senses of the Scriptures.

**monarchy:** A government or a state headed by a single person, like a king or queen. As a biblical term, it refers to the period of time when the Israelites existed as an independent nation.

**Paschal Mystery:** The work of salvation accomplished by Jesus Christ mainly through his Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension.

**patriarch:** The father or leader of a tribe, clan, or tradition. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were the patriarchs of the Israelite people.

**polytheism:** The belief in many gods.

***Protoevangelium:*** The first announcement of the Good News and promise of God’s redemptive love through the person of Jesus Christ.

**spiritual sense:** A form of biblical interpretation that goes beyond the literal sense to consider what the realities and events of the Scriptures signify and mean for salvation.

**theophany:** God’s breaking into the human dimension so an individual's and community's understanding of God is deepened or changed.

***Theotokos:*** A Greek title for Mary meaning “God bearer.”

**Torah:** A Hebrew word meaning “law,” referring to the first five books of the Old Testament.