

THE CREED

Believing leads
to belonging



Creed- from
the Latin credo
- I believe

- In general, a statement of beliefs.
- It signifies the entire body of beliefs held by the members of a given religion or group.
- In a narrower sense, a creed is a summary of the principal articles of faith professed by The Church or believers.

The Rule of Faith

The Creed is the rule of faith for the Catholic life.

It supplies a map that lays out the fundamentals of how the Christian thinks about God and the history of salvation.

This set of beliefs prevents “the Church”/members from taking a wrong turn and falling into error.

It marks the boundaries of Christian belief, while protecting the Church’s essential teachings.

Liturgical prayer

The Creed is the Church's liturgical prayer

Professing the Creed in public worship reminds us that being a Christian means **belonging to Christ and His Church, not our own idea of church.**

These basic tenets of the Truth helps correct any unhealthy individualism.

By reciting the Creed in the context of the Mass, the profession of faith becomes an integral part of the great prayer of thanksgiving we offer to God in the Eucharistic Liturgy.

The Apostles Creed/Nicene Creed

- I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord,
- Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
- He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
- He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.
- I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from
Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial
with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and
became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered
death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in
accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is
seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father
and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the
prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look
forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to
come. Amen.

Article 1: I believe... God is Father

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

- God exists!!!
- There is only One, True God- there are not many gods: the god of water, the god of the harvest, the god of fire, etc. Thus, we are monotheist, not paganist.
- God is not some abstract thought or a distant being, He is Father; in the best sense of the word. – Loving, Active, Demanding, Merciful, etc. Thus we are called to be in relationship with Him.
- He creates; thus there is a “Grand Plan” for why we are here and what we are to do. Therefore, we have some responsibilities on how we are to live, especially as it relates to Him.
- There is an earthly realm and a heavenly realm.

Article 2: I believe...Jesus is Lord and Savior

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

This attests that Jesus is the Son of God and that He is most certainly divine and equal to the Father in all things. There is only 1 God, not 2, they share the same nature.

The word Lord implies divinity, because the Greek *Kyrios* and the Hebrew *Adonai* both mean “Lord” and are ascribed only to God.

Jesus is the creator and giver of life, just as the Father. Thus He comes to redeem and restore what man lost.

Article 3: I believe... Jesus is True God and True Man

**For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary and became man.**

This affirms the human nature of Christ, meaning He had a real, true human mother, and also affirms His divine nature, meaning He had no human father for God is His Father.

Here we learn of the Holy Spirit, who comes upon Mary and as a result Mary conceives in her womb Jesus. Thus, her title Theotokos- Mother of God.

Jesus therefore is both fully God and fully man, a human will and a divine will.

Mary's yes, serves as the guide which all Christians should follow.

It also reveals dogmatically that life begins at conception.

Article 4: I believe... in Sacrifice

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried.**

The human nature of Christ could feel pain and that He could actually die, which He did on Good Friday.

The mentioning of Pontius Pilate by name wasn't meant so much to vilify him forever in history, but to place the Crucifixion within human history.

Sin causes a break with our relationship with God, which always must be atoned in some way. His death shows the price God was willing to pay in order to save and redeem us.

Suffering is not evil, since Christ embraced it, God does not commit evil. It also shows suffering can be redemptive when offering it up to the Father.

Article 5: I believe... Christ is not dead

He rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

The Resurrection is not a myth or some fairy tale, it was an actual event, witnessed upon by those who ate and drank with Him after His death.

Three days indicates some time has passed, in order to show that He had actually died.

The Apostles Creed directly speaks of Purgatory, the place of the dead. Revealing there was a place where past generations who were deemed “good” were waiting for the Messiah to bring them into heaven. This place also exists today, for future generations.

Scripture is revelation, truth of salvation history which has been handed down from people, whom societies finds trustworthy.

Article 6: I believe... Body/Soul are good

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

The Ascension reminds the faithful that after the human and divine natures of Christ were united in the Incarnation, they could never be separated. In other words, after the saving death and Resurrection, Jesus didn't dump his human body as if He didn't need it anymore.

Catholicism teaches that His human body will exist forever. Where Jesus went, body and soul also goes.

This is the hope of the faithful, to have a Glorified Body.

Article 7: I believe... Jesus is our Judge

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

- This article affirms the Second Coming of Christ at the end of the world to be its judge- Judgment Day
- It also asserts that immediate upon our particular death, judgment occurs. A person goes directly to heaven, hell, or purgatory (to be purified.)
- This world is temporary, but Christ's Kingdom is eternal, therefore our main focus should be on eternal rewards, not earthly possessions or glories.

Article 8: I believe... in the Trinity

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

- Unity of the 3 Divine Persons- equal, but distinct
- Holy Spirit is also the creator and maker of all things
- Holy Spirit is the guider and protector of Truth of the Church

Article 9: I believe... Christ established a Church

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

“You are Peter and upon this Rock I will build my Church” –Matthew 16

Despite what some may think, Jesus does establish a Church, hence why we have a Creed, so we know what are the basics for membership. In fact, Jesus had a two-fold mission – 1) To die for Sin and 2) Establishing a Church, so sinners could have a chance for salvation.

ONE – Unity of its members (body) has same mind and heart as its Head

HOLY – Despite the sinfulness of its members, the Church’s holiness comes from its Head, and through the Holy Spirit, the Church is sanctified and filled with grace, it’s up to the individuals to be open and respond to the graces.

CATHOLIC – Universal: There is only one Truth, One God, One Father, One Lord, One Spirit, so there is only one true Faith, one religion which God is calling us to follow. Religion is the practice of our faith both spiritually and physically.

APOSTOLIC – The Church is established upon the Apostles; Jesus chose certain and specific man to govern and lead the Church. He gave them His complete power and authority to act and build-up the Church. They could have changed everything, they had the power, but they did not see this as a new faith, they were Jewish, Jesus was the Messiah- the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets.

Jesus entrusted this to man, imperfect and sinful, we know who they were before Pentecost, thus we should not be surprised that our leaders today and in every age are imperfect and sinful. Nor are the leaders surprised that the members of the Church are imperfect and sinful. We are a work in progress and guided by the Holy Spirit, so we don’t go too off the rails, hence the importance of the Creed. But we don’t change the structure or teachings that Christ entrusted to the Apostles; if we do, we are no longer One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic.

Article 10: **I Believe... Forgiven is necessary**

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

- Christ came to save the world from sin. Belief in the forgiveness of sins is essential to Christianity. We believe sins are forgiven in Baptism and in the Sacrament of Penance.
- There is no action done by God more in either the Old or New Testament than the forgiveness of sins.
- The first power and authority Christ gives after establishing the Church is the ability to forgive or retain sins. It is also the first command He gives to the Apostles after the Resurrection.
- So, to deny the need for Confession is not only ignorance of Scripture and the denial of the Faith, but the rejection of God's mercy.

Article 11: **I believe... In Heaven**

I look forward to the resurrection of the dead

- This world may be nice, but it ain't nothing compared to Heaven!
- Earthly death is just the momentary separation of body and soul until the end of the world, the Second Coming of Christ, the General Judgment brings about the uniting of our bodies and souls whether in Heaven, Purgatory, or Hell.
- This is something we profess that we look forward to, but it doesn't seem like many Catholics really are looking forward to it, because they want to do all things to keep this from happening.

Article 12: I believe in a Glorified Body/Soul

The life of the world to come. Amen.

- As Christ Our Savior died, so, too, must mere mortals. As He rose, so shall those who have been faithful to Him and followed the Creed in word and deed.
- Death is the only way to cross from this life into the next.
- AMEN – I know this to be truth; its of response more than just belief, but a confident assurance that this is Truth, not opinion or worse just one opinion among many.

Do I believe...?

LEX ORANDI, LEX CREDENDI, LEX VIVENDI.

As we Worship, So we Believe, So we Live

Prayer and belief are integral to each other and that liturgy is not distinct from theology.

It refers to the relationship between worship and belief. As an ancient Christian principle it provided a measure for developing the ancient Christian creeds, the canon of Scripture, and other doctrinal matters.

Thus, if we profess the Creed, our lives should reflect that belief.

Evangelization tool

- The Creed is a springboard for evangelization. The believer has received faith from other people and should desire to hand it on to others. Our love for God and other people, and the gratitude we feel for our faith, should impel us to speak to others about it.
- The Creed is an ideal starting point for the crucial process of grasping the key tenets of the faith. It offers one the Christian vision of the world's origins, meaning and destiny, and presents God's saving work in a clear and simple statement of beliefs. It requires no hidden knowledge or superior intellect and can be affirmed and understood by children as well as adults.
- The Creed focuses on what unites us as Catholics, rather than on what divides us humans. It reveals where secular ideologies try to invade the believer's understanding of God and His Church. Thus the Creed serves as the resource for Apologists.

RCIA starts at the end of August!

- August 26 -Inquiry session at 7:30p.m. in the Trinity Rooms
- So- invite, invite, invite!!!