

CREED

From Our Series on

The Four Pillars of the Catholic Church

**Creed
(We Believe)**

Mass/Sacraments
(We Worship)

Christian Morality
(We Live It!)

Christian Prayer
(We Pray)

Scripture and Tradition

As Catholic Christians we make a profession of our faith at Mass. We profess our faith at Easter. We profess our faith at baptisms. If we're doing it right, we profess our faith with our lives. The Catholic Church has handed down our faith through Scripture and Tradition. In both Scripture and Tradition we see what it is the Church professes about God, about Jesus Christ, about the Kingdom of God, about the Communion of Saints, and about the Catholic Church. In both the Nicene and the Apostle's Creeds we profess what it is we believe as Catholic Christians today and always.



I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty...
I believe in one Lord
Jesus Christ...
I believe in the Holy
Spirit...
I believe in One, Holy,
Catholic and Apostolic
Church...

The Creed

The Catholic Church provides a firm foundation to transmitting our faith - the Creed. The Catechism of the Catholic Church explores in detail what we profess to believe in Part One of the Catechism. In a letter titled, On Catechesis In Our Time, Pope John Paul II wrote that the Church has always considered catechesis (the transmission of our faith and what we believe) one of her primary tasks. He said that Christ gave his final command to the disciples to “go and make disciples” of all nations, and that the Church tells us this is also our mission - as members of the Church and followers of Christ.

Pope John Paul II also made it clear, “Catechesis is intrinsically linked with the whole of liturgical and sacramental activity, for it is in the sacraments, especially in the Eucharist, that Christ Jesus works in fullness for the transformation of human beings.” He went on to say that adult catechesis is the “principal form of catechesis, because it is addressed to persons who have the greatest responsibilities and the capacity to live the Christian message in its fully developed form.”

Further, he writes:

The family's catechetical activity has a special character, which is in a sense irreplaceable. This special character has been rightly stressed by the Church, particularly by the Second Vatican Council. (118) Education in the faith by parents, which should begin from the children's tenderest age, (119) is already being given when the members of a family help each other to grow in faith through the witness of their Christian lives, a witness that is often without words but which perseveres throughout a day-to-day life lived in accordance with the Gospel.



This family catechetical activity is apparent when we teach our children to pray, of course, but it's also visible in the family when we teach our children right from wrong, when we teach them the importance of forgiveness, when we teach them gratitude. These are not things we generally teach with a lesson plan, but with our lives. In our daily lives and our daily actions our children really learn what we believe.

Pope John Paul II continues:

This catechesis is more incisive when, in the course of family events (such as the reception of the sacraments, the celebration of great liturgical feasts, the birth of a child, a bereavement) care is taken to explain in the home the Christian or religious content of these events. But that is not enough: Christian parents must strive to follow and repeat, within the setting of family life, the more methodical teaching received elsewhere...The parents themselves profit from the effort that this demands of them, for in a catechetical dialogue of this sort each individual both receives and gives. Family catechesis therefore precedes, accompanies and enriches all other forms of catechesis.

Your role is indispensable, therefore, in teaching your children what we, as Catholic members of the Church, believe. The parish partners with you, with catechists, and with resources, to help all members of our faith family, from the very youngest child, know what we believe, and how we live out what we believe. In the following pages resources have been gathered to assist in that effort. This is by no means a comprehensive list of resources; it is simply a taste of what books and websites are out there to help us learn more about our own faith, and help us teach our children about the faith as well. Taste and see.

Activity and Discussion

Discuss the meaning of our Creed, section by section with your child. Think about questions your child might ask: What does it mean to say that I believe in one God? What does the Creed say about what I believe about who Jesus is? What words are unfamiliar to me? How can you explain them so I better understand what I'm saying when I recite the Creed?

Write out the Creed with (or for) your child. Cut the sections apart line by line. Practice the Creed by putting the sections back together in order, while reciting it.

As we learn the Creed from the Revised Roman Missal, be positive with your child about these changes. explain that Credo - means "I believe". The new words we say are a more exact translation of the Creed in its original language. Emphasize that we are not just learning new words, but learning what - and most importantly, Who - these words are about: God - three persons in one God: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit.

From the following Scriptures, find the correlating statement of belief in the Nicene Creed and expound on the Scriptural understanding and belief that is expressed: Hebrews 11:1-3; Colossians 2:9; John 1:1,14; Luke 1:35; Philippians 2:8-11; Matthew 16:21; Acts 2:38; Ephesians 4:4-6; Matthew 15:31-34; and John 11:25, 26.

Nicene Creed

from the Revised Roman Missal

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

Apostles' 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, is seated 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.

How do we teach our children what we believe?

We become witnesses to the Catholic faith. We practice it!

Check out the latest by local author, Joe Paprocki, released by Loyola Press in April, 2011 - *Practice Makes Catholic*. In it, Paprocki addresses how our practice of our faith provides witness to what we profess we believe as Catholics.

The following links from our Catholic curriculum publishing partners give ideas on sharing this faith with our children and our youth:

From Loyola Press - downloadable crafts featuring stories from Luke's Gospel.

<http://www.loyolapress.com/liturgical-year-c-activities.htm>

From Loyola Press - Story of Mary in downloadable coloring book

http://www.loyolapress.com/assets/fg_comp/pdf_176509.pdf

From Loyola Press - Catholic Teachings for Teens:

<http://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-teens.htm>

From OSV - Parent Know How - Supplemental Information

<http://www.osv.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=eoGYnbhOlpc%3D&tabid=2849>

From OSV - Ear-Catching Changes in the Mass - scriptural

<http://www.osv.com/tabid/7636/itemid/7574/Earcatching-Changes-in-the-New-Roman-Missal.aspx>

From OSV - Biblical Dialogue in the Revised Roman Missal - the Creed

<http://www.osv.com/tabid/7636/itemid/8334/Biblical-Dialogue-During-Mass.aspx>

Check out The Apostle's Creed for Families, by Our Sunday Visitor's Dr. Joseph P. White and Ana Arista White:

http://www.osv.com/tabid/2361/mid/5540/dnnprintmode/true/Default.aspx?SkinSrc=%5BG%5DSkins%2F_default%2FNo+Skin&ContainerSrc=%5BG%5DContainers%2F_default%2FNo+Container



Teach Like Jesus

Jesus taught his disciples and those who followed him with stories. We need to tell our stories to our children. We need to give our children opportunities to tell their stories. Everybody has a story, and when we share our stories we recognize that we are all created in the image of God.

Read the Story of the Prodigal Son to your children to teach them what we believe about the merciful forgiveness of God, the Father.

Read the Story of the Nativity to teach what we believe about the Incarnation of Jesus and the “yes” of Mary, as the Mother of God.

Read the story of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus to teach your children about Jesus’ sacrifice, for the sake of God’s children.

Read the Story of Road to Emmaus to teach your children about recognizing Jesus in our daily life, recognizing Jesus in the breaking of the Bread.

CREED - Profession of our Catholic Faith

Books:

For Adults

- ***Breaking Open the Creeds: What They Can Mean for Christians Today.*** A book by Richard W. Kropf released by Paulist Press, 2011.
- ***Catechism of the Catholic Church.*** A book by the U.S. Catholic Church released by Image, 1995.
- ***Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith.*** A book by Fr. Robert Barron, released by Image, 2011.
- ***Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.*** A book by Pope Benedict XVI released by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005.
- ***The Creed: What Christians Believe and Why It Matters.*** A book by Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson released by Image, 2007.
- ***The Faith We Profess: A Catholic Guide to the Apostle's Creed.*** A book by Peter J. Vaghi released by Ave Maria Press, 2008.
- ***Handbook for Today's Catholic Family, Revised Edition.*** A book released by Redemptorist Pastoral Publications released by Liguori Publications, 2008.
- ***Handbook for Today's Catholic: Fully Indexed to the Catechism of the Catholic Church.*** A book by the Redemptorist Pastoral Publications released by Liguori Publications 2004.
- ***Reader's Journal for the Catholic Catechism for Adults.*** A book released by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Communications, 2007.
- ***United States Catholic Catechism for Adults.*** A book released by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Communications, 2006.
- ***We Believe: Forty Meditations on the Nicene Creed.*** A book by Richard Maffeo released by Xulon Press, 2007.
- ***A Well-Built Faith: A Catholics Guide to Knowing and Sharing What We Believe.*** A book by Joe Paprocki released by Loyola Press, 2008.
- ***Why Stay Catholic? Unexpected Answers to a Life-Changing Question.*** A Book by Michael Leach released Loyola Press, 2011.

For Youth

- ***The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth, Second Edition.*** A book by Brian Singer-Towns released by St. Mary's Press, 2008.
- ***Handbook for Today's Catholic Teen.*** A book by Jim Auer released by Liguori Publications, 2004.
- ***Handbook for Today's Catholic Children.*** A book by Francine O'Conner released by Liguori Publications, 2002.
- ***YouCat.*** A book by Cardinal Christoph Schonborn released by Ignatius Press, 2011.

Websites

- <http://www.osv.com/ParishNav/MonthlyParishColumns/EarlyChildhoodEducation/January2007/tabid/2361/Default.aspx>
- <http://www.ewtn.com/faith/teachings/index.htm>
- <http://www.catholiceducation.org/articles/religion/re0060.html> - Why are there two Creeds in the Roman Missal?
- <http://www.loyolapress.com/the-nicene-creed-game.htm> - From Loyola Press - a game (for the classroom or at home) that teaches the Nicene creed to our children.
- <http://www.holyspiritinteractive.net/columns/richmaffeo/webelieve/27.asp>
- <http://www.holyspiritinteractive.net/columns/richmaffeo/>
- http://hsi-online.net/index.php?option=com_content&task=category§ionid=23&id=54&Itemid=161
- <http://www.holyspiritinteractive.net/youth/>
- <http://www.holyspiritinteractive.net/kids/>
- <http://www.lifeteen.com/category/blog/learn-about-your-faith/catholic-teaching>
- <http://www.romanmissalchanges.com/2011/08/understanding-why-i-believe-is-part-of.html>
- <http://bustedhalo.com/category/facts-of-faith>

youtube videos:

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXql0zuRqCY&feature=related> - One, Holy Catholic, and Apostolic - The Catholic Church and why one should NOT leave the Catholic Church - In Word on Fire, Fr. Robert Barron comments on the riches and the fullness of the Catholic Church.
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qP2rLgrBtTI> - In his Word on Fire video projects Fr. Robert Barron discusses why we believe in one God.
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yameuih5ri4&feature=related> - In Word on Fire, Fr. Robert Barron discusses the concept of God - "What is God?" in Faith Seeks Understanding Fire Part 1.
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-dhv-lp2eo> In Word on Fire Fr. Robert Barron discusses the concept of God - "Who is God?" in Faith Seeks Understanding Fire Part 2
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LVKBGEsqMuk> - In Word on Fire Fr. Robert Barron discusses the concept of God as Trinity in Faith Seeks Understanding Part 3
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSzNgyMF6DQ&feature=related> In Word on Fire Fr. Robert Barron explores the concept of God and Faith in Faith Seeks Understanding Part 4, Why was the Cross Necessary
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xBqG2hjTVjY> - In Word on Fire Fr. Robert Barron explores how we might understand Trinity.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

What is the Catechism of the Catholic Church?

A catechism is a text which contains the fundamental Christian truths formulated in a way that facilitates their understanding. The Catechism of the Catholic Church conveys the essential and fundamental content of Catholic faith and morals in a complete and summary way. It is a positive, objective and declarative exposition of Catholic doctrine.

The content of the Catechism is faithful to Apostolic Tradition, Scripture and the Magisterium. It incorporates the heritage of the Doctors, Fathers, and Saints of the Church and illuminates with the light of faith, contemporary situations, problems and questions. Sources for teachings are listed in each section.

The entire text of the Catechism of the Catholic Church can be found online at the USCCB site: <http://old.usccb.org/catechism/text/entiretoc1.shtml>

For whom is the Catechism intended?

The Catechism is intended, first of all, for bishops as teachers of the faith and pastors of the Church. They have the first responsibility in catechesis. Through the bishops, the Catechism is addressed to editors of catechisms, priests, catechists and all others responsible for catechesis, including parents. It is useful for all the faithful. The Holy Father has said that the Catechism "is offered to all the faithful who want to understand better the inexhaustible riches of salvation." The USCCB published **The United States Catholic Catechism for Adults** in 2006 to give the faithful (parents and lay people) a guide to understanding the catechism better. It is published in a study format (independent of group study).

Where can we find information about the Creed in the Catechism of the Catholic Church?

The Catechism is arranged in four parts. Content regarding the Creed can be found in Part One. The Catechism is divided into the following parts:

- The Profession of Faith (Creed)
- The Celebration of the Christian Mystery (Sacraments/Mass)
- Life in Christ (Christian Living)
- Christian Prayer

What does it mean when I see CCC and a number next to some teaching of the catechism in my child's books, or in the home lessons?

CCC stands for Catechism of the Catholic Church. The number is the number of the paragraph of the teaching in the catechism. For example:

CCC 1133

The Holy Spirit prepares the faithful for the sacraments by the Word of God and the faith which welcomes that word in well-disposed hearts. Thus the sacraments strengthen faith and express it.

This is paragraph number 1133 in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. All paragraphs are numbered, and easily distinguishable in the text.

Creed - Profession of Faith

Some Catechism Connections

199 "I believe in God". This first affirmation of the Apostles' Creed is also the most fundamental. The whole Creed speaks of God, and when it also speaks of man and of the world it does so in relation to God. The other articles of the Creed all depend on the first, just as the remaining Commandments make the first explicit. The other articles help us to know God better as he revealed himself progressively to men. "The faithful first profess their belief in God."

240 Jesus revealed that God is Father in an unheard-of sense: he is Father not only in being Creator; he is eternally Father by his relationship to his only Son who, reciprocally, is Son only in relation to his Father: "No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and any one to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

253 The Trinity is One. We do not confess three Gods, but one God in three persons, the "consubstantial Trinity". The divine persons do not share the one divinity among themselves but each of them is God whole and entire: "The Father is that which the Son is, the Son that which the Father is, the Father and the Son that which the Holy Spirit is, i.e. by nature one God." In the words of the Fourth Lateran Council (1215), "Each of the persons is that supreme reality, viz., the divine substance, essence or nature."

266 *"Now this is the Catholic faith: We worship one God in the Trinity and the Trinity in unity, without either confusing the persons or dividing the substance; for the person of the Father is one, the Son's is another, the Holy Spirit's another; but the Godhead of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is one, their glory equal, their majesty coeternal"* (Athanasian Creed: DS 75; ND 16).

426 "At the heart of catechesis we find, in essence, a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth, the only Son from the Father. . . who suffered and died for us and who now, after rising, is living with us forever." To catechize is "to reveal in the Person of Christ the whole of God's eternal design reaching fulfillment in that Person. It is to seek to understand the meaning of Christ's actions and words and of the signs worked by him." Catechesis aims at putting "people . . . in communion . . . with Jesus Christ: only he can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity."

743 *From the beginning to the end of time, whenever God sends his Son, he always sends his Spirit: their mission is conjoined and inseparable.*

778 *The Church is both the means and the goal of God's plan: prefigured in creation, prepared for in the Old Covenant, founded by the words and actions of Jesus Christ, fulfilled by his redeeming cross and his Resurrection, the Church has been manifested as the mystery of salvation by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. She will be perfected in the glory of heaven as the assembly of all the redeemed of the earth.*

St. Jude Explore Four

& Life of the Parish Events/Opportunities that assist in our learning about what we believe (CREED) and how we express it.

Learning Sessions that teach “what we believe” or parts of what we believe-as Catholics:

- First Reconciliation Preparation Sessions
- First Eucharist Preparation Sessions
- Confirmation Preparation Sessions
- Parish Mission
- Teen Mission
- Respect Life Learning Events
- Peace and Social Justice Learning Events
- RCIA learning sessions

