

Holy Name of Jesus CCD - Fall 2020

Lesson 1: *What is a Creed?*

Prayer to Memorize: Our Father

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Key Words:

Deposit of Faith: The heritage of faith contained in Sacred Scripture and Tradition, handed on in the Church from the time of the Apostles, from which the Magisterium draws all that it proposes for belief as being divinely revealed

Apostle: A term meaning one who is sent as Jesus was sent by the Father, and as he sent his chosen disciples to preach the Gospel to the whole world.

Magisterium: The living, teaching office of the Church, whose task it is to give an authentic interpretation of the word of God, whether in its written form (Sacred Scripture), or in the form of Tradition. The Magisterium ensures the Church's fidelity to the teaching of the Apostles in matters of faith and morals

Creed: A brief, normative summary statement or profession of Christian faith, e.g., the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed. The word "Creed" comes from the Latin *Credo*, meaning "I believe," with which the Creed begins.

To prepare, look over *Catechism of the Catholic Church* ¶ 185-197
Read *John 14:15-18*

Lesson:

Reminder: you know your child/children best. Prepare by reading this lesson on your own then adjusting it as necessary to your child's comprehension.

Every Sunday in Mass, we say a **creed** - the proclamation of our faith. We do this right after the homily when we stand and "profess our faith"

Two thousand years ago, Jesus came to earth. During his ministry, he walked among us, healed the sick, comforted the lonely, fed the hungry, and even raised the dead! Jesus taught us many things. All of his teachings bound together are called the **Deposit of Faith**. This deposit was all of the teachings and lessons that Jesus taught his disciples, who he instructed to go and teach to others. Then the Apostles - such as Peter, James, and John - all went and taught these teachings of Jesus to other people. Then they told those people to go and teach other people - all the way down through the years to us!

Jesus had many disciples, and from among them he chose twelve **Apostles**. Peter was the first apostle and the leader of the group. The apostles did not replace Jesus but were his representatives here on earth (Of course, Jesus is still present with us in the Church!). In Jesus' name, through the authority that they received from him, the apostles governed and took care of the Church. The Bishops and priests that we have today - like Fr. Pat - are the successors of those first apostles appointed by Jesus. They are led

by the bishop of Rome, the Pope, who is the successor of Peter. By listening to bishops and priests, we are actually listening to the teachings of Jesus Christ!

How does this “passing down” work?

Activity: Have kids stand in a line. Give first one a Bible and a piece of paper that says “Tradition.” State that YOU are Jesus and hand Bible and paper to first child, then have them pass it down through the whole line. Explain how this is how the Pope and Bishops - the **Magisterium of the Church** - have passed down all that we have learned from Jesus (the **Deposit of Faith**).

Why is it important to have the Magisterium teaching us the faith?

Discuss why we cannot just rely on ourselves and others because sometimes people forget details or might say them wrong. The Church Magisterium is guided by the Holy Spirit, as Jesus promised us in the Bible. He says: “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*” - *John 14:15-18*. We are all responsible for passing down the Faith - especially to our children - and we are grateful that the Holy Spirit continues to safeguard what we believe to make sure the Truth continues to be passed down through thousands of years.

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.

So what is it that has been passed down to us?

- The Creed is the basic outline of everything we believe.
- In Mass, we recite what is called the **Nicene Creed**.

The Nicene Creed came about only a few hundred years after Jesus ascended into heaven. This was a time when bishops from around the world sat down and wrote down the basis of what the Church teaches. These were not *new* teachings, but a concrete writing down all that had been taught and passed down through the years. This is the same creed that we say every Sunday at Mass!

Discussion Questions:

- What is something that you *believe*?
- Have you ever thought about why you believe in God? Why or why not?
- Who have been people in your life who have taught you about God and the Faith?

Craft: Teachers of the Faith

- Using the prompt page, write down as a list the people who have taught you about the Faith, the people in your life who help you grow in holiness (get you to Mass, etc), and the people in your life who you believe teach you how to be like Jesus. See this week if you can find out from one of those people who taught them about the faith, and see if they know who taught that person - see just how far you can go back!

Saint of the Week: St. Ignatius of Loyola

St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491 - 1556) was once a Spanish knight. During a battle, he was hurt by a cannonball and had to return home. Feeling bored, he read books about Jesus Christ and His saints. St. Ignatius was then inspired to serve Jesus. Eventually, he founded the Society of Jesus, or 'Jesuits' who preach the Good News all over the world. He is also known for his 'Spiritual Exercises', a method to make wise and Godly decisions. He is the patron saint of soldiers.

His feast day is on July 31st.

Prayer to St. Ignatius:

Dear Lord Jesus, Help me to always make wise decisions that please You. I want to do everything for Your glory as St. Ignatius did. Amen.

DEPOSIT OF FAITH

Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the end of the age." – Matthew 28:18-20

Someone who taught me about the Faith is:

He/She learned about the Faith from:

And that person learned about the Faith from:

And that person learned from:





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Prayer

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