

# Journey of Faith



## The Creed

"What are you doing?" Tanya asked Lisa.

"I'm trying to memorize this pledge for a club I joined that meets after school," Lisa said. "The pledge lists all the things the club stands for and how we're supposed to act as members."

"We should write a pledge for our RCIA class! Let's tell Mrs. Evans," Tanya said.

Mrs. Evans smiled and said, "You know, we already have a kind of pledge for the RCIA. In fact, it's used by the whole Catholic Church. It's called the Creed."



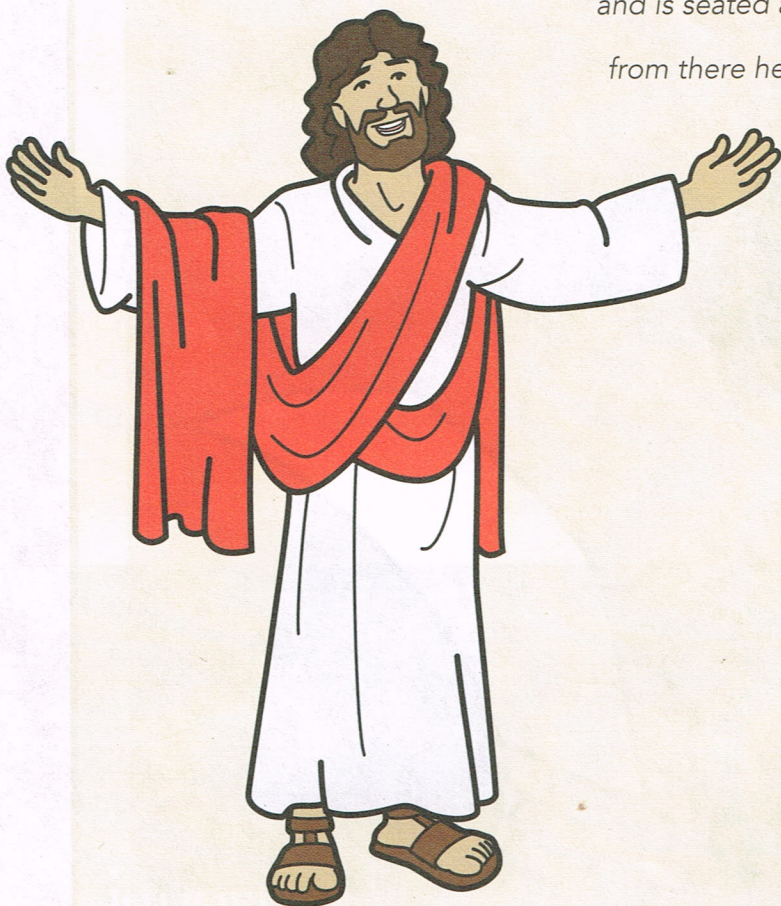
## I Believe

When we say the **Creed**, we declare our faith in the most important Catholic beliefs. Every Catholic in the world shares them. Every Catholic throughout history shared them. These are the very same beliefs that Jesus taught his apostles!

### THE 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;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will 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.*



## What Do We Believe?

### ***I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...***

Long before we were born, God created a world for us to enjoy and grow in. God made everything—even things we can't see. He gave us life, a family, friends, and the Church. God is everywhere, eternal, and all-powerful.

### ***and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord...***

Jesus is God's gift to us. He shows and teaches us what God is like. Jesus said, "If you know me, then you will also know my Father" (John 14:7).

### ***who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary...***

**Conceived** means a child comes to life inside his or her mother. The angel Gabriel announced Jesus' birth to Mary. Even though Jesus is truly and fully God, he was also fully human.

### ***suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried...***

When Jesus was on trial, the crowds told Pontius Pilate to crucify him. Many people accepted God's love, but others didn't. Jesus was loyal to God the Father and wanted us to be free from sin. Jesus loved us so much he was willing to die for our sins.

### ***he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead...***

After he died, Jesus went to those who had died before he came to earth so he could save them, too. When he rose on Easter morning, he proved that God is stronger than death.

### ***he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty...***

Jesus **ascended**, or went up to heaven with his risen body. He lives there eternally with the Father. To be "at the right hand of God" means to be where God is.

### ***from there he will come to judge the living and the dead...***

At the Final Judgment, Jesus will reward our good deeds. He will say, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you..." (Matthew 25:34). However, we will also have the choice to reject God and God's kingdom. Rejecting God means choosing to live apart from God for all eternity.

### ***I believe in the Holy Spirit...***

The Spirit is God, alive in us and in the Church. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray and love.

### ***the holy catholic Church...***

In every place and time, Jesus' disciples gather as the universal Church. The Church is holy because it belongs to God and God lives in it.

### ***the communion of saints...***

The communion of saints is the assembly of faithful followers of Jesus, joined as "one body in Christ" (Romans 12:5). It includes all the people who believe—the Church on earth, the faithful in purgatory, and the saints in heaven.

### ***the forgiveness of sins...***

God is always ready to forgive when we are sorry. The grace of baptism promises this mercy.

### ***the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting...***

Like Jesus, we hope to one day go to heaven and live forever with God.

### ***Amen.***

Amen means, "Yes, I believe!"



# I Believe

In your own words, write a belief you've learned about each person of the Trinity today.

Father Almighty, I believe...

Lord Jesus, I believe...

Holy Spirit, I believe...

## In Short



- The Creed is rooted in the early Church.
- The Creed summarizes major principles of faith.
- The Creed unifies us as a Church.

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