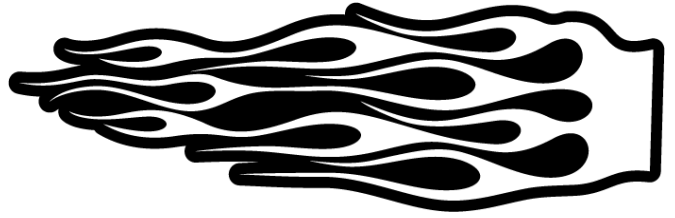


FLAME TEEN HANDOUT

Lesson 9 - 12/12/2021

The Apostles' Creed



WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE IN?

There is so much information in the world. We are constantly shown things that we should want or think or believe in.
But what about you? What do you believe in?

Do you believe in God? Santa Claus? Love at first sight? Luck? UFOs? Putting peanut butter on pancakes? Science? The Yeti?

I believe in...

So you say you believe in these things...

Why do you believe?

What makes you sure that this belief is real?

Do you tell others about these beliefs?

How do you let others know that you believe?



A quick history of the Creed

The Apostles' Creed dates back to the time of the early church. During this time, just after Jesus ascended into heaven, the apostles were spreading the faith and preaching to all nations. It is called the Apostles' Creed because it was handed down by the apostles.

Records show that people who wanted to join the early church had to recite this prayer before they were baptized.

The Apostles' Creed does not contain all the truths of what Catholics believe, just the important ones. Therefore the Creed was changed over time so that all the important points could be stated as simply and as clearly as possible without losing their meaning.

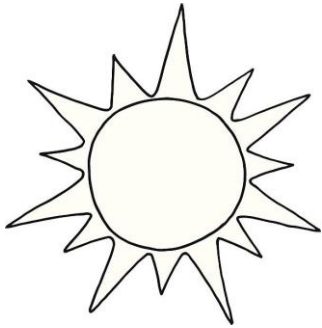
The Apostles' Creed

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.

The Apostles' Creed is on page 1534 in your Catholic Youth Bible(orange) or page 1728 Catholic Youth Bible(tan).

I believe...

- What do you believe?
- When you say these words, do you mean them?
- Do you agree with them?



In God, the Father...

- Who is God to you? What role does He play in your life?
- Why do we call God our Father?
- When are some other times in our faith when we refer to Him that way?

Almighty...

al·might·y

/ôl' mīdē/ 

adjective

having complete power; omnipotent.

"God almighty"

synonyms: all-powerful, omnipotent, supreme, preeminent

"I swear by almighty God"

- a name or title for God.

noun: **Almighty**; noun: **the Almighty**

"I wanted to beg the Almighty for mercy"

- *informal*

very great; enormous.

"the silence was broken by an almighty roar"

synonyms: very great, huge, enormous, immense, colossal, massive, prodigious, stupendous, tremendous, monumental, mammoth, vast, gigantic, giant, mighty, Herculean, epic;

- What does this mean to you?
- Does this apply to the God you know?
- Why do you think this word was chosen over all other adjectives?

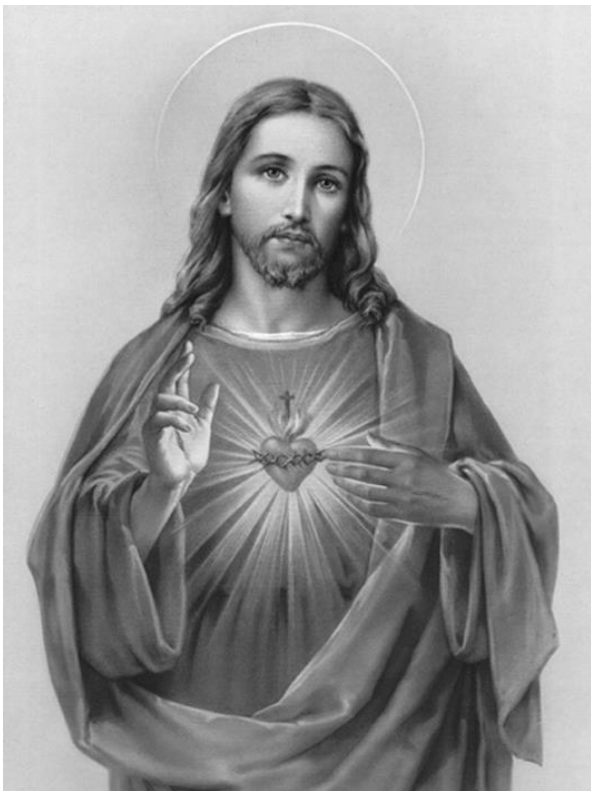


Creator of heaven and earth...

- Think about your belief in creation or evolution and how we got here. What do you think?
- What do you believe about how man and Heaven and Earth came to be?

And in Jesus Christ...

- Who is Jesus to you?
- What role does He play in your life?
- What do you believe about Jesus and his role on Earth?
- What do you think about what the Catholic Church teaches about Jesus?



His only Son...

- The Catholic Church believes that Jesus was fully man and fully God.
- What does that mean?
- What does that look like?
- If Jesus is God, how is He also a son?

Our Lord...

- What is a Lord?
- What Lords do you know?
- How is Jesus one to you?
- Would you call Jesus your Lord?
- What does it look like to truly have Jesus be your Lord?

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit ...

- When else does the Holy Spirit come down to Earth?
- Why is it important that Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit?
- When in your life does the Holy Spirit come down to you?



Born of the Virgin Mary...

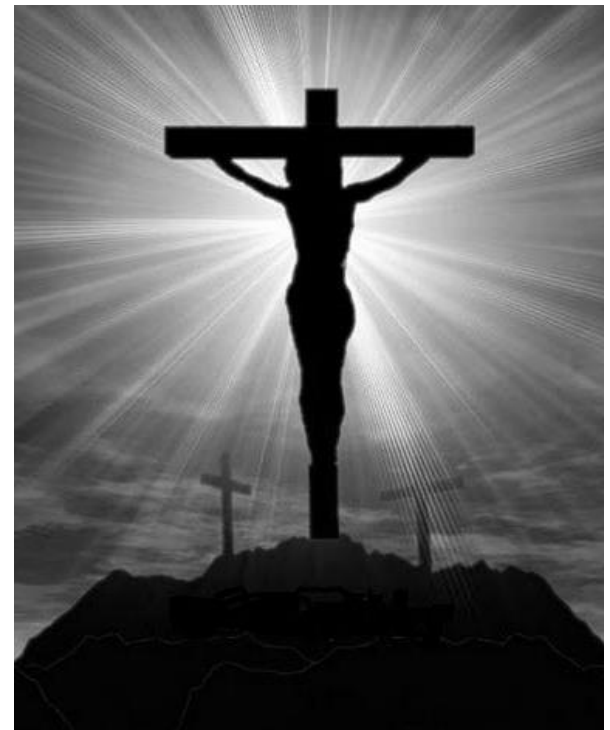
- We talk about Jesus' birth in December. Is that enough?
- How do you think Mary felt?
- Why is it important that God became man in Jesus as a baby?

Suffered under Pontius Pilate...

- Who made Jesus suffer?
- Who aided in his persecution?
- Why did Jesus have to suffer?
- Our lives aren't perfect. Who in your life is making your life difficult? Who can you talk to about this? How can you overcome this suffering in your own life?

Was crucified, died, and was buried...

- If Jesus was fully God, why did He have to die?
- As the nonbelievers said, why couldn't He just come off His cross and save Himself?
- What was at stake?
- What was the reasoning behind His death?
- What significance does this have in your own life?



He descended into hell...

- Why did Jesus have to go down to Hell?
- What significance does that have?
- How does this prove that sometimes things must get worse before they can get better?
- What parallel can you make between Jesus' journey and your own life?

On the third day he rose again from the dead...

- What does this mean for all of us?
- How does this prove the scriptures in the Old Testament to be true?
- How is this resurrection different than that of Lazarus?
- Why was this just an impactful moment in Christian and all human history?
- What does the resurrection of Jesus tell us about God and His Son?
- How does it help you to know that God understands exactly what it's like to be human?

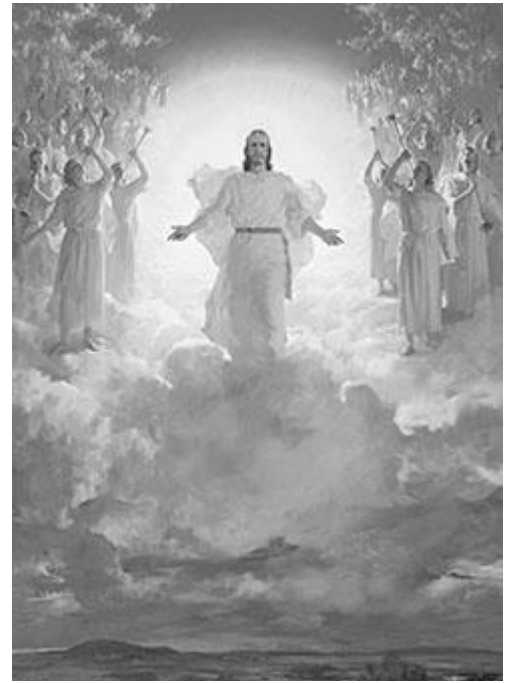


He ascended into Heaven, And is seated at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty...

- What does this say about Jesus?
- Why the right hand? What symbolism does that represent?
- What are some other Bible stories about the right hand?

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead...

- Why do you think that this is in here?
- Why is Jesus coming back to judge us?
- What do you think that would look like?
- Why do you think that it is specified that He will judge the living AND the dead?
- Do you believe in the idea of the Second Coming?
- What you think that would look like?
- If Jesus came back today, what do you think He would say? Would you be ready?



I believe in the Holy Spirit...

- When has the Holy Spirit been in your life?
- Have you ever felt it with you?
- Why is it important to believe in the Holy Spirit?
- If we have a trinity, 3-in-1, then why do you think the Holy Spirit is so often left out?

The Holy Catholic Church...

- Why is this important?
- What did the beginnings of the church look like? What does the church look like now?
- Is the church a part of your relationship with God? Why do you come to church?
- Does it look like there may be a typo in this line? What word is that? Why is this actually not a typo?

The Communion of Saints...

- Who are the saints?
- How are they chosen?
- Who is a saint that means something to you?
- Who have you chosen as your confirmation name? Why?



The forgiveness of sins...

- Why is it important that God forgives our sins? What does that look like?
- How can we be like Jesus in this way?
- What is happening in your life that you could use a little forgiveness?
- How can you be more willing to forgive?
- Why is real forgiveness so difficult to offer and to accept?
- How does this apply to you in your relationship with God?

The resurrection of the body, And life everlasting...

- What does everlasting life look like to you?
- Why is this so important that the Son of God had to die?
- How do you take advantage of this everlasting life?



Amen.

- What does Amen mean?
- Why is this important?
- How does this mirror how we started our prayer/creed?
- Pretty cool, huh?

Let's Talk about it

Do you agree with everything in the Creed?

What is the Creed missing? If you were writing the Creed, what would you add?

If someone were to write a creed about you, your life, and your main beliefs, what would be in it? What would be the big moments? What would be the defining factors of your life?

I Learned Statements – complete at least two of the sentences below

The form consists of six white sticky notes arranged on a grey background. Each note has a dotted line on its left side, suggesting it is a page from a spiral notebook. The notes are as follows:

- Top left: "I discovered. . ."
- Top middle: "I learned..."
- Top right: "I was reminded that. . ."
- Bottom left: "The question I have is. ."
- Bottom middle: A small, empty note.
- Bottom right: "I was surprised by. . ."