

# THE CREED

The second part of Mass is called the Liturgy of the Word. During the Liturgy of the Word we listen to readings from the Bible. Then Father or the deacon gives a short talk about what was read that is called a homily. After the readings and the homily, we say the Creed.

A creed is a statement of what we believe. The word **creed** comes from a Latin word which means "I believe". There are several creeds Catholics say, but the one we say most often at Sunday Mass is the Nicene Creed.

In 325 AD the bishops of the world met together in a city called Nicea in Turkey. They talked about what Catholics believe and developed the statement of faith that we call the Nicene Creed. Christians all over the world have been saying it for over 1700 years!

The Creed says what we believe about God the Father, what we believe about Jesus, what we believe about the Holy Spirit and what we believe about the Church. The section about Jesus is the longest.

*for older children*

The Nicene Creed is written in Latin. The English words and phrases that we use to translate the creed into our language are changing. The new words and phrases are printed in bold type below. Two of the new words in the creed are difficult words. One of the words is **incarnate**. It means that the Son of God, who is the second person of the Trinity, became a human being. That human being was Jesus. The other word is **consubstantial**. It means that God the Father and God the Son are made of the same substance.

## *Activities:*

1. Illustrate the Creed using the **I Believe** worksheet.
2. Complete **The Creed Crossword**.

**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.

# I Believe

*Directions for illustrating the Creed: read the Creed. Put a sticker of something God made in the 1st box, a sticker picturing Jesus' birth in the 2nd, a sticker of a cross in the 3rd, a sticker of a heart or dove in the 4th, and a sticker of a church in the 5th.*

1

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

2

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.

3

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.

4

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.

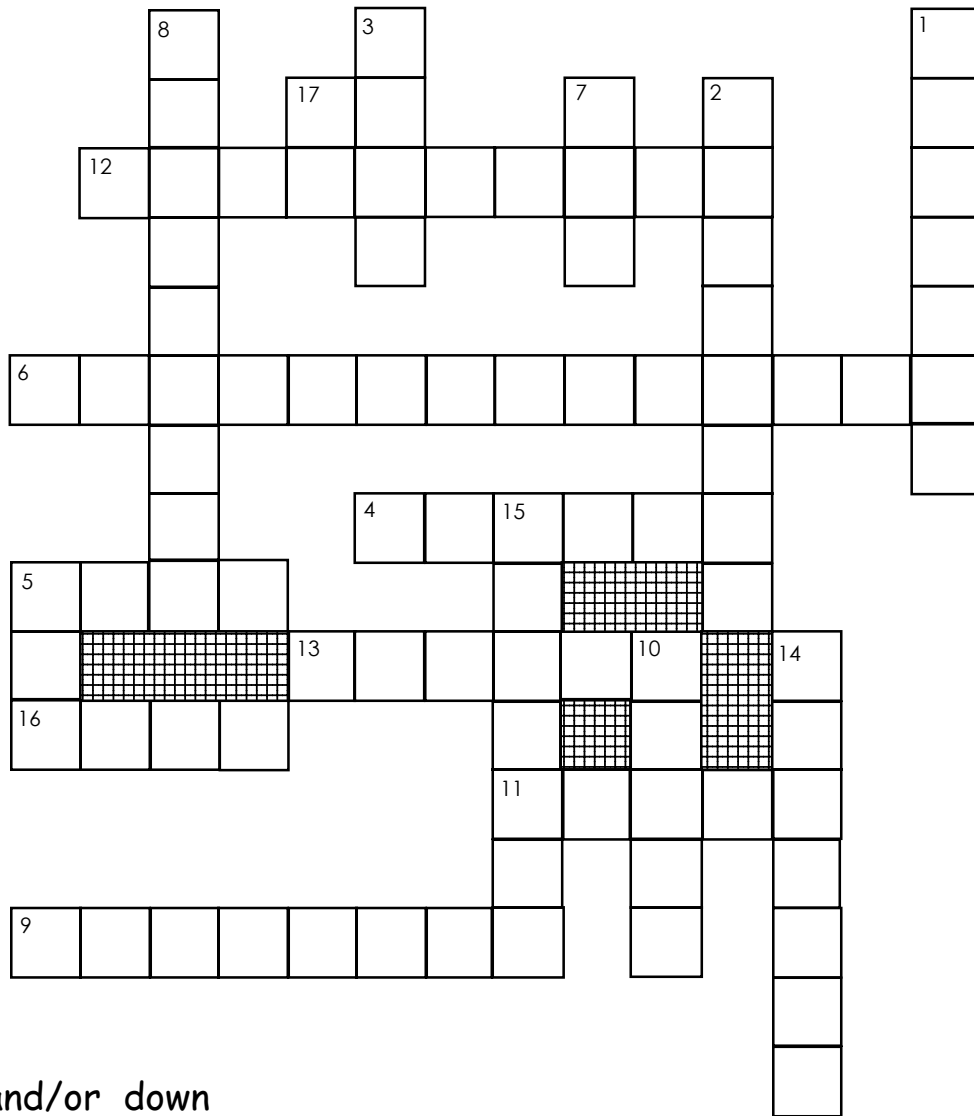
5

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.

use the new words and phrases printed in bold to complete the puzzle.

# The Creed Crossword:



across and/or down

1. God made everything in nature that, according to this word, we can see.
2. Jesus is God's only ----- Son.
3. This word is used to say that Jesus came from the Father.
4. The opposite of after.
5. The two words added to #4 that tell us how long the Son has been with the Father.
6. Jesus is not only "one in being" with the Father, He is "of the same substance".
7. "He came down from heaven, ----- by the Holy Spirit was . . .".
8. This word means that the Son of God became a human being.
9. This word and #10 tell us what happened when Jesus was crucified.
10. See #9.
11. Jesus rose ----- on the third day.
12. This word means "according to".
13. With the Father and Son, the Holy Spirit is ----- and glorified.
14. Most of the time we use this word when we are talking to Father about our sins. In the creed, we use it to mean that we are willing to talk about what we believe.
15. The opposite of backward. In the creed, it refers to something that will happen in the future.
16. Part of a phrase about the resurrection, this word means "to see".
17. If this word was spelled differently, it would be a number.