

St. Peter Claver Catholic Church
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)
Sundays at 8:45am
Nita Clarke, Instructor

Lesson One – The Nicene Creed

Emperor Constantine the Great converted to Christianity, and in the summer of 325AD convened the First Council of Nicaea. Constantine invited all 1800 Bishops of the Christian world to attend, although far less attended, in an effort “*to attain consensus in the church through an assembly representing all of Christendom.*” The Council of Nicaea affirmed and defined what it believed to be the teachings of the Apostles regarding the divinity of Christ and His relationship to God, the Father. This first uniform Christian doctrine, known as the Nicene Creed, was a result of the Council of Nicaea and is recited at every Mass following the Homily.

•I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. **Genesis 1:1**

•And 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 to the Father. **Sharing the same Divine Nature as God the Father**

•Through Him all things were made. **1 John 1-5 and 1 John 14**

•For us men and for our salvation, He came down from heaven and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried, and again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into Heaven and is sits 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. He has spoken through the Prophets. **Acts 2, “The Coming of the Spirit” (Pentecost)**

•I believe in one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. **The word “Catholic” means “Universal”. Other churches use the word but with a small “c”. We acknowledge St. Peter to be the first Pope of the Catholic Church. (Matthew 16: 17 and 18). From Matthew through Revelation, Peter is mentioned 155 times. St. Ignatius of Antioch, in around the year 107, told us that...wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church.**

•I believe in the Communion of Saints; **the union of the faithful on earth, those that are Blessed in Heaven, the souls in Purgatory, with Jesus Christ as our Head.**

•I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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