

2021 Year of the Eucharist and St. Joseph

Homily Aid: June 13, 2021 – *The Creed*

- Every family has a story. That story is made up of joys and sorrows, milestones and difficulties, happiness and pain.
 - As people grow and mature, they come to learn their family story, discovering who they are.
- We are the people of God – we are God’s family – and we have an incredibly important family story!
 - Our story is told at length through the books of the Bible, and it continues today in the Church, which is the Body of Christ. Here, in our midst, Christ lives among us offering us his saving love.
- Each Sunday at Mass and on certain holy days, we retell and enter into this story of God’s love for us when we say the Creed (or Profession of Faith, because in it we express the central truths of our faith)
 - Our Creed briefly summarizes the entire story of salvation, declaring our belief in God and how He has revealed Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through creation, through the prophets, through Christ’s incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension, through the sending of the Holy Spirit, in the life of the Church, and in the promised Second Coming.
- The term creed, comes from the Latin *credo*, meaning “I believe,” and the first creed we profess is at baptism, through which we enter into Christ and into the family of God.
 - In the baptism of children, after this profession (creed), the minister states: “This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
 - Our Mass creeds find their origin in baptismal professions of faith – this is very significant! The Apostles’ Creed is a baptismal creed that can be said at Mass, but most commonly on Sundays we pray the Nicene Creed, written mainly in the 4th century to clarify and articulate our beliefs.
- At Mass, we stand and profess the Creed after the Readings and Homily – this placement is important!
 - **The Creed is our response in faith to God who has just spoken to us in the Readings – it is our joyful YES to God’s Word and our acceptance of his invitation to life with Him.**
 - In the Creed, we each recommit ourselves to God, to our beliefs, and to a life of discipleship.
- Notice how the Creed flows. We state our belief in God 1) the Father, 2) the Son, and 3) the Holy Spirit, and then we profess faith in 4) the Church.
 - Our story is centered upon God, but certainly not just on past events, for we emphasize God’s saving presence among us now in Jesus through the Church by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Due to the relativistic culture which permeates much of our society, some find it difficult to state what they really and truly believe about God. But for us, ***this is our faith!*** Each Sunday we stand to profess boldly and with great confidence ***what we believe!*** At Mass, what we profess is what we celebrate.
- ***I believe in one God.*** By God’s very definition, God is complete and perfect – God is not lacking in any way. Our God is a God of goodness and perfection!
- ***God, the Father almighty*** – who created everything visible and invisible: the angels, all the stars and galaxies, the earth and its living creation, woman and man. He is Our Father – yours and mine.
 - This is the origin of our story! This is the beginning of how our world began; we have a loving God who created the world for you and me to live in and be in relationship with Him!
- ***Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God...consubstantial with the Father*** (Christocentric Creed)
 - The image of the invisible God (Col. 1:15); He “came down from heaven” for our salvation.
 - We profess the mystery of Jesus’ incarnation, death, resurrection, ascension, and second coming.
- ***Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life*** – through Baptism the Holy Spirit has instilled the Divine Life in each of us, making us daughters and sons of our Heavenly Father, and in Confirmation, the fullness of the Spirit is received. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Church continues the mission of Christ.
- ***I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church:*** “one because God is one; holy because it is filled by the Holy Spirit; catholic because it stands open to all people; and apostolic because it rests on the foundation of the Apostles” (Josef Jungmann, *The Mass of the Roman Rite*, 467).
 - Our profession of faith in the Trinity is what leads us to profession of faith in the Church, where the Divine Life of God is made available for the forgiveness of sins, resurrection, and eternal life!
- The Creed is our family story, so let it be personal! It is the faith of the Apostles, of the martyrs, of the Church – of us! It is our response in faith to God who has revealed His saving love to us in Christ and never ceases to draw near to us. The Creed is our identity as disciples of Jesus – it is our Yes to God!