

# St. Joseph Religious Education

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## THE APOSTLE'S CREED

A 'creed' in essence is a statement of belief or rather something we believe in. The following is the Apostle's Creed; like the Nicene Creed which is recited in church, is a statement of belief in our faith.

**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.

Please take a moment and review the belief statements within the creed. Our discussion will focus on the relationship to the following:

- The Holy Trinity
- The Sacraments of Initiation
  - Baptism
  - First Communion
  - Confirmation
- Resurrection

## Gifts of the Holy Spirit

**Wisdom** – Through wisdom, the wonders of nature, every event in history, and all the ups and downs of our life take on deeper meaning and purpose. The wise person sees where the Holy Spirit is at work and is able to share that insight with others. Wisdom is the fullest expression of the gifts of knowledge and understanding.

**Understanding** – The gift of understanding is the ability to comprehend how a person must live his or her life as a follower of Jesus. Through the gift of understanding, Christians realize that the Gospel tells them not just who Jesus is; it also tells them who we are. The gift of understanding is closely related to the gifts of knowledge and wisdom.

**Right Judgment** – The gift of right judgment is the ability to know the difference between right and wrong and then to choose what is good. It helps us to act on and live out what Jesus has taught. In the exercise of right judgment, many of the other gifts –especially understanding, wisdom, and often courage – come into play in the Christian's daily life.

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**Courage** – The gift of courage enables us to take risks and to overcome fear as we try to live out the Gospel of Jesus. Followers of Jesus confront many challenges and even danger – the risk of being laughed at, the fear of rejection, and, for some believers, the fear of physical harm and even death. The Holy Spirit gives Christians the strength to confront and ultimately overcome such challenges.

**Knowledge** – The gift of knowledge is the ability to comprehend the basic meaning and message of Jesus Christ. Jesus revealed the will of his Father, and taught people what they need to know to achieve fullness of life and ultimately salvation. The gift of knowledge is closely related to the gifts of understanding and wisdom.

**Reverence** – Sometimes called piety, the gift of reverence gives the Christian a deep sense of respect for God. Jesus spoke of his Father as “Abba,” an intimate name similar to “Daddy” or “Papa.” Through the gift of reverence, we can come before the Father with the openness and trust of small children, totally dependent on the One who created us.

**Wonder and Awe** – The gift of wonder and awe in the presence of God is sometimes translated as “the fear of the Lord.” Though we can approach God with the trust of little children, we are also often aware of God’s total majesty, unlimited power, and desire for justice. A child may want to sit on the lap of his loving Father, but sometimes the believer will fall on her or his knees in the presence of the Creator of the universe.