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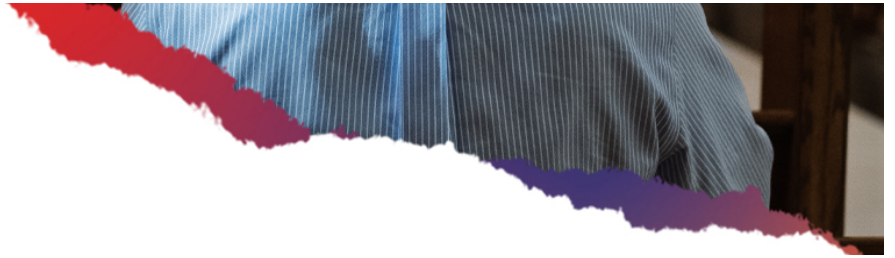


*Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.*

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The Mass



“Do This in Remembrance of Me” A Step-By-Step Walk Through the Mass

Fr. Luke Spannagel

✦ Part 28: The Creed as Profession of Faith ✦

What does the word **Creed** mean? According to Fr. Guy Oury, “A Latin word for the Creed is *symbolum*. Its first meaning is that of a sign, a mark of recognition by which an envoy is accredited or strangers know each other as belonging to the same group. The ‘symbol’ of faith identifies Christians. People who are not Christian cannot profess it without a lie on their part” (*The Mass*, p. 71). In addition to being a sign of our unity, the Creed also is a summary of core doctrines we believe in and an important part of the Mass.

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* states, “The purpose of the Creed or Profession of Faith is that the whole gathered people may respond to the Word of God proclaimed in the readings taken from Sacred Scripture and explained in the Homily and that they may also honor and confess the great mysteries of the faith by pronouncing the rule of faith in a formula approved for liturgical use and before the celebration of these mysteries in the Eucharist begins” (*GIRM*, no. 67). In summary, Charles Belmonte says, “The symbol or Creed expresses our response and assent to what we have just heard in the readings and in the homily” (*Understanding the Mass*, p. 99). Having heard the truths of the Faith in the Liturgy of the Word, now we profess them in the Creed.

Stand and Profess

Why do we stand up to profess our Faith? As the Diocese of Peoria teaches, “Through the Creed, we as a community of believers stand and profess, in precise terms, the foundations of our faith. We stand for the Creed because of its importance in our Church and in our lives. Of important note is another gesture the Church asks of us as we profess the Creed. As we say ‘[and by] the Holy Spirit [was incarnate] of the Virgin Mary and became man,’ we are to bow in adoration of the Incarnation and birth of our Lord. Interestingly, on those respective solemnities (Annunciation and Christmas) we are to retain the ancient custom of genuflecting during those lines” (“A Study of the Mass,” p. 10). As we have reviewed previously, each of the gestures and postures within the liturgy has a meaning and can help us pray more deeply.

Throughout the Mass, we stand together for the principal prayers. In a very practical way, standing is another way of giving our assent, as when a crowd stands in applause. Standing adds an additional fervor to the recognition. In a similar way, standing to pray together adds an element of strength to the words we proclaim. Bowing while we recall the Incarnation acknowledges in a humble way how much we honor that significant moment in world history. Genuflecting on the Solemnities of the Annunciation and Christmas adds even more solemn praise to the joy of that moment, reflecting our adoration of our Lord who took on a human nature, becoming man for our sake.

As we profess our faith together, we are joined in a unity that began at our Baptism. “As on the day of our Baptism, when our whole life was entrusted to the ‘standard teaching,’ let us embrace the Creed of our life-giving faith. To say the Credo with faith is to enter into communion with God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and also with the whole Church which transmits the faith to us and in whose midst we believe” (CCC, no. 197). The *Catechism* quotes St. Ambrose: “‘The Creed is the spiritual seal, our hearts’ meditation and ever-present guardian; it is, unquestionably, the treasure of our soul’” (CCC, no. 197).

Reflecting upon St. Ambrose’s words recalls for me the amazing gift we have been given through our Baptism, being invited into the very life of God. That is definitely worth standing up and professing together!

For Reflection:


1. Consider your posture(s) during various forms of prayer. What prompts you to stand in respect and fervor? What leads you to bow your hand in awe and wonder? Pay attention to praying with your whole self, including your bodily posture.
2. The next time you pray the Creed alone, call to mind your unity with all Christians who profess this faith.

Source: www.eucharisticrevival.org/blog



A Spiritual Christmas Crib for Children

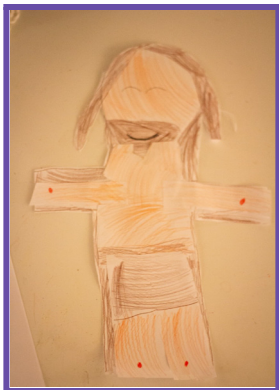
Get your heart ready for the Baby Jesus! Throughout the nine days leading up to Christmas (beginning December 16) create a beautiful crib in the stable of your heart. Draw one part of the stable scene in Bethlehem, do the good work, and say the short prayer. On Christmas Day, Baby Jesus will be so pleased with the crib you made for Him in your heart.

<p>December 16 - OX</p> <p>I want to be obedient, just like You, Jesus. I will try to do what I'm told today, remembering the ox. I hope You will like the crib I am making for You in the stable of my heart, Jesus.</p> <p><i>- Dear Mother Mary, help me to be obedient today</i></p> <p style="color: green;">Draw the ox in your stable.</p>	<p>December 17 - DONKEY</p> <p>Jesus, I want to be hard-working, just like You. Today I will think of the donkey and try to complete any tasks I am given. I hope You will like the crib I am making in my heart for You, Jesus.</p> <p><i>- Dear St. Joseph, help me to be hard-working today.</i></p> <p style="color: green;">Draw the donkey.</p>	<p>December 18 - STAR</p> <p>You were never mean or grumpy, Jesus, and I want to be happy and cheerful like You. Today I will smile brightly like the star so the stable of my heart is a happy place for You.</p> <p><i>- Dear Mother Mary, help me to be cheerful today.</i></p> <p style="color: green;">Draw the star.</p>	<p>December 19 - ANGELS</p> <p>Jesus, I want to be patient like You. Today I will slow down and wait on You like the angels. I hope You will like the crib I am making in the stable of my heart.</p> <p><i>- Holy Guardian Angels, help me to wait patiently today.</i></p> <p style="color: green;">Draw the angels.</p>	<p>December 20 - LAMBS</p> <p>I want to do good works, just like You Jesus. Today I will try to serve others, remembering the lambs. I hope You will be pleased with my sacrifices, Jesus.</p> <p><i>- Dear Mother Mary, help me to do many acts of kindness today.</i></p> <p style="color: green;">Draw the lambs.</p>
				
<p>December 21-SHEPHERDS</p> <p>Jesus, You were always kind. Today I will remember the shepherds and try to be good and kind to everyone. I hope You will be pleased with Your crib when You come to the stable of my heart.</p> <p><i>- St. Joseph, help me to be kind to others today.</i></p> <p style="color: green;">Draw the shepherds.</p>	<p>December 22 - DOVE</p> <p>Jesus, You always told people about God. Today I will remember the dove and tell everyone about You, Jesus. Maybe they can also prepare a beautiful crib for You in the stable of their hearts.</p> <p><i>- Mother Mary, help me to tell others about your Son.</i></p> <p style="color: green;">Draw the dove.</p>	<p>December 23 - JOSEPH</p> <p>I want to think of others, just like You Jesus. Today I will try to be humble like St. Joseph, thinking of others first. I hope You will be pleased with the crib I have made for You, Jesus.</p> <p><i>- St. Joseph, help me to be humble today.</i></p> <p style="color: green;">Draw Saint Joseph.</p>	<p>December 24 — MARY</p> <p>Jesus, You always thought about God. I want to think of You all day today. I want to love You, just as Your Mother did when You come to the stable of my heart.</p> <p><i>- Dear Mother Mary, help me think about Jesus many times today.</i></p> <p style="color: green;">Draw Mother Mary.</p>	<p style="color: green;">HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!</p> <p style="color: green;"><i>Now my heart is a warm stable with a beautiful crib for You Jesus. I made it just for You by being obedient, hard-working, cheerful, patient, serving, kind, and humble, by thinking about You and telling others about You. Come into the stable of my heart, Lord Jesus.</i></p> <p style="color: green;"><i>Dear Jesus, I love You.</i></p>

Atrium Happenings



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
December newsletter



A few "pearls" from the children:

"Thank you Jesus for creating me and making me special."

In response to the presentation of the Annunciation,
"The Holy Spirit kissed Mary."

"Thank you Jesus for this atrium and for these works."

Reflections from November

November was a month of continued growth during the last part of our Ordinary "growing" time. We ended the liturgical year celebrating the Feast of Christ the King together.

Some things we worked on in November:

- explored the geography of where Jesus lived
- continued to setup the model altar
- learned the vestments of the priest
- toured the church & Sacristy
- thanked a donor to the atrium by working on a star project

Looking ahead to this month:

This upcoming month we will...

- change our prayer table cloth to purple!
- light our advent wreath
- listen and reflect on the prophecy that point to Jesus as the "Great Light"
- make our own Advent prayer card
- listen & reflect on the infancy narratives
- practice waiting and preparing our hearts for the feast of Christmas!

What is Catechesis of the Good Shepherd?

CGS is a hands-on method of Faith formation. Each week more than one hundred children visit the St. Catharine atrium, a special place of work and prayer - filled with kid-sized furniture and hands on models of people and places found in Scripture and liturgy. Our CGS atrium is a peaceful space where the relationship between God and the child can flourish. For more information about CGS at St. Catharine, please contact the parish office or email Rachel Green rgreen2@cdeducation.org.

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The Long Weekend, Super Sunday, or Double Christmas — how will you do Mass this Dec. 25?



Though most Catholics (hopefully!) don't primarily think of going to Mass in terms of an "obligation," we wanted to provide a little more clarity on how to carry out our Christian duty to worship God on the **Fourth Sunday of Advent** and **Christmas**.

While there are many different Mass times available, **it's not — never — possible to fulfill them both with one (1) single Mass.**

Two obligations means two Masses.

With Advent shrunk to the shortest possible count of days, we get a little less time for seasonal anticipation, but we also get a back-to-back call to the festive celebration of Mass.

Christmas Day is, of course, a holy day of obligation, and the fact that it falls on a Monday doesn't change the usual Sunday precept for us to attend Mass the day before.

Option 1: Two for two

Many Catholics will opt for simply going to their usual morning Mass on successive days — first on Sunday, December 24th for the Fourth Sunday of Advent at 8:30am or 11:00am, and then on Monday, December 25th for Christmas at 11:00am.

It's easy to remember, simple to plan around, and the no-nonsense solution. Two obligations, two Masses, two days, Sunday and Monday.

Option 2: 'Vigil' all the way

There is, of course, more than one way to go to Mass twice in two days.

On Saturday, December 23rd you could attend a Vigil Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent at another local parish, and then on Sunday, December 24th a Christmas Eve Mass at St. Catharine at 4:00pm, 6:30pm, or 10:00pm.

Option 3: The long weekend

You could opt for a Saturday, December 23rd Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent at another local parish, and then go for morning Mass at 11:00am on Christmas Day, essentially giving yourself a day off in between celebrations.

Option 4: Super Sunday

Not for the faint-hearted, but instead of spreading your Eucharistic obligations across three days, you could opt to pack them all into one Super Sunday, December 24th.

To do that, you would go to 8:30am or 11:00am Sunday morning Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, and then to Mass again, 4:00pm, 6:30pm, or 10:00pm, for a Christmas Eve Mass.

Option 5: Double Christmas

If you really want to maximize your carol singing chances, and double down on nativity narratives for the Gospel reading, you could opt for two Christmas Masses.

The Sunday obligation — that Catholics attend weekly Masses on the Lord's Day — is one of those cases in which "liturgical time" and of-the-clock-time don't exactly overlap, at least sometimes.

Catholics are obliged to attend Mass every Sunday, including the Fourth Sunday of Advent. And they are obliged to go to Mass for the feast of Christmas. Those two obligations are distinct, and have to be met separately — but there's no rule mandating that the Mass Catholics attend for their Sunday obligation actually be celebrated liturgically for the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

So you could attend back-to-back Mass on Christmas Eve, or a Christmas Eve Mass and Mass on Christmas Day, and have satisfied both your Sunday and Christmas Day obligations.

Of course doing so would mean missing out on the final Advent liturgy, and trim your anticipatory experience of Advent back even further than the calendar already is — but that's absolutely a valid option.

Whatever your plans for Christmas, please, pick one of the options above, and get to Mass. Twice. We'll see you there.

Article reprinted and adapted for St. Catharine Church: <https://www.pillaratholic.com/p/the-long-weekend-super-sunday-or>



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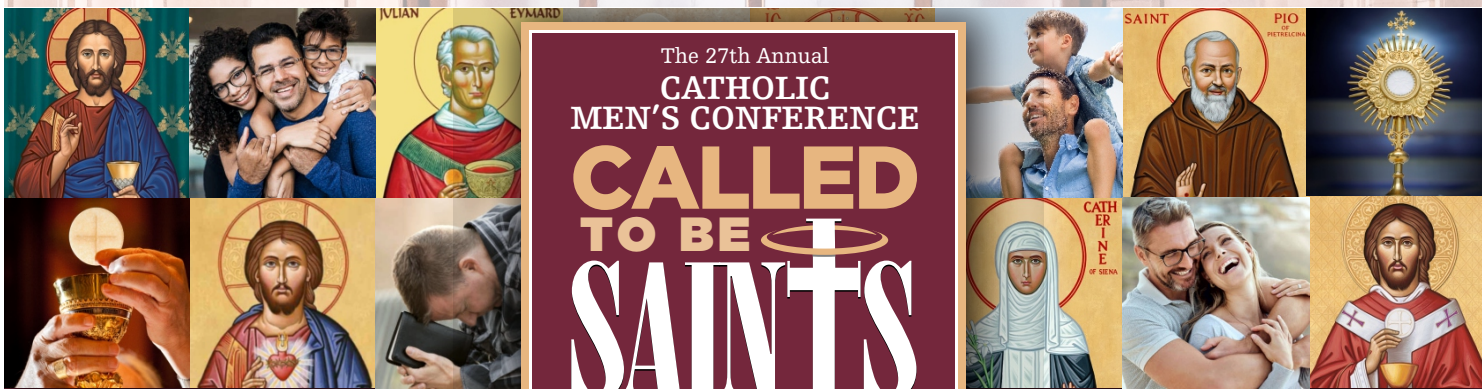


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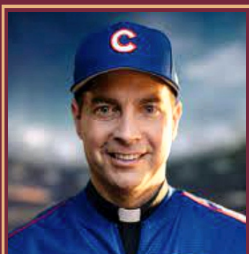
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- † Adoration
- † Reconciliation
- † Holy Mass
- † Breakfast & Lunch
- † Faith Organizations

REGISTER



#CatholicMensMinistry

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The Next Two Weeks...

Week of December 17th Third Week of Advent

Sunday, December 17th

Third Sunday of Advent

8:30am Holy Mass (Joe Ridgeway)
 9:30am Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
 9:30am First Communion/Reconciliation Prep
 11:00am Holy Mass (People of the Parish)
 12:00pm Coffee and Donuts
 5:00pm Holy Mass (Alice & Edward Plank Sr.)
 6:00pm High School Youth Group

Monday, December 18th

8:00am Holy Mass (Darlene Easley)
 6:30pm Scouts
 7:00pm Choir Practice

Tuesday, December 19th

7:00pm Holy Mass (Patricia Hinterschied)
 7:30pm Confessions

Wednesday, December 20th

9:00am Holy Mass (The Intentions of Norbert Loesing)

Thursday, December 21st

8:00am Holy Mass (Jim Luchtenberg)
 7:00pm ADORE Lessons & Carols (Confession & Adoration)

Friday, December 22nd

8:00am Holy Mass (David & Lib Stadler)

Saturday, December 23rd

8:30am Holy Mass (Darlene Easley)
 9:00am Confessions

Week of December 24th Fourth Week of Advent/The Octave of Christmas

Sunday, December 24th

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30am Holy Mass (People of the Parish)
 11:00am Holy Mass (Nickie Eramo)

Christmas Eve: The Nativity of the Lord

4:00pm Holy Mass (Araceli Tomisolloso & Joan Birtcher)
 6:30pm Holy Mass (People of the Parish)
 10:00pm Holy Mass (Don Borowy)

Monday, December 25th

Christmas Day: The Nativity of the Lord

11:00am Holy Mass (Elizabeth Roderick Haus)

Tuesday, December 26th

Feast of Saint Stephen, first martyr

7:00pm Holy Mass (Sister Patricia Mitchell)
 7:30pm Confessions

Wednesday, December 27th

Feast of Saint John, Apostle and evangelist

9:00am Holy Mass (Bonnie DiNapoli)

Thursday, December 28th

Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs

7:30am Men's Rosary
 8:00am Holy Mass (Bud Babbitt)
 7:00pm ADORE Night (Confession & Adoration)

Friday, December 29th

The Fifth Day in the Octave of Christmas

8:00am Holy Mass (Darlene Easley)

Saturday, December 30th

The Sixth Day in the Octave of Christmas

8:30am Holy Mass (Leadriton & Aurora Asuncion)
 9:00am Confessions

Sunday, December 31st

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:30am Holy Mass (People of the Parish)
 11:00am Holy Mass (Intentions of the Burkhardt Family)
 5:00pm Holy Mass (Dennis Blank)

Monday, January 1st

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

11:00am Holy Mass (Tom Easley)

St. Vincent De Paul Society December Food Pantry Need

Canned Fruit

Please leave donations at wooden boxes near Church entrances.

Thank you for your generosity!

Sunday, December 10th

Total Offering \$13,759.41
 Diocesan Tax (8%) -\$1,100.75
 Net \$12,658.66

2nd Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious

Total Offering \$2,345.00

Sunday Mass Attendance

8:30am 253
 11:00am 329
 5:00pm 249
 Total 831

Securely Give Online

To quickly give online, simply scan this QR Code. This will take you to our secure online giving platform at Our Sunday Visitor.



Eucharistic Adoration Chapel

Sunday-Friday

6:00am-12:00am

Saturday

6:00am-4:00pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Fridays at 3:00pm

Confession Times

Tuesday 7:30pm

Thursday 7:00pm

Saturday 9:00am

By appointment

info@stcatharine.com

614-231-4509

www.stcatharine.com

info@stcatharine.com

Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube

614-231-4509

500 S Gould Rd

Columbus, OH 43209

ADVENT + CHRISTMAS AT ST. CATHARINE

ADVENT

ADVENT ADORE NIGHTS

ADORE is a candle-lit evening of Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

7:00PM • ADORE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In it we listen to Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or song that reflects on the lesson's message.

CHRISTMAS • THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Christmas Day, December 25th, falls on a Monday this year, which means that Masses on Sunday, December 24th present the special situation of being two different feasts: the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the Vigil of Christmas. Both feasts remain obligatory. Please carefully read the schedule below.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASS

8:30AM

11:00AM

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

4:00PM

6:30PM (Carols at 6:00pm)

10:00PM (Carols at 9:30pm)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

11:00AM

