

## Marks of the Church

The Nicene Creed was written centuries ago to help Christians remember the important beliefs of the faith. In the Creed we can identify the four Marks of the Church. They are not characteristics that the church creates or develops or learns, but qualities that Jesus shares with the church through the Holy Spirit. The church is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic.

1. **The church is ONE** – GOD is one in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, so the church is one. Jesus founded the church, bringing humanity back to GOD and making us into the united family of GOD. The church is one in the Holy Spirit, which dwells in those who believe and serve GOD.
2. **The church is Holy** – The church lives in union with Christ, the source of all holiness. The Holy Spirit leads others to holiness. That holiness is seen in the members of the church and in the love they share with others and the sacrifices they make for others and the world.
3. **The church is Catholic** – ‘Catholic’ means universal. The church is universal in two ways: 1. All baptized in the church are a part of the church and share in its promise of salvation. 2. The mission of the church is universal in that it is to proclaim Christ to the entire human race.
4. **The church is Apostolic** – The church traces its traditions directly from the apostles; therefore it is Apostolic. With the Holy Spirit the church preserves and continues the teaching of the apostles. Bishops and priests are the successors of the Apostles.

## Prayer to St. Joseph

(Protector of virgins, families, and workers)

Remember, O most illustrious Patriarch St. Joseph, on the testimony of St. Teresa, thy devoted servant, that never has it been heard that anyone who invoked thy protection or sought thy assistance has not obtained relief. In this confidence I come to thee, my loving protector, chaste spouse of Mary, foster father of the Savior of men and dispenser of the treasures of His Most Sacred Heart. Despise not my prayer, but graciously hear and answer my petition. **(mention your request)**. AMEN.

## St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

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## Catholic Formation 9th Grade

In order to progress to the next grade your child must master the information in this leaf-let, meet class expectations and attendance requirements

## Commandments

1. You shall have no other gods besides ME.
2. You shall not take God's name in vain.
3. Remember to keep God's day holy.
4. Honor your Mother and Father.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not lie.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife/husband
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

The 10 Commandments are fulfilled in Jesus's Great Commandment:

**“ You shall love...GOD with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength...you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”** (Mark 12:30-31)

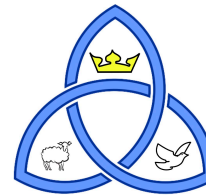
Before his death on the cross, Jesus gave a New Commandment: **“ Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.”**

Think about it – if we treat others as we would have them treat us, we would not be breaking any of GOD's commandments...

At this age, you should be learning to follow mass in the books in the pews and recite the common prayers. You should also be at mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation. It is time to learn the Marks of the Catholic Church and the attitudes we must possess, in order to enter Heaven.

## The Beatitudes or the “Be” Attitudes

1. Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.
2. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
3. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
6. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see GOD.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of GOD.
8. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.



## God the Trinity

Catholics believe in **One GOD**, who exists as three persons. (Person meaning ‘one individual reality’ – not a human being.) Catholics believe the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are all GOD, one in substance and will, yet distinct in some way, but not divided. In addition to an intellectual understanding of the Trinity, we need and are to develop a relationship with the Triune God through prayer and worship. The Trinity is not tri-theism (belief in three Gods), but rather a single dynamic monotheism.