

Opening Prayer

John 14 1-6

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

What It Means to Be Catholic

RCIA

September 13, 2011

Why are you...

... interested in learning more about the Catholic faith?

... interested in becoming Catholic?

... interested in returning to an active participation in the Catholic Church?

... an active member of the Catholic Church?

What does it mean to be Catholic?

What do we already know



We Believe...



- * in one loving, personal God in three divine persons
- * that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God
- * that Christ died for us, rose from the dead, and will come again

We Believe...



- * that Jesus is present in the Holy Eucharist
- * that scripture is the primary, sufficient, and reliable source of our beliefs



We Believe...

- * in the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds produced by the early councils
- * that through the Apostolic Succession, Jesus empowers clergy for ministry



We Believe...

* in one holy, catholic, and apostolic church made up of all Christian believers

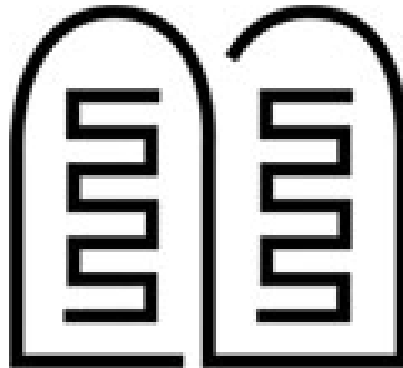


* that through the Holy Spirit, the sacraments impart the grace which they signify



We Believe...

- * in obeying the Great Commandments to love God and love our neighbor

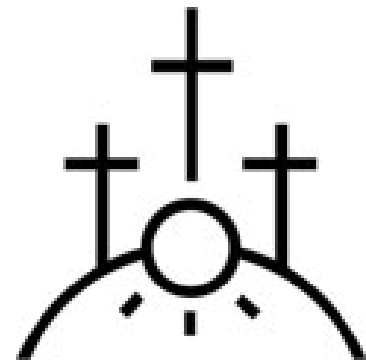


Being Catholic is more than...

- * a religion (a collection of beliefs and values)
- * a set of rules and regulations
- * an assortment of duties and obligations

Being Catholic means...

- * Striving to live the Gospel
- * Being authentic and realizing our full potential
- * Trying to be like Jesus



In the final analysis...

Being a catholic or even a Christian is not about being a member of an institution. **It is about being a member of *the Body of Christ*.**

It is not just about what you believe. **It is about *Whom you trust*.**

It is not about following the rules. **It is about following *Jesus*.**



May God grant us all the grace to do his will and follow Jesus in all things. Amen.