



# Did You Know?

December 12, 2021

Advent is a time of preparation – preparation for the celebration of Jesus coming at Christmas and preparation for when Jesus comes again. This Advent season, we are going to focus on the later by exploring the Creed.

On this third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday, we mark the half way point of Advent. The rose colored candle is lit on the Advent wreath to represent our joy in the coming of Emmanuel.

As we continue to prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming, we are going to look at how the Apostles' Creed fits into our beginnings – our baptism.

Most of us were baptized when we were babies so have no memories of the special event, other than seeing pictures and hearing stories from family members. During our baptism, our parents and godparents were asked a series of questions renouncing sin and proclaiming their faith. They did not answer the questions for us. They answered, "I do." to these questions, giving voice to the faith into which they raised us.

Baptism isn't the end-all to our Christian journey. It is just the beginning in our quest for a deeper connection to Christ. As we grow in knowledge of God, our response to his love for us matures. "The faith required for baptism is not a perfect and mature faith, but a beginning that is called to develop." (CCC 1253) Part of this maturing faith the Catechism refers to is our willingness to grow in faith with Christ by living a life rooted in the sacraments, which includes frequent reception of the sacrament of confession, our active participation in Mass on Sundays, and receiving Christ in the Eucharist.

In the Rite of Confirmation and every year at Easter, we all make a renewal of Baptismal Promises. We are asked the questions that were asked of our parents and godparents at baptism. After renouncing sin, we profess, before each other, the faith we have received from God through the Church at our baptism.

We answer "I do." to questions formed from the Apostles' Creed: *Do you reject Satan? And all his empty promises?*

*Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?*

*Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?*

*Do you 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?*

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus.

We stand in communion with others to reject the temptation of sin, the devil, and to profess as Church, the core beliefs stated in the Apostles' Creed, all to grow in our communion with God. "As on the day of our Baptism, when our whole life was entrusted to the 'standard of 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 197)

**And may almighty God,  
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us new birth  
by water and the Holy Spirit  
and bestowed on us forgiveness of our sins,  
keep us by his grace,  
in Christ Jesus our Lord,  
for eternal life.  
Amen.**