

Jesus

Our Lord Jesus Christ – A Personal Commitment

When we are confirmed we take a great step towards Jesus Christ.

To show that we want to love and serve him, we:

- Ask to renew our baptismal promises
- Offer ourselves to be his disciples in our present world.

and in return... Jesus fills us with his Holy Spirit and with his life, giving us the gifts and strengths to do his will.

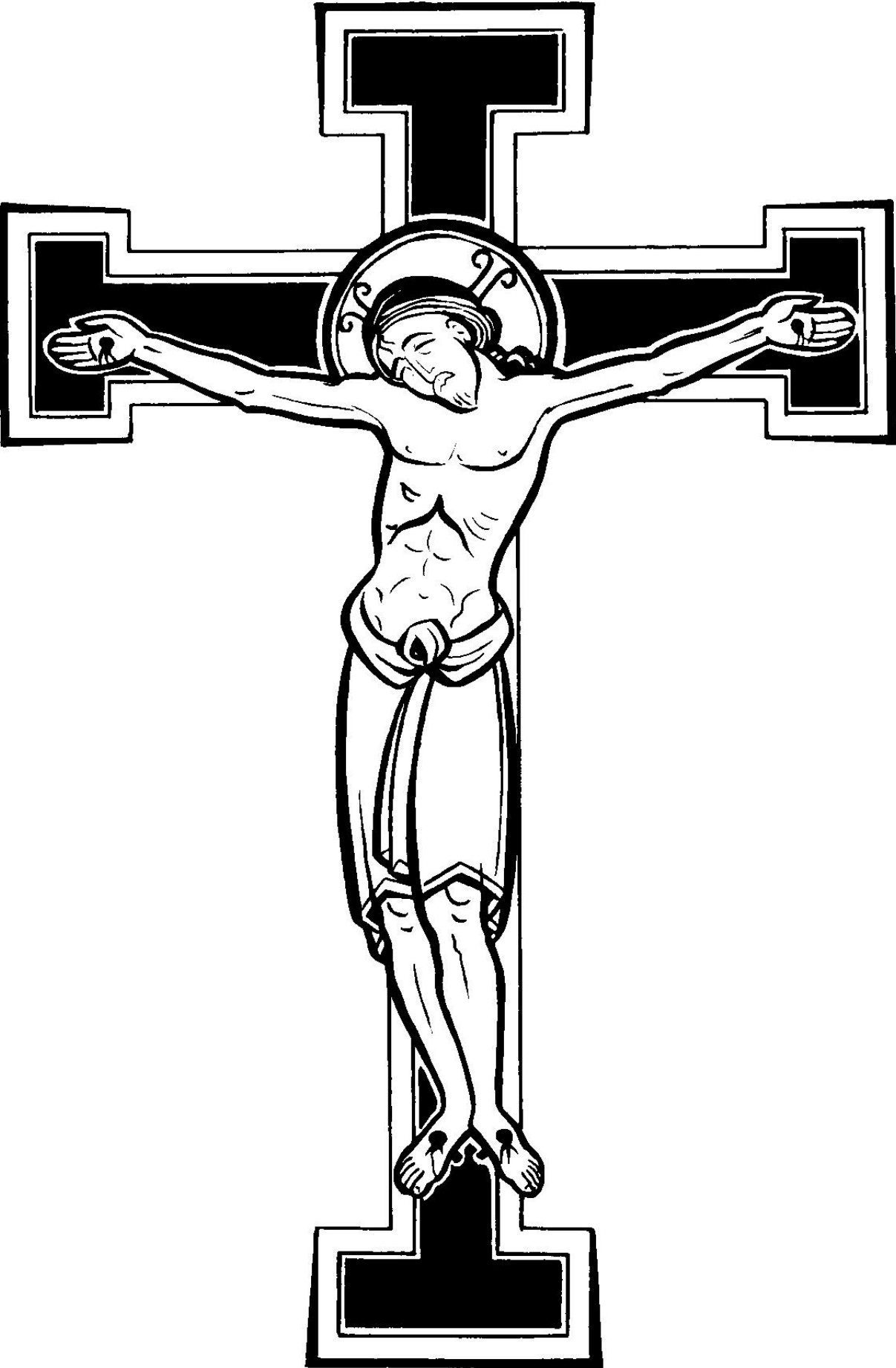
Our starting point must be Jesus, himself.

We need to get to know him better and to love him more, so that we can take that great step in the Sacrament of Confirmation.

How well do we know Jesus?
What does he mean to us?

“Who do you say that I am?”





The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Catechism of the Catholic Church



I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, THE ONLY SON OF GOD

The Good News: God has sent his Son

422 'But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.' This is 'the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God': God has visited his people. He has fulfilled the promise he made to Abraham and his descendants. He acted far beyond all expectation - he has sent his own 'beloved Son'.

423 We believe and confess that Jesus of Nazareth, born a Jew of a daughter of Israel at Bethlehem at the time of King Herod the Great and the emperor Caesar Augustus, a carpenter by trade, who died crucified in Jerusalem under the procurator Pontius Pilate during the reign of the emperor Tiberius, is the eternal Son of God made man. He 'came from God', 'descended from heaven', and 'came in the flesh'. For 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.' And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace.'

424 Moved by the grace of the Holy Spirit and drawn by the Father, we believe in Jesus and confess: 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' On the rock of this faith confessed by St. Peter, Christ built his Church.

What were the key events in the life of Jesus?

Many important events took place in the life of Jesus and have been recorded in the New Testament, especially the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). The essential events described on multiple occasions include His birth, baptism, miracles, teachings, sufferings, death, burial, resurrection, ascension, and predicted return.

Birth: Both [Matthew 1](#) and [Luke 1-2](#) provide accounts of the birth of Jesus and the events surrounding it. Of important note are the facts that Jesus was born of a virgin ([Matthew 1:21](#)), in the city of Bethlehem, and was visited by shepherds who arrived following the appearance of angels who told them of the king who had been born. Further, His birth came to fulfill prophecies of one who would come from the seed of Abraham, the tribe of Judah, and the family line of David.

Baptism: Multiple Gospels note the baptism of Jesus by a relative named John the Baptist at around the age of 30 ([Matthew 2](#), [Mark 1](#), [Luke 3](#)). This marked the beginning of His public ministry, and included the voice of God speaking from the sky.

Miracles: At least 35 miracles by Jesus are recorded in the New Testament. He healed the sick, the blind, and lepers. On three occasions, he raised individuals from the dead. He also showed power over nature, including stopping a storm and walking on water.

Teachings: The New Testament records people's amazement at the teachings of Jesus ([Matthew 7:28-29](#)). Large portions of the Gospels include the Sermon on the Mount ([Matthew 5-7](#)) and many of the parables, which were stories with a spiritual purpose.

Sufferings: In fulfillment of [Isaiah 53](#) and other prophecies, Jesus suffered at the hands of His enemies. He was arrested, beaten, and nailed to a cross after the Jewish leaders handed Him over for a death sentence at the approval of the Roman leader Pilate.

Death: The death of Jesus was made clear due to both the impact of His sufferings, His pierced side ([John 19:34](#)), His death cry ([Luke 23:46-48](#)), Pilate's confirmation ([Mark 15:44-45](#)), that He was embalmed in about 75 pounds of spices ([John 19:39](#)), and that He remained in the tomb three days.

Resurrection: The New Testament records on multiple occasions that the tomb was empty on the third day and that many eyewitnesses claimed to see Jesus alive again. [First Corinthians 15](#) mentions 500 people who saw the resurrected Jesus, most of whom were still alive when Paul wrote about 20 years later. At least 513 different people were referred to as seeing Jesus alive again, including several followers who died for this belief.

Ascension: After 40 days, Jesus ascended into the sky ([Matthew 28](#); [Luke 24](#); [Acts 1](#)) with the promise that He would return again.

Promised Return: Many New Testament teachings note the promised return of Jesus as an essential teaching. It is predicted as taking place at any moment, though no one will know the exact time ([1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)). This promise was intended to encourage believers to live holy lives, share their faith with others, and look forward with anticipation to eternity in the Lord's presence.

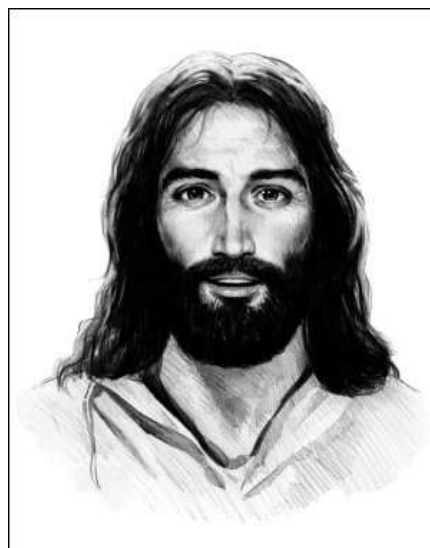
Jesus the Man

Although we number our years from the beginning of the Christian era, scholars believe Jesus was actually born between 6 and 4 B.C. Both the Gospel of Matthew and Luke recount Jesus' birth in the city of Bethlehem, in what is now southern Israel. Jesus was born into a Jewish family and remained faithful to Judaism all His life. Jesus spent his youth and early adulthood in the city of Nazareth, in the land of Galilee. Almost nothing is known of this period of His life, except for the incident at the Temple told in the Gospel of Luke 2:41-51.

At about age 30, Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan by John the Baptist and began His public ministry. He selected 12 disciples who would carry on his ministry after Him. He traveled through the regions of Galilee, Samaria, and Judea, teaching in the synagogues and speaking to the crowds of people who followed wherever He went. He preached about the kingdom of God, repentance, and love for all people. The gospels tell how He healed the sick wherever He went and performed many other miracles.

Jesus' public ministry lasted about three years, and He found many followers among the Jews of Palestine. However, He had enemies, too. Jesus was very critical of the hypocrisy of the religious leaders of His time. He said they observed the *letter* of the Jewish law, but defiled its *spirit* by living lives of greed and sin. These religious leaders plotted to kill Jesus, and eventually, the Roman governor, Pilate, ordered His crucifixion on Friday, the eve of Passover, in about the year 30 A.D.

The Bible tells that Jesus arose from the dead on the following Sunday, and He remained on Earth another 40 days before ascending into heaven. Jesus, Himself, said He was the Son of God, the Christ, the Messiah awaited by the Jews. He said His death and resurrection were all part of God's mysterious plan of salvation.



Jesus the Savior

For those who have accepted the gift of faith, Jesus is much more than a historical figure and a good teacher. He is the Christ, the Savior, the Son of God, who came to Earth to redeem us from sin, establish His spiritual kingdom of God on Earth, and to offer the promise of eternal life. Although He is not now on Earth in bodily form, He is present with us through the power of the Holy Spirit. He is our guide and savior, the source of all our strength, who will lead us through this earthly life and into eternal life beyond. We can talk to Him in prayer. He speaks to us through the Holy Scriptures, and the Church. He speaks to us in our consciences. He strengthens us with His love.

Jesus said:

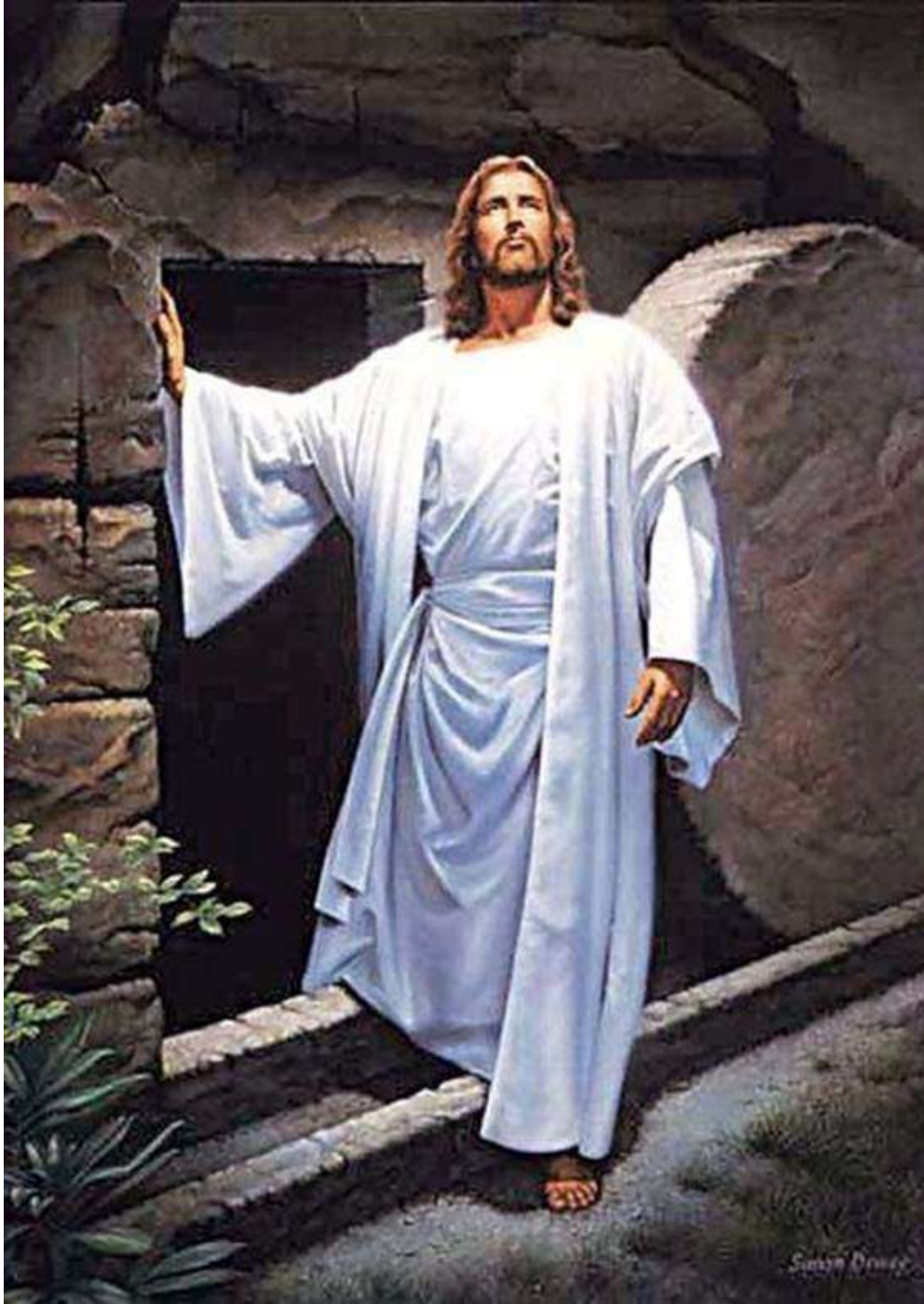
But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. Therefore go and make disciples in all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and then teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you; and be sure of this- that I am with you always, even to the end of the world.



Jesus Christ... One Solitary Life.

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. Until He was thirty, He worked in a carpenter shop and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher. He wrote no books. He held no office. He never owned a home. He was never in a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did any of the things that usually accompany greatness. The authorities condemned His teachings. His friends deserted Him. One betrayed Him to His enemies for a paltry sum. One denied Him. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed on a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He owned on earth: His coat. When He was dead He was taken down and placed in a borrowed grave. Nineteen centuries have come and gone, yet today He is the crowning glory of the human race, the adored leader of hundreds of millions of the earth's inhabitants. All the armies that ever marched and all the Navies that were ever assembled and all the parliaments that ever sat and all the rulers that ever reigned - combined - have not affected the life of man upon this earth so profoundly as that One Solitary Life.





The Resurrection of Jesus

