



OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

Archdiocese of Newark

Roman Missal Update 11

The Apostles' Creed during Lent and Easter

The rubric found in the Roman Missal for the Order of Mass, 19, stipulates that:

Instead of the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, especially during Lent and Easter Time, the baptismal Symbol of the Roman Church, known as the Apostles' Creed, may be used.

The reason this option is recommended particularly for Lent/Easter Time is because of its close relationship with baptism. The Apostles' Creed is the basis for the baptismal promises made by the elect before they are baptized. It is also used for the renewal of baptismal promises at Easter and by parents and godparents when bringing a child for baptism.

Given the change in the translation of the Apostles' Creed and the fact that most parishes have readily accessible pew cards for the assembly, this Lent/Easter Time would be an opportune time to take advantage of this option. It would help to draw the connection between baptism and Lent/Easter Time and provide an opportunity for parishioners to familiarize themselves with the new translation of the Apostles' Creed.

Below are brief introductory words for the Apostles' Creed and a bulletin blurb which could be used to explain the use of the Apostles' Creed at this time.

APOSTLES' CREED

During the seasons of Lent and Easter, we are going to recite the new translation of the Apostles' Creed at Sunday Mass. This Creed is used as the basis for our baptismal promises which we will renew on Easter Sunday. (Please use the cards provided to recite the Apostles' Creed).

I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;

he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I 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. Amen.

Bulletin Blurb for the Sundays of Lent and Easter

The Apostles' Creed

You may have noticed at Mass today that we used the Apostles' Creed instead of the Nicene Creed. The origins of the Apostles' Creed are believed to predate the Nicene Creed. It is universally recognized by many Christians as a shared statement of our faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Apostles' Creed may be used at any Sunday Mass, but the church particularly recommends its use during Lent and Easter Time. Why? Because the words of this ancient Creed have been used for centuries as the basis of our baptismal promises, and the seasons of Lent and Easter put a strong focus on baptism. During Lent we prepare those who will be baptized at Easter while readying ourselves to renew our own baptismal promises. As we recite the Apostles' Creed, it will stir up in our hearts our commitment to Christ which was first made at our own baptisms and prepare us to renew our promises this Easter.