One of the traditions of the Catholic Church is that our faith is built on the Creed. This is a profession of our faith. We say it at Mass after the homily. As Catholics this is what we believe. If someone asks you what makes you Catholic or what you believe you can use the Creed to tell them.

Read Insert:

*On the Nicene Creed with fill in the blanks sheet.*

Read the Creed together.

The Creed is divided into sections: our belief in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We are going to read a Scripture passage together and discuss what it means.

Father and Creator:

Read Genesis 1:1-13

The first section of the Creed is about God as Father and Creator of the world. Can you name some of the things God has made for us? (sun, animals, people, plants, trees, fish, etc)

Talk about the first section of the Creed…

\**write Father next to green line, first section, circle the word God*

Jesus Christ:

Read Matthew 16:15-17

The next part of the Creed is about Jesus Christ. The Bible story is about how Peter tells of his belief that Jesus is the Son of God. Think of things Jesus has done for us, such as showing us God’s love and bringing us new life. What can you think of?

Talk about the second section of the Creed….

\**write Son next to the blue, second section,*

*\*circle Lord, Jesus Christ*

*\* on the line by the yellow highlighted words write Incarnation (the moment when God became a human being at the conception Jesus in his mother, Mary).*

*\*on the line by the blue highlighted words write Paschal Mystery: The Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ (this is what we celebrate at Easter)*

Holy Spirit:

Read Romans 5:5

We then proclaim our belief in the Holy Spirit. We hear in the reading how the gift of the Holy Spirit is given to each of us. Can you name the ways the Holy Spirit helps us, such as making the right choices and sharing our gifts with others?

Talk about the third section of the Creed…

\**write Holy Spirit next to the red line, third section*

*\* on the line by the green highlighted words write Four Marks of the Church*

The Church can be both seen on earth and felt in our hearts. This is why we call the Church the Mystical Body of Christ. The Church has four important qualities, or marks.

The Church is one. We have one Lord and we share one faith. We receive one life in the Holy Spirit.

The Church is holy. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are holy. In the sacraments, we receive all we need to make use holy.

The Church is catholic. Catholic means universal. Jesus told the apostles to teach all nations. The Church reaches to all.

The Church is apostolic. Jesus founded the Church with the apostles. The pope and bishops continue their mission today.

The Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. These are the Marks of the Church.