



Confirmation - 2016

God the Father

&

The Human Person



Saint of the Week

- **Saint Thomas**
 - **Aka Doubting Thomas**
 - **One of Original 12 Apostles**
 - **Was not present when Jesus appeared to the other Apostles in the upper room.**
 - **Did not believe the other Apostles when they told him that Jesus had risen from the dead.**
 - **Thomas first Reaction: “Unless I put my finger into the nail wounds and my hand into his side, I shall not believe.”**
 - **But Upon Seeing Jesus he cried: “My Lord and my God!!”**





Review

- **Week 2**
 - **Church as Sacrament**
 - **Encounter with the Triune God**
 - **Experiencing God's Presence**
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- **Week 3**
 - **Salvation History**
 - **God reaches out to heal the rift between God & Man**
 - **Sends His only Son Jesus**

Big Word(s)

- **Week 2**
 - **Paradigm**
 - **Sacrament**
- **Week 3**
 - **Agape -**
 - **God is Unconditional Love**
 - **Willing to overlook faults**
 - **Willing to forgive**



- **Big word for tonight:**

Reconciliation

Restoration of intimate relationship

Restoration indicating there has been a break

Intimate – sharing in divine life



- **Beginning of the Creed**
 - **I believe in one God,**
 - **The Father almighty,**
 - **Maker of heaven and earth.**
 - **Of all things visible and invisible.**

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.

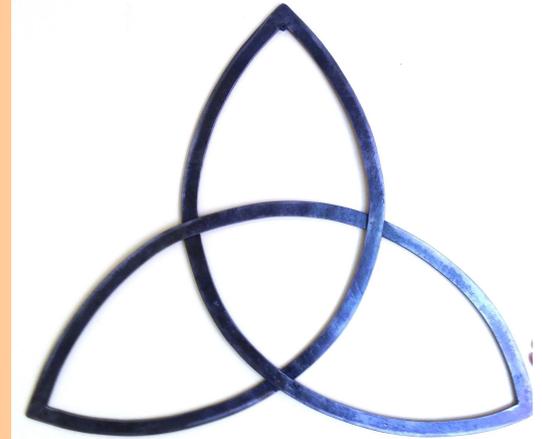
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and
became man.

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.



God is:

- Source of all existence
- A mystery beyond human comprehension
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- God has revealed himself as Trinity
 - Three Persons but in total unity as One God



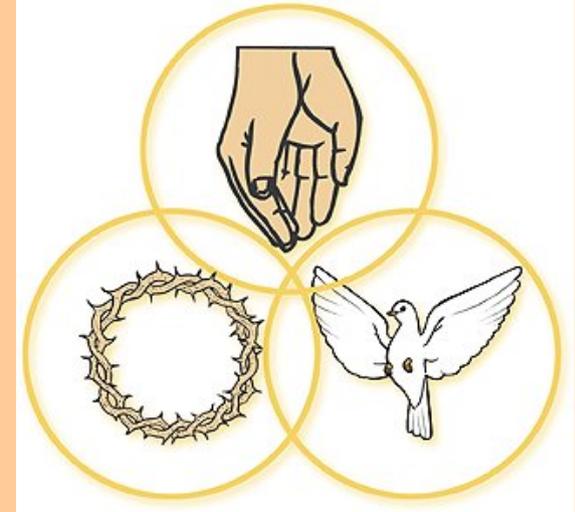
Man is:

- Created in image and likeness of God
 - An intelligent, self aware being with free will



Trinity

- **God is “Three – In -One”**
 - **Three Persons – but one God**
 - **Father - Creator**
 - **Son - Savior**
 - **Holy Spirit - Inspirer – Life Force in the Church**



Full comprehension is beyond human capability.



God is love (Agape)

- **God reaches out to creation as a loving “dad” (abba);**
- **Man separated himself from God through Original Sin. We continue to separate ourselves through personal sin.**
- **God sent Jesus (the Christ) to us to bridge the gap between God and man (reconcile man to God).**
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- **Man's Destiny is Re-Union with God.**





- **Christian Life should be based in Agape**
 - **Message of Jesus based on Agape:**
 - **Two Great Commandments**
 - **Love God above all things**
 - **Love your neighbor as yourself**
 - **Love in this context is Agape**
 - **Final Judgment (Matthew Chapter 25 verses 31-46)**
 - **Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.**



Salvation History (revisited)

- **Old Testament (Old Covenant)**

- **Books of:**

- **Pentateuch (1st 5 books)**

- **Shows God as God of Israel by Covenant.**

- **Covenant is an agreement based on Agape.**

- **History: God Intervenes for Israel.**

- **Wisdom: God is compassionate and faithful.**

- **Prophecy: God promises a Savior to liberate Israel from her enemies for all times.**





- **New Testament (New Covenant)**
 - **Written in Greek – the universal language of the day.**
 - **Books:**
 - **Gospels**
 - **4 Gospels; Jesus' Ministry & Message**
 - **Matthew, Mark, Luke (Synoptic 3)**
 - **John (More theologically developed)**
 - **Acts of the Apostles – by Luke – An historical account of early Church**
 - **Epistles**
 - **21 letters;**
 - **13 by St. Paul to specific Churches or Persons**
 - **8 General letters by James, Peter, John & Jude plus Letter to the Hebrews (author unknown – attributed to Paul or his disciple)**
 - **Book of Revelation (Apocalyptic Literature) by John – Visionary – Hard to understand**



- **Questions**

- **Why do we need Reconciliation?**



- **What does it mean to have a God we can address as “Abba?”**
- **Why does God allow evil to exist in the world?**