

Syllabus: "What Christians Believe" with Fr. Carucci

Welcome to "What Christians Believe: Understanding the Nicene Creed"! This syllabus provides a week-by-week guide to our journey through Bishop Robert Barron's book. Each session will focus on a set of chapters, giving us plenty of time to explore the foundations of our faith and discuss our questions together.

Course Schedule

Our class will meet weekly on Wednesdays (or Thursdays, depending on your session) from September 17, 2025, through December 10, 2025.

Week 1: September 17 & 18, 2025

- **Topic:** The Creed: Our Foundational Belief
- **Reading:** Chapter 1
- **Weekly Focus:** Exploring why the Nicene Creed is a crucial summary of Christian belief and a living expression of our faith.

Week 2: September 24 & 25, 2025

- **Topic:** The Trinity
- **Reading:** Chapter 2
- **Weekly Focus:** Unpacking the central mystery of the Christian faith and reflecting on the profound truth that God is a communion of three divine Persons.

Week 3: October 1 & 2, 2025

- **Topic:** God the Father Almighty
- **Reading:** Chapter 3
- **Weekly Focus:** Reflecting on God as the all-powerful, loving Creator who made all things from nothing.

Week 4: October 8 & 9, 2025

- **Topic:** Jesus Christ
- **Reading:** Chapter 4
- **Weekly Focus:** Examining Jesus as the ultimate revelation of God, fully divine and fully human.

Week 5: October 15 & 16, 2025

- **Topic:** The Incarnation
- **Reading:** Chapter 5
- **Weekly Focus:** Delving into the radical truth of God becoming flesh for our salvation.

Week 6: October 22 & 23, 2025

- **Topic:** The Atonement
- **Reading:** Chapter 6
- **Weekly Focus:** Considering Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection as the means of

our reconciliation with God.

Week 7: October 29 & 30, 2025

- **Topic:** The Holy Spirit
- **Reading:** Chapter 7
- **Weekly Focus:** Learning about the third Person of the Trinity, the Giver of Life who sanctifies us and the Church.

Week 8: November 5 & 6, 2025

- **Topic:** The Church
- **Reading:** Chapter 8
- **Weekly Focus:** Discovering the Church as the living Body of Christ, a supernatural reality continuing His mission.

Week 9: November 12 & 13, 2025

- **Topic:** The Four Marks of the Church
- **Reading:** Chapter 9
- **Weekly Focus:** Unpacking the four essential qualities of the Church: One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic.

Week 10: November 19 & 20, 2025

- **Topic:** The Communion of Saints
- **Reading:** Chapter 10
- **Weekly Focus:** Exploring the spiritual family that connects all believers across heaven and earth.

Thanksgiving Break: November 26 & 27, 2025

- **Note:** No class this week.

Week 11: December 3 & 4, 2025

- **Topic:** The Resurrection of the Body
- **Reading:** Chapter 11
- **Weekly Focus:** Affirming the ultimate Christian hope that our bodies will be raised up and transformed in a new and glorious way.

Week 12: December 10 & 11, 2025

- **Topic:** Forgiveness and Eternal Life
- **Reading:** Chapter 12
- **Weekly Focus:** Concluding our study with the beautiful promises of divine mercy and the gift of eternal life that awaits us.