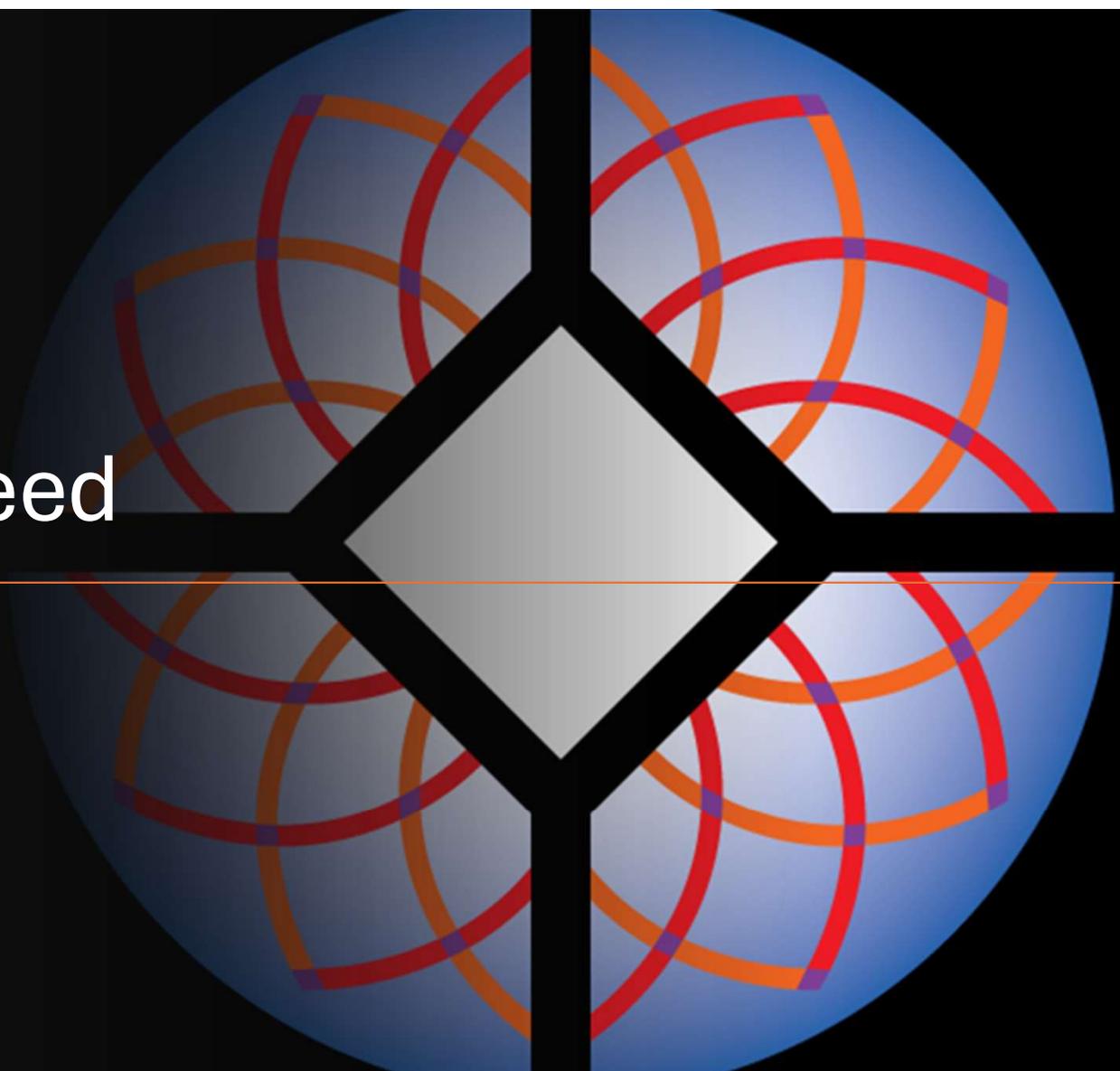


# The Nicene Creed



Richard Wm. Ed. Mallory  
St. Mary's Catholic Church  
9505 Gayton Road  
Henrico, Virginia 23229

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,

**(bow) 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.



## Prior Weeks

- The Creed was a foundational statement that came to life 1700 years ago and is still proclaimed at mass at the conclusion of the liturgy of the Word. Father Mike gave us a wonderful introduction to the creed of the Church leading up to the Council of Nicea. That was followed by:
  - Deacon Joe Morlino covering God the Father.
  - Anne Marie Condlin then covered God the Son.
  - Chris Jenkins spoke about God the Holy Spirit.

# St. Peter's Basilica in Rome

---

- “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church...I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 16:18-19
  - Each letter is 6 ½ feet high
  - The dome of a church, in Italian is **Duomo** and in Latin is **Domus** means “**house**”.
  - Even in the most majestic churches, we are called back to the earliest days when the gatherings occurred in houses.
  - Wuerl p. 124
- 

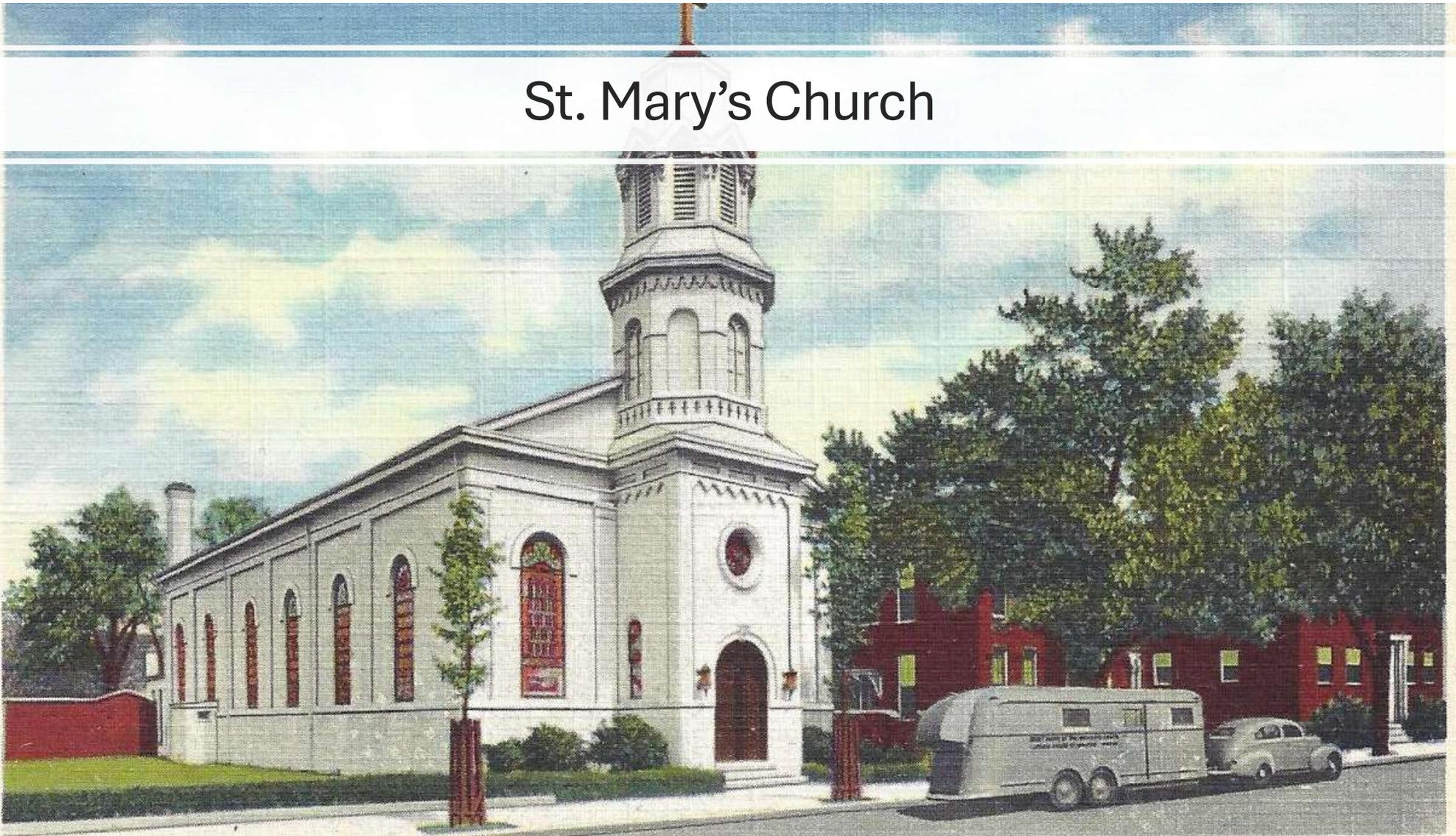




# The Church

- I believe in One, Catholic and Holy Apostolic Church
- This week we will look at the closing paragraph of the Nicene Creed, which focuses on the Church. I'd like to look at the Church in the larger (Universal) understanding and then at a local more personal level.
- The ritual book for blessing a church offers a basic explanation of this symbolism: ***“The church is a visible building that stands as a special sign of the pilgrim Church on earth and reflects the Church dwelling in heaven.”*** – Cardinal Wuerl p. 47.

# St. Mary's Church



ST. MARY'S CHURCH and TRAILER CHAPEL HEADQUARTERS

316 East Marshall St.



# The Church

- First, let's look at what is the Church? It derives its name from the Greek word 'Kyriake', which means "the Lord's". Church has come to have two meanings. One is the larger term for God's people, the Catholic Church. It also means the local parish building where God's people gather for worship. (The Church by Cardinal Donald Wuerl p. 39-40).
- Saul, who was converted to the faith and took the name Paul developed this idea of the Church as the "Body of Christ." 1 Corinthians 6:15 he said, ***"Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?"***

# The Church

- For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many.”

1 Corinthians 12:12-14



# Descriptive Words for the Church

- Body of Christ
- Cruciform – Built in the form of a crucifix. St. Maximus the Confessor.
  - The holy church is like a man because for the soul it has the sanctuary, for mind it has the divine altar, and for body it has the nave.” Wuerl p. 73
  - Apse
  - Nave
  - Vestibule
- Mother – Give birth to the children of God. The baptistery at the Basilica of St. John Lateran has an inscription: “Here is born a people of noble race, destined for Heaven...Mother Church conceives her offspring by the breath of God, and bears them virginally in this water.”
- Ship – Carries the faithful across the sea of world (temptation and persecution)
- Apocalypse – Heaven and Earth are joined together in worship.



# The Church



- Jesus speaks of the Church twice in Matthew's gospel
- **16:18** - And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church,<sup>\*</sup>
- **18:17** - If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church.<sup>\*</sup> If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.



# The Church

- Although he is speaking metaphorically about a foundation, he is not talking about a building, but the One, Catholic and Apostolic Church.
- Later in the Book of Acts, the word Church appears often and is describing a local congregation as it meets in local communities. Here the Greek word used is not 'Kyriake', but **ekklesia**, from which we get the English word **ecclesiastical**, meaning “having to do with the **Church.**” (The Church by Cardinal Donald Wuerl, p. 40).

# The Church

- Cardinal Wuerl described this as “the Church meets at church.” (The Church by Cardinal Donald Wuerl, p. 40).
- This is what it means to be “One”. We are one Church.
- The Church is also described as “Holy”.





# The Church

- Jacob had a dream about the stairway reaching to heaven (Genesis 28:17) “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”
- The decorations in a sanctuary reflect a glory unseen by the eyes of the body, but known to the eyes of faith. Christ has taken our humanity into heaven; and he brings heaven to earth, as a foretaste, in every Mass celebrated in his Church.

## St. Teresa of Avila (Maybe)

- “Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours, Yours are the eyes through which Christ’s compassion is to look out to the earth., and yours are the hands by which he is to bless us now.”



# The Church



- It is bigger than you and me. It is more than St. Mary's.
- We are the visible Church in the world.
- Despite our best efforts to destroy it, God has not revoked its place in the world.
- When you enter the church, you make the sign of the cross with the baptismal water and remember your baptism. You are remembering what you have been called to be a part of, the Church.
- When you leave, you go out as the Church in the world and are on mission.