



About the
Catholic Faith



**Welcome to
Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
Port Arthur, TX**

Origins of Catholicism

Catholicism started as Judaism. Jesus himself was a Jew! Our religion started with the last prophet of the Old Testament. In the Jewish faith, it was believed that a Messiah was to come to save and free the people of Israel. Many prophets and messengers spread this message. Their stories, lives, and messages are what we refer to as the **Old Testament**. The last prophet of the Old Testament was John the Baptist. Throughout his life, John preached the coming of the Messiah, the Savior. He then baptized Jesus Christ and proclaimed him the Messiah; God also confirms through the Holy Spirit that this was His son. It was at this moment that Jesus' public ministry began.

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ was born on the year 0! The abbreviations B.C. and A.D., mean *before Christ* and *anno domini*, respectively. Anno Domini means the year of our Lord. His birth was such an important event, that most of the world uses it as a starting point of their calendars! We celebrate it on **Christmas**: the most widely celebrated holiday in the world.

Jesus was born to Joseph and Mary. Joseph was a carpenter and Mary, who was born without sin, was chosen by God to be the Mother of His Son. God sent the angel Gabriel to **announce** the **Good News** to her. Besides he being lost at the temple, not much is known about his childhood and adolescence. His story truly begins when he was about 30 years old, with the baptism by John the Baptist.



After spending forty days in the desert in preparation, Jesus spent the next three years preaching and performing miracles. It was during this time that he chose his **Apostles** and performed the great miracles that helped spread his message about the Kingdom of God and salvation.

His public ministry concluded in what is known as His Passion. After sharing a **Last Supper** with his disciples, he was captured by the high priests after being betrayed by Judas Iscariot. He was then tried and sentenced to death by crucifixion! Three days after his death, he resurrected and later ascended into heaven.

The Bible

His life and teachings are referred to in the **New Testament** of the Bible, which consist of four **Gospels** and numerous letters by his disciples. The Gospels are direct writings of his life by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Our Bible consists of the Old Testament, which announces the coming of Christ, and then the New Testament, which tells of His life and message.

As Catholics, we follow the **Ten Commandments** of the Old Testament, and the teachings of Jesus. We read the Old Testament to learn the story and background of our faith.

Our Faith

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that there are four pillars to our faith.

1. **The Apostles' Creed** - *what the church believes.*

This prayer proclaims all the beliefs that define us as Catholic Christians.

2. **The Sacraments** - *what the Church celebrates.*

These are Baptism, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, Penance, Matrimony, Holy Orders, and Anointing of the Sick. These are the special moments in our faith where we receive God's many graces.

3. **The Commandments** - *what the Church lives.*

These were given to us by God through Moses, and they teach us how to live. It is important to note however that Jesus told us one very important and central commandment that covers all ten:

Love one another as God loves you.

4. **Our Father** - *what the Church prays.*

The Our Father is the prayer taught to us by Jesus Christ himself. It is the perfect and most intimate prayer to God.

The Sign of the Cross

Another one of our very important beliefs as Catholics is our belief in the **Holy Trinity**. God as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe that they are all God. We remember and proclaim this mystery with a prayer known as the Sign of the Cross.