

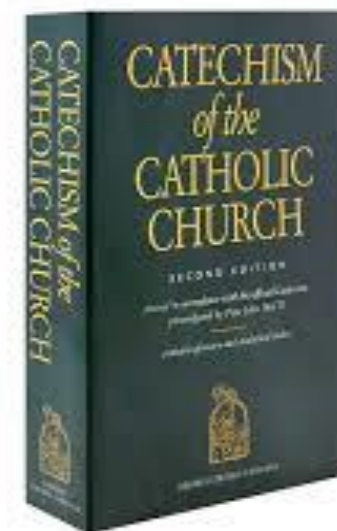
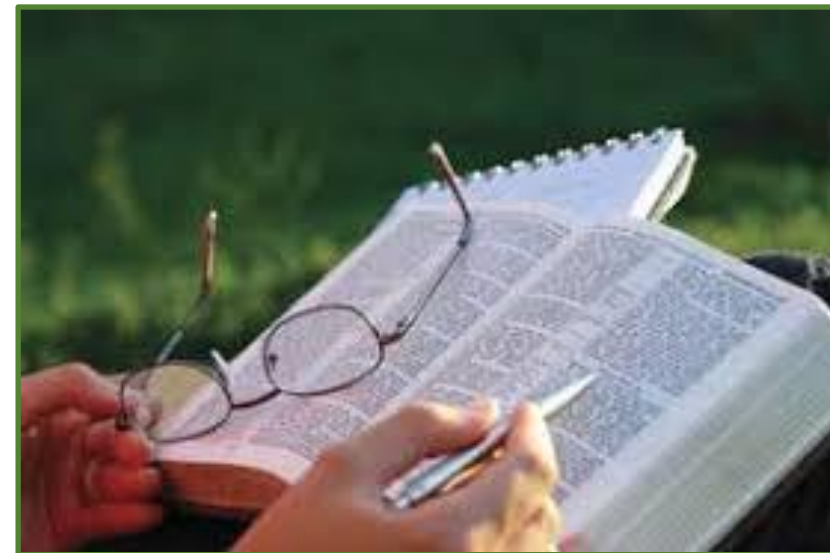


# The Word Made Flesh

RCIA at St. Sylvester Church

# Tonight – Word Made Flesh

- Place in context of Salvation History
- Highlights from the Catechism
- Prayerful understanding



# Opening Prayer

- We praise you, Dear God, and thank you for the gift of your heavenly son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Help us to know and love him more deeply that your Word can become a full reality in our lives. Guide us to become ever more your humble and faithful servants. Amen







# Who is Jesus Christ?

- ..Who do the crowds say that I am? They said in reply, “John the Baptist; others, Elijah;,, still others, “One of the ancient prophets has risen”. Then he said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter said in reply, “The Christ of God.” LUKE 9:18-22

“The Word Made Flesh”

...wait

“Word...” what word???

What do we even mean by  
*Word?*”

# Philo Judaeus

(Philo of Alexandria)

25 BC – 75AD



## Logos

- λόγος Lo·gos *n.* (Greek) a word, saying, speech, discourse, thought, proportion, ratio, reckoning, akin to λέγειν to choose, gather, recount, tell over, speak; cf. lection
- Logos – word... but also “reason,” “purpose,” “wisdom”
  - Greek-Cosmic wisdom
  - Hebrew-God’s Wisdom

- *Acts 17:18 “...Some also of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers met him.”*

# Old Testament Understanding

## Genesis 1: 1-3

1\* IN the beginning God created\* the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit\* of God was moving over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

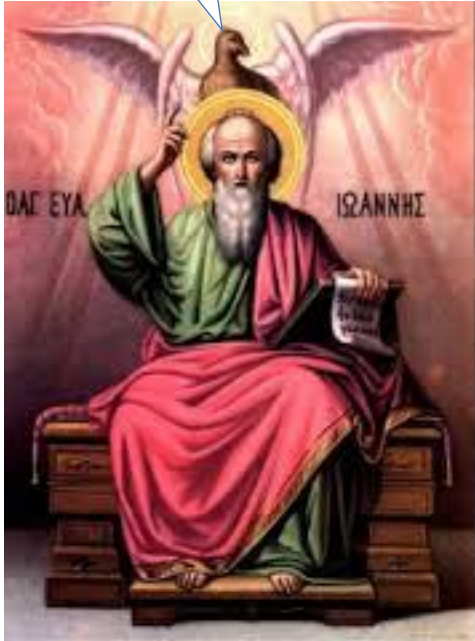
## Isaiah 55:11

11 ...so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it.



# Joh

If you read nothing more than the first paragraph of this Gospel...



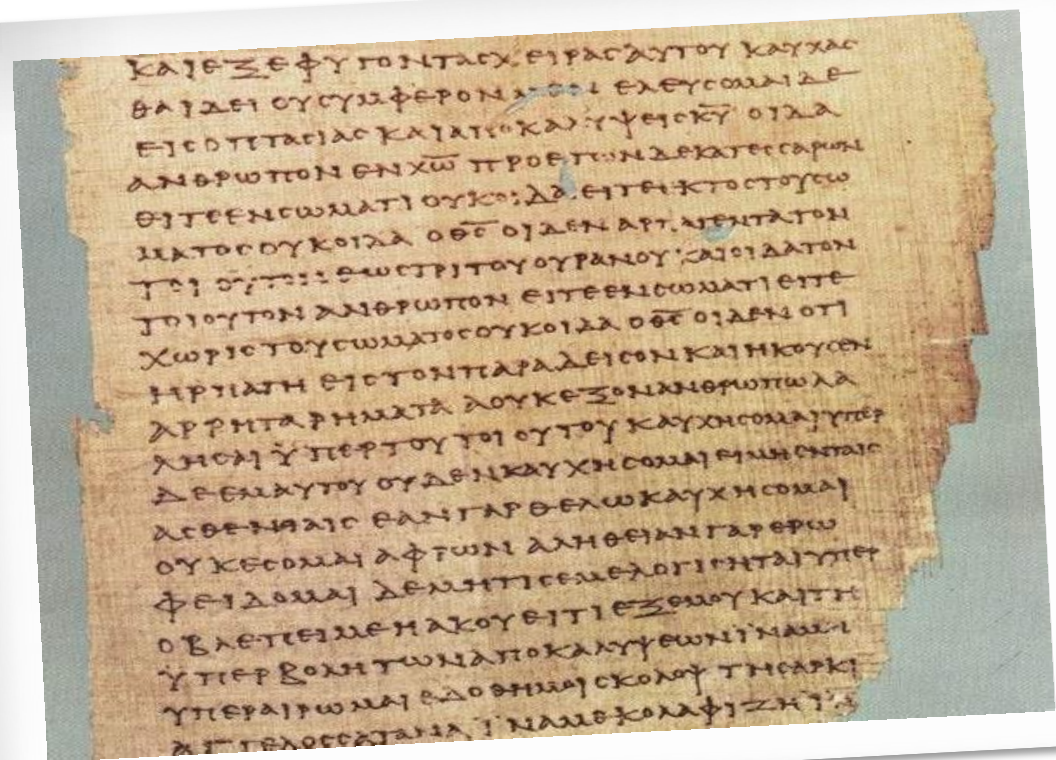
## Logos

- John 1:1-5 (RSVCE)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God**. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God; <sup>3</sup> all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

- Logos – word... again: “reason,” “purpose,” “wisdom”
- Logos – *is* God...
- Logos – God from God... the Son of God
- Logos – Divine creative power

*In principio erat Verbum, et Verbum erat apud Deum, et Deus erat Verbum.*



## New Testament

- Hebrews 11:3 3 By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear.
- Hebrews 10: 5-7 5 Consequently, when Christ[b] came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings thou hast not desired, but a body hast thou prepared for me; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings thou hast taken no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Lo, I have come to do thy will, O God,' as it is written of me in the roll of the book."

# Who is the Word?

“You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.”

— C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*





# Importance to Salvation History

## Why is it important?

- To know where we came from...  
... and who we are trying to get back to
- To know our full identity as children of God





# Salvation History Recap



## ➤ Creation stories

- God creates man and woman in his image
- Created out of love and for love – first covenant
- Fell from grace through disobedience ... original sin



## ➤ God has a plan to redeem mankind

- Adam & Eve exiled from Heaven into this world
- Offspring of the “woman” will crush the devil
- But, Devil prompts man to sin more and more

# God Makes Several Covenants with Mankind

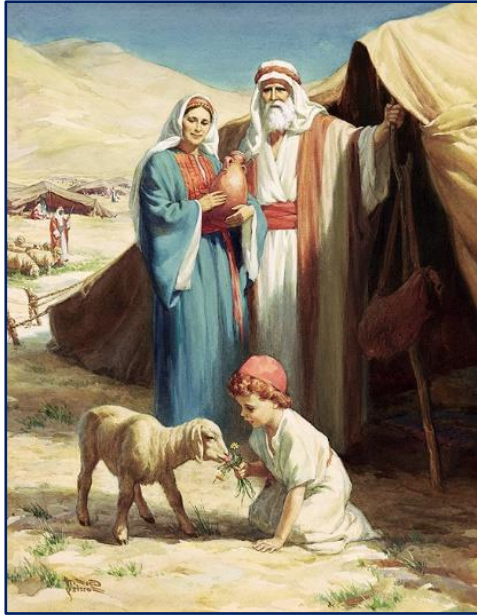


- God wipes out all mankind but Noah and his family
  - Sin had infused evil throughout the world
  - Makes a covenant not to do so ever again



- Mankind forgets God's promises
  - Mistrust is a sin that leads to minimizing God
  - God scatters the people and confuses their language

# God Makes Several Covenants with Mankind



- God calls Abraham out of Ur; makes three promises
  - Promises the land of Canaan to his heirs
  - A great nation will come from his descendents
  - The world will be blessed through his name
- Abraham begets Isaac, who begets Jacob (Israel)
  - The tribes of Israel are lured into slavery in Egypt

- God calls Moses to bring Israel out of Egypt
  - Calls 10 plagues onto Egypt culminating with the Passover
  - Makes a covenant with Moses on Mount Sinai
  - Israel doesn't trust God and wanders 40 years in the desert



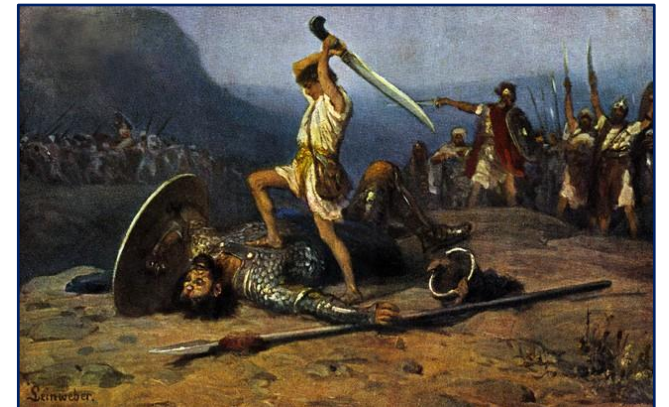


# God Makes Several Covenants with Mankind



- The people cry out for a king
  - God concedes and gives them what they ask for
  - Saul is the first king, but is dethroned through sin
  - God chooses David as king and enters a covenant with him

- Tribes of Israel eventually move into Canaan
  - They don't fully comply with God's directives
  - They adopt the culture of pagan tribes and worship idols
- Israel is led by a series of 12 judges over 200 years
  - They endure several cycles of sin and being conquered
  - They are remorseful and turn back to God to be saved
  - But eventually they forget God and are defeated again





# Salvation History Recap

- Royal Kingdom of Israel divides
  - 10 northern tribes (Israel)
  - 2 southern tribes (Judah)
  - They turn away from God and worship other gods
- Israel falls into servitude again
  - Northern kingdom is defeated and exiled into Assyria
  - Southern kingdom is defeated and exiled into Babylon
- Period of Exile – Prophets deliver God’s words
  - 10 tribes of Israel lose their identity; never come back
  - 2 tribes of Judah are held together by several prophets
  - Judah is released after 70 years to return to Jerusalem



# Salvation History Recap

- King Cyrus of Persia releases Israel
  - Temple rebuilt by Zerubbabel
  - Jerusalem city walls rebuilt by Nehemiah
  - Faith in God rebuilt by Ezra



- Judah exists under rule of the great empires
  - Held accountable for their sins for 490 years (7x70)
  - Persia, Greece and Rome dominate Jewish people
  - Maccabean revolt pulls Jewish people together





# SIN

- Never ending cycle of sin
- Is it here to stay?
- How does Israel atone for sin?



# Dealing With Sins



- Sin is bad, but understood as part of the human condition
- Jewish custom was to sacrifice an animal to remove sin (often a lamb)
  - Hands are placed on the guiltless lamb
  - Lamb is slaughtered and blood spread on the altar
  - The body is burned and the smoke carries away the sin
- Animal sacrifice didn't change the heart of the sinner ... it meant nothing



# God's Plan Matures

- As the prophets foretold, God sends a savior to redeem man
- Isaiah 53:1-12
  - Foretells of the Messiah's sacrifice to redeem all sin
  - The sacrifice is God himself
- Jeremiah 31: 31-33
  - God will make a new covenant with Israel
  - Read Jeremiah 31: 31-33



# How is Jesus the “Word”?

---

## Jesus is the embodiment of...

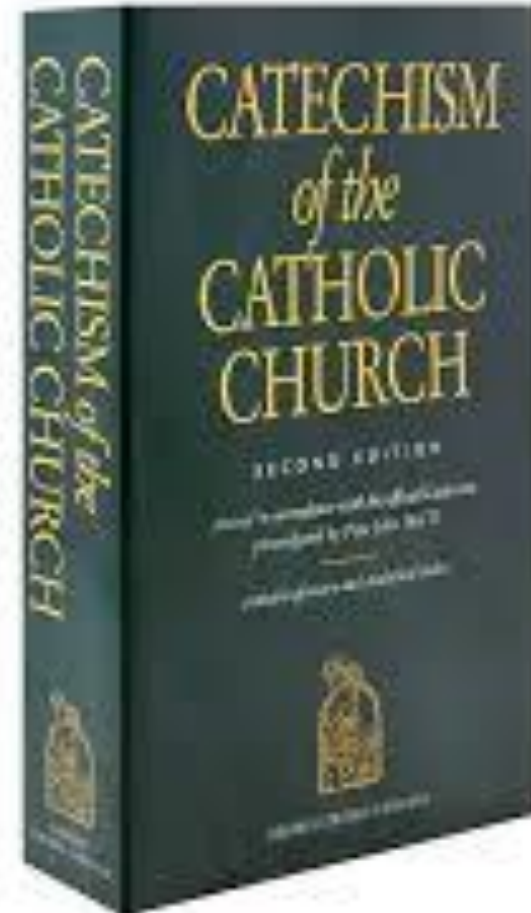
- Creation...the word spoken by God
  - God calls himself “I Am”... the essence of being
  - Jesus refers to himself as “I Am”
- God’s words spoken by the prophets
  - Isaiah 55:11 “So shall my word be that goes....”
- God speaking in person as teacher and healer
  - John 14:23 “Whoever loves me will keep my word....”



# Teaching Points of The Catechism

---

- Jesus is the fullness of revelation
  - The Father's one, perfect, and unsurpassable Word (CCC 65)
- Jesus is the Incarnation of God (CCC 461-464)
  - Jesus is truly God and truly Man; both at the same time
  - Sometimes referred to as the Incarnate Word
- The name Jesus means "God saves" (CCC 430-455)
  - Signifies the very name of God is present in the person of his Son
- Purpose and mystery of Christ's life (CCC 512-570)
  - All that Jesus did and taught is illuminated in the mysteries of the Christmas and Easter seasons



**Read CCC 518... a great summary**



# Seek a Prayerful Understanding

---

- Our faith has to be more than an academic exercise
  - It needs to be personal for each of us
- We only know ourselves fully through Jesus
  - He wants us to know our Father intimately
  - We won't be ready for Heaven until we know it as home
- Three opportunities for me to know Jesus better
  - John 2: 1-12 – The Wedding at Cana (do what he tells you)
  - 1 John 4: 7-19 – God's Love (God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God)
  - Ephesians 3:7-21 – Commission to Preach God's Plan (May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith)
  -

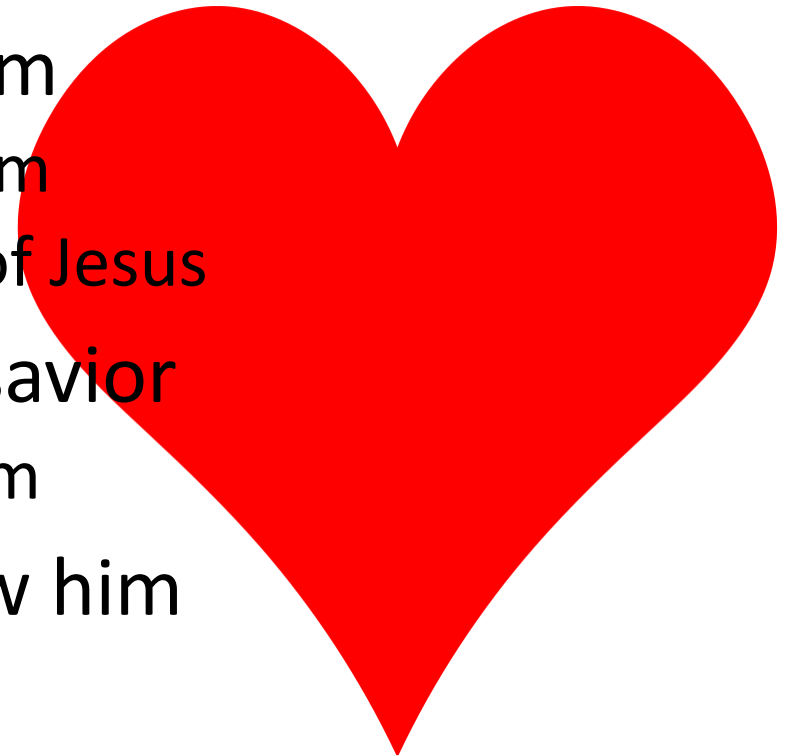




# God's Love

---

- Jewish people continuously fell into the cycle of sin
- They knew His law, but they didn't know Him
  - They lacked faith because they couldn't see Him
  - So, He came to them physically in the person of Jesus
- Jesus became their teacher, reformer, and savior
  - Those who came to know him came to love him
- Those with hardened hearts could not know him
- His primary lesson: **God loves them!**
  - Love God always, and Love one another as you love yourself





# Closing Prayer

Jesus,

Help us to free our minds and our hearts of  
all that keeps us separated from you.  
Teach us, Lord, who we are in you and who  
you are in us that we may know our true  
home.

Amen

