



Catechetical Series:

What Catholics Believe & Why

THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

Behold The Truth

Discovering the What & Why of the Catholic Faith
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The Last Supper

- ❖ The Last Supper was a Passover meal, a ritualistic remembrance of God's deliverance of Israel from bondage in Egypt, through the blood of the lamb
- ❖ The Catholic Mass is the continuation of the Last Supper
- ❖ At Mass, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, Our Passover Lamb



The Mass

- ❖ The Mass is both a sacred meal and a holy sacrifice—the selfsame sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross
- ❖ Jesus does not die again at Mass—He died once for the sins of the world
- ❖ But that one saving sacrifice becomes mystically present to us at every Mass



The Death of Christ

- ❖ On the Cross, Jesus cried out, “*Eli, Eli, lama sabach-thani?*” or “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?”
Matt. 27:46
- ❖ This is the first line of *Psalm 22*, prophesying His death on Calvary



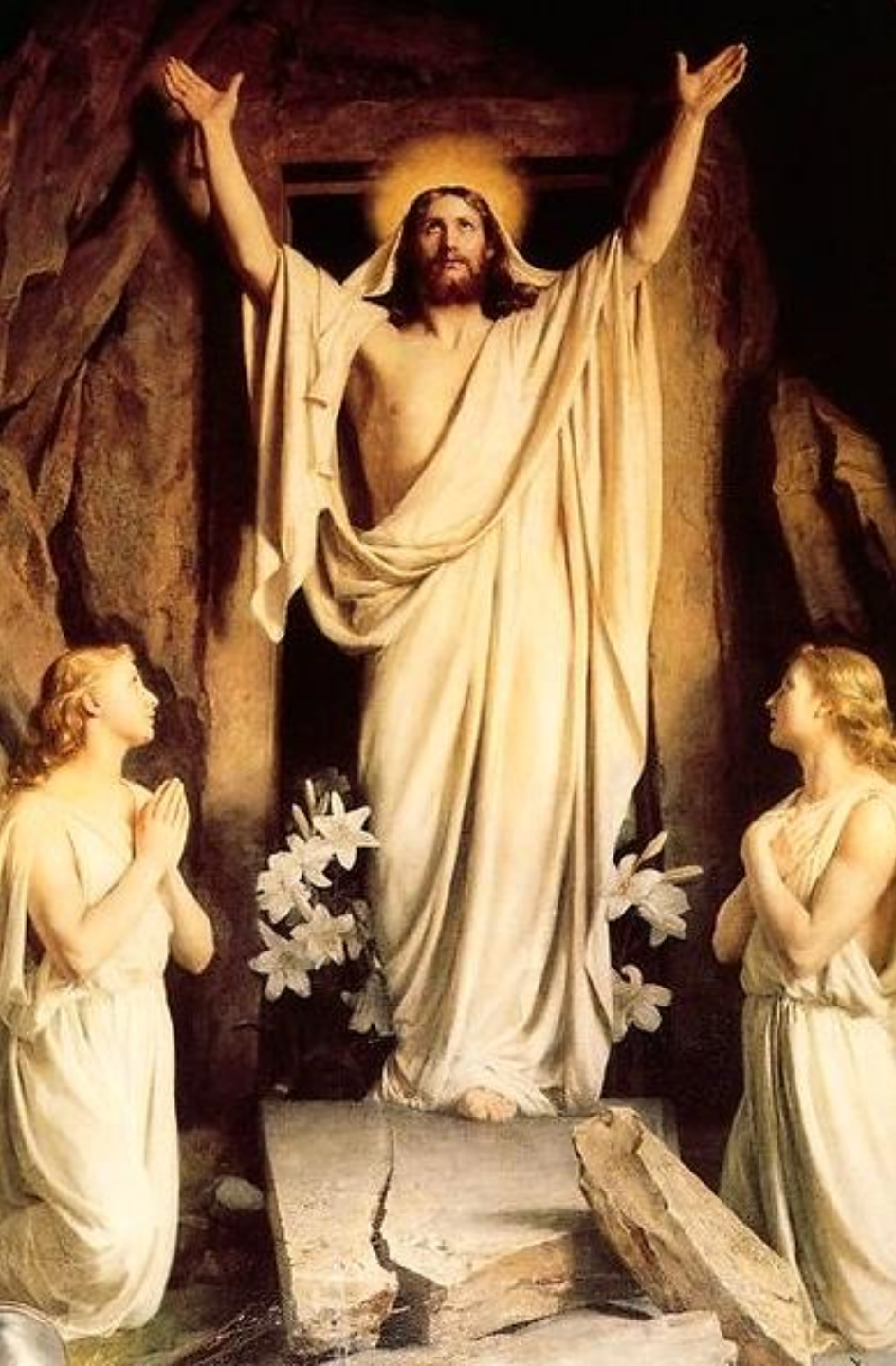
The Death of Christ

- ❖ Jesus' sacrifice perfectly fulfilled the words of the *Psalm* ...
- ❖ “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?” *Psalm 22:1*
- ❖ “I am ... scorned by men, and despised by the people. All who see me mock at me.” *Psalm 22:6-7*
- ❖ “A company of evildoers encircle me; they have pierced my hands and feet.” *Psalm 22:16*
- ❖ “They divide my garments among them, and for my raiment they cast lots.” *Psalm 22:18*



The Burial of Christ

- ❖ After being taken down from the Cross, Jesus' body was placed in a tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea
- ❖ According to the custom of the day, the body was wrapped head to toe in a linen shroud



The Resurrection of Christ

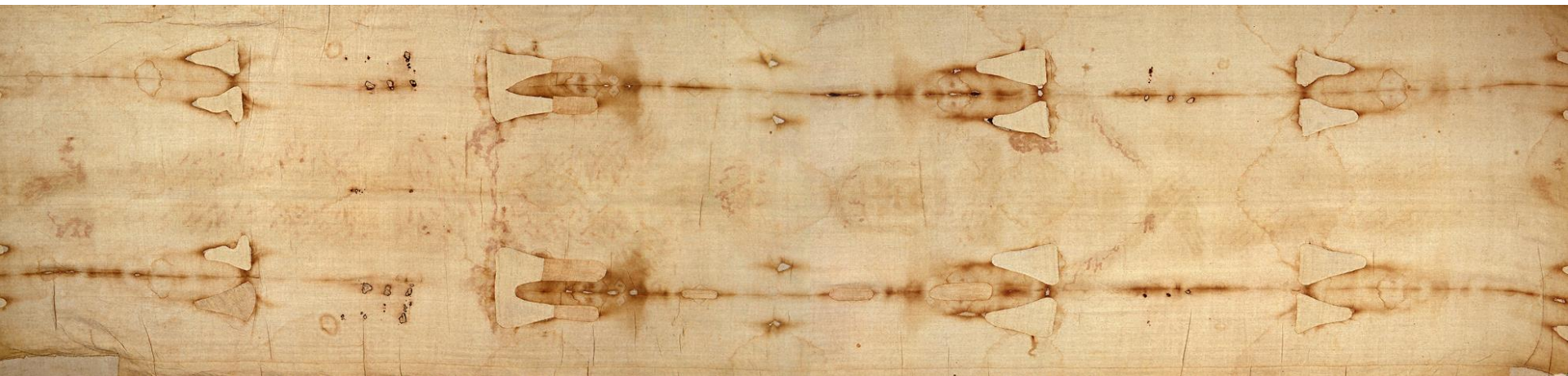
- ❖ On the third day, He rose again from the dead
- ❖ And He promised those of us who would follow Him will also rise again



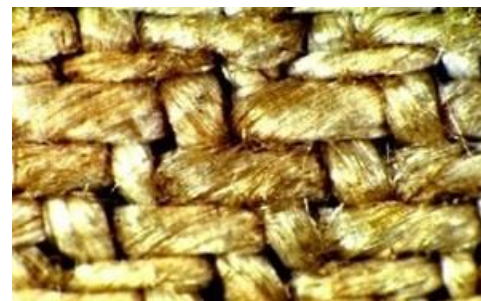
The Empty Tomb

- ❖ In Christ's Tomb at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, the marble slab upon which His body had lain has been preserved
- ❖ In 1009, the Church was sacked by Muslim forces under the Caliph al-Hakim, and the Tomb was completely destroyed, except for a small portion of one wall
- ❖ The stone slab was saved, however, because the Franciscan monks guarding the Tomb cracked it before the attack to prevent it from being taken

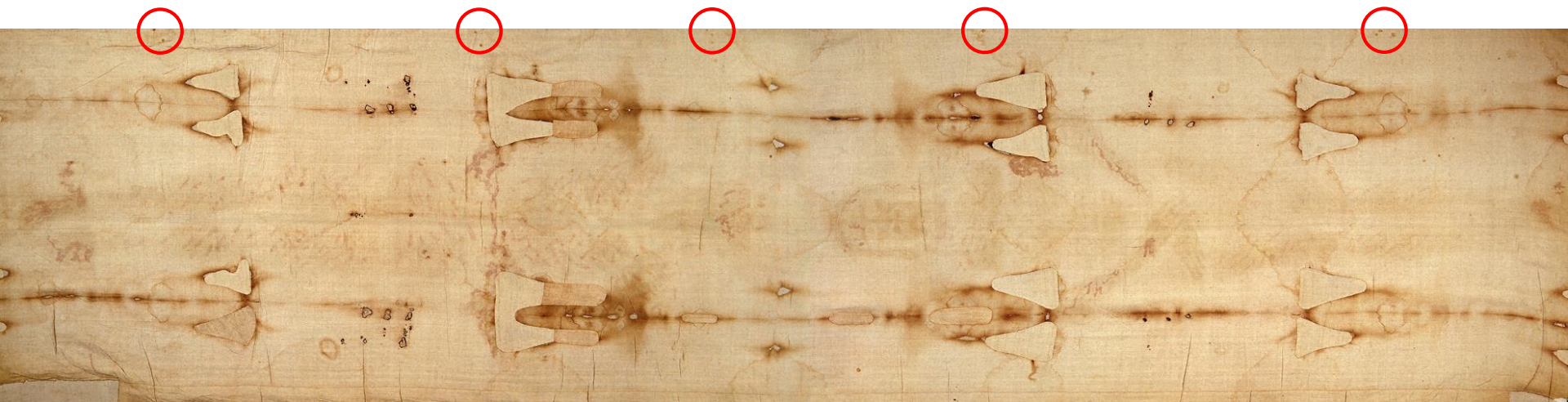
The Holy Shroud of Turin



- ❖ The Holy Shroud of Turin is believed to be the actual burial cloth of Jesus Christ
- ❖ The cloth is hand-spun linen and features a rare herringbone weave, produced in the Dead Sea area, from 40 B.C. to 70 A.D.

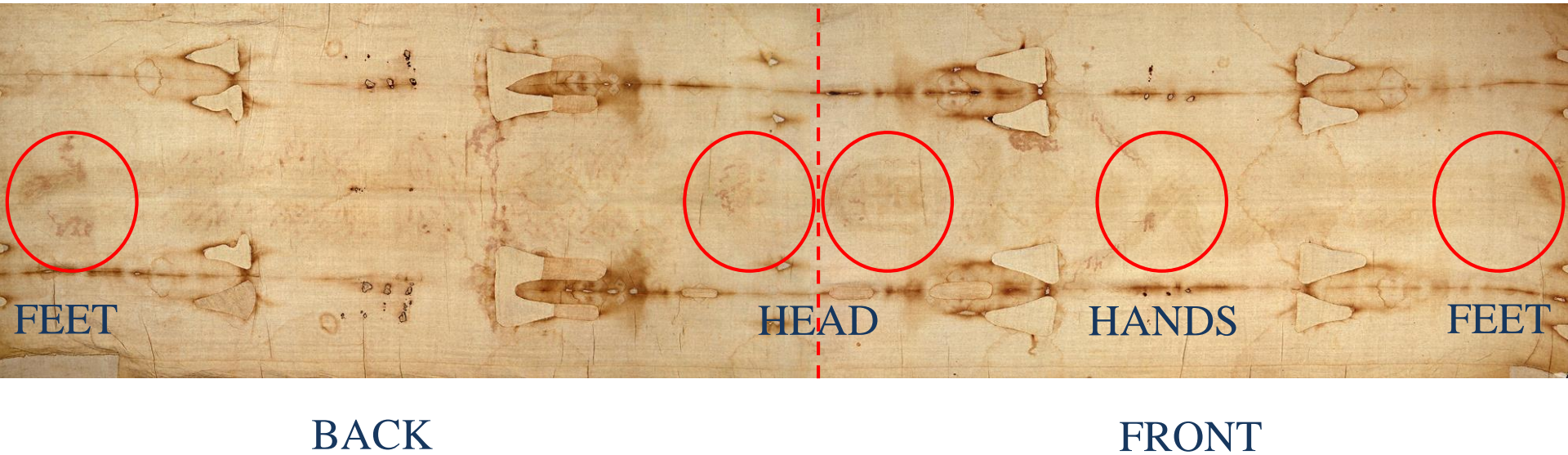


The Holy Shroud of Turin



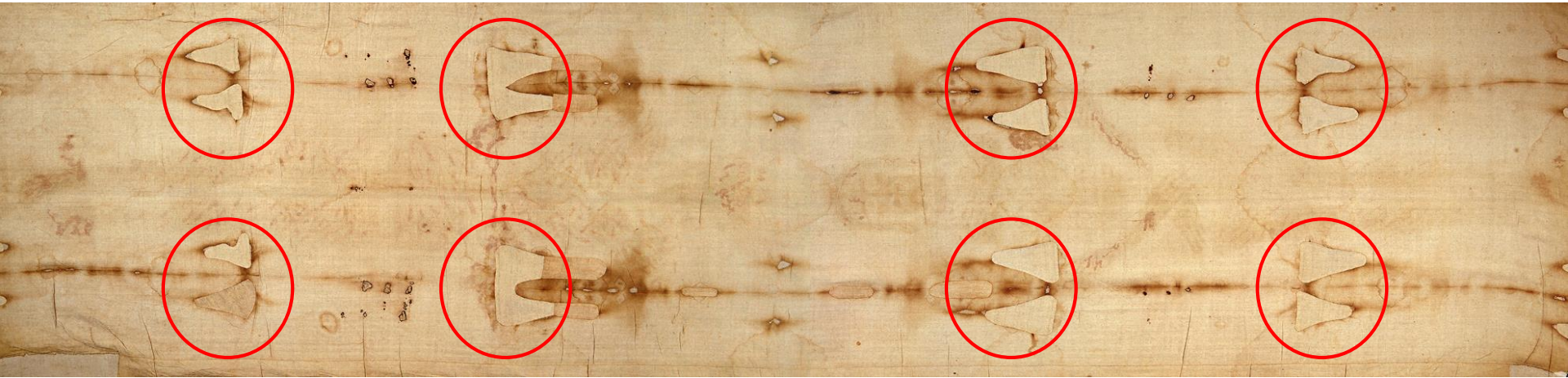
- ❖ The Shroud measures 3 feet 7 inches by 14 feet 3 inches, and some researchers believe it may have served as the actual tablecloth at the Last Supper
- ❖ This is substantiated by food and wine stains, which researchers have identified along one edge of the Shroud

The Holy Shroud of Turin



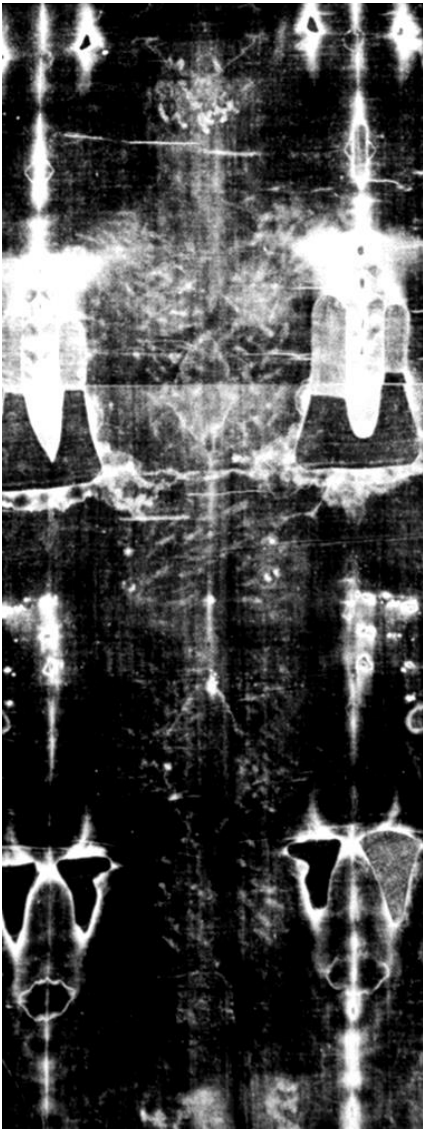
- ❖ On the Shroud, we can faintly see the entire body image, front and back, head to toe, of a crucified man

The Holy Shroud of Turin



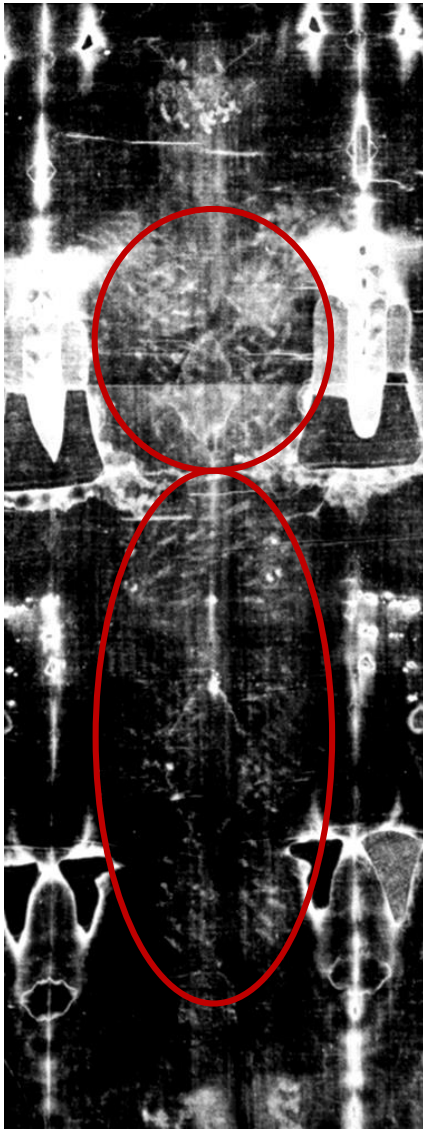
- ❖ Carbon tests in 1988 dated the cloth to the 13th century
- ❖ These tests lacked scientific peer review, however, and their results have been questioned
- ❖ Also, the samples tested had been contaminated by handling and contained new cloth added during repairs after a fire in the Middle Ages

The Holy Shroud of Turin



- ❖ The image on the Shroud was discovered when it was photographed by Secondo Pia in 1898
- ❖ The image on the Shroud is an X-ray-like picture of the skeletal structure, which cannot be duplicated by any known process today
- ❖ Scientists have hypothesized the image resulted from the rapid release of radiation—a controlled nuclear event occurring at the moment of the Resurrection

The Holy Shroud of Turin



- ❖ Scourge marks are visible on the body image, which can be identified as belonging to the Roman *flagellum*, a whip with small animal bones or metal beads at the tips

The Holy Shroud of Turin



- ❖ On the face, we see blood trails from the Crown of Thorns, which appear precisely as they should from a scientific / medical perspective
- ❖ The right cheek also appears puffed up, indicating bruising from the soldiers' blows

The Holy Shroud of Turin



- ❖ On the arms, we also see scientifically accurate trails of blood from nail marks in the wrists
- ❖ While art and movies often show the nail wounds in the palms of the hand, researchers believe the Romans would have actually driven the nails into the wrists

The Shroud of Turin is further evidence
of the degree of suffering Jesus was
willing to endure out of love for us

**“For God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him
should not perish
but have eternal life.”**

Gospel of John 3:16



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