

**THE
CATHEDRAL
OF THE
RISEN
CHRIST**

Cathedral Bible Study

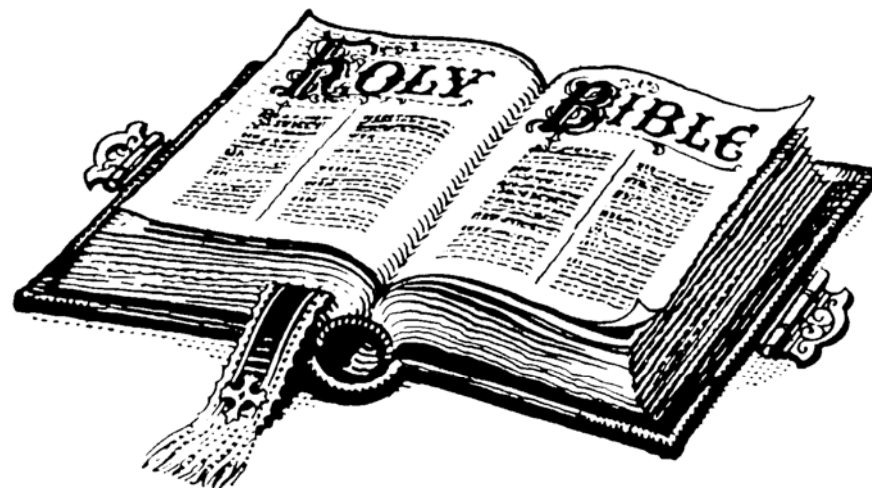
Fr. Steve Thomlison
Assistant Pastor

Thursday, September 2, 2010

**** PLEASE SIGN IN ****

BIBLE STUDY OBJECTIVES

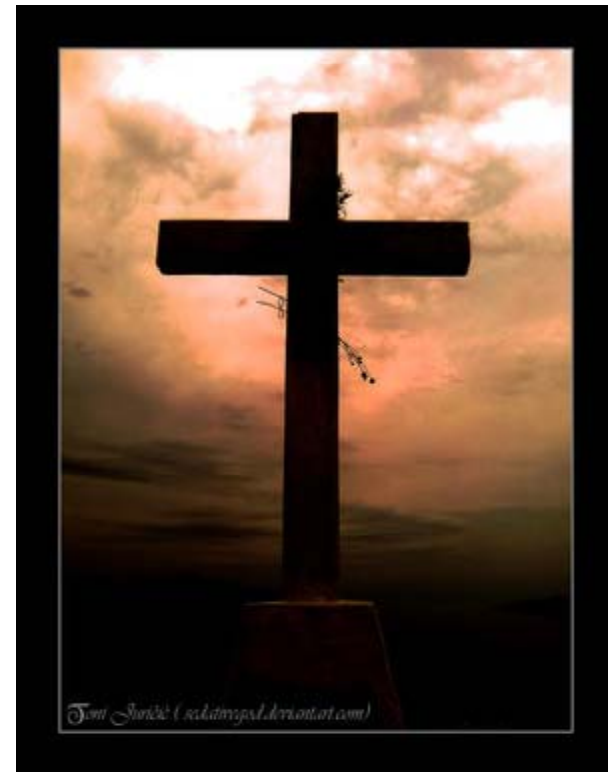
- Doctrine & Theology of the Liturgy of the Mass as found in Scripture & Tradition
- Using *Lectio Divina* to pray with the Bible
- Updated translation of the Mass parts
- Have fun!



THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

WHY BEGIN WITH THIS SIGN?

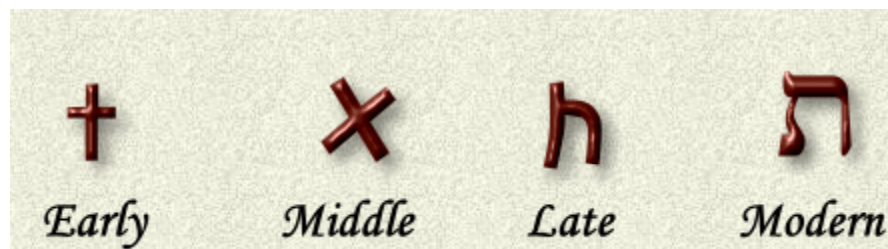
- Biblical Origins
- Tradition of God's people
- Pope Benedict XVI
- Catechism
- Sign of Baptism
- Indulgence
- *Lectio Divina*



THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

Genesis 4:4-16 – The Mark

The LORD then said: "What have you done! Listen: your brother's blood cries out to me from the soil! 11 Therefore you shall be banned from the soil that opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 If you till the soil, it shall no longer give you its produce. You shall become a restless wanderer on the earth." 13 Cain said to the LORD: "My punishment is too great to bear. 14 Since you have now banished me from the soil, and I must avoid your presence and become a restless wanderer on the earth, anyone may kill me at sight." 15 Not so!" the LORD said to him. "If anyone kills Cain, Cain shall be avenged sevenfold." **So the LORD put a mark on Cain, lest anyone should kill him at sight.** 16 Cain then left the LORD'S presence and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.



Ezekiel 9:1-6 – The Tav

1 Then he cried loud for me to hear: Come, you scourges of the city! 2 With that I saw six men coming from the direction of the upper gate which faces the north, each with a destroying weapon in his hand. In their midst was a man dressed in linen, with a writer's case at his waist. They entered and stood beside the bronze altar. 3 Then he called to the man dressed in linen with the writer's case at his waist, 4 saying to him: **Pass through the city (through Jerusalem) and mark an X on the foreheads of those who moan and groan over all the abominations that are practiced within it.** 5 To the others I heard him say: Pass through the city after him and strike! Do not look on them with pity nor show any mercy! 6 Old men, youths and maidens, women and children--wipe them out! **But do not touch any marked with the X;** begin at my sanctuary. So they began with the men (the elders) who were in front of the temple.

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

Revelations 7:1-10

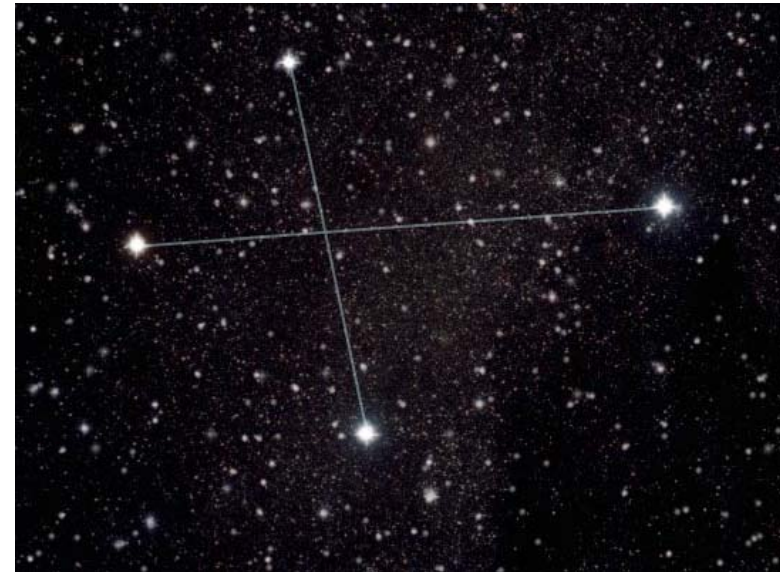
1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth so that no wind could blow on land or sea or against any tree. 2 Then I saw another angel come up from the East, holding the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were given power to damage the land and the sea, 3 **"Do not damage the land or the sea or the trees until we put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God."** 4 I heard the number of those who had been marked with the seal, one hundred and forty-four thousand marked from every tribe of the Israelites: 5 twelve thousand were marked from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand from the tribe of Reuben, twelve thousand from the tribe of Gad, 6 twelve thousand from the tribe of Asher, twelve thousand from the tribe of Naphtali, twelve thousand from the tribe of Manasseh, 7 twelve thousand from the tribe of Simeon, twelve thousand from the tribe of Levi, twelve thousand from the tribe of Issachar, 8 twelve thousand from the tribe of Zebulun, twelve thousand from the tribe of Joseph, and twelve thousand were marked from the tribe of Benjamin. 9 After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. 10 They cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb."

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

HEAVENLY CONSTELLATION

Crux is the smallest of the 88 modern constellations, but is one of the most distinctive. Its name is Latin for cross, and it is dominated by a cross-shaped asterism that is commonly known as the **Southern Cross**.

THE SOUTHERN CROSS



The Southern Cross is visible in the southern hemisphere. The Southern Cross is a symbol on the flag of Australia. Sailors have used it as a navigation marker in the night sky

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, 17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the **breadth and length and height and depth**, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

ST. PAUL

“There can be little doubt that this epistle emanating from the school of St. Paul is referring to the cosmic Cross and thereby taking up traditions about the cross-shaped tree of the world that holds everything together”

(Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger)

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

Constantine: “Under This Sign You Shall Conquer”

Constantine climbed to a high point and considered with perplexity the superiority of his adversaries when, under the midday sun, an immense cross made of stars appeared in the sky. These words were written in Greek around the cross: "Under this sign you shall conquer."

The following night, Christ Himself appeared to the emperor and ordered him to make a cross similar to the one that he had seen in his vision and to place it like a standard at the head of his army. This sign of victory then sparkled again in the sky, and Constantine believed with all his heart that Jesus Christ was the only true God, the Creator of heaven and earth, who gives victory to kings and guides all things towards the end that He willed before the beginning of time. At sunrise, he had a large silver cross made and gave orders to have it placed at the head of his troops, instead of the imperial eagles, as a "sign of victory over death and a trophy of immortality." Consequently, Constantine began studying Christian doctrine and devoted himself assiduously to reading the Holy Bible. At the time of the decisive battle of Milvius Bridge on October 28, 312, the Cross gained the victory which led to the Edict of Milan.



THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

Tertullian, essay “The Crown”:
(end of the 2nd Century)

- Among the items that had had “long-continued observance,” even at the dawn of Christian history, was the sign of the Cross. “In all our travels and movements, in all our coming in and going out, in putting off our shoes, at the bath, at the table, in lighting our candles, in lying down, in sitting down, whatever employment occupies us, we mark our foreheads with the sign of the Cross,” Tertullian wrote.

Cultic Signs of the TAV

“In 1873, on the Mount of Olives, Greek and Hebrew grave inscriptions bearing the sign of a cross were discovered from the time of Jesus. ... in about 1945 increasing numbers of Jewish graves with the sign of the cross were being discovered and assigned to [approx] the first century after Christ.” *(Spirit of the Liturgy)*

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

POPE BENEDICT XVI

- “The most basic Christian gesture in prayer is and always will be the Sign of the Cross.”



CATECHISM

CCC1235: “The *sign of the cross*, on the threshold of the celebration, marks with the imprint of Christ the one who is going to belong to him and signifies the grace of the redemption Christ won for us by his cross.”

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

POPE BENEDICT XVI

“The sign of the Cross is a confession of faith By signing ourselves with the Cross, we place ourselves under the protection of the Cross, hold it in front of us like a shield that will guard us in all the distress of daily life and give us the courage to go on.”

“Whenever we make the sign of the Cross, we accept our Baptism anew ... we can say that in the sign of the Cross, together with the invocation of the Trinity, the whole essence of Christianity is summed up; it displays what is distinctively Christian.”

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

BAPTISMAL RITE:

_____, the Christian
community welcomes you
with great joy.

In its name I claim you for
Christ our Savior by the sign
of his cross.

I now trace the cross on your
forehead, and invite your
parents (and godparents) to
do the same.



THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

INDULGENCE

55 Signum crucis

“A partial indulgence is granted the Christian faithful who devoutly sign themselves with the cross while saying the customary formula: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

6 Conditions for an indulgence:

1. Have the intention of gaining the indulgence
2. Have a disposition of mind & heart in which all attachment to sin is absent
3. Perform the work
4. Receive Holy Communion
5. Pray for the Intentions of the Holy Father (1 Our Father & 1 Hail Mary suffices)
6. Go to Confession

LECTIO DIVINA

*An Ancient Method of Praying the Bible
Practiced and Taught by Pope St. Gregory
the Great (590-604AD)*

ZENIT: Pope Benedict XVI believes that the recovery of the practice of "*lectio divina*," prayerful meditation of Scripture, will bring a "new spiritual springtime" for the Church. When meeting with more than 400 experts attending a congress in Rome on "Sacred Scripture in the Life of the Church," the Holy Father recommended this ancient practice which literally means "divine reading."



Lectio Divina

(An Ancient Method of Prayer in 5 steps)

(*) PREPARE

Get your Bible & Find a quiet place to pray;
Plan to pray for at least 15 minutes

(1) LECTIO (Attentive Reading - out loud)

How To Do It:

Select just a few verses; Slowly and quietly read
& re-read the verses out loud 2-3 times

(2) MEDITATIO (meditation)

How To Do It:

Watch for your favorite verse or even just a
favorite word from the passage!

Put yourself in the bible passage; hear the
words; see the colors; feel the gravel; smell
the flowers; taste the food

(3) ORATIO (prayer; conversation; speech)

How To Do It:

Tell God about your favorite verse or your
favorite word! Tell Him why you like or what
it means to you.

(4) CONTEMPLATIO (contemplation; rest in the Lord)

How To Do It:

Now rest silently and open your heart to God.
Listen in silence. Don't worry about
distractions, but gently return from them to
continually focus on God.

(5) OPERATIO (work; effort; activity; action)

How To Do It:

What are small little ways that you can
implement what you have received? Plan
little ways each day to change your own
attitude & actions – maybe in how you treat
your family, friends, or neighbors?

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;

that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine, by the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

SNEAK PREVIEW

- The Priest Preparing for Mass
- Vestments
- Genuflecting
- Reverencing the Altar
- Processional
- Singing
- Incense