

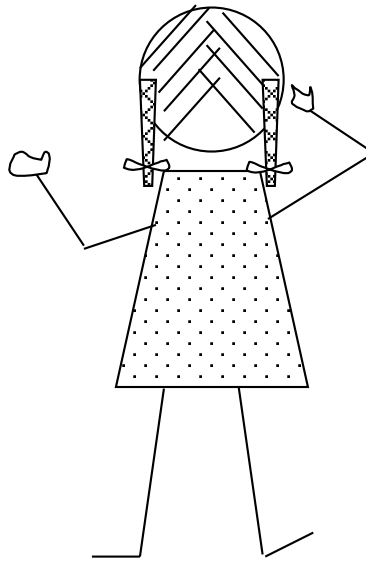
Latin in Church Sheet 9

Signum crucis	<i>The Sign of the cross</i>
In nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti	<i>In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit</i>

Making the sign of the cross

We make the sign of the cross on our bodies, to indicate that we are taking part in this act of dedication. We touch our forehead for the Father, our chest/abdomen for the Son, and the front of the two shoulders for the two words of "Holy Spirit" or "Spiritus Sancti".

Here is a picture of a child.



You are looking at her back, because she is facing the altar, the same way as you are facing. Mark on the diagram numbers (1,2,3,4) for where she will put her fingers when she makes the sign of the cross if she is in an Anglican or Roman Catholic Church.

Which fingers do you touch with when you make the sign of the cross?

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Can you think of any symbolic reasons for touching these places as we say these words?

Think about it and then try suggesting some answers to these questions:

Why do we touch the brow when we say "of the Father" (*Patris*)?

Why do we touch the abdomen or breast when we say "of the Son" (*Filii*)?

Why do we go from left to right when we touch the two front shoulder parts in honour of the Holy Spirit?

Did you know that it's done differently in an Orthodox Church? There they go from right to left for the Holy Spirit. And they use three fingers (thumb and the first two fingers), with the last two fingers tucked away. The middle finger crosses behind the thumb, while the thumb meets the top part of the first finger. Can you make that shape? See if you can see in that shape the three Greek letters $\text{I X } \Sigma$ standing for "Jesus Christ Saviour".

Nominative		Genitive	(belonging)
Pater	<i>Father</i>	Patris	<i>of the father</i>
Filius	<i>Son</i>	Filii	<i>of the Son</i>
Spiritus	<i>Spirit</i>	Spiritüs	<i>of the Spirit</i>
sanctus	<i>holy</i>	sancti	<i>holy (agrees with the genitive noun)</i>

The genitive of spiritus has a longer sound on the u (say "spiritooos").

Can you work out a way to form a genitive case for your own name? Here are some examples:

Nominative	Genitive	in English
Angela	Angelae	Angela's
Maria	Mariae	Mary's
Isabella	Isabellae	Isabel's
Petrus	Petri	Peter's
Marcus	Marci	Marcus's
Felicitas	Felicitatis	Felicity's