

The Most Holy Trinity

Among all Christians, there are three churches that use what, from the inception of Christianity, was a universal symbol of faith: The Sign of the Cross, which above all, symbolizes our central belief in the Most Holy Trinity, which we celebrate this weekend. The Byzantine (Eastern) Churches' way of making the Sign of the Cross is the most ancient way of signing oneself. While crossing oneself from shoulder to shoulder, the forefinger crossed over the thumb in the form of a cross, passes to the right shoulder first, as a sign that salvation passed from the Jews to the Gentiles, that is, from the "right side" of God to the Gentiles, who were on his left.

Until the time of Pope Innocent III (1198-1216), both Byzantine (eastern) and Latin (western) churches made the sign of the cross the same way, but the west began to use the entire hand instead of two fingers and touch the left shoulder first and then to the right shoulder as a sign that through the Holy Trinity all people were saved from the "left" (those condemned by their sins) to the "right" side of God, thus being saved from their sins.

The sign of the cross is the most visible and common symbol of our faith which signifies the Trinitarian life of God above and below us, around us, and in us. The hand, which represents all the senses, touches the head (the mind), the chest (the heart) and both shoulders, which encompass our entire body, spirit, soul, flesh, and heart. Whenever we sign ourselves, we wrap God's presence around us.

"In the Name of the Father".... We are made to God's image and likeness...He is our creator, we are His creatures.

"And of the Son"... Jesus became one of us, raising our fallen human nature to a new dignity...He is the visible image of the invisible God.

"And of the Holy Spirit".... No one can say: "Jesus is Lord", except in the Holy Spirit. In Latin, we say: 'Cor ad cor loquitur'. 'heart speaks to heart'. God lives within us.

God is dynamic, not static. The love between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit generates a Divine Energy to which we become partakers. As St. Augustine says so well: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we thank you for your great and dynamic love!

A special thank you to Mrs. Bame, and the Teachers and Staff at OLC School for yet another great year in the part you have played in the Catholic formation and education of our students. We are especially proud of our eighth graders and former OLC Carey High School Students who are graduating. You are in our prayers for a future filled with God's blessings.

Also, a special thank you to the Adult and Children's Choirs who have made our Masses such a beautiful and dignified way of giving praise and thanks to God, and for the excellent direction of Anthony Gallina, our Music Director.

Fr. Thomas Merrill, OFM Conv.
Pastor and Rector