THE SIGN OF THE CROSS...

THE GREATEST SIGN OF ALL

We call it the Sign of the Cross because we make it like a cross. It stands for the cross on which Christ died. This sign shows we are Christians.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

This greatest sign tells us that there is only one God. But it also shows that we believe there are three persons in God. And it tells us the names of these Three Persons – the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost.
GOD the Father is the Creator. That means He made the earth and everything out of nothing. He made us, too, and He loves us. Jesus is His Son.

GOD the Son is the Second Person we name in the Sign of the Cross. We also call Him Jesus Christ. God the Father sent Him down from heaven to save us from our sins. He was born as a little baby in a stable at Bethlehem.
THE Holy Ghost is the Third Person. He comes into our hearts to make us holy. He is love and sweetness and life.

The Sign of the Cross reminds us that Jesus died on a cross. When God created the first people, He created them to be good and to be happy with Him. But they did something bad right away and they had to be punished. God the Father wanted them to be happy, so He sent His Son Jesus, Who was willing to take their punishment. Jesus died on the Cross for us — and for everybody. When we make the Sign of the Cross, we thank God for sending His Son to take our punishment and make us holy again.

We make the Sign of the Cross before we pray, eat, sleep, or work. When we make the Sign of the Cross carefully, and with love, bad thoughts go away and we grow to love God more. Devils fear the cross and run away from its sign.

THE OUR FATHER

JESUS taught us this prayer. He is the Son of God. He told us that God is our Father, too. So when we pray “Our Father” we are praying together with Jesus and all Christians everywhere.
HEAVEN is God’s home. God wants us to be with Him in heaven some day. Nobody cries there because everybody is happy. Jesus has a place for us in heaven. If we love Him, we will go there and be happy, too.

THE Name of God is wonderful and holy. The angels bow down whenever they hear this name. Everyone who prays loves the Holy Name of God. We want everybody in the whole world to know that name and love it.
A FAMILY has a father for its head. A country has a president. Everything must have a head in order to work the way it should. People are good and happy only when they have God for their head. We all pray together so that the whole world will accept God as its head. Then we shall have peace and happiness.

IN heaven, everyone is happy. They are happy because they do what God wants. He wants them to love Him and to love each other. We want everyone on earth to love one another, too. Then the whole world will be happy. It will be more like heaven!

* * *

Thy kingdom come

* * *

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
We ask God to give us all we need. The world has many homeless and hungry people. We pray for them and also we think of the orphans and helpless old people. We ask God to take care of them all.

Many people are bad. Either they do not know God or they do not love Him. When bad men nailed Jesus to the cross, He said: “Father, forgive them.” If we love everyone, then we will forgive them whenever they hurt us. Then we shall be like Jesus.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us

Our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us
HERE on earth there are many troubles. But the worst trouble of all is to be separated from God by sin.

WE ask God to keep us and all men from wars and sadness. We beg Him to take care of all people so that they will all know Him, and love Him, and come to heaven with Him at last.

And lead us not into temptation

But deliver us from evil.
WITH Jesus and the angels and all people who pray, I say "Amen." Amen means "Please, dear God, make all these wishes come true."

Amen.
THE FIRST PEOPLE

WHEN God made the first people, He called them Adam and Eve. He made a beautiful spot for them to live. God also gave them grace. Grace is something God gives people to make their souls holy and please Him. Adam and Eve were happy because they were holy.

BUT Adam and Eve did not stay holy. They committed a sin and lost the grace God had given them. God made them leave their beautiful home.

SINCE men didn't have grace any more, nobody could go to heaven. The door of heaven was closed. But God loved men so much He promised them that some day they would be able to get grace again. He said He would send His own son, Jesus, to open the door of heaven.
The world went on for many years. The people did not have grace and they did many terrible things because they did not love God. But some remembered that some day God's Son would come.

Then, at last, came the time for Jesus to be born. God chose a woman named Mary to be the Mother of Jesus. God created her the best person who ever lived.
ONE day an angel came to Mary. He was sent by God to tell her that she was to be Jesus’ Mother! He told her that she was full of grace. She was the first person since Adam and Eve who had the life of grace in her soul.

MARY knew that Jesus was God and would bring grace back to all the people. So she told the angel that she was willing to become the Mother of Jesus!

Hail Mary, full of grace

The Lord is with thee
As the Mother of Jesus, Mary is the queen of heaven and earth. When we pray the Hail Mary, she takes our prayers to Jesus. Since Jesus is her Son, He listens to everything she tells Him.

When Jesus was born, Mary was very happy. She knew that this little Baby was the Son of God, and that one day He would open the door of heaven.

Blessed art thou among women

And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
God the Father sent God the Son to die for us and open the door of heaven. Mary is the Mother of God the Son whose name is Jesus.

Mary knew that Jesus died for the sin of Adam and Eve and for the sins of every person who would ever live. We need Jesus' help and Mary's prayers so we will be happy forever in heaven.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners.

Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.
PRAYER BEFORE MEALS

Bless us, O Lord,
and these Thy gifts,
which we are about to receive
from Thy bounty,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER MEALS

We give Thee thanks for all Thy benefits,
O Almighty God,
Who livest and reignest forever.
May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. Amen.
PRAISING GOD

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning,
is now
and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.