

Coffee, Cake & Craft

Fisher of men (beaded fish symbol)

Bible Reading: Matthew 4 18-20

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him.

The symbolism of the fish emerged from the Greeks - Ichthys.

The fish, which many may have seen in this form <><, originates from the Greek word for fish, "ichthys/ichthus." This word is further defined in the acrostic IXNYY (with the N flipped) that translates to:

I – Iota or Iesous (which means Jesus)
X – Chi or Christos (which means Christ)
N – Theta or Theou (which means God)
Y – Upsilon or Yidos/Huios (which means Son)
Y – Sigma or Soter (which means Savior).

Basically, the fish represents the phrase of "Jesus Christ God's Son is Savior." Some research has suggested that the fish symbol emerged in the first century or even before Jesus died on the cross, but nothing has been confirmed as to when the symbol and its meaning first began.

Prayers (MU April 2023 Wednesday prayer)

Come Holy Spirit. Fill your church with power, enfold us in your love, inspire us with your truth.

The Spirit of God, precious gift once bestowed upon the few, is now lavished on us all.

In faith we receive the Holy Spirit; the blessing of God to empower his church.

Holy Spirit, envision your church with holy purpose; that we may build God's kingdom on earth.

With joy we receive the Holy Spirit; the blessing of God to empower his church.

Christ our Lord, fill your church with the power of your Spirit to boldly declare the wonders of God. **Amen**

Craft: beaded fish symbol

You need: 15/30 cm (4/6mm) pipe cleaners, selection of beads with holes big enough to thread onto pipe cleaner

Instructions: put 1st bead onto pipe cleaner and twist end so bead does not fall off. Fill the pipe cleaner with beads (be sure to leave a bit of "bending space"), put last bead onto pipe cleaner and twist end so bead does not fall off. Twist pipe cleaner into fish symbol.

