

Signs of Our Faith  
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What do you think of when you see a fish? Some of you might think of that “big one” you lost on your fishing trip last summer, or a mouth-watering fish fry; others might think, “Lent, again.” Probably few of us would ever look at a fish and think of Jesus Christ, but that’s exactly who the early Christians thought of when they saw a fish or a picture of a fish. You see, the Greek word for fish is *Ichthys*, and the letters of this word stood for the words: Jesus Christ, God’s Son, the Savior. So, whenever a Christian saw a fish, it was a sign for him and he immediately thought of Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Who came to save us. He ignored this obvious and common meaning of the fish and saw in it something new and even more meaningful.

We see many signs around us every day – in trains, buses, public buildings, magazines, or on television, billboards, etc. Much of the time, these signs are advertising cigarettes, food, liquor, appliances, cars and other new, and often useful, products. What we usually never think about, however, is that some of these same signs can also remind us of important values and ideas of the Christian life.

Try looking through a magazine someday and see how many words (words, remember, are themselves signs or symbols, and can have many different meanings) you can find that can be useful in describing the Christian life, or even more particularly, our Orthodox Christian life which is based upon the sacraments and living what we call the “sacramental life,” a life that really puts us in constant communion with God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.