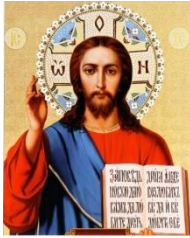




The first explosion of our new Catechetical Kernel discussed Pre-Service Music! Now, our second Kernel will reveal for us the importance of:

## The Invocation

The Scriptural basis for The Invocation can be found in St. Matthew 18:20 and 28:19.



There are three significant elements in regard to the Invocation. First, when your pastor proclaims, “*In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*” he is in fact making a creedal confession!

We, together, are confessing that the One True God is Triune. We worship the Holy Trinity and none other; since there is no other God! When visitors come to our Divine Service, if they are paying attention, they will realize that our congregation worships the One Triune God. We are clear right up front, with a very unambiguous proclamation, in whose Holy Name we gather and Who we are worshipping!

Second, in the Invocation, we are asking for and acknowledging God’s presence in the service (cf. St. Matthew 18:20).

Finally, it is significant that the Invocation is accompanied by the sign of the cross (as you see above). We received both the name of the Trinity and the sign of the cross at our Baptism. We received the name of the Trinity by divine command. Since Baptism gives us the benefits of the cross, the sign of the cross was placed upon us according to the command of our Lord and Redeemer, Jesus (cf. St. Matthew 28:19).

This, then, should be a reminder to us that God, who washed us and claimed us in Baptism, is the One who has brought us into the worshipping community. We do not come as those who deserve to come because of what we have done. We come because He has called us through the Holy Spirit in the water and Word of Holy Baptism!

Thanks be to God!