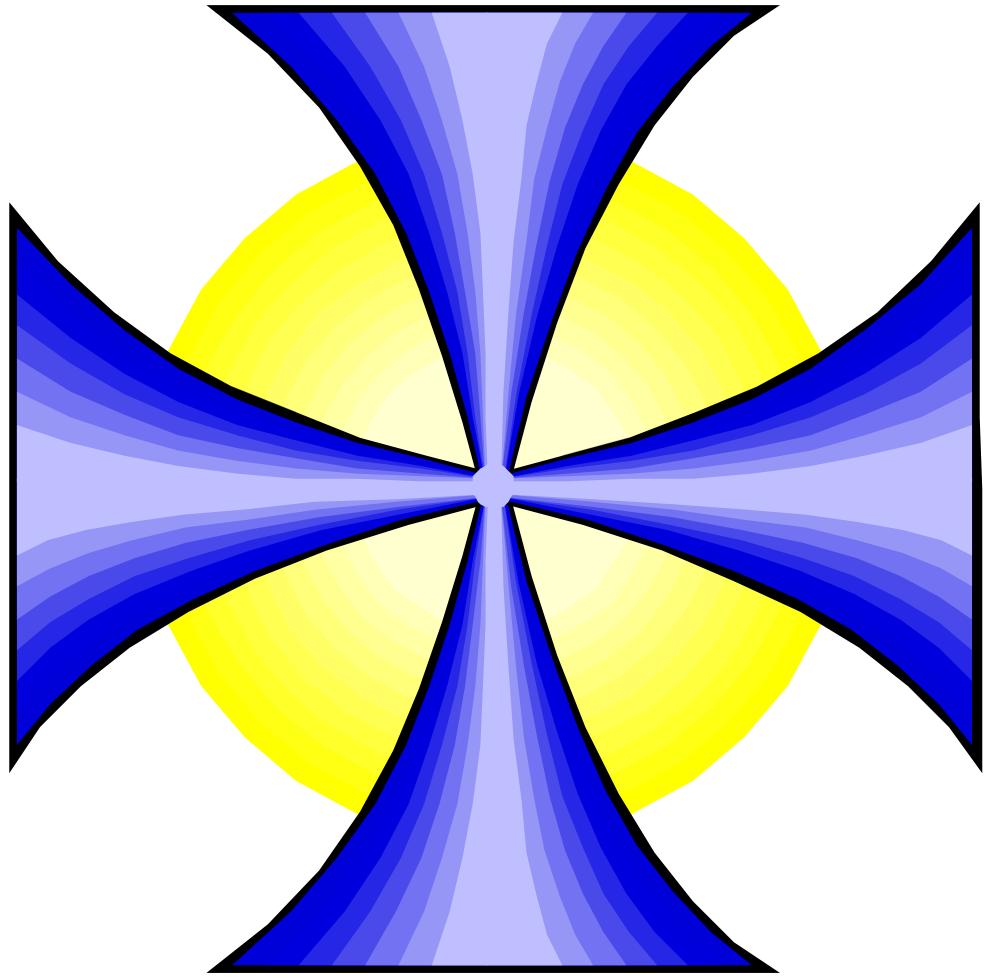


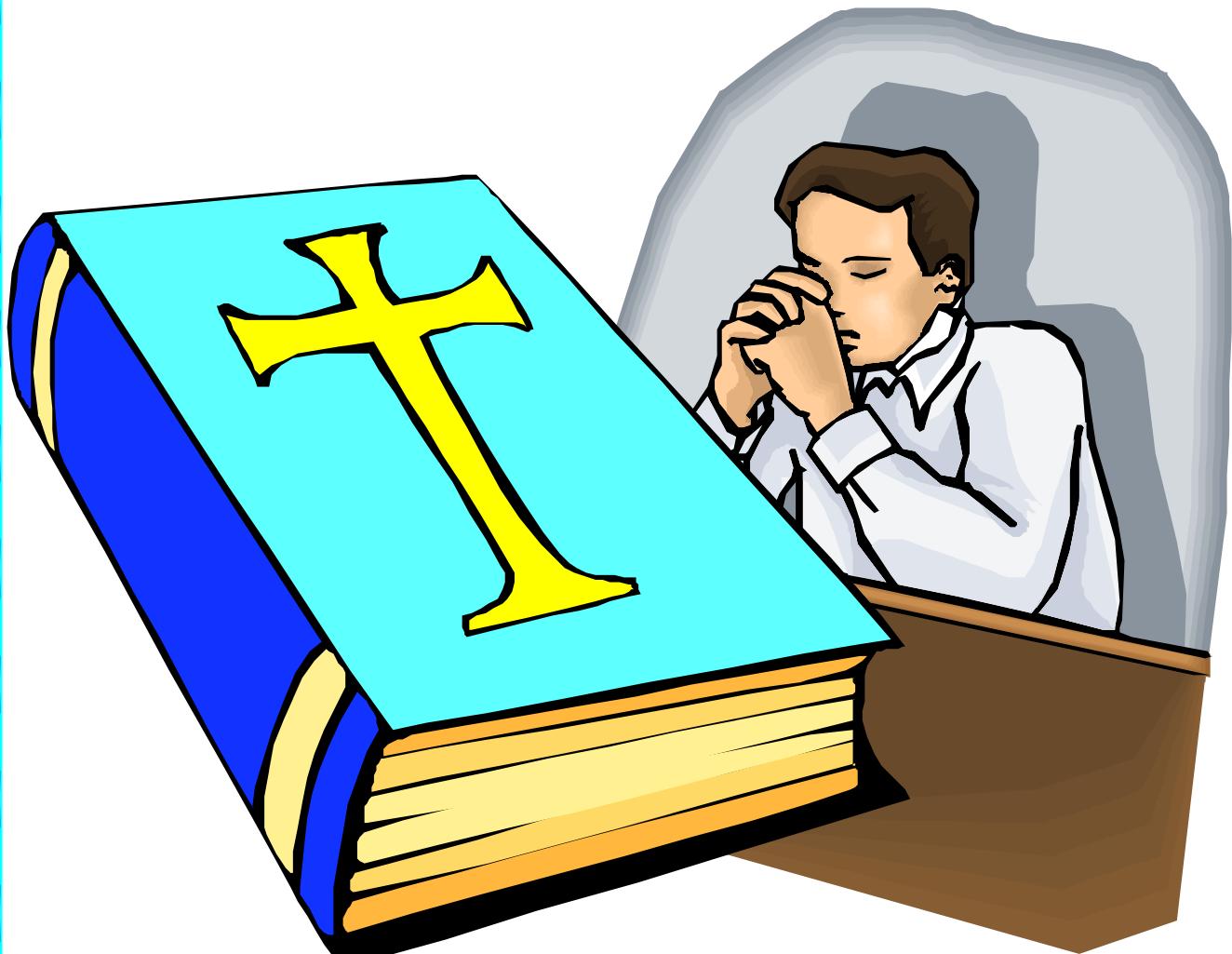
Christian Symbols



Many Christians find that symbols help them concentrate on God when worshipping.

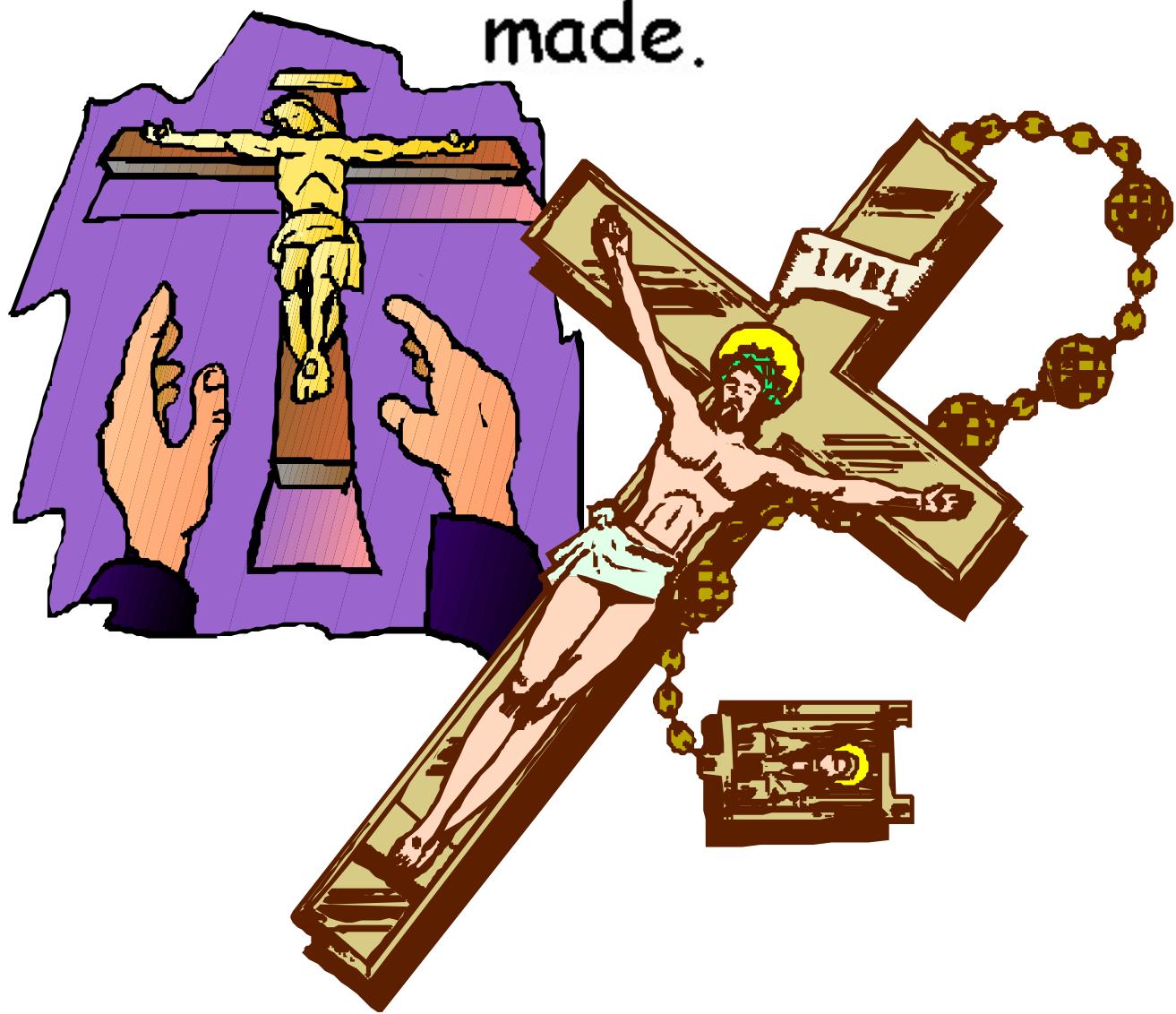


Symbols of faith have different purposes. They help to explain some of the religious ideas that are difficult to put into words. They also help people to express the way they feel about God.



Crucifix

The crucifix is a cross with a model of Jesus on it. It reminds Christians of the greatest sacrifice ever made.



Candles

Candles symbolize Jesus as "the light of the world".



Flowers

Flowers decorating a church
show someone's love for God.



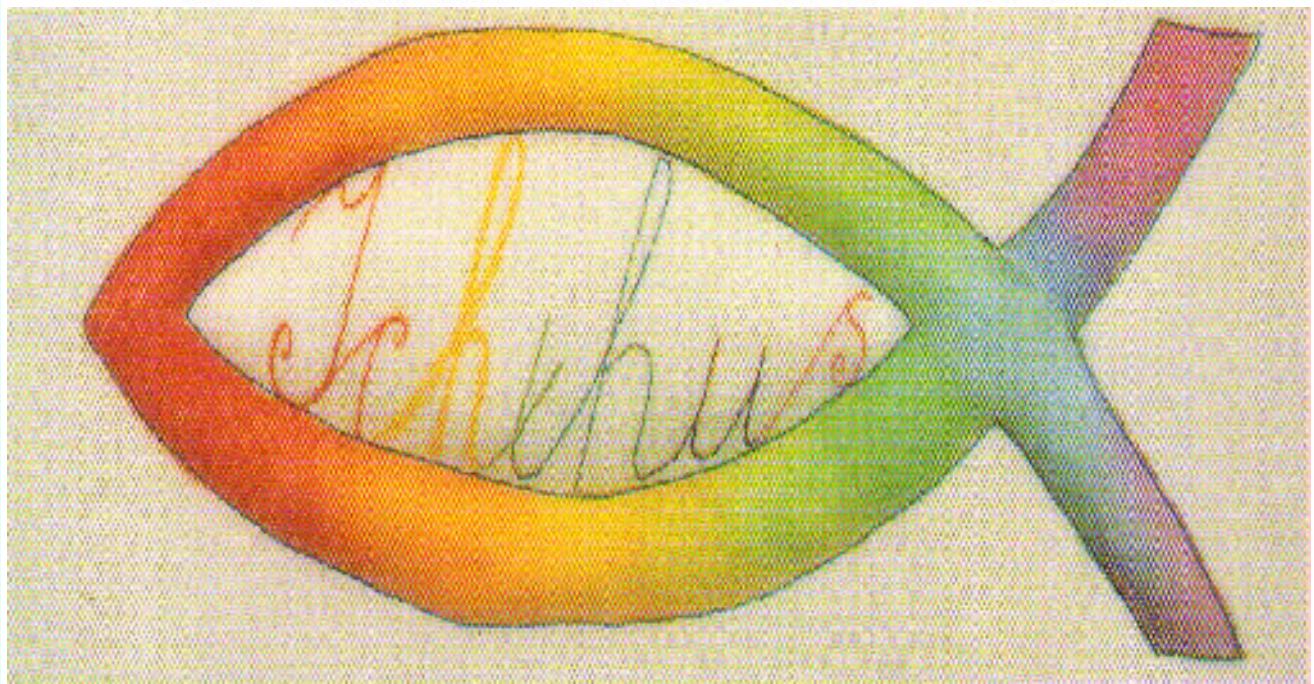
Halo

A halo (ring of light) around someone's head in a painting is a symbol showing someone is especially close to God. You will often see Jesus and his mother Mary with one.



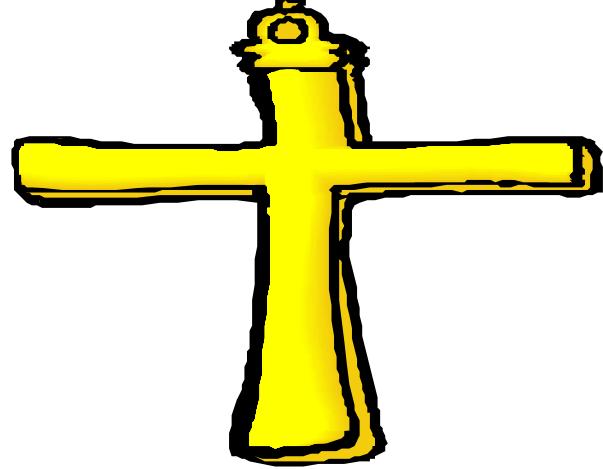
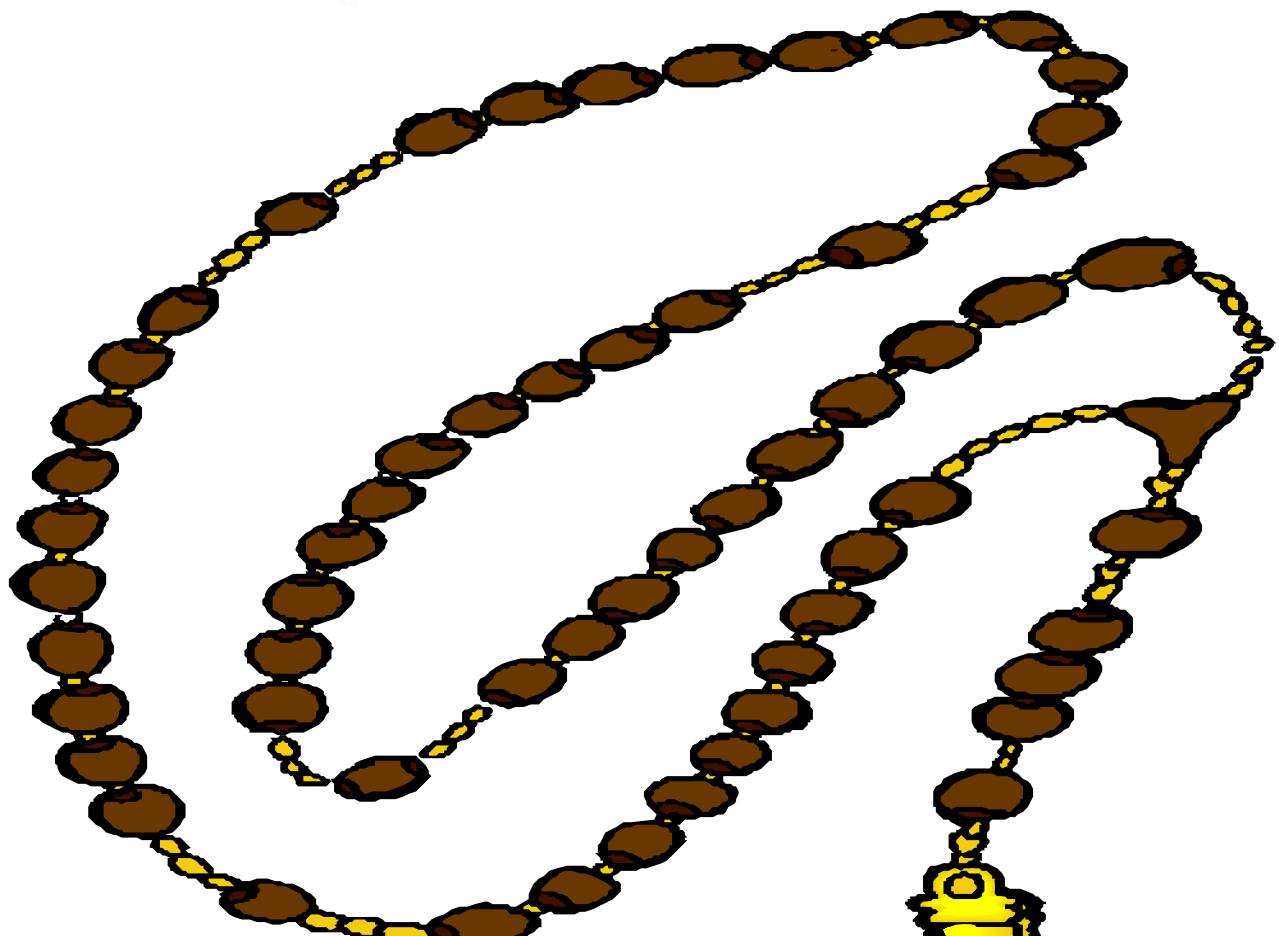
The Fish

The initial letters of the Greek phrase "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour" form the Greek word ICHTHUS, which means "fish." This symbol was used by believers in the early days of persecution as a secret sign of their shared faith.



Rosary Beads

Rosary beads are used to help concentration when the rosary prayer is being said.



Sanctuary Lamp

The Sanctuary lamp (often red) hangs in front of the altar. If it is lit, it means the bread and wine have been blessed and are put aside, maybe to take to sick people in their own homes.



Votive Candle

In some churches you can buy and light a candle, perhaps as a way of thanking God for something.



Incense

Incense: the sweet smell of wood and resin burning. The smoke, symbolising prayer, rises to God.

