

DEAR DEACON BULLETIN INSERT

❖ **Dear Deacon Jim,**

Why do some people make the Sign of the Cross when praying "May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life"?

❖ **Response**

The Sign Of The Cross is an incredibly special, meaningful, and useful prayer. It is one of the most common prayers and often used. There is no wrong time to pray The Sign Of The Cross and crossing yourself is more of an issue of personal piety.

There is much symbolism and meaning packed into this short prayer. When praying the sign of the cross, you are reaching out to each of the Three (3) persons in the Holy Trinity.

One of the many times that you may see individuals making the Sign of the Cross is at the beginning and/or end of communal prayers during the Liturgy such as the concluding prayer of the Penitential Rite you mentioned.

As mentioned above, when a person makes the Sign Of The Cross at that time, it all comes down to personal choice. I would say that this is the Holy Spirit moving that person to express their piety by making that prayer.

Deacon Jim