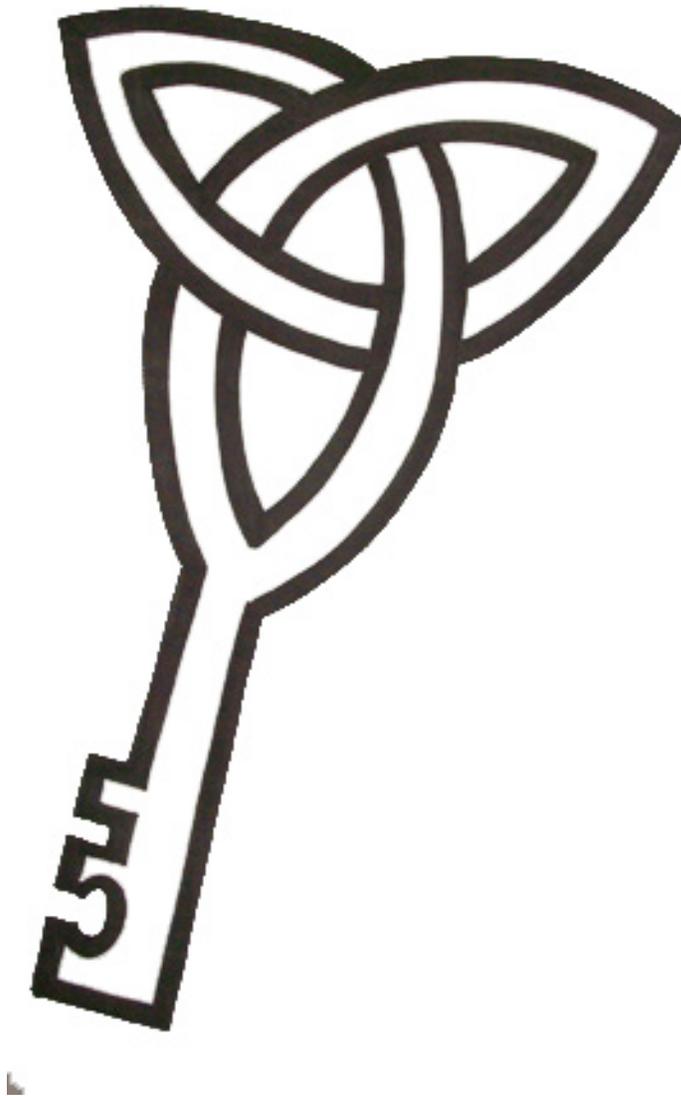


**The Beatitudes in Symbol
By Grade 6 and Grade 8 Students 2009**

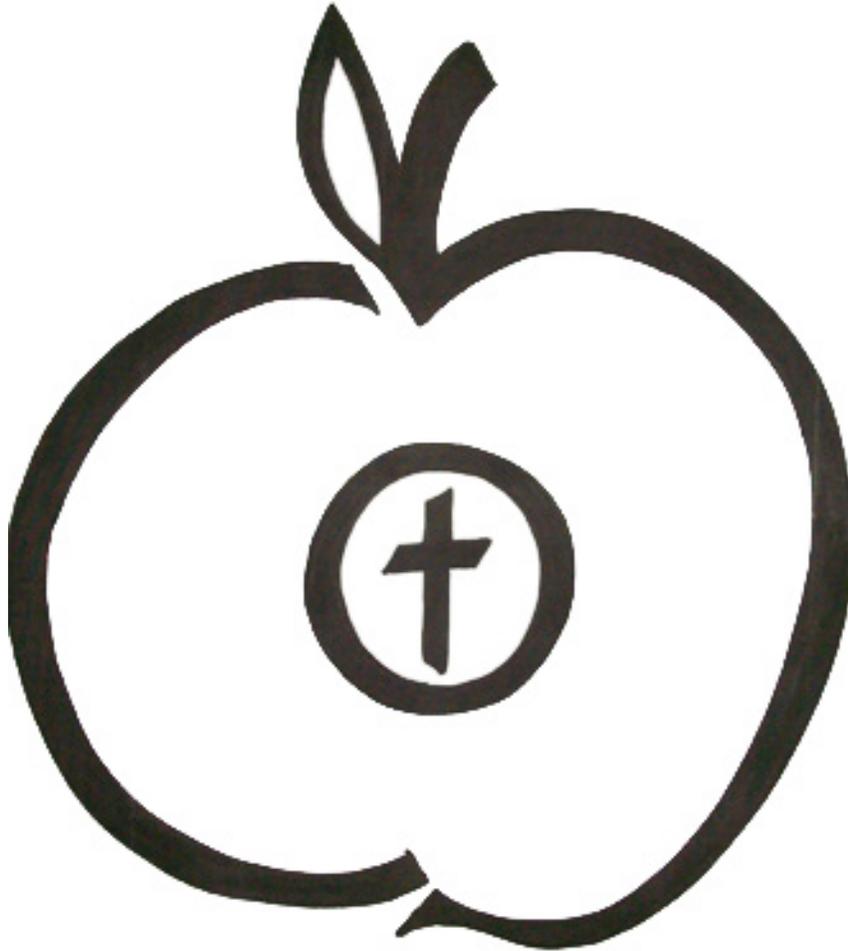
**"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

The key with the Celtic knot on the top is a symbol for the gates of heaven that all of us have the key to. We need only say the word and our sins are forgiven and we are given the key to heaven. The key is also a symbol of prosperity not only in monetary terms but also in spiritual terms. The Celtic knot at the top is a symbol of the Trinity at its most basic. It also represents Spirit, Mind and Body: Power, Intellect and Love as well as the Past, Present and Future.



**Blessed are they who mourn,
for they shall be comforted.**

The apple a symbol of knowledge and being obligated to make choices with that knowledge. Those that make choices that go against our faith have to return to the centre of their faith through mass (the host) and prayer (the cross).



**Blessed are the meek,
for they shall inherit the earth.**

The feather is the symbol selected to represent seeing the earth from above and making choices that cover many areas of our faith. The feather is also a symbol of linking our prayers to heaven through flight and the freedom from the force of gravity. The feather is also a symbol of sacrifice and justice.



**Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they shall be satisfied.**

Jesus entered Jerusalem on a carpet of palm branches knowing that he was doing the right thing even though it would end in his death. The palm branch is a symbol for the human soul, victory, ascension and immortality all that Jesus experienced in his journey that began on the streets of Jerusalem when he walked on the palm branches.



**Blessed are the merciful,
for they shall obtain mercy.**

This “torch or truth” or mercy is many faceted. The host is clearly visible, but also is the chalice, the outstretched arms of a believer and the shining faith in the symbol of the flame. The flames also represent the speaking in tongues and that if we try we can be merciful to all peoples no matter their race or religion.

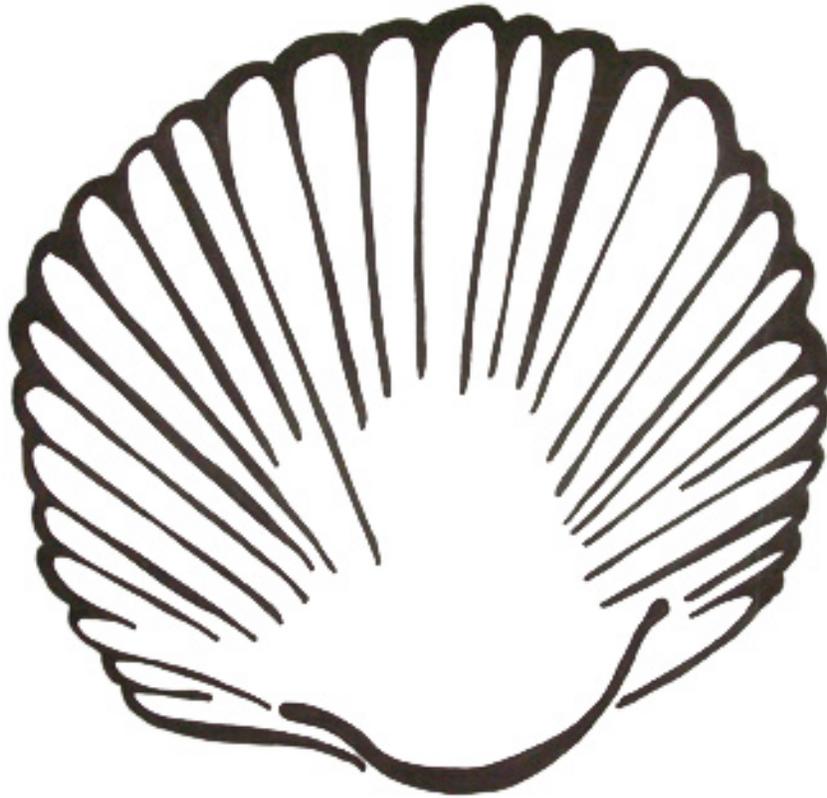


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**Blessed are the pure of heart,
for they shall see God.**

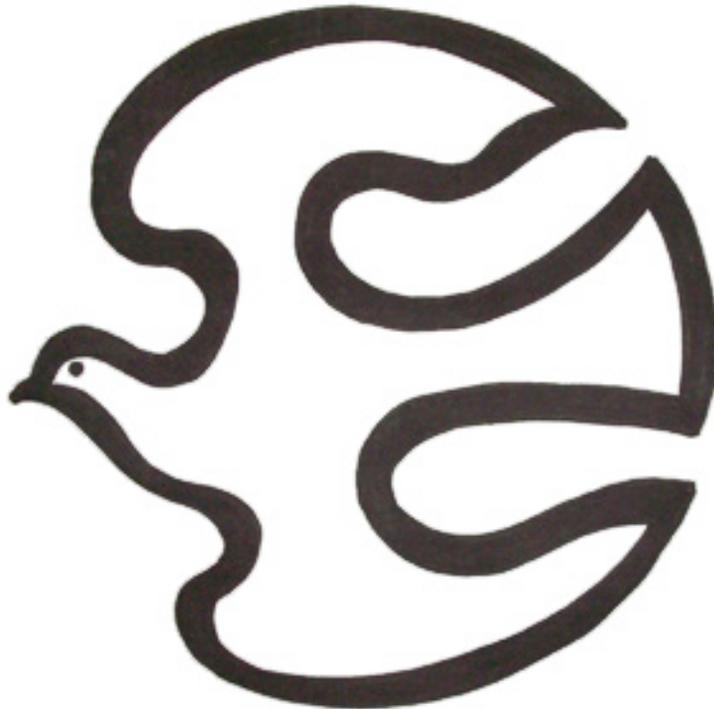
Have you ever enjoyed Coquille St. Jacques in a French restaurant? If you have, you know the dish you ate was made from scallops. Translated, the name means

Shell of St. James, so-called because for years the scallop was worn on the robes of pilgrims travelling to the shrine of St. James the Apostle in Campostello, Spain. The scallop symbol identified them as harmless pilgrims and allowed them to move unmolested through wars and civil unrest. If we are pure of heart and have good intentions we will reach our goals with God's help. We must be pure and believe in the vows that were taken for us at baptism. A baptism where it is possible a shell was used to pour water on your forehead.



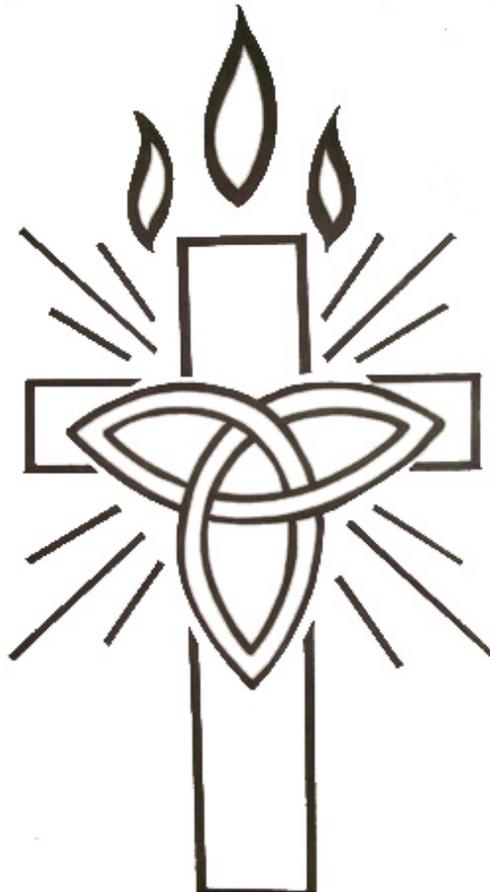
**Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they shall be called children of God.**

The dove has long been a symbol of peace bringing the olive branch back to the ark. It is also represent harmony and re-found happiness as well as purity and simplicity.



**Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."**

The final symbol has the cross as its base the cross where Jesus met his death. The Trinity is predominating here as it is at this juncture that the Holy Spirit the third in the Trinity became know to all. The tongues of fire above the cross are a symbol of that Holy Spirit that touches each child in our school and is passed back and forth in times of need. The rays of light or fire coming from the cross are our burning desire to be faith filled and follow the way of the cross. We spread the word because we are on fire with love for what is right and good. The never-ending Knot in the center is a symbol not only of the Trinity but also of our complicated and never ending journey to heaven where we will have eternal life, a never ending state of joy with our maker.



Gospel of St. Matthew 5:3-10