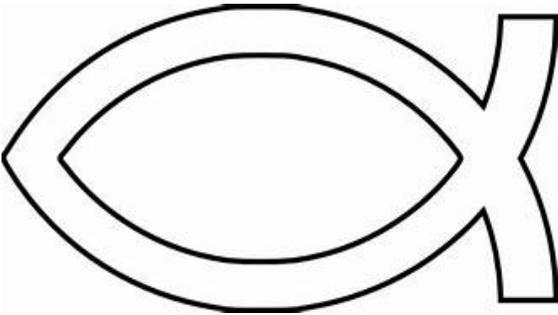
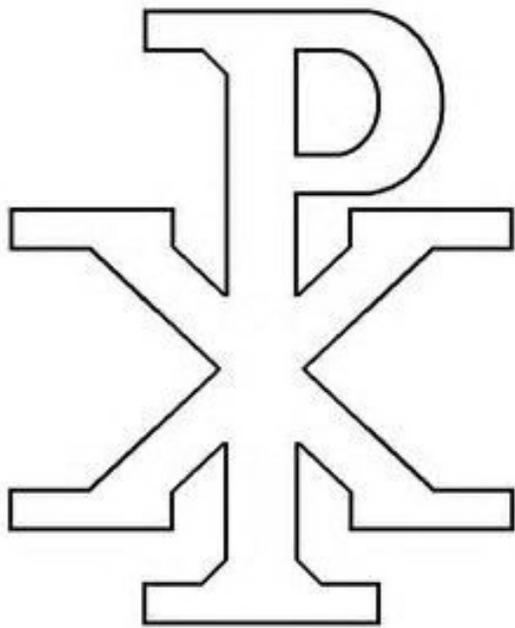


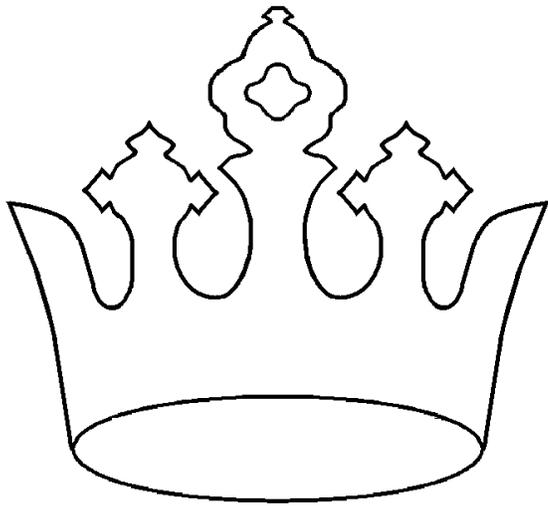
Three overlapping circles symbolize the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.



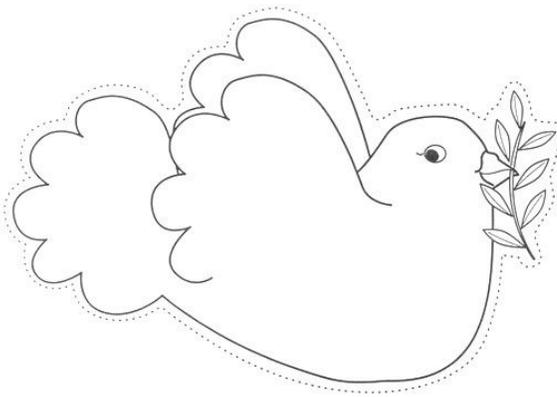
The Fish (in Greek, *Icthus*)  
Persecuted followers of Christ used the symbol of a fish as a sign to identify themselves secretly. The initials (IXOYC), the Greek word for fish, represented *Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior*.



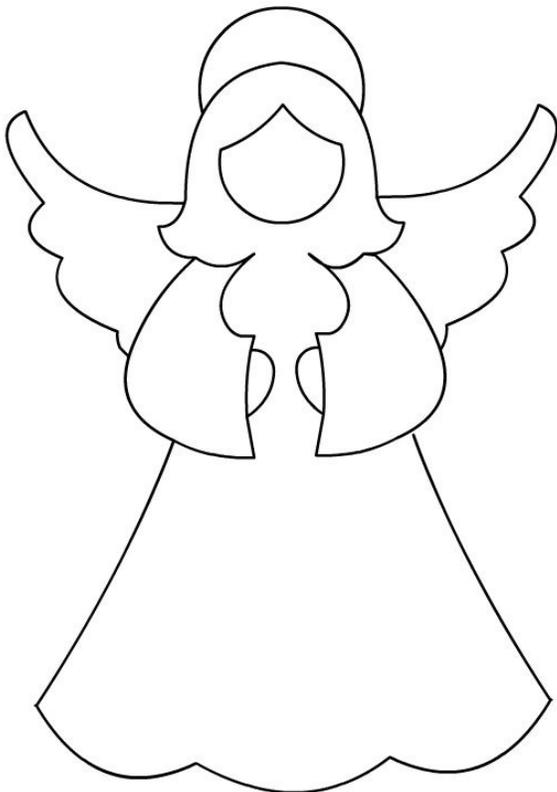
Chi-Rho: The Greek letters chi (X) and rho (p) are the first two letters in the name *Christ*. This was one of the first Chrismons developed. It sometimes includes a circle to represent the sun. This symbolizes that Jesus is the light of the world.



The Crown: represents the Kingship of Jesus Christ and His place of honor at the right hand of God.



Dove: The Holy Spirit descended as a dove at the baptism of Jesus. The dove reminds us that the Holy Spirit is with us today as well. The dove is also a symbol of peace and Jesus brings peace to our hearts.



Angel: The Angel Chrismon represents the messengers of God, who announced the birth and Resurrection of Christ.

## A little history of Chrismons

<https://holidappy.com/holidays/Martin-Luther-Frances-Kipps-Spencer-and-Chrismons>

Born to missionary parents in Karuizawa, Japan, on July 8, 1917, Frances Kiku Kipps Spencer was three years old when her family returned to the United States. Her father, a Lutheran minister, served in various cities and towns in Pennsylvania.

In 1957 at the age of forty, concerned about the appropriate decorations for her church Christmas tree, Mrs. Spencer made the first Chrismon ornaments for the Ascension Lutheran Church of Danville, VA. Based on ancient monograms, the designs included Greek symbol abbreviations and crosses that honored Jesus Christ and His teachings.

Mrs. Spencer chose the White and Gold colors to represent Christ's purity and God's majesty. The evergreen tree backdrop symbolizes the eternal life Christ offers his followers. The tree's white lights proclaim Christ's role as the Light of the world. Mrs. Spencer created her ornaments using motifs that Christians had used for thousands of years.

According to the dictionary, a chrismon is a monogram of Christ. But the chrismons as ornaments are more than monograms; they may also tell about Jesus Christ. As the designs grew in number, they included references to the life, ministry, activities, nature, and teachings of Jesus. Thus the Chrismons as symbols always point beyond themselves to God. Indeed, the vital feature of the concept is that each design must proclaim some truth about God as seen in Jesus.

1. **Star of David:** The six-pointed star, called the Star of David, is a reminder of the six days of creation (Exodus 20:1). The two triangles that form the star symbolize the Holy Trinity.
2. **Alpha and Omega:** The Greek alphabet's first and last letters are called Alpha and Omega. They signify that Jesus is the beginning and the end of all things. The Holy Bible's final book, Revelation, reveals that Christ is the Alpha and the Omega. He is the Word, meaning the First Word through whom all things came into being, and the Last Word by whom all receive judgment. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8 NIV).
3. **Angel:** The Angel Chrismon represents the messengers of God, who announced the birth and Resurrection of Christ.
4. **Fish:** Persecuted followers of Christ used the symbol of a fish as a sign to identify themselves secretly. The initials (IXOYC), the Greek word for fish, represented Jesus Christ, God's Son, and the Savior.
5. **Bells:** The primary purpose of ringing church bells is to let worshippers know when to assemble. The "joyful noise" of the bells signifies God's presence in the world.
6. **Butterfly:** The butterfly is the symbol of resurrection. The three stages of the butterfly's metamorphosis symbolize the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
7. **Celtic Cross:** Originating from the Celts of Ireland, the Circle symbolizes eternity, or the unity of man.

8. **Chi Rho** (in "sun"): Chi Ro (XP) is a Greek symbol for Christ. "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life.'" (John 8:12 NIV).
9. **Crown**: The Crown represents the Kingship of Jesus Christ and His place of honor at the right hand of God. Seven symbolizes completeness and perfection. The seven-point Crown highlights the number seven, which is used 735 times in the Bible. The seven points remind us of Christ's complete and perfect victory over sin and death.
10. **Star**: The five-pointed star, or Epiphany Star, announces the birth of Christ. A prophecy from the Old Testament said, "A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel" (Numbers 24:17 NIV). Jacob fathered twelve sons who became the tribes of Israel.
11. **Latin Cross**: The Latin Cross is the most common form of the Cross. This Cross is a reminder of Jesus's suffering, which provides the gift of eternal life.
12. **Resurrection Cross**: With the rising sun behind the Cross, the Resurrection Cross Christmon symbolizes a new day. This ornament brings to mind the promise of the forgiveness of sin.
13. **Tau cross** (sometimes with snake): The Tau Cross, the oldest form of the Cross, reveals that similar to Moses' lifting of a bronze serpent to save Israel, Christ saved humanity after being raised on a cross.
14. **Triquetra (triangle)**: The Christmon, with three equal arcs, expresses eternity in its continuous form and indivisibility in its interweaving. It symbolizes the One God who showed Himself to humanity in three separate and distinct persons, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
15. **Dove**: The Holy Spirit descended as a dove at the baptism of Jesus. The dove reminds us that the Holy Spirit is with us today as well.
16. **Wheat sheaves, grapes, chalice**: Representing the communion meal elements, the combination of the wheat and grapes is bread and wine, symbolizing the body and blood of Jesus Christ. The ritual recreates and honors the last meal that Christ had with his disciples before crucifixion and death.
17. **Anchor, Anchor/Cross**: The Anchor Cross was used by early Christians as a symbol of their faith when they had to avoid recognition as Christians in order to avoid persecution.