

A "Magical" Cross

While you are talking about the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, just pick up a blank paper (8.5x11") and "obviously" begin to fold it so the class can see it and becomes curious about what you are doing.

No other tools are required – not even scissors . . . that's what adds to the appearance of magic! Your students will enjoy making and decorating their own "Magical" Cross with fresh basil to commemorate today's feast day.



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Copy of this instruction page
- 1 piece of 8.5x11" paper for each student (the thinner the paper the better)
- Colored markers
- Fresh basil

PREPARATION BEFORE ACTIVITY

- Practice making a cross before class so you know what to do without looking at instructions (below).

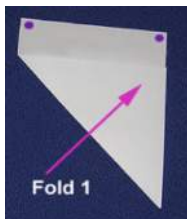
WHAT TO DO

1. Make the cross again in front of the class.
2. Pass out the plain paper to students
3. Have students do each step as you demonstrate. Check to be sure the cross folds are correct.

MAGIC CROSS INSTRUCTIONS:

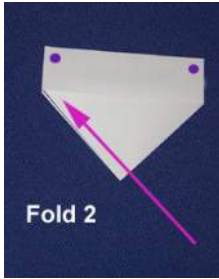


The photos have dots drawn on the paper only as reference to show you how to fold the paper. **If** you think your class will need some reference, put a big dot in each of 2 corners of the paper WHERE SHOWN. You should be able to see the dots at all times during folding. Dots will 'disappear" or really be discarded in the end.

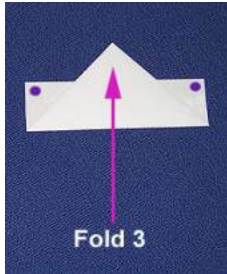


1. Orient the paper with the dots at the "top" if you made dots, but dots are not necessary to make the cross if you leave the paper in place and follow the instructions.

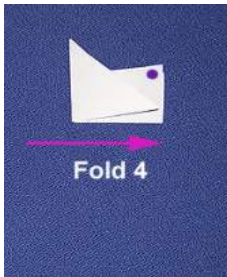
Fold the lower left corner of the paper diagonally until the bottom of the paper meets the right side of the paper.



2. Take the bottom right pointed corner and fold it to meet the upper left corner of the first fold.

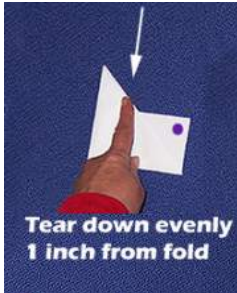


3. Bring up the bottom point of the paper and fold over where the other folds ended.



4. Pick up the paper and flip it over sideways - you will not see your dots. They will be face down.

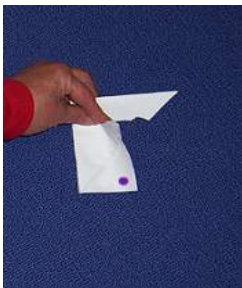
Fold it sideways in half. You will see your dot again if you used dots.



5. Visualize about an inch from the fold. You will tear through all the layers down the imaginary line.

For younger children: You may want to draw a light line for tearing 1 inch from the fold. It may be a little more difficult for very young children to tear through all the layers, so teacher help to start it may be necessary.

TEAR SLOWLY IN LITTLE BITS.



6. Even if the tear is ragged, that's ok. Jesus cross was rough wood!

Note, the farther away from the fold that you tear, the fatter the cross will be.



7. Discard the pieces with the dot.

Open the main piece and you have the cross!

Using colored markers, write "Exaltation of the Holy Cross" at the top along with the date. Decorate by attaching fresh basil or with colored markers