

### Why we say Lord have mercy using the segments of our fingers

There are 12 hours in the day time and so when we say Lord have mercy (Egizo Meharne Kristos) 12 times using our fingers, we are asking the Lord to forgive us for sins committed knowingly or unknowingly for each hour.

Then we say Lord have mercy through Saint Mary 12 times remembering the 12 hours of the night for even in the night we commit sins in our sleep. This will allow us to confess the sins for the entire 24 hour day.



We count using our thumb starting from the top segment (phalanx) of our index finger. We start from the top to symbolize that Our Lord Jesus Christ came down from the heavens and born of Virgin Mary for our salvation.

We go up and down the segment of index, middle, ring and pinky (baby finger) using our thumb to symbolize that Christ went through a lot in His three and half years ministry teaching us, suffered putting up with sins of men and finally going to His holy passion and death. There was a lot of up and downs. To leave among sinful men and endure the hypocrisy for 33 years is the greatest passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We end the count with the top of our baby finger to symbolize the Ascension of Jesus Christ.

The segments of our finger are 12 as the letters in the name of the Trinity in Amharic (አብ ወልድ መንፈስ ቅዱስ)

He forgives us for the sake of His Holy name. Amen.

