

*TLC—Total Lifelong Catechesis*  
**Home Kit**  
**The Power of Prayer—WEEK 2**

***Before you Begin:***

Set table with a religious article (a crucifix, statue of Jesus or Mary, and/or a candle are examples). Be prepared with Bible, Catechism, Children's Folders (Textbook and Assignments), and supplies of pencil, or pen.

Start with Family Prayer

Alleluia! He is Risen!!

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ was the turning point in human history and is the basis of the Christian Faith. It completed the work of man's salvation and redemption by which "the gates of Heaven," closed since the sin of Adam, were again opened.

The Passion, death and Resurrection of Our Lord constitute the most momentous event in the history of the world.

As we celebrate the Easter Season, we are reminded to be people of prayer.

That we recognize the power of prayer.

That we recognize that nothing is impossible for God.

That we may have a rich and strong prayer life—a lived relationship with God.

That we may live a life of holiness so that one day we will be able to see Jesus Christ, our Savior, face to face as he welcomes us home for all eternity.

Discussion with your Family:

God is good! When have you experienced the power of prayer in your life or in the life of someone you know?

We are called to pray every day. How can you increase your prayer life?

There is a saying that *the family that prays together, stays together*. When and where can your family pray together? What prayers can you say together?

***Everybody needs a little TLC!***

# **+ ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS +**

## **Lessons in holiness from the pro's who have gone before us**

# **Saint Damien de Veuster of Molokai**

*Feast Day: May 10*

Joseph de Veuster was born in Belgium on January 3, 1840. While at college, he decided God was calling him to be a priest. He joined the same community his brother had joined and took the name Damien. Damien's brother had dreamed of being a missionary overseas. But he became ill and was unable to go. Damien offered to go in his place. He traveled to Hawaii and was ordained in Honolulu.

For nine years, Damien served the people in different villages around Hawaii. While working, he heard about a settlement of lepers on the island of Molokai. He was told that life on the island was terrible for the lepers. They were very poor, and there was not one doctor or priest on the island. Father Damien thought he was needed there. He went to Molokai to work with the lepers.

Those who could walk came to meet Father Damien's boat. They wanted to see this priest who had come to work with them. They were sure he wouldn't stay long when he saw what life there was like. Lepers often have unpleasant sores, and some even lose fingers and toes. Because there were no laws or police on the island, many who were not very ill lived wild lives.

Father Damien got busy right away. He cleaned up huts, nursed those who were very sick, and tried new medicines. Those able to help were put to work building better houses. Father Damien preached and offered Mass, but he also built roads, water systems, orphanages, and churches. He even started a choir and a band. He made the lepers feel that they were people with dignity. They learned to better respect themselves and one another.

Father Damien always began his homily with "My dear lepers." One Sunday he stood before his congregation and began his homily by saying "My fellow lepers." At first, it was very quiet. Then people began to sob. Their beloved Father Damien had gotten the disease. Even though he was ill, Father Damien carried on his work. Eventually, a group of Franciscan sisters from New York, under the leadership of Mother Marianne, came to help. Father Damien died when he was 49 years old.



**GOSPEL READING**  
**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**  
**April 16, 2017**

John 20:1-9

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

<http://uscgb.org/bible/readings/041617.cfm>

### **Family Connection**

In the Easter Gospel we hear about how the disciples found the tomb empty three days after Jesus' death. We are also told that they do not yet understand the Scriptures or that Jesus had been raised from the dead. That understanding gradually unfolded for the disciples as they began to experience the risen Lord. Similarly, our understanding of Jesus' Resurrection unfolds for us throughout our lives. In the weeks ahead, we will hear how the first disciples moved from confusion, doubt, and skepticism to faith. Their experience can teach us how we too might receive this gift of faith from God.

Gather your family members and ask them to share what they know about the events that happened in the days after Jesus' crucifixion. Invite your family to imagine that they are among Jesus' first disciples. Read together today's Gospel, John 20:1-9. Reflect together on the Gospel with questions such as these: If you had been among the first disciples who heard that the stone had been removed from Jesus' tomb and that Jesus' body was no longer there, what would you think? What did Mary of Magdala, Simon Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved think had happened? Recall that this experience is the first indication Jesus' disciples have that he is risen. Throughout the Easter season, we will learn more about how the disciples came to believe that Jesus had been raised from the dead.

Pray together using today's psalm, Psalm 118: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad."

<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/easter-sunday-connection>