

TLC—Total Lifelong Catechesis
Home Kit
Prayer in the Church—WEEK 1

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 pens.

Start with Family Prayer

Have everyone *share and thank* God for one good thing that happened to them this past week. Also, this is the Third Sunday of Advent. On your Advent wreath light two purple candles and the pink candle this week.

God wants to be in relationship with us in every aspect of our lives—in all our concerns, gifts, faults and feelings.

The Holy Spirit taught the Church the life of prayer. In prayer we strengthen our relationship with God. There are five different forms of prayer:

1. Blessing and Adoration
2. Prayer of Petition
3. Prayer of Intercession
4. Prayer of Thanksgiving
5. Prayer of Praise

These different forms of prayer connect to different times and situations in our lives. And, the wonderful thing about prayer is that it is the relationship where you can share all of yourself and know you are loved.

Discussion with your Family:

Do you believe God answers prayers?

If so, in what ways have you experienced God's answers?

Everybody needs a little TLC!

+ ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS +

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

Saint Mary Magdalene

Feast Day: July 22

Mary Magdalene was one of Christ's disciples. She has been identified with several Marys in the Gospel: Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus; Mary, the sinner who washed Jesus' feet with her tears; Mary, a woman who cared for Jesus and his apostles on their journey. Today scholars believe that Mary Magdalene was not the sinful woman in Scripture although she has been confused with this unnamed woman for centuries.

Matthew, Mark, and John record that Mary of Magdala was present at the crucifixion of Jesus and that she was among the women who visited the tomb on Easter morning. Luke mentions her presence only at the tomb on Easter. According to John, Mary was specially privileged to see and speak to the risen Lord on Easter morning. She thought he was the gardener until he said her name.

So Mary Magdalene was near Jesus in his darkest hour and again in his most glorious hour. Moreover, she was an outstanding disciple of Jesus. Because Mary Magdalene was the one who brought the news of Jesus' resurrection to the apostles, she is called the Apostle to the Apostles. For centuries St. Mary Magdalene has been considered a model of complete generosity and of sincere sorrow for sin.



<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/saint-mary-magdalene>

GOSPEL READING
Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2016

Matthew 11:2-11

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” Jesus said to them in reply, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me.”

As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, “What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.* Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/121116.cfm>

Family Connection

It is easy to look at our world and become discouraged by the apparent absence of God and signs of God's salvation. Advent, however, is a season of hope, in which we acknowledge that salvation is both mysteriously present, even in our world, and yet to be fulfilled.

Read together today's Gospel. Think about John's question to Jesus: Are you the One? Jesus does not answer directly, but points to the signs of the kingdom present in his midst.

Together as a family, look through the newspaper for signs of hope that God is at work in our world. Pray that the world will know God's salvation by praying together the Lord's Prayer.

<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/third-sunday-of-advent-cycle-a-sunday-connection>