

TLC—Total Lifelong Catechesis
Home Kit
The Life of Prayer—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.

Throughout Church history, saints have left a heritage of prayer “by the examples of their lives, the transmissions of their writings,” and their continued prayers in heaven on our behalf. (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults)

Saints are beautiful witnesses to us on how to pray.

Parents are the first teachers of prayer. Family prayer, practiced on a daily basis, in which the children witness the prayer of adults closest to them, is an excellent school of prayer. (United States Catholic Catechism for Adults)

Parents, you are very important to your child's prayer life!

The church, the house of God, is the proper place for the liturgical prayer of the parish community. For personal prayer, this can be a “prayer corner” with the Sacred Scriptures and icons, in order to be there, in secret, before our Father.

Consider creating a prayer corner in your home for your family.

Discussion with your Family:

What is one of your favorite Saints and why?

Praying together as a family can strengthen your relationship with God and your family. Choose which prayers and a time each day that you can pray together as a family, and then challenge your family to make commitment to daily prayer.

Everybody needs a little TLC!

+ ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS +

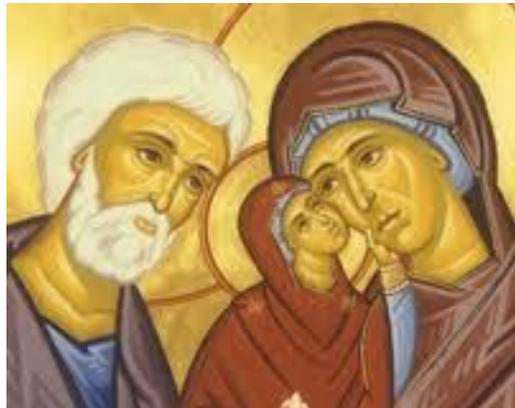
Lessons in holiness from the pro's who have gone before us

Saint Joachim and Saint Ann

Feast Day: July 26

You have probably heard the expression: The apple does not fall far from the tree. It means that children are often like their parents. Scripture does not tell us anything about the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Tradition tells us that their names were Joachim and Ann. The name Ann means “grace,” while Joachim means “the Lord will judge.” Tradition also says that Joachim and Ann took their daughter to the Temple in Jerusalem when she was very young. They understood that Mary was a special child, so they dedicated her to God.

We do know that Joachim and Ann have been honored in the Church from early Christian times. By looking at Mary, their child, we can figure out several things about them. They must have set the example that Mary followed to become the loving, gentle, faith-filled, courageous woman she was—the perfect woman to bear and raise the Son of God.



Whether or not Joachim and Ann are the real names of Mary's parents, the couple were the holy, heroic ones who faithfully prepared for the coming of the Messiah.

Because Joachim and Ann were the grandparents of Jesus, they are the patrons of grandparents. St. Ann is venerated in Canada, where there is a basilica in her honor in Quebec.

<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/saint-joachim-and-saint-ann>

GOSPEL READING
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 15, 2017

John 1:29-34

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said,
"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
He is the one of whom I said,
'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me
because he existed before me.'
I did not know him,
but the reason why I came baptizing with water
was that he might be made known to Israel."
John testified further, saying,
"I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from heaven
and remain upon him.
I did not know him,
but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me,
'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain,
he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'
Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/011517.cfm>

Family Connection

The ministry of John the Baptist prepared for and pointed to the ministry of Jesus. In a similar way, our lives are to offer testimony to who we know Jesus to be for us and for the world. Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. How does the witness of our lives give testimony to the reconciling presence of Christ?

As a family, identify as many titles for Jesus as possible, such as Lamb of God, Son of God, Prince of Peace, and so on. Talk together about what these different titles mean and what they tell you about Jesus. Then read together today's Gospel, John 1:29-34.

Consider how John the Baptist gives testimony to who Jesus is. Talk about what people might come to know about Jesus by observing your family life. Pray together that your family life will show others that Jesus is the Son of God, the lamb who takes away the sins of the world. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/second-sunday-in-ordinary-time-a-sunday-connection>