

TLC—Total Lifelong Catechesis
Home Kit
Life 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

Take a few minutes of quiet time to think about where you see God working in your life.

At Mass when the reading of the Gospel begins, we place the sign of the Cross on our foreheads, lips, and hearts and pray, "May the Lord be in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts."

Lips, minds, and hearts-these symbolize three kinds (expressions) of prayer:

1. **Vocal**—With the *Our Father* Jesus has taught us a perfect form of vocal prayer. (prayer using words)
2. **Meditation**—Prayerful reflection that begins above all in the Word of God in the Bible. Engages thought, imagination, emotion and desire. (prayer of the mind)
3. **Contemplative**—A simple gaze upon God in silence and love. (prayer of the heart)

Discussion with your Family:

Which of the three forms of prayer do you use most often?

What emotion do you feel when you are praying? Can your emotions change when you are praying.

Everybody needs a little TLC!

+ ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS +

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

Saint Martha

Feast Day: July 29

One of the most precious things in life is to have a home where you can go at any time and find people who accept, love, and understand you. Jesus found such a home in Bethany, at the house of a woman named Martha. She welcomed him and served him, and they developed a special bond of friendship.

Martha lived with her sister Mary. Like many other pairs of sisters, these two women were different in personality. Martha was energetic and outspoken, while Mary was quiet and reflective. Jesus loved both of them and appreciated the gifts that each one had.

The Gospel of Luke records that once, when Jesus was visiting, Martha prepared the meal while Mary sat talking to their visitor. Martha complained that Jesus should tell Mary to help her. Jesus said that because Martha was worrying so much about the work, she did not have time to enjoy being with him and listening to his words.

Another time recorded in John's Gospel, the sisters sent a message to Jesus that their brother, Lazarus, was ill. They knew Jesus would come and cure him; they trusted in his loving care for them. When Jesus finally came, Lazarus had already been dead for four days. As soon as she heard that Jesus was nearby, Martha, a woman of action, went out to meet him, while Mary stayed in the house. In her grief, Martha told Jesus honestly what she had expected from him. Jesus asked her to believe that he was the resurrection and that he had power to give eternal life to all who believe in him. Without really understanding this mystery, Martha trusted Jesus totally and said, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world" (John 11:27). That day Jesus raised her brother Lazarus from the dead, showing that he has power over life and death and power to give eternal life.

The home Jesus found in Bethany was not only in the house but in the faithful heart of a woman named Martha.



GOSPEL READING

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 22, 2017

Matthew 4:12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: *Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen.* From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him. He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people.

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/012217.cfm>

Family Connection

Today's Gospel tells us little about the background of these fishermen, their work, and their families. In today's Gospel, we are simply told that James and John left their father, Zebedee, in the boat and followed Jesus.

Some details about the families of these first followers of Jesus are found later in Matthew's Gospel, however. In [Matthew 8:14-15](#) for example, Jesus goes to the home of Peter and heals his mother-in-law of a fever. [Matthew 20:20-28](#) relates how the mother of the sons of Zebedee (James and John) approaches Jesus with the request that her sons be given places of honor in Jesus' kingdom. These brief references suggest that the first disciples' separation from their families may not have been as complete as the verses in today's Gospel might lead us to believe. Matthew points out the separation because he wants to show that Christian discipleship can require a change in our lives and even our family relationships.

Perhaps the message for us today is to balance the radical call to be a follower of Jesus with the challenge to be "fishers of men" even within our own families. Creating this balance may require that we change some of the priorities of our own family life.

As a family, detail the activities of a typical day. Discuss together what priorities are reflected in this daily schedule. How does your family respond when your daily plans are interrupted or must be changed? Together read today's Gospel, Matthew 4:12-23. Reflect together on the example of the first disciples who dropped everything to follow Jesus. Ask: Does our family schedule give evidence that we put God first in our family life? What might we do to better reflect that God is our priority?

Pray together that your family will always give evidence that God comes first in your family life. Pray today's Psalm or the Lord's Prayer.

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