

TLC—Total Lifelong Catechesis
Home Kit
Why Pray?—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.

A classic definition of prayer says, “**Prayer** is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God.” (CCC 2590)

Prayer is “talking to God”.

So, who is called to prayer? **Everyone** is called to prayer. This is because the desire for God is built into us; it is a response to God who first and tirelessly calls us to encounter him through prayer.

*“Lord, You have made us for Yourself, and our hearts are restless
until they rest in Thee.” - St. Augustine*

Discussion with your Family:

Name some of the people you know whom you consider to be good pray-ers.

When and how do you see these people praying?

Why do you think they pray?

Have everyone in the family think of one person they would like to pray for and why. Say the names of these people out loud for God and your family to hear your request.

Everybody needs a little TLC!

+ ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS +

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

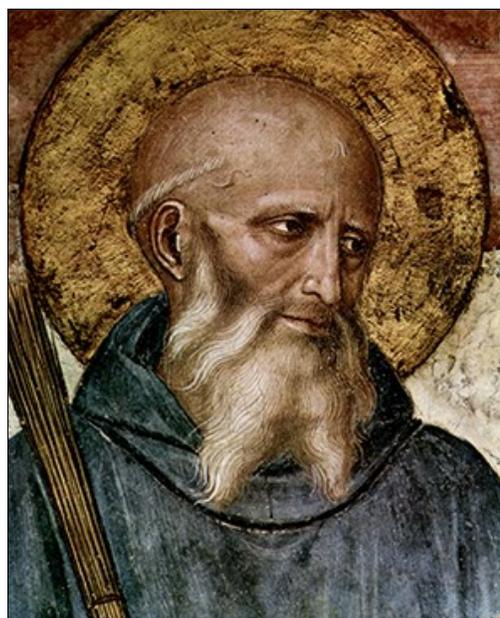
Saint Benedict

Feast Day: July 11

Benedict's name means "blessed." His most famous monastery, Monte Cassino, has been destroyed and rebuilt three times. His monks follow the motto *Ora et labora*, which means "Pray and work."

Benedict was born in Nursia, Italy, about 480. His parents were wealthy, so they sent him to Rome to be educated. When he was about 17, he decided to become a hermit. He was disgusted with the wild life of the students. With the help of an old monk, Benedict found a cave on Mount Subiaco about 50 miles south of Rome. He lived there for three years. Men recognized his holiness and joined him.

Sometime around 529, Benedict led a group of monks farther south, where they built Monte Cassino. He wrote his Rule based on Scripture. The monks' first duty was liturgical prayer. The Benedictine monasteries that spread over Europe became centers of learning, agriculture, hospitality, and medicine. Benedict's monks created illuminated manuscripts. They helped repair the damage caused by the barbarian invaders. Benedict probably died in 547. In art, he is usually shown with his Rule. In 1964, Pope Paul VI named him patron of Europe.



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

GOSPEL READING
Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 13, 2016

Luke 21:5-19

While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, Jesus said, "All that you see here--the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down."

Then they asked him, "Teacher, when will this happen? And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?" He answered, "See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and 'The time has come.' Do not follow them! When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will not immediately be the end." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky.

"Before all this happens, however, they will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute. You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/111316.cfm>

Family Connection

Children, while innocently naïve about most world events, are also profoundly sensitive to the concerns felt by adults. We can help children interpret adult concerns by sharing information about current events in appropriate ways. We can also put these concerns in the light of God's kingdom and the assurance of God's care for us.

Discuss with your children one or more current events or a situation in your family which shows difficulties that may challenge our trust in a God who cares for us. Then read together today's Gospel, Luke 21:5-19. Notice how Jesus said that even when his disciples are persecuted, God would be with them.

Together with your children, talk about ways in which God might bring good out of the difficult events you discussed. Talk together about some actions you might take as a family to make better the situations you discussed. Conclude by praying for the needs of the people involved in the events you named. In prayer, place each of these difficult situations into God's hands.

<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/33rd-sunday-in-ordinary-time-c-sunday-connection>