

TLC—Total Lifelong Catechesis
Home Kit
Why Pray?—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 one minute of quiet time and think about how God is working in your life. Have everyone share and thank God for one good thing that happened to them this past week.

Why pray? This is a question of life and death—spiritual life and death.

Prayer is all about God. Prayer is about having a living relationship with the one true God who desires true happiness for us.

Prayer is about putting God first in our lives.

Prayer is loving God, knowing God, and being in relationship with God.

Why Pray? Because of GOD!

Discussion with your Family:

God desires true happiness for us.

What makes you happy?

Have you thanked God for all the moments and things that make you happy?

As a family, pray in thanksgiving for all the joys and happiness God has showered upon you.

And, prayer is all about putting God first. What better way to put God first in your life than by beginning (and ending) each day with prayer. Challenge yourself to start each morning with prayer and end each day in prayer.

Everybody needs a little TLC!

+ ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS +

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

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha

Feast Day: July 14

Kateri Tekakwitha is called the Lily of the Mohawks. Her name Tekakwitha means “putting things in order.” She put her life in order in a short time.

Kateri was a Mohawk Indian born in what is now Auriesville, New York, ten years after Isaac Jogues and his companions were martyred there. Her mother was a Christian Algonquin Indian, and her father was a pagan Mohawk chief. Her parents and a brother died of smallpox when she was only four. Kateri recovered from the disease, but it left her eyes weak and her face scarred.

Anastasia, a friend of Kateri's mother, took care of her and told her stories about the Christian God. When Anastasia left for Canada to join other Christians there, Kateri's uncle, a Mohawk chief, took Kateri as his daughter.

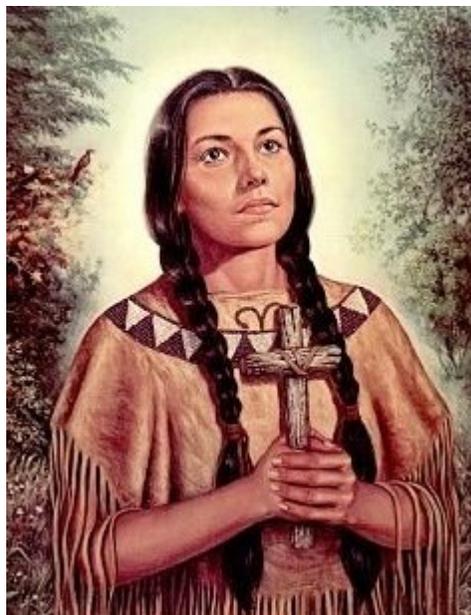
When Kateri's uncle and aunts wanted her to marry, she refused. She felt that the Great Spirit was the only one she could love. This angered her uncle.

Kateri learned more about God from a missionary and asked to be baptized. She was baptized on Easter Sunday. It was hard for Kateri to live as a Christian. Her people expected her to work in the fields on Sunday, the Lord's Day. Sometimes they didn't feed her. Children made fun of her and threw stones at her. Kateri endured this for two years.

Finally a priest advised Kateri to go to Canada where she would be with other Christians. One day when her uncle was not home, she left for Canada with a Christian named Hot Ashes. When Kateri's uncle found out she was missing, he followed her but did not catch her.

Kateri brought with her a note from the missionary priest to a Canadian priest that said, “I send you a treasure, Katherine Tekakwitha. Guard her well.” Kateri lived an outstanding Christian life. She went to Mass daily, made frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and prayed the rosary often. She cared for the sick and the old and taught the children. She did much penance.

Kateri suffered from bad headaches. She was not strong and could eat very little. When she died at the age of twenty-four, the scars on her face disappeared and she was beautiful. Kateri's last words were, “Jesus, I love you.”



GOSPEL READING
Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
November 20, 2016

Luke 23:35-43

The rulers sneered at Jesus and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." Above him there was an inscription that read, "This is the King of the Jews."

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/112016.cfm>

Family Connection

Understanding today's Feast of Christ the King may be particularly challenging. While we may not have a direct experience of kings or royalty, we have some sense of what these mean. We know that royalty have sovereignty over their kingdom. We know that those who are subjects to royalty offer them allegiance and honor. Christ is King in a way that is different from traditional understandings of royalty. Christ's kingship extends to all places, all people, and all times. Christ manifests his kingship through his death on the Cross, in which he offers salvation to all.

Recall with your children stories that you may have read about royalty. Talk with your children about what they have learned from these stories about what it means to be a king. Talk about what they have learned from these stories about what it means to be a subject.

Tell your children that this Sunday is the last Sunday in the Church Year, and on this Sunday, we celebrate a special feast called the Feast of Christ the King. Read today's Gospel, Luke 23:35-43. Reflect together on how the various people in this Gospel respond to Jesus on the Cross. Who in this Gospel recognizes Jesus as King? (the thief) What does Jesus promise the thief as a result? (The thief will be with Jesus in paradise.)

Talk about how your family will recognize and honor Christ the King. Pray together the Lord's Prayer and ask God to help your family to act in ways that show you recognize and honor Christ as King.

<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/our-lord-jesus-christ-the-king-c-sunday-connection>