

TLC—Total Lifelong Catechesis
Home Kit
Why Pray?—WEEK 3

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

This week join hands and take one minute of quiet time as you think about all the blessings God has given you this week. Have everyone share and thank God for these blessings.

Why pray? Because of God!

God wants us to love Him. God wants us to know Him.

God wants us to follow Him. God wants us to be in relationship with Him.

We have to remember this:

Everything comes from God. (Exitus)

Everything returns to God. (Redditus)

Prayer is recognizing that everything comes from God.

Prayer is recognizing that everything returns to God.

Prayer is nothing less than bringing it all back to God.

Everything comes from God and is meant to return to God

Our goal is to give ourselves fully back to God!

Discussion with your Family

Prayer helps to give ourselves fully to God.

In what ways do you make God # 1 in your life?

In what ways do you make God # 1 in your family life?

Everybody needs a little TLC!

+ ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS +

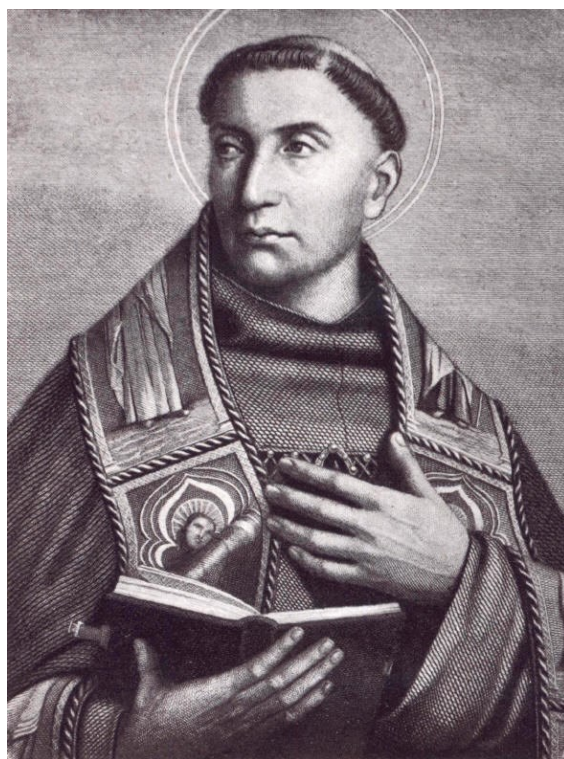
Lessons in holiness from the pro's who have gone before us

Saint Bonaventure

Feast Day: July 15

Bonaventure was born about 1221 in Italy, not far from Naples. He was baptized John. The story is told that when he was about four years old, he was deathly ill. His mother begged Francis of Assisi to come and cure him. Francis touched the boy, and he was cured instantly. As an adult, Bonaventure entered the Franciscan order. He went to Paris, where he met Thomas Aquinas. They both studied at the University of Paris. Bonaventure became the head of the Franciscan order. He was appointed a cardinal shortly before his death in 1274. After Bonaventure's death, it was reported, "At the funeral there was much sorrow and tears; for the Lord had given him this grace, that all who saw him were filled with an immense love for him."

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



GOSPEL READING
First Sunday of Advent
November 27, 2016

Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: “As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day that Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away. So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/112716.cfm>

Family Connection

Many of us feel the pressure early in the holiday season to be ready for Christmas. But today's Gospel challenges us to be ready for something other than the gift-giving of Christmas.

Read together today's Gospel reading. As a family, talk about what it means to be ready for the day of the Lord. One of the roles of the family, the domestic church, is to be a school of faith leading one another to salvation. Reflect together as a family on how your family helps one another to be better Christians. Commit to one thing that your family will do this Advent season to help one another be better Christians. You might choose to write this commitment down and post it in a prominent place in your home, perhaps near your family's Advent wreath.

Pray together that God will help you in this Advent commitment. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm.

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

GOSPEL READING

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2016

Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: A voice of one crying out in the desert, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. John wore clothing made of camel’s hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins.

When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God can raise up children to Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax lies at the root of the trees. Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand. He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/120416.cfm>

Family Connection

We do many things to get ourselves ready for our celebration of Christmas: purchase gifts, prepare Christmas cards, decorate our homes. John's call of repentance in preparation for Jesus reminds us that our repentance is another way in which we can prepare for the Lord's coming and our celebration of Christmas. Parish communities often offer a communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Advent season. Your family might choose to participate in the communal celebration of the sacrament, or you might seek out the sacrament on an individual basis.

Read together today's Gospel. Talk about how John reminds the people that they prepare for the reign of God by reforming their lives. As a family, prepare a simple reconciliation service in preparation for Christmas such as the following: Gather in a prayerful space, perhaps around your family Advent wreath. Read again today's Gospel: Matthew 3:1-3. Invite each family member to pray silently, asking God to forgive their sins. Pray together an Act of Contrition. Then celebrate God's forgiveness by sharing a Sign of Peace with each other.

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