

TLC—Total Lifelong Catechesis
Home Kit
What is 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.

What is Prayer? Prayer is defined as the raising of the mind and heart to God. Our prayer is our conversation with God.

Prayer may be done briefly or at length.

We must have God in mind when we pray.

We must think of something about him which moves us to love him.

Then we can talk with him, adore him, tell him we are sorry for our sin, ask him for things we need, and listen to him too.

Prayer is a relationship with God. It is a personal, vital and intimate connection with the living God.

Discussion with your Family:

What is your first memory of prayer (when and where)?

For the next month try to start , or continue, a regular family prayer time. It doesn't have to be more than five (5) minutes, but start to think about when and where you will pray together. Then choose one prayer that you will consistently pray together. It could be something simple like, "*Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Pray for us*", or a prayer like the *Our Father, Hail Mary or Glory Be.*"

As the saying goes... "A family that prays together, stays together!"

Everybody needs a little TLC!

+ ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS +

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

Saint Monica

Feast Day: August 27

The feast of St. Monica occurs the day before the feast of her son, St. Augustine. Her tears, prayers, and sacrifices over many years helped bring about his conversion. It is only proper that their feasts are celebrated close together.

Monica was born in North Africa. As a child she lived with her family, but she and her sisters were raised by an elderly servant. This wise woman had also raised Monica's father.

As a young girl, Monica had a shocking experience. According to the custom of the time, her parents would ask her to bring up wine from the cellar for them. Once Monica took a sip of the wine before she brought it up. After that, she gradually began to drink just a little more each day. She thought no one knew about it. Then one day, Monica quarreled with a servant, and the servant accused her of drinking too much. Monica realized that the maid was right. This helped her to face this temptation. She decided then and there to stop drinking and she did.

Monica was raised a Christian, but was given in marriage to a pagan official named Patricius. They had three sons. Patricius was not only a violent man, but he had a number of other bad habits as well. Monica remained patient. Other wives with marriage problems came to her for advice. A year before Patricius died, he was converted—due to Monica's powerful example. In their early years of marriage Monica's mother-in-law turned against her because of ugly rumors spread by unhappy servants. Through patient forgiveness, Monica was able to win her cooperation.

Another source of worry for Monica was her son Augustine. This brilliant and gifted young man rejected the faith his mother had taught him. Augustine lived an immoral life and had a son although he was not married. Monica was ready to disown Augustine, but in a dream it was revealed to her that eventually he would come back to the faith. She prayed and fasted for her son and stayed close to him, following him to Rome and Milan. In Milan, she met Ambrose, the bishop, who became her spiritual director. He promised her, “Surely the son of so many tears will not perish.”

It was Ambrose who finally converted Augustine. Together, Augustine, Monica, Augustine's son, and some other devoted people moved to the country to pray and write. From there they began a journey back to Africa. Monica died on the way. The day before she died, she and her son had a beautiful conversation about the joys of heaven.



GOSPEL READING
Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 2, 2016

Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

The Lord replied,

"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed,
you would say to this mulberry tree,
'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your servant
who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field,
'Come here immediately and take your place at table'?"

Would he not rather say to him,

'Prepare something for me to eat.
Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink.
You may eat and drink when I am finished'?"

Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded?

So should it be with you.

When you have done all you have been commanded,
say, 'We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.'"

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/100216.cfm>

Family Connection

There is much in today's Gospel that resonates in family life. In our daily attempts as parents to live up to the confidence and trust that our children place in us, we come to know the wonders that God can do with just a little faith. In family life we also learn about obligations that are their own rewards. The daily tasks that family members do for one another and for the household are simply the manifestations of our responsibilities to one another.

Take a turn with each member of the family and identify some of the little things that each family member does that make a big difference in your family life.

Read today's Gospel, Luke 17:5-10. Talk about how each person is called upon by God to believe that God can work miracles in our lives, that God can use us to make a difference in our world.

Together as a family, pray and ask that God will work through your family to make a difference in the lives of those around you.

<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/27th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-c-sunday-connection>