

*TLC—Total Lifelong Catechesis*  
**Home Kit**  
**What is 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 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.

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.

According to Scripture, it is the heart that prays. Our hearts need to stay close to God. *St. Therese of Lisieux says "For me, prayer is a surge of the heart..."*

**Discussion with your Family:**

Prayer is communicating with God. Name different ways you communicate with your friends and family.

What happens if you stop talking to your friends and family?

Do you feel close to them?

What happens if you stop talking to God?

How are you doing on your family prayer time?

Discuss what you have enjoyed about your family prayer.

Do you feel different throughout the day or week when you pray as a family?

*Remember, 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**

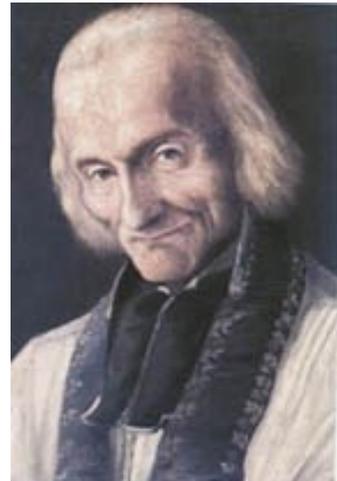
### **Saint John Vianney**

*Feast Day: August 4*

In 1805, John Vianney entered a seminary at age 19. After several months of study, he was still not prepared to attend lectures in Latin. He went to live with a friend who was a priest and who tutored him. This priest persuaded the bishop to ordain John not for his learning but for his holiness. After a few years, John was assigned to Ars, a village of about 50 families in France.

The people were careless about practicing their faith, so they were not happy with this priest who was eager to draw them back to God and Christian living. Some caused trouble by lying about John, by acting violently against him, and by refusing to cooperate with him. They hoped that he would give up and leave. Instead, Father Vianney increased his prayers, fasting, and penances.

Gradually, people came to celebrate the sacraments and listen to his homilies. Within a few years, Father Vianney was spending 10–15 hours a day in the confessional. People from all over France and other countries came to consult him. The government built a railroad line to Ars to accommodate all the pilgrims. Father Vianney just continued his hard, yet simple, way of prayer, fasting, and penance. He was strict with his parishioners but a hundred times more strict with himself. John gave away his furnishings, his belongings, and the gifts of clothes and food that the neighbors brought him. Once he received a black velvet cape as an award and sold it to buy food for those who were poor. He died at age 73. John was canonized in 1925 and is the patron of parish priests.



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

**GOSPEL READING**  
**Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**October 9, 2016**

Luke 17:11-19

As Jesus continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee.  
As he was entering a village, ten lepers met him.

They stood at a distance from him and raised their voices, saying,

“Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!”

And when he saw them, he said,

“Go show yourselves to the priests.”

As they were going they were cleansed.

And one of them, realizing he had been healed,  
returned, glorifying God in a loud voice;  
and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him.

He was a Samaritan.

Jesus said in reply,

“Ten were cleansed, were they not?

Where are the other nine?

Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?”

Then he said to him, “Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.”

*<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/100916.cfm>*

### **Family Connection**

Children fluctuate between moments of deep, heartfelt gratitude and an attitude of entitlement. These fluctuations are normal. Among our tasks as parents is to help foster the gift of gratitude, particularly gratitude to God for all God's goodness to us.

Read today's Gospel, Luke 17:11-19. Make a poster showing some of the gifts from God to your family. Display this poster in a prominent place and, as a family, write a prayer of thanksgiving for all of God's goodness to you.

*<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/28th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-c-sunday-connection>*