

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of the Baptism of Our Lord

January 8 through January 15, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Weakness of the Fathers and the Lord's Faithfulness—This week we return to the continuous readings from the Old Testament. Throughout this week's narrative we see the weakness of the Old Testament fathers, but also the faithfulness of the Lord. He had promised to be with them, to call them to repentance for sin, and to sustain them by His grace despite their ongoing struggles. This is of great comfort to us in our baptismal pilgrimage. In **Jacob Returns to Isaac His Father** we hear the account of Rachel's death in childbirth with Benjamin. Before she died, she called the child "Son of My Sorrow", but Jacob confessed his faith, even during grief, naming him "Benjamin" which means, "Son of the Right Hand." After the listing of Jacob's twelve sons, we learn of the death of Isaac. Joseph was called to be a prophet of the Lord. The Lord revealed himself to Joseph through dreams. This calling inspired jealousy among Joseph's brothers. **Joseph's Brothers Sell Him into Slavery** out of a self-righteous faith. As the narrative unfolds, we see the weakness of Jacob's fourth born son and his offspring in the account of **Judah and Tamar**. Through the sordid details of chapter 38, we learn that Judah unwittingly commits fornication with his daughter-in-law, believing her to be a prostitute. The long running narrative of Joseph continues in **Joseph Is a Slave in Egypt** and **Joseph Interprets Dreams in Prison**. Throughout his sojourn in Egypt, the Lord was with Joseph, sustaining his faith and working His good in Joseph's life and service to others. Though blessed as a faithful servant of Potiphar, he is falsely accused of adultery by Potiphar's wife and thrown into prison. While in prison, the Lord prospers his work. Joseph is given the opportunity to serve and continue the work of a prophet, interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh's butler and baker. The story of Joseph and the Lord's faithfulness to him in suffering are an example of that which St. Paul would later write: "God works in all things for our good, to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28).

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: Jesus Is Baptized to Fulfill All Righteousness!

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Acts 2:38-39

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.

Psalm 72 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Eternal God and Father, You have revealed Your Son as the only Savior from sin, and called us to the blessed knowledge of salvation. We thank You that You have preserved Your truth among us despite all the wiles and assaults of the Wicked One; and we beseech You, keep us evermore in purity of doctrine and send forth Your Word among all people, accompanying it with the effective working of Your Holy Spirit, that many may be brought to know Your Son and obtain the inheritance of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	66	68	71	73	75, 76	78	80	82, 84
Evening	67, 70	69	72	74	77	79	81	83

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Baptism of Our Lord—Matthew 3:13-17	John 6:22-26
Monday	Jacob Returns to Isaac His Father—Genesis 35:16-20, 22b-29	John 6:27-35
Tuesday	Joseph's Brothers Sell Him into Slavery—Gen. 37:1-36	John 6:35-40
Wednesday	Judah and Tamar—Genesis 38:1-30	John 6:41-47
Thursday	Joseph Is a Slave in Egypt—Genesis 39:1-23	John 6:48-51
Friday	Joseph Interprets Dreams in Prison—Genesis 40:1-23	Ephesians 5:22-33
Saturday	Exodus 33:12-23	

The Catechism: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism—Parts I and II

<p><i>What is Baptism?</i> Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word.</p>	Third Grade +
<p><i>Which is that word of God?</i> Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew:</p>	First Grade +
<p>“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” [Matt. 28:19]</p>	Kindergarten +
<p><i>What benefits does Baptism give?</i> It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.</p>	Third Grade +
<p><i>Which are these words and promises of God?</i> Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” [Mark 16:16]</p>	Second Grade +

Prayers: Catechism Prayers, In Our Prayers at Peace, and the Collect for the Week

Prayer of Thanksgiving for What Baptism Is

Heavenly Father, we give thanks to You for the gift of Holy Baptism whereby we are made disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ and given the gift of salvation. Teach us to believe that Baptism is not just plain water, but that it is the water included in Jesus’ command to baptize the nations and combined with God’s Word, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Benefits of Baptism

Heavenly Father, we give thanks to You that, for Jesus’ sake, Baptism works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as Your words and promises declare. Comfort us and strengthen our faith in Jesus with the promise that whoever believes in Him and is baptized will be saved; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week (include the petitions below followed by the Lord’s Prayer)

Baptismal Anniversaries: Susan Gehlbach (1/8), Frank Koplring, Holly Venkitaswaran (1/11), Kyle Knoerr, Kathy Stoltenberg, Sarah Meyle, Cheryl Fischer (1/13), John Bender (1/14).

The Sick: Rev. Jon Leider in rehab recovering from pneumonia; Bob Piper in a rehabilitation hospital following a head injury; Bob Rothe, Peyton Locklair, Jamilyn Martin, Kathy Miller, Heather Peters, and Josiah Boehringer in cancer treatment.

Hospice Care: Rev. DuWayne Schneider (friend of the Koplings).

Collect for the week of the Baptism of Our Lord:

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism.

Hymn of the Week

“To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord” (stanzas 2-4)

405

Looking forward to the Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 15, 2023

Hymns: 394, 402, 408, 636, 399, 538

Exodus 33:12-23: *The Lord promises to go with Moses and His people Israel, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” In the same way, the Lord promises His gracious presence will go with us and that our security rests upon Him who is “the Rock of our salvation.”*

Ephesians 5:22-33: *St. Paul teaches us that our marriages as Christians are but shadows of the ultimate marriage between Christ and His bride the Church. It is this marriage that is both eternal and the fulfillment of all that God desired for man in the creation of the world. By Holy Baptism, the washing of water and the Word, we are made bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh and share in all the life and love of Him who is the Church’s Bridegroom.*

John 2:1-11: *The first miracle that Jesus performed was turning water into wine. Many might think of this miracle as an insignificant event. Not so! John writes: “This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.” What did the disciples learn to believe about the Messiah from this “sign”? They learned that God had not abandoned the sinful human race but had come to rescue it – as the heavenly bridegroom who had come for His bride the Church. Just as sin came into the world within the institution of marriage by the transgression of the first man, Adam, and thereby infected the entire human race, so God “manifested His glory” through the second Adam, Jesus, who would reverse the effects of the fall and save mankind, marriage, and family from destruction. God had not abandoned the people He created or the institutions of marriage and family but has come to redeem them. He is now the true Man and the true Bridegroom. In His body the Church He creates an eternal family of love in the forgiveness of sins.*