

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
The Week of the Second Sunday after Christmas
January 4 through January 11, 2026*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Epiphany — “Epiphany” means “to be revealed.” During the Epiphany season, Jesus is “revealed” to be the Son of God and the Savior of all people, Jew and Gentile alike. Throughout this season we see the divinity of Jesus revealed in the Holy Gospel readings and the glory of God shining through the flesh of the eternal Son who is both “the Father’s beloved” and “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

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 Submits Himself to Mary and Joseph for Us.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Matthew 7:7-8

Ask, and it will be given to you;
seek, and you will find;
knock, and it will be opened to you.
For everyone who asks receives,
and he who seeks finds,
and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Psalm 119:97-104 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on Psalm: Lord Jesus, Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Your Word is sweeter than honey. It revives our soul and protects us from every enemy. By Your Word, make us wiser than all earthly teachers and give us Your peace and protection from every hardship and adversity; for You live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	112, 113	115	117, 118	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112	119:137-152	122, 123
Evening	114	116	120, 121	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136	119:153-176	124

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Christmas 2: The Boy Jesus in the Temple—Luke 2:40-52	Numbers 6:22-27
Monday	Purification of Mary & Presentation—Luke 2:21-24	Leviticus 12:1-8
Tuesday	Simeon and Anna Receive the Christ Child—Luke 2:25-40	Isaiah 60:1-6
Wednesday	The Epiphany of Our Lord (transferred)—Matthew 2:1-12	Numbers 24:15-19
Thursday	The Flight to Egypt & Slaughter of the Innocents—Matt. 2:13-23	Jeremiah 31:10-17
Friday	The Boy Jesus in the Temple—Luke 2:41-52	Deuteronomy 6:4-9
Saturday	Baptism of Our Lord: Isaiah 42:1-9	Romans 6:1-11

Catechism: Lord’s Prayer—Seventh Petition and Conclusion

<i>What is the Seventh Petition?</i> But deliver us from evil	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean?</i> We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.	Second Grade +
<i>What is the Conclusion to the Lord’s Prayer?</i> For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.	Preschool +
<i>What does this mean? (or, What is meant by the word “Amen”?)</i> This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means “yes, yes, it shall be so.”	Third Grade +

Prayers: Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the Second Sunday after Christmas

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for The Epiphany of Our Lord

O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer — “Let us pray...”

Sunday: For the joy of the resurrection among us
Monday: For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work
Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil and those struggling with besetting sins
Wednesday: For marriage and family
Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; and for fruitful and salutary use of the Lord’s Supper
Friday: For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the persecuted and oppressed
Saturday: For the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away from Christ

In Our Prayers this Week — “Let us pray for...”

Baptismal anniversaries: Victor Stanley, Joanne Smith (1/4); Maria Stemke, Terry O’Neill (1/5); Bill Schaefer, Pam Kirk (1/6); Elaina Kerner, Felicity Daleiden, Drew Franklin (1/7); Reuben Roe, Betty Voss, Susan Gehlbach (1/8).

Wedding Anniversaries: Fritz and Robin Theilacker (1/4); Rich and Melinda Burger (1/5).

The sick: Terry O’Neill and Mark Anderson in rehab.

In cancer treatment: Melissa Brendel, Michael Gehl (friend of the Brusses), Mary O’Flyng (acquaintance of the Rothes), Tim Francis (brother of Cheri LaFore); Loretta Lampen; Ivy Kunkel, Tracy Espinosa, Ken Hinckle, Gary Luderman, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer.

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

Hymn of the Week

“O Savior of Our Fallen Race” (Stanzas 1-4)

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Looking forward to the Baptism of Our Lord

January 11, 2026

Hymns: 405, 942, 948, 406, 960, 962, 404, 596, 938, 598

Isaiah 42:1-9: The prophet Isaiah prophesies that Jesus, the Lord’s “Servant” will be anointed with the Holy Spirit to be the Savior of the world. This anointing happened at Jesus’ Baptism and designated Him to be the Christ. Jesus’ anointing at the Jordan River began His public ministry wherein He would fulfill all righteousness for us as the bearer of all sin and punishment on our behalf. God the Father will not give His glory to another because Jesus alone fulfills the Father’s will in His faithfulness unto death. All things will be made new in Him

Romans 6:1-11: The apostle Paul catechizes us on the meaning and significance of our Baptism for every day of our lives. Baptism is not an action that symbolizes a decision that we made to follow Jesus. Baptism is a Sacrament wherein God unites us to the death and resurrection of His Son. In Baptism, God reckons us to be dead to sin and alive to Him through Christ. Because of our Baptism we have the right to reckon ourselves to be dead indeed to sin and alive to God for Christ’s sake. God wants us to believe that though we remain sinners we are, nonetheless, righteous and alive to God through Christ. We live in our Baptism through repentance and the power of Christ’s absolution given to us in Holy Baptism.

Matthew 3:13-17: Jesus’ baptism signifies that the Son of God has not only become a flesh and blood man like us, but especially that He has come to align Himself with us as sinners and to take our sin upon Himself as the Lamb of God. We come to Baptism because Christ is the content of our Baptism. We come to have our sins washed away and forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Jesus comes to the waters of Baptism, not because He has sin to be forgiven, but to give Himself into the waters of Holy Baptism so that Baptism has the power to forgive sins for us. He is the righteous Savior who has died for us. He fulfills all righteousness in our place. In His Baptism He gives Himself to us so that in our Baptism we might receive Him for the forgiveness of all sins. When we are Baptized God the Father declares us His beloved for Jesus’ sake, the Holy Spirit descends upon us with the gift of faith, and Jesus and His righteousness becomes our own.