

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week of the Last Sunday in the Church Year
(November 20th– November 26th)*

CATECHETICAL THEME:

The Baptismal Life

This Week's Catechetical Theme: The Baptismal Life

The things of the flesh are of the flesh, but the things of the Spirit are of the Spirit (John 3:6). These words of Jesus teach us that, although we have desires that flow from our hearts, those desires are not always in accord with God's will, or His Word. The desires of the flesh are those desires that flow from a sinful, natural heart, and they are what defile us (Matt. 15: 18-20). But the Spirit places within the Christian a new heart, a new will, and new desires as well. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law (Gal. 5:22-23). The baptized do not go on sinning, indulging their every heart's desire, so that grace can abound (Rom. 6:1). On the contrary, the baptized are called to deny themselves, to pick up their crosses, and to follow Jesus (Luke 9:23). In this way, by daily contrition and repentance, the Old Adam is drowned, and the new man arises to live before God in righteousness and purity.

Invocation: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Ten Commandments & The Apostles' Creed

The Catechism:

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Romans 6:4)

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Parable of the Ten Virgins Matthew 25:1-13		Psalm 120
Monday	Let Him Deny Himself Luke 9:23-27	Genesis 28	Psalm 121
Tuesday	In the Last Days 2 Timothy 3:1-17	Genesis 29	Psalm 122
Wednesday	Not Peace But a Sword Matthew 10:34-39	Genesis 30	Psalm 123
Thursday	From Where Does My Help Come? Psalm 121	Genesis 31	Psalm 124
Friday	I Am the Resurrection John 11:17-27	Genesis 32	Psalm 125
Saturday	Jeremiah 23:5-8	Romans 13:8-14	Psalm 126

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon:** What does it mean to deny ourselves? What must we learn to deny in order to follow Jesus? **Tues:** Discuss how a family might be divided by what Jesus brings? **Wed:** How does this passage describe the Last Days before Jesus returns? **Thurs:** From where does the Psalm indicate that our help will come? Is this still true for us? **Fri:** What does Jesus call himself? What does Jesus promise to all who believe in him? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

And (Jesus) said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." (Luke 9:23-24)

In Our Prayers this Week

For Those Who Mourn: The family & friends of Nancy Hutchinson (sister of Jerry Mines). **For Those Who Rejoice:** The birth of Cameron Bryan (grandson of Chris & Tim Hanke). **For Those Recovering from Surgery:** Marla Corry, Lynn Michael, Adrienne Childress (mother of David Childress). **For Those Undergoing Medical Treatments:** Beth Jones (daughter-in-law of Mike Jones), Joe Childress (father of David Childress), Beth Mayer (niece of Mia Zimmermann). **For Those in Need of Healing:** Rodney Tate (father of Randy Tate), Roger & Marilyn Sullens

(father & mother of Linda Reckling). **For Those Who Are Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Barb Mueller, Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann, Connie Schilling. **Homebound Members:** Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene Schierschwitz. **Baptismal Birthdays:** Paul Kleiboeker, Trevor Albers, Jenna Kleiboeker (11/21), Nick Nolte (11/25).

The Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer From the Small Catechism
Hymn of the Week: Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying (LSB 516)