

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week following
Quinquagesima (February 19th – February 25th)*

CATECHETICAL THEME:

Qualifications for the Pastoral Office

This Week's Catechetical Theme: Qualifications for the Pastoral Office

“This saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task” (1 Tim. 3:1). By inspiration of the Holy Spirit St. Paul teaches us that it is good and pleasing to desire to be a pastor. Jesus further teaches that we—the Church—are to pray for the Lord to provide pastors to shepherd the flock of the faithful (Matt. 9:37-38). But is the office of overseer—the divinely instituted Pastoral Office—an office that is for everyone? Are there certain biblical qualifications that a person who holds this sacred office should embody? This week's catechetical material seeks to answer that question. God bless your time in His Word!

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: *From the Table of Duties*

To Bishops, Pastors, and Preachers

The overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (1 Timothy 3:2-4)

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar Luke 18:31-43		Psalm 61
Monday	The Twelve Apostles Matthew 10:1-4	Exodus 29	Psalm 62
Tuesday	Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Matthew 10:5-15	Exodus 30	Psalm 63
Wednesday	Workers for the Vineyard Matthew 9:35-38	Exodus 31	Psalm 64
Thursday	Ezekiel Is Israel's Watchman Ezekiel 33:1-9	Exodus 32	Psalm 65

Friday	Qualifications of a Pastor 1 Timothy 3:1-7	Exodus 33	Psalm 66
Saturday	1 Samuel 17:40-51	Hebrews 4:14-16	Psalm 67

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon:** What does Jesus do in this reading? What did he give the disciples authority to do? **Tues:** Now Jesus sends out the twelve disciples. To whom does Jesus tell them to go? What does Jesus call them to do? Why is it necessary for them to preach this message? **Wed** Why did Jesus have compassion on the crowds? What had the people been without? For what does Jesus teach us to pray? **Thurs:** What is the Lord's prophet called at the end of verse two? What is this "watchman" called to do? How does this foreshadow the task of a faithful pastor? **Fri:** Is it okay to desire to be a pastor? What sort of characteristics should describe a person who serves in the office of overseer/pastor? Does everyone meet these qualifications? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

Then (Jesus) said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38)

In Our Prayers this Week

For Those Recovering from Surgery: Earl Schneider, Lynn Michael. **For Those Undergoing Medical Treatments:** Marla Corry, 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:** Alan Kleiboeker, 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. **Baptismal Birthday:** Jill Schilling, Lynn Michael (2/19), Jason Brinkmann (2/20), Wayne Brink, Chase Roethemeyer (2/22), Janette Albers (2/24), Tucker Albers (2/25).

The Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer From the Small Catechism

Hymn of the Week: Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus (LSB 685)