



TO TEACH AS JESUS DID

JANUARY 2017

Sacred Space

Father God, the star that led the Magi to the stable announced to the world that its Savior was born. Today we live in a world that is still covered by darkness, and still needing to make that journey to the stable door. May our lives reflect your light day by day, as we seek to serve where you have placed us. That we might be the means through which others can encounter Jesus Christ. Amen

http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Epiphany.htm



Lord, Teach Me to Pray..... Concentrate on Your Prayer Life in the New Year!

Prayer is simply conversation with God. It's asking Him to meet your need or someone else's.
It's praising Him and thanking Him. It's about committing things to Him and consecrating things to Him.
It's repenting our sins for forgiveness. We need to pray about everything and anything.

When you *pray*, you are speaking your heart to God and he hears you.

Here are seven simple prayers, with accompanying scripture references, to show that you're in good company in praying each one:

1) Here I am. (Isaiah 6:8)

Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Samuel, and Isaiah are all recorded as having prayed the "Here I am" prayer. It works best first thing in the morning, a way of reporting for duty and being "present" to God.

2) You are great. (Psalm 86:10)

A sunrise. Fresh orange juice. A cool breeze. A baby's smile. A shooting star. Any number of things throughout your day may prompt you to say, with David, "You are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God."

3) Thank you. (Psalm 138:1)

Certainly at meal times, but even the worst day includes many reasons to tell God, "Thank You! Everything in me says 'Thank You!'"

4) Help. (Psalm 38:22)

Whether your need is big or small, every day presents multiple opportunities to pray this simple prayer: "Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation."

5) Bless. (Psalm 67:1)

Whether it's just one or two words ("bless him") or more ("May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine on us"), this everyday prayer can be a request to heal, prosper, encourage, strengthen, comfort or deliver someone.

6) Sorry. (Psalm 38:18)

I won't tell you how often every day I pray this prayer. Suffice it to say, I have found out the sooner I express my repentance, the better—often using the words of David, "I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin."

7) I love you. (John 21:17)

One morning at breakfast, Jesus gave Peter three opportunities to express his love for the Lord, until Peter finally said, "Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You." "I love You" is a great thing to say many times a day to God.

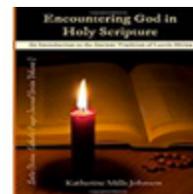
From <http://theprayingwoman.com/7-simple-prayers-to-pray-every-day/#>

From the Education Resource Center (ERC):

Resolve in 2017 to Grow in Your Faith! The following resources can help.

The *Lectio Divina Catholic Prayer Journal Series* by Katherine Mills Johnson can help you grow in both your prayer life and your understanding of the concepts of the Catholic Faith. Several volumes are available in the series. They are accessible to the beginner in this prayer method while also being inspirational for those who are more experienced. The following titles are available through the ERC:

- BK #242655 *Volume I: Encountering God in Holy Scripture*
- BK #242656 *Volume II: Praying the Mysteries of the Rosary*
- BK #263590 *Volume III: Praying the Stations of the Cross*
- BK #242657 *Volume IV: Jesus Christ, The Word Made Flesh*
- BK #242658 *Volume VI: I Believe... Praying the Apostles' Creed*
- BK #242659 *Volume VII: Praying the Our Father*





Saint of the Month: St. John Neumann

This American saint was born in Bohemia in 1811. He was looking forward to being ordained in 1835 when the bishop decided there would be no more ordinations. It is difficult for us to imagine now, but Bohemia was overstocked with priests. Finally, the bishop in New York agreed to ordain him. In order to follow God's call to the priesthood John would have to leave his home forever and travel across the ocean to a new and rugged land. In New York, John was one of 36 priests for 200,000 Catholics. John's parish in western New York stretched from Lake Ontario to Pennsylvania. His church had no steeple or floor but that didn't matter because John spent most of his time traveling from village to village, climbing mountains to visit the sick, staying in garrets and taverns to teach, and celebrating the Mass at kitchen tables. Because of the work and the isolation of his parish, John longed for community and so joined the Redemptorists, a congregation of priests and brothers dedicated to helping the poor and most abandoned. John was appointed bishop of Philadelphia in 1852. As bishop, he was the first to organize a diocesan Catholic school system. A founder of Catholic education in this country, he increased the number of Catholic schools in his diocese from two to 100. John died on January 5, 1860 at the age of 48.

http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=70



The Archdiocese of Dubuque Pinterest Board:
Adult Formation – DVD Series and Online

Resources includes a variety of great resources for personal, small groups, and large groups!

<https://www.pinterest.com/dbqarch/adult-formation-dvd-series-and-online-resources/>

Teaching Children and Teens to Pray with Creativity.

Teach your students how to pray through their imagination (like Pope Francis does!), artwork, or writing letters to God.

Praying With Art: Try an approach to prayer through drawing, coloring and/or painting. It's easy and simple to introduce and you don't have to have any artistic skill! Even kids can be bored by the words of some prayers and stymied by a lack of focus. Let kids draw a shape, put the name of a friend inside, and add lines and color. Draw another shape with another name and added detail and color. When the page is covered with designs and names, there is prayer. The action of drawing is a wordless offering of friends and family into the care of God. The page of drawings became a visual reminder to pray

Writing to God: Try to pray by writing letters to God. Each letter becomes a prayer and draws its writer into a moment of meditation. This is a good idea with middle and high students. If the students are comfortable, they can share their written conversations with God with others in the class.

Imaginative Prayer: St. Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuit order, was a big proponent of what became known as Ignatian contemplation. In this form of imaginative prayer, we can imagine ourselves in Bible stories. It's a great way for children to pray! As a Jesuit, this is one of the ways that Pope Francis prays and teaches others to pray. Next time you teach a story from Scripture, use this technique. Ideas from <http://www.growingupcatholic.com/teaching-your-child-to-pray.html>

Epiphany: What Will You Bring?

Epiphany is observed on January 6, twelve days after Christmas, to remember the kings who came to worship King Jesus and who brought him three gifts – gold, frankincense, and myrrh – following his divine birth.

As we celebrate the New Year, let us ask ourselves, "What gifts will I bring to King Jesus this year?"

Will you give Jesus your heart?

Will you give Jesus your mind?

Will you give Jesus your willpower?

Will you give Jesus your treasures?

What you do: Give each student a small piece of paper and a pen to write a prayer. Tell the class to prayerfully think about what they can bring to King Jesus this year. (Spend a few minutes praying and asking God to show the class what they can bring to Jesus.) Begin a sentence with, "Because Jesus is the King of my life, I will _____." Have students fill in the blank. Have them write 3-4 sentences whereby they fill in the blank. (For example, Because Jesus is the King of my life, I will show kindness to my enemies." Or, "Because Jesus is the King of my life, I will spend more time reading his word.")

Make Epiphany Boxes to Store Prayer

Decorate a small cardboard or tin box with paint, pens, markers, and other various items such as small beads, jewels, gold cord, etc. Small tea boxes or International Coffee tins work well. Place the prayers in this box. Pray: "Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to earth as a baby and becoming a man. Thank you for going to the cross to be the sacrifice to make me right with God. Help me this New Year to be a living sacrifice for you in all the things that I say and do. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. Amen." http://www.christiancrafters.com/lesson_Epiphany.html

