



MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH



A CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

JANUARY 22, 2012—JANUARY 28, 2012

COMMENTARY FOR THE WEEK

This Sunday is observed as Sanctity of Life Sunday by Christians all across our nation. It is a day when we pause to remember that life is a precious gift from God that we are to treasure, preserve, and handle with great care. In the beginning of time God gave man the gift of life as we read in Genesis 2:7, "The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being." Unfortunately sinful mankind often disregards the sanctity of life and handles life carelessly. Each year 1.2 million abortions take place in our nation. We too often forget that from the moment of conception we are a living being made in God's image. Long ago the prophet Jeremiah wrote, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart." (1:5). Another way we devalue life is by the taking of one's own life in suicide. Each year nearly 40,000 Americans take their own life. Sui-

cide is now the third leading cause of death among our youth. Life is further cheapened by pornography and violence in our media. Life imitates art as we have become more violent and crude as a people. Jesus came into our world as a human being to redeem mankind. He lifts us up from the gutter to the level of angels. As His forgiven people we are to live a new life filled with His Spirit. As St. Paul wrote, "Finally brethren whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue and if there be any praise think on these things. (Philippians 4:8) As God's redeemed people we therefore handle all of life from the beginning to the end with great care.

MEMORIZING THE CATECHISM: THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

<i>What does such baptizing with water indicate?</i> 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.	3rd +
<i>Where is this written?</i> St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six:	1st +
We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death	K+
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	2nd +

A SAMPLE FAMILY DEVOTION:

• Invocation

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

• Verse of the Week

Try to memorize by the end of the week.

• Daily Bible Story

Read together and talk about the story. Which character are you most like? Where is the Gospel?

• Apostles' Creed

• Prayers

Pray together the collect, and have a family member pray the daily thematic prayer and the prayers of the Church for the Week

Reading the Psalms:

Perfect for personal morning devotions.

SUNDAY 82, 84
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MONDAY 85
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TUESDAY 88
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WEDNESDAY 89
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THURSDAY 91
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FRIDAY 92
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SATURDAY 95, 96
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VERSE OF THE WEEK

If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

Luke 9:23

Hymn of the Week:

“You Are the Way; Through You Alone”, LSB#526:1,4

A musician in the family can play the tune while the family sings together. Otherwise, the text is good devotional material.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A New Prophet like Moses

1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Food Offered to idols

Mark 1:21-28

Jesus Heals a Man with an Unclean Spirit

BIBLE STORIES FOR THE FAMILY AND CONGREGATION:

TO BE READ DURING YOUR DAILY FAMILY DEVOTIONS

Sunday	
Monday	Jonah is Swallowed by the Great Fish—Jonah 1:1-17
Tuesday	Jonah's Prayer—Jonah 2:1-10
Wednesday	The Sign of Jonah—Matthew 12:38-45
Thursday	Jesus Walks on Water—Matthew 14:22-46
Friday	Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet—John 13:1-5

DAILY PRAYER READINGS:

PERFECT FOR PERSONAL EVENING DEVOTIONS

Sunday	OT: Joel 2:1-17	NT: Romans 11:1-24
Monday	Joel 2:18-32	Romans 11:25-12:13
Tuesday	Joel 3:1-21	Romans 12:14-13:14
Wednesday	Zechariah 1:1-21	Romans 14:1-23
Thursday	Zechariah 2:1-3:10	Romans 15:1-13
Friday	Zechariah 4:1-5:11	Romans 15:14-33
Saturday	Zechariah 6:1-7:14	Romans 16:17-27
Sunday	Zechariah 8:1-23	2 Timothy 1:1-18

PRAYERS

Collect for the Week:

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Daily Themes for Prayer:

Sunday	for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of the faith nourished by the Word and the Sacraments.
Monday	for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.
Tuesday	for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.
Wednesday	for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.
Thursday	for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.
Friday	for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.
Saturday	for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

In Our Prayers @ Mt. Calvary

Kathy Theiss at home from the hospital; **Sandy McNamara** at home from the hospital following surgery; **Debbie Pundt** undergoing chemotherapy; **Ruby Pircher** at SAMMC; **Lee Smetzer** at Northeast Baptist Hospital with pneumonia; **the family of Thelma Gray** at her death on Wednesday; **the Pircher family** at the death of Ruby on Thursday; **the family of Dr. Guido Merkens** at his recent death; **our troops** who are returning home from Iraq.