The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*for Epiphany 2*

*January 14, 2024*

*Pray and confess aloud 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.*

**Catechesis Notes for the week** **– Psalm 143: A Prayer for the Lord’s Guidance –** Psalm 143 teaches us how the Lord guides, comforts, and directs our lives. By His Word He teaches us to know how weak and frail we are because of sin. No one living is righteous before God. We are all sinners, and the devil especially persecutes our soul by reminding us of our past failings. The evil one’s desire is to crush our lives and lead us into despair. But the Lord guides, comforts, and directs us by not entering into judgment against us. Christ has taken away the condemnation we deserve. By His Word we remember the days of old, we meditate upon all God’s works, we ponder the work of God’s hands, and according to His promises we open our hands to receive the help that our soul needs to survive the attacks of the evil one. When our spirit fails, the Lord does not hide His face from us, but causes us to hear His loving-kindness in the morning. By His Word He causes us to know the way in which we should walk and vanquishes every enemy that is set against us. “Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness…For I am Your servant.”

***Invocation* -In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Verse:** Luke 9:23 – And Jesus said to all, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.”

**Apostles’ Creed**

**Psalm of the Week: Psalm 143**

**Year II – Catechism Stories**

**Bible Readings for the Week**

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| Sunday | Epiphany 2 – John 2:1-11 |
| Monday | Jonah is Swallowed by the Great Fish – Jonah 1:1 – 2:10 |
| Tuesday | The Sign of Jonah – Matthew 12:38-45 |
| Wednesday | Jesus Walks on the Water – Matthew 14:22-36 |
| Thursday | **Confession of St. Peter – Mark 8:27-9:a** |
| Friday | Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet – John 13:1-15 |
| Saturday | Transfiguration OT – Exodus 34:29-35 |

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| **Catechism: Second Article of the Creed** | **Grades** |
| *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. | 3rd+ |
| *Where is this written?*  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.”** | 2nd+ |