



Only 3 CCD Classes Left!

Monday

April 20th - Lesson 18

April 27th - Lesson 19

May 4th - Lesson 20

Tuesday

April 21st - Lesson 18

April 28th - Lesson 19

May 5th - Lesson 20



Essential Question

Lesson 18: How do we pray?

Lesson 18 asks the Essential Question: *How do we pray?* This lesson helps students to respect the fact that, all around the world, members of the Church are praying the basic forms of prayer in ways that are unique to the needs and gifts of their own cultures. The Church invites us to pray all the time. In fact, one of the best habits we could ever develop is to pray spoken and unspoken prayers at any moment during the day. The Church also invites us to participate in the liturgy, which is the public prayer and work of the whole Church. The lesson focuses on meditation and contemplation as forms of prayer and concludes that the most profound time for prayer is during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, especially when we receive Jesus in Holy Communion.



Catholic Relief Services Lenten Collection

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our Lenten collection for Catholic Relief Services. I am very happy to report that after our first week of collecting our Rice Bowl boxes that **we have already raised \$260** to benefit those in need around the world and close to home.



Attention 8th Grade Families April 27th and April 28th

Chris Kaiser, OLS' Youth Minister, will be coming in to speak to our 8th grade students about high school Youth Group on April 27th and April 28th. He will be running activities and answering questions about Youth Group and Confirmation. Please make every effort for your child to attend that day so that he or she has a better understanding of the next stop on their journey of faith.



Friendly Reminder: First Eucharist Rehearsal

This year the members of our Sacramental Preparation Program will celebrate First Eucharist on Saturday, May 2nd. There are two Masses: 10:30am and 2:30pm. The rehearsal times for each Mass are as follows:

10:30 am Mass

Wednesday, April 29th Rehearsal
5:30 - 7:00 pm

2:30 Mass

Thursday, April 30th Rehearsal
5:30 - 7:00 pm

Please note, your child must attend the rehearsal corresponding to the specific Mass your child has signed up for. The practices will be held in the upper church. We will run through the entire Mass and students will have an opportunity to practice any readings they elect to have as well as the receipt of Holy Communion. Children should be accompanied to the rehearsal by a parent or an adult who will also be present on the day of First Eucharist.



OLS School Track and Field Team Open to CCD Students

As a CCD student, your child is eligible to participate on the OLS School's Track and Field team. The track team is open to boys and girls in grades K - 8. There will be three practices a week at Floods Hill in South

Orange (Tuesday/Thursday 6:00-7:00pm; Saturdays 10:00-11:00am). Meets are held on select weekends from late April through early June. Events include: shot put, javelin, meter sprints, meter long distance, meter relays (grades 3-8); fun run (grades K-2)

The track and field program needs volunteer coaches for this season. Please consider helping out. Practice dates will be determined by coaching availability.

[Register for OLS Crusaders Track & Field](#)



Leo P.P. XIV

Pope Leo Travels to Africa

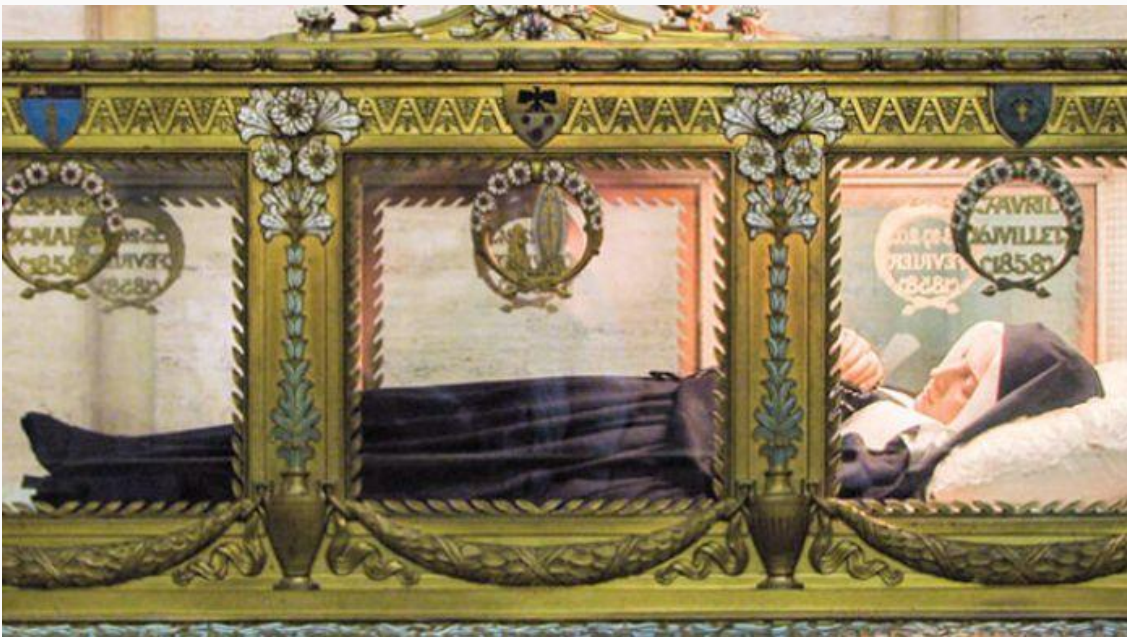
Pope Leo XIV's current apostolic journey to Africa (Algeria, Cameroon, Angola and Equatorial Guinea) highlights the vitality and growth of the Church on the continent and offers a strong message of hope to people facing many social and political challenges. Throughout the visit, he will emphasize key themes of peace and reconciliation, care for the poor and marginalized, and the importance of building unity across cultural and religious differences, including continued dialogue with other faith traditions. He will also encourage young people to be active witnesses of the Gospel and remind the faithful that the Church is called to be a sign of Christ's presence in every community. Overall, the trip is meant to be a powerful reminder of the universal Church's mission to bring Christ's love, healing,

and hope to all people. Click [HERE](#) for an overview of the trip.



Cardinal Tobin on 60 Minutes

Cardinal Tobin, the current Archbishop of Newark, was on "60 Minutes" this past Sunday. In a joint interview with CBS's Norah O'Donnell, Cardinals Joseph Tobin of Newark, N.J., Robert McElroy of Washington, and Blase Cupich of Chicago, began by giving their impressions of the first U.S. pope, Pope Leo XIV. The three then discussed the Iran War, immigration and the recent increase in the number of individuals joining the Catholic Church. To view the interview, click [HERE](#).



SAINT / FEAST OF THE WEEK
St. Bernadette Soubirous (1844-1879)

Patron of: Those who suffer from illness or poverty; Lourdes, France
Feast Day: April 16th

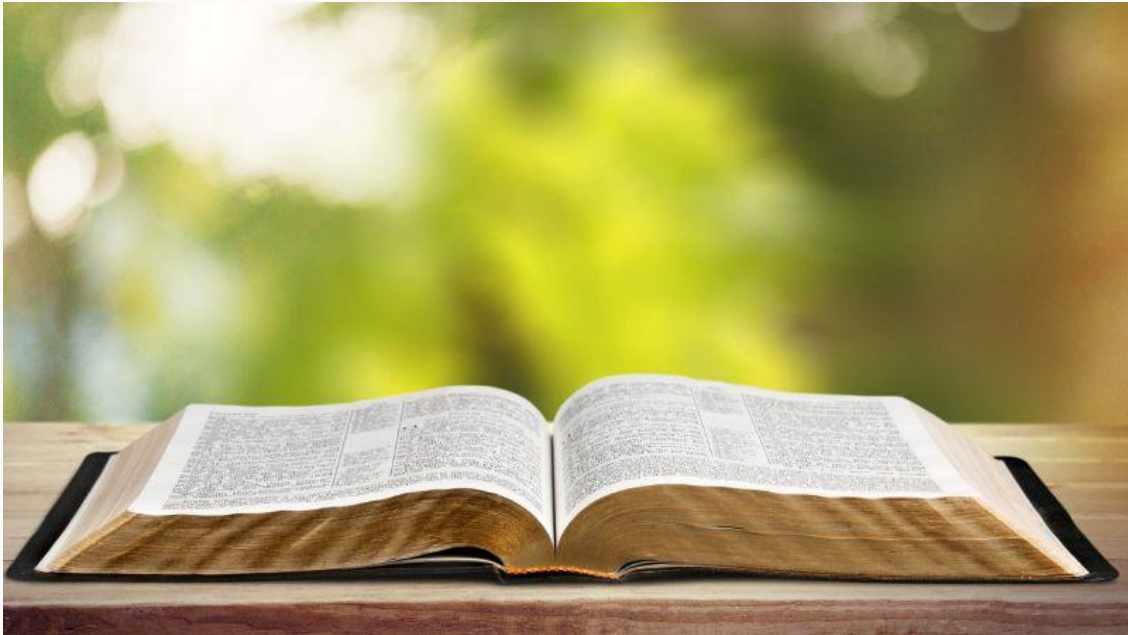
Bernadette Soubirous was born in 1844, the first child of an extremely poor miller in the town of Lourdes in southern France. The family was living in the basement of a dilapidated building when on February 11, 1858, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette in a cave above the banks of the Gave River near Lourdes. Bernadette, 14 years old, was known as a virtuous girl though a dull student who had not even made her first Holy Communion. In poor health, she had suffered from asthma from an early age.

There were 18 appearances in all, the final one occurring on the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, July 16. Although Bernadette's initial reports provoked skepticism, her daily visions of "the Lady" brought great crowds of the curious. The Lady, Bernadette explained, had instructed her to have a chapel built on the spot of the visions. There, the people were to come to wash in and drink of the water of the spring that had welled up from the very spot where Bernadette had been instructed to dig.

According to Saint Bernadette Soubirous, the Lady of her visions was a girl of 16 or 17 who wore a white robe with a blue sash. Yellow roses covered her feet, a large rosary was on her right arm. In the vision on March 25 she told Bernadette, "I am the Immaculate Conception." It was only when the words were explained to her that Bernadette came to realize who the Lady was.

Few visions have ever undergone the scrutiny that these appearances of the Immaculate Virgin were subject to. Lourdes became one of the most popular Marian shrines in the world, attracting millions of visitors. Miracles were reported at the shrine and in the waters of the spring. After thorough investigation, Church authorities confirmed the authenticity of the apparitions in 1862.

During her life, Saint Bernadette Soubirous suffered much. She was hounded by the public as well as by civic officials until at last she was protected in a convent of nuns. Five years later, she petitioned to enter the Sisters of Notre Dame of Nevers. After a period of illness, she was able to make the journey from Lourdes and enter the novitiate. But within four months of her arrival, she was given the last rites of the Church and allowed to profess her vows. She recovered enough to become infirmarian and then sacristan, but chronic health problems persisted. She died on April 16, 1879, at the age of 35. Bernadette Soubirous was canonized in 1933.



In the Liturgy of the Word, the Church feeds the people of God from the table of his Word. Previewing the readings before Mass is then a bit like looking over the menu before you get to a restaurant: you have a better idea of what you can expect so that you can enter into the experience more fully prepared. And like a good discussion during a meal, discussing the readings and how they can be applied to your family's daily life helps your family to truly go out and proclaim the gospel after leaving the church.

Here are a few resources to help your family delve deeper into the Liturgy of the Word:

[USCCB: Third Sunday of Easter](#)

[Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#)

[MaryKnoll Brothers Easter Season Reflections](#)

[Sadlier: This Week's Liturgy](#)



Mark 10 Mission Little Liturgies

This week, the Mark 10 Mission looks ahead to Sunday's Gospel and shares what happened on the road to Emmaus. You probably know the story, the Risen Jesus appeared to two of his friends and yet, mysteriously, they were unable to recognize him. The Mark 10 Mission's celebration of the Word videos will help children to enter the Gospel and consider how they can meet and recognize Jesus in their own lives.

[The Road to Emmaus \(For Children Under 8\)](#)

[The Road to Emmaus \(For Children 8-12\)](#)



Family Faith Game: "Who Am I?"

How to Play:

This game is inspired by the classic *Headbands* game, but with a Bible twist! Each player wears (or holds up) the name of a person from the Bible without looking at it. The goal is to guess who you are by asking yes-or-no questions.

Road to Emmaus Connection:

In the story of the Road to Emmaus, the disciples walk and talk with Jesus—but they don't recognize Him at first. In this game, players experience something similar: the answer is right "in front of them," but they must ask questions and listen carefully to discover the truth!

What You'll Need / Set up:

- Slips of paper with names of Bible figures
- Tape, sticky notes, or a headband to hold the name on your forehead

How to Play:

Players take turns asking yes-or-no questions to figure out who they are. Example questions: "Am I in the Old Testament?" "Did I meet Jesus?" "Am I a king?" Other players can only answer "yes" or "no." If the answer is "yes," the player may ask another question. If "no," the turn passes to the next player. When a player thinks they know who they are, they can make a guess on their turn. Continue until everyone has guessed correctly.

Faith Connection:

Just like the disciples on the road didn't recognize Jesus right away, we sometimes miss how He is present in our daily lives. This game reminds us to keep asking, seeking, and listening—because Jesus is always near, even when we don't immediately recognize Him.

April Catechist Magazine Calendar

KIDSCALENDAR

APRIL 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Word of the month: Passion Jesus' suffering and death on the Cross.			WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK	HOLY THURSDAY	GOOD FRIDAY	HOLY SATURDAY
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD Q Where did Jesus say his disciples would see him? (SEE APRIL 7) A In Galilee Matthew 28:1-10	MONDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER	TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER	WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER	THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER	FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER	SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY Q What words did Thomas say to Jesus? (SEE APRIL 16) A "My Lord, and My God!" John 20:19-31	SAINT MARTIN L, POPE AND MARTYR					
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER Q The two disciples were walking towards which village? (SEE APRIL 24) A Emmaus Luke 24:13-35				ST. GEORGE, MARTYR ST. ADALBERT, BISHOP AND MARTYR	ST. FIGELIS OF SIGMARINGEN, PRIEST AND MARTYR	ST. MARK, EVANGELIST
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER Q Who is the gate for the sheep? (SEE APRIL 27) A Jesus John 10:1-10		ST. PETER CHANEL, PRIEST AND MARTYR ST. LOUIS GRIGNON DE MONTFORT, PRIEST	ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, VIRGIN AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH	ST. PIOUS V, POPE		
26	27	28	29	30		

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[Download the April 2026 Calendar Here](#)

Catholic Trivia

Question: In the Gospel story of the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–35), about how far was the village of Emmaus from Jerusalem?

- A) 3 miles
- B) 7 miles

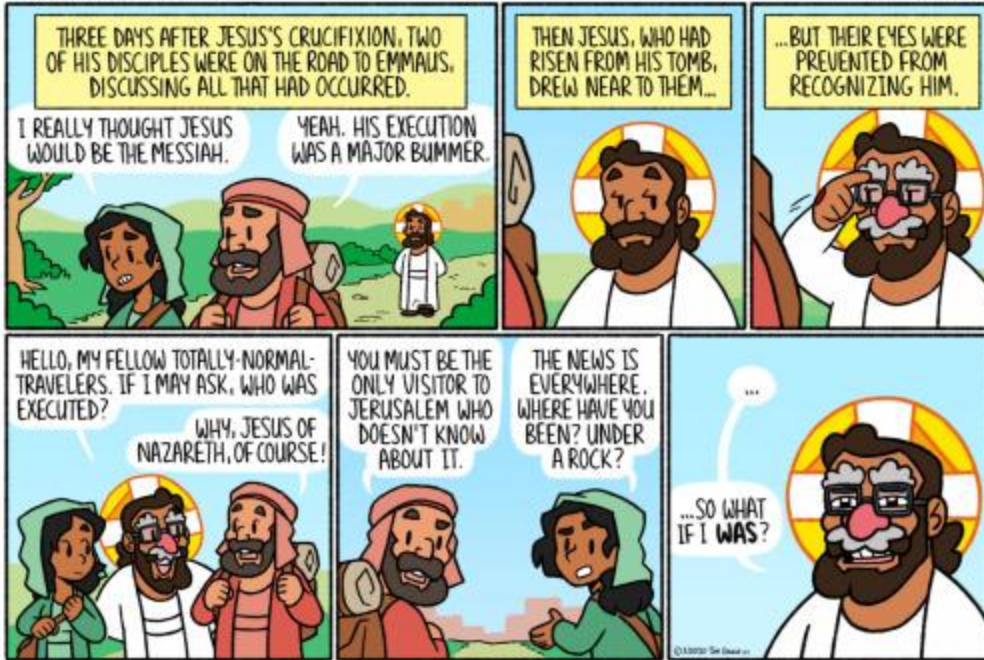


C) 15 miles

D) 20 miles

Answer: B Seven miles is a long walk—especially for hearts weighed down with confusion and disappointment. Yet it is along this journey that the disciples encounter the Risen Jesus, even though they do not recognize Him at first. This reminds us that even when we don't realize it, Jesus is walking with us in our daily lives, especially in life's difficult moments, and reveals Himself to us in Scripture and in the breaking of the bread.

Joke of the Week



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[Our Lady of Sorrows Website](#)