

**Lent Retreat in Daily Living
Week 2 Prayer Materials
Beginning of Public Ministry**

**Day 1
The Baptism of Jesus**

Matthew 3:13-17

For thirty years Jesus has been growing in wisdom and age and grace before God and people. Now is his time to enter into public ministry, which begins with Baptism in the Jordan River.

Be with Jesus and John as Jesus is baptized. Notice John's surprise and humility. Listen to Jesus' response to John.

Be with Jesus' as he enters into one of the most profound religious experiences of his life. He sees the Spirit of God descending on him and hears the Father's voice proclaim: This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

See, hear, touch, taste the richness of this experience, noticing the overwhelming love and delight of the Father because of Jesus. Be attentive to what Jesus feels as he experiences his Father's love and joy so vividly.

**Day 2
Temptation in the Desert**

Matthew 4:1-11

Contemplate Jesus' forty days in the desert. Notice the desert environment, and his aloneness during this time, except for God's presence.

Ponder how Jesus' profound experience of consolation was followed by desolation. Filled with the Holy Spirit, he was also sorely tempted.

Be attentive to each temptation. Ponder what went on in Jesus' mind and heart during each one? What was he thinking? What was he feeling?

Notice that these three temptations were only the beginning of many more throughout Jesus life. How does it feel to realize that Jesus, like us, experienced many temptations throughout his life?

What do his temptations tell you about your own?

Converse with Jesus or God or the Spirit, sharing your feelings and being attentive to their response.

Day 3
Jesus in Temple Explaining Isaiah

Luke 4:16-22

Be there in the temple as Jesus picks up the scroll and reads from Isaiah. Hear him tell the people the Scripture has been fulfilled in their hearing.

What is their reaction?

What is your reaction?

Day 4
The Wedding Feast at Cana

John 2:1-12

Enter into the scene, paying attention to what you see and hear. As you pray with the pass ask yourself:

What do I hear? What do the wedding guests sound like?

What goes on in me as I hear Mary speaking to Jesus?

What happens in me as I watch and see that Jesus has turned the water into wine?

What do I say to Mary? To Jesus?

What difference does this experience with Mary and Jesus make in my life?

Day 5
The Proclamation of the Kingdom

Matthew 5:1-12

Be with the crowd on the mountain, listening to Jesus teach.

Pope Benedict XVI has called the Beatitudes a “veiled interior biography” of Jesus. What do you learn about Jesus from this teaching? And what do you learn from Jesus about this Kingdom of Heaven of which he preaches?

What goes on in you as you hear Jesus speaking?

What is attractive about the message Jesus is proclaiming? What about what He says makes you want to follow Him?

Day 6 Feeding of Multitude

John 6:1-14

Seeing the needs of the people around Him, Jesus takes the initiative to feed them. He saw both their physical and their spiritual need and fed them not only with bread and fish, but with love and healing.

What is the scene like? What do the people feel? What do you feel as the episode unfolds?

What do you want to say to Jesus?

Day 7 Repetition

One of the important dynamics of Ignatian prayer is repetition. Repetition is a repeating of an exercise or prayer experience in order to allow for a deeper appropriation of grace (blessing) of the experience.

Repetition is not repeating the material in the sense of going back and looking for something new. Instead, the idea is to return to points in your prior prayer where you experienced greatest movement, the greatest affect. You want to reinforce, to savor, to deepen, better appreciate the movement. When we engage in repetition, we are allowing God’s self-revelation and communication to deepen.

On this seventh day of the week, go back to one of your prayer experiences during the past week. Simply return to the moment in the prior prayer period where you felt the greatest movement toward or away from God – the deepest affect. And see what else God wants to share with you about that experience.