

ARCHDIOCESAN-WIDE RETREAT

CHRIST THE KING - CHRISTMAS



Participant Guide

Each week, these guides are meant to be used by individuals and groups to launch from the Sunday homilies during the archdiocesan retreat into prayerful reflection and dialogue. Take this guide to a holy hour, a dinner conversation with your children, or your regular small group as food for reflection and conversation, all based on the previous Sunday's homily.

WEEK 3: CAPTURED

This week we reflect on the second point of the *kerygma*, the reality of sin and its devastating consequences. It's not the most pleasant topic to dwell on! It's much easier to only focus on the love of God and our eternal destiny. However, we can't understand the freedom offered us in Christ if first we don't understand that we are "Captured." We can't understand what we were saved for, nor why we needed Rescuing, without understanding the hopeless state of affairs in which we found ourselves. This week, we pray for God to shine a light on the work of our enemy and help us come to know deeply our need for Jesus to save us.

Read

Consider beginning your time of prayer or conversation with reading, prayer and discussion around the below passages from the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. With the Scripture, you can use the ancient method of *Lectio Divina*.

- » Romans 3:23, 6:22-23, 7:14-24
- » Luke 11:21-22
- » CCC 397-399, 407

Reflect and Write

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you...

- » Where is the Enemy accusing me right now?
- » What lie is crippling me right now?
- » Where is he causing division in my life right now?



- » Where is he flattering my ego right now?
- » What temptation is strongest in my life right now?
- » Where am I most discouraged right now?

Discuss

- » How has your understanding of the effect of sin been changed as a result of this week's homily and reading?
- » How would you feel if the homily retreat series, the message, stopped after this week?
- » Which of the personal journaling questions from this week struck you the most?
- » How does the vision of the Biblical Story that the "enemy is the enemy," and that he divides and accuses, change the way you think about what is happening around you right now?

Pray

Holy Spirit, I know that much of the work of my enemy is hidden from me and I don't recognize it. I give you permission to open my eyes to the reality of sin in my life. Help me to see the places where I am "bound" by the power of the enemy. Help me this week to truly understand and experience the hopelessness of my situation without Jesus. Shatter the illusion that I can find life anywhere apart from you and cause me to cry out to Jesus, "Lord, save me!" (Matthew 14:30). Amen.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

Go Deeper

- » "What the Early Church Believed: Original Sin" - audio track by Catholic Answers (online)
- » Metanoia by Father Dave Pivonka – episode four – Sin and Mercy – on FORMED.org

