

The Elevator Door is Open: A Daily Baptismal Guide

Living Our Promises in the Epiphany Season 2026

Matthew's Gospel shows us that the grace of baptism is immediate, but so is the sending forth. We don't stay at the font; we are "pushed into the wilderness" of our daily lives.

1. Morning Offering: "The 30-Second Start"

Before you leave the house or start your remote workday, stand by a sink or a bowl of water. Touch the water and make the sign of the cross, praying:

*Holy Spirit, I am your beloved child.
As I step out today, give me the words for my "speech" and the courage for my "move."
Manifest your love through me. Amen.*

2. "Wilderness" Challenges

Each day this season, choose one specific "elevator door" to walk through with intention:

- **The "Kroger Moment":** In the checkout line, put your phone away. Make eye contact with the cashier or the person behind you. A simple, "How is your day really going?" is a tangible action that "respects the dignity of every human being."
- **The Roundabout Grace:** While driving through roundabouts or on I-69, practice the "Baptismal Pause." When someone cuts you off, pray: "*They are beloved, too.*" Resisting the urge to react with anger is a way to "persevere in resisting evil."
- **The Digital Threshold:** Before hitting "send" on a stressful email or a social media comment, ask: "*Does this action manifest the light of Jesus?*"

3. Evening Examen: "Reviewing the Ride"

Take 5 minutes before bed to review your day's "elevator speeches" using these (or similar) questions:

1. **Where did I hear the voice of God?** Did I feel a "nudge" from the Spirit today toward a specific person or a difficult conversation?
2. **How did I respond?** Did I step through the open door, or did I wait for the next floor?
3. **Where can you still see the wet footprints of God in your daily life?** Where did I see God's love made "tangible" today – perhaps in a neighbor's kindness or a coworker's support?

4. Epiphany Tradition: Chalking the Door 20 + C + M + B + 26

- Marking your door reminds you that every time you leave your home, you are "being sent" into the world as a witness.