FAITH IN 5
Advent W.1
Ages 8+

1. This is a special Sunday! **Do you know why?** This is the first Sunday of Advent! **How many Sundays does Advent have?** It has four Sundays. **What does Advent mean?** Advent means arrival! Advent and Christmas season are not the same. Advent is a time of preparation. One way we know this is by the use of liturgical colors. **What colors do we see in Advent?** Just like in Lent, we see the color purple. The color purple is a royal color, used for kings and emperors, so it is most fitting for Christ the King's arrival. Also, the purple color signifies repentance. **Why would we repent during Advent too?** We repent during Advent to prepare our hearts to receive the newborn King! We want our hearts to be a pure stable, a warm manger, full of charity and love for the baby Jesus.

2. **What do we read about this First Sunday in Advent?** In Matthew 24:37-44, Jesus is warning his disciples that they will not know the day or the time of Jesus' return. **What story in the Old Testament does Jesus use as an example?** He uses the story of Noah and the flood. People did not know the flood was coming. They were not living by God's laws and were swept away by the flood. **What can we do since we don't know when our Lord will come?** "Stay awake!....So too, you must also be prepared for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." Advent is a time of awakening our hearts and living in a manner worthy of Jesus' arrival. Advent not only focuses on remembering Jesus coming to mankind but also the second coming of Christ.

3. **Who do we celebrate on November 30th?** November 30th is the feast of St. Andrew! **What do you know about St. Andrew?** St. Andrew was a fisherman. He first was a follower of St. John the Baptist. John the Baptist showed Jesus to his followers saying "Behold, The Lamb of God." He was brother to Simon Peter and the first to be called as an apostle of Jesus. After Jesus died, St. Andrew became a missionary. He preached about Jesus in Greece, Turkey and modern day Russia. **How did he die?** In an effort to stop his tremendous conversion efforts, he was martyred in Greece, crucified in the shape of an X. He did not feel worthy to be crucified upright as Jesus was. **What is he the patron Saint of?** He is the patron saint of fishermen, singers and several countries: Scotland, Romania, Russia and Greece. His name means manly or courageous. St. Andrew, pray for us

4. **Have you heard of the St. Andrew Novena?** This is a novena that is prayed beginning on St. Andrew's feast day on November 30 all the way to Christmas. It is also called The Christmas Novena. **How do you do it?** You pray the following prayer 15 times a day. *"Hail and blessed be the hour and the moment in which the Son of*

God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayers and grant my desires through the merits of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother." This novena is a beautiful tradition to do as a family during Advent. You can truly meditate on Christ the King's arrival and entrust all your cares to Him.

5. **How can you live out Advent as a season of preparation?** Make or buy an Advent Wreath! At dinner time each night in Advent you can light a candle together. Consider doing the Jesse Tree. This tradition tells the story of Jesus' family line! It is a journey through the old testament, all the stories pointing to our Savior, the Messiah! Set up a manger or cradle somewhere prominent in the home. When you see your siblings do an act of charity, lay straw in the manger. The goal is to make a cozy, soft manger for Jesus by our loving actions. Look ahead to other December feast days (St. Nicholas, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Lucy, etc) and make a plan to celebrate! This link has more ideas for Advent traditions.

   REVIEW QUESTION: **What is the third commandment of the church?** The third commandment of the church is to confess once a year.

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