

FAITH IN 5

Advent W.3

Ages 8+

- 1. Do you know the special name of the Third Sunday of Advent?** The Third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete Sunday*! **What does Gaudete mean?** *Gaudete* means to rejoice. Soon, our hope for a Redeemer will be fulfilled! On *Gaudete Sunday*, we come away from the penitential attitude of Advent to a posture of joyful expectation. Christmas is near! **What colors will we see on Gaudete Sunday?** The priest will be wearing rose colored vestments. The pink Advent candle will be lit.
- 2. In Matthew 11:2-11, where is John the Baptist?** John the Baptist has been imprisoned when he hears about the works of Christ. John asks his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the Messiah. **How does Jesus answer this question?** Jesus tells the disciples to report to John about Jesus' works "The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." **What does Jesus say about John the Baptist?** Jesus identifies John as a prophet, but also THE prophet to make way for Him. He references the Old Testament "Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare a way before you." Even today we are so indebted to St. John the Baptist! He shows us how to live radically (remember- he lived in the desert and ate bugs!!) for the Lord. He calls us to repentance. He also shows us incredible expectation, longing and hope for Jesus! We continue to ask for St. John the Baptist's intercession as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.
- 3. Which great feast day do we celebrate on December 12th?** December 12th is the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe! **Have you heard about Our Lady of Guadalupe?** Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to an Aztec man, St. Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531. She asked him to appeal to the Bishop for a church to be built in her honor. The bishop would not listen to St. Juan Diego. Our Lady of Guadalupe requested that St. Juan Deigo return to the Bishop once more. Our Lady asked St. Juan Diego to gather roses in his tilma, or cloak, to take to the Bishop. When St. Juan Diego opened his tilma to give the roses to the Bishop, a beautiful image Our Lady of Guadalupe was inside instead! The Bishop then knew that The Blessed Mother had truly appeared to St. Juan Diego and did indeed build a chapel in her honor! **Why was Mary called our Lady of Guadalupe?** Mary also appeared to St. Juan Diego's sick uncle. Our Lady cured him! She also left a message with him to be relayed to the Bishop saying "she would crush the serpent's head." She spoke this message in the Aztec language. The Bishop didn't understand the Aztec language and heard 'Guadalupe' instead. **Why did Our Lady of Guadalupe appear to an Aztec man in Mexico?** The Aztec people were natives to the country of Mexico

but were often oppressed by the Spanish who had come to settle there. Our Lady wanted to show her love and compassion for all oppressed people. She wanted them to know God had heard their prayers and to bring them hope. She was even dressed in traditional Aztec clothing. Our Lady of Guadalupe is patroness of The Americas. Celebrate our Lady of Guadalupe with Mexican food for dinner



4. **Have you heard of St. Lucy?** St. Lucy is a martyr from Syracuse, Sicily. She came from a wealthy family and her father hoped she would marry a certain nobleman. St. Lucy had made a vow to be a bride of Christ and refused to marry. The rejected nobleman complained to the governor. At this time, being a Christian was a crime. St. Lucy was taken to court to be tried. Soldiers tried to remove St. Lucy, but they physically couldn't! Miraculously, God made St. Lucy stuck fast to her spot. They also tried to burn her but were unsuccessful. Eventually St. Lucy was martyred for her faith, around the year 304. **Why is St. Lucy often portrayed holding her eyes?** Legend suggests that the governor cruelly ordered the removal of her beautiful eyes. At the time of her burial however, her eyes were restored and more beautiful than ever. **How do we celebrate St. Lucy?** St. Lucy's name means light or light bearer. It is believed that when St. Lucy used to secretly travel to the catacombs to bring supplies for Holy Mass, she would wear a wreath of candles on her head. Her feast day is also very near the winter solstice, a dark time of year. Her feast day brings light and hope. To celebrate in Sweden, young girls would wear a white dress (for St. Lucy's purity) with a red sash (for St. Lucy's martyrdom) and wear a wreath of candles on their head. They will rise early in the morning and bring sweet treats and light to the family!

5. **What is the Fifth Commandment of the Church?** The Fifth Commandment of the Church is to contribute to the support of the Church. **What does this mean?** This commandment means that we should all help to pay for the expenses of the Church. We help to pay for the electricity and the water at our parish, as well as for the needs of our Priest and other Priests in our diocese. Our money or our volunteering will also help to support those in need where we live. "When we give to the Church we give to God. It is a sign of our love for him." (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 22)

REVIEW QUESTION: What is the Fourth Commandment of the Church? The Fourth Commandment of the Church is to receive the Holy Eucharist during Easter time.

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