

FAITH IN 5

Advent: Week 3

Ages 3-8

- 1. In Matthew 11: 2-11, we learn a little bit more about St. John the Baptist!** Do you remember who St. John the Baptist is? He is Jesus's cousin. He was a preacher who came before Jesus and told others that the Messiah was coming! Do you remember he ate wild honey and bugs? **What do we learn about St. John the Baptist in the Gospel passage?** We learn that he is in prison and his disciples tell him about the works of Jesus! He learns about how Jesus cured the blind and deaf, healed those with leprosy and who couldn't walk, brought people back from the dead, and shared the good news with the poor. **What does Jesus say about St. John the Baptist?** Jesus says that John is a prophet but he is THE prophet who came to prepare the way for Jesus to come- John came to tell everyone about Jesus! St. John the Baptist is a great example for how we should live our lives- always ready to meet Jesus!
- 2. Do you know the name that is given to the third Sunday in Advent?** It is called Gaudette Sunday! During Advent we are preparing for the birth of our Lord Jesus, but by the third Sunday, we are almost there! On Gaudette Sunday we are rejoicing because the Lord is near! **What colors will we see on Gaudette Sunday?** We will likely see the priest wearing pink (or rose) during Mass. This week the pink candle of the advent wreath will be lit!
- 3. There are a lot of great feast days to celebrate in December. Do you know what we celebrate on December 12th?** We celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe! **Do you know the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe?** In 1531, an Aztec man known as St. Juan Diego walked his 9 miles to Church to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. While he was on top of a hill, Mary appeared to him dressed as an Aztec princess, glittering and glowing in the sun. She asked Juan Diego to go to his bishop and ask him to build a church in that exact spot. Unfortunately, Juan Diego's bishop did not believe him and asked Juan Diego to bring him proof that Mary had appeared to him. When he went up to the hill the next day, he found hundreds of roses, which was especially miraculous since roses did not grow at that time of year! He filled his coat (tilma) with roses and rushed back to show the bishop! When he met with the bishop, the roses came tumbling out of his coat, but the bishop wasn't looking at the roses- he

was in awe of something else! On St. Juan Diego's coat was an image of Our Lady woven into his jacket! She was dressed in a blue veil with her hands folded in prayer, with her standing in front of the sun! The bishop immediately had the church built and you can still go there today to see St. Juan Diego's cloak! **Why did our Lady of Guadalupe appear to St. Juan Diego?** St. Juan Diego was an Aztec man and the Aztec people were known to be treated poorly by the Spanish people who settled in Mexico. Our Lady wanted to show her love and compassion for the Aztec people. She came to Juan Diego to remind the world that God's love is for everyone: the rich and poor!

4. **St. Lucy's feast day is celebrated on December 13th. Do you know anything about St. Lucy?** Saint Lucy was born around 283 in modern day Italy. She took a vow (promise) to remain unwed but when the man who wanted to marry her found out, he reported her to the government and accused her of being a Christian (which was against the law at the time.) As a result, they were terrible to her and eventually she was killed because of her strong faith and unwillingness to back down from her promise to God. **How do we celebrate St. Lucy's feast day?** In Sweden, St. Lucy's feast day is a huge celebration! Traditionally, the oldest girl in the family dresses all in white, with a red sash and wreath crown around her head with candles! She then serves her family breakfast of sweet bread! The white dress symbolizes St. Lucy's purity and the red sash her martyrdom. Legend says that St. Lucy used to care for the people in the underground prisons. She would bring them bread and drink and since her hands were so full, she would light her way underground using candles placed on a wreath on her head! This is likely where to get the tradition of the wreath and the bread! *St. Lucy is the patron saint of the blind. St. Lucy, pray for us!*

5. **The Church- What is the tabernacle?** The tabernacle is where Jesus is! The bread and wine have already been consecrated into the Body and Blood of Jesus. The tabernacle is a small, beautiful box usually found in the front of the Church on the Altar. In some churches though, the tabernacle is in a separate location. **Where is the tabernacle at your church?** There is always a red candle right next to the tabernacle, it is commonly called a sanctuary light. **What does it mean if the candle is lit?** It means that our Lord Jesus is present in the tabernacle!

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