

FAITH IN 5

Easter: Week 2

Ages 3-8

- 1. Do you know the story of doubting Thomas (John 20:19-31)** Thomas, one of Jesus's 12 disciples, did not believe that Jesus had rose from the dead. He told his friends "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Do you know what happened next? About a week later Jesus appeared to Thomas and told him to touch his wounds. Of course, Thomas immediately believed. Jesus replied by saying "have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Having faith means believing in and trusting God even though you cannot see him! **What are some things that you cannot see but you know are there?** (ie. the solar system, germs, etc.)
- 2. At Easter time, we often see images of lambs. Do you know why that is?** The lamb is supposed to represent Jesus. Jesus Christ is "the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1 :29) During Jesus's time, people used to sacrifice lambs. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice by dying for us and our sins.
- 3. What is the paschal candle?** The paschal candle (also sometimes called the Easter candle) is the big white, beautiful candle that is displayed next to the altar. The Paschal candle is lit every Easter Vigil to remind us that Jesus overcame the darkness of sin and death. The candle remains lit at Mass throughout the entire 50 days of Easter in celebration of the resurrection! It is also lit during Baptisms and funerals. **Do you have your Baptismal candle?** Your baptismal candle looks a lot like the paschal candle. It is used to remind us that we need to spread the light of Jesus to our world. Jesus is the light of the world and His light shines within you!
- 4. The Feast of Divine Mercy is this Sunday. Do you remember the story of St Faustina and Divine Mercy?** Jesus appeared to St. Faustina and told her to share the news of God's love and mercy with the world. **What do we mean when we say "God is merciful"?** It means that God is compassionate and understanding of our sins. We should never be afraid to approach Him! **What do we do on Divine Mercy Sunday?** At many Churches, the painting of the Divine Mercy Jesus will be displayed next to the altar. Many people will receive the Holy Eucharist and the

sacrament of Confession on this day. Divine Mercy Sunday is a solemnity- a very special holy day! Don't forget to celebrate it!

- 5. Pope John Paul II established Divine Mercy Sunday. Do you know anything about St. John Paul II?** Just like St. Faustina, John Paul II was also Polish! He canonized St. Faustina (made her a Saint) while he was Pope. John Paul II did many wonderful things while Pope- in fact, his nickname is John Paul the Great! Saint John Paul II visited more than 129 countries, he canonized over 400 Saints, and Instituted World Youth Day (he loved young people!) He was an extremely prayerful, devout, man who loved our Lord and Mother Mary so much. There are many books written after this incredible man.

Review Question: What color do priests wear during the Easter season? White!