

FAITH IN 5

Easter: Week 3

Ages 3-8

- 1. Who do we celebrate in the month of May?** We celebrate Our Blessed Mother, Mary! Many churches will have May Crowning ceremonies. **Have you ever been to a May Crowning? What do you think happens at them?** During a May Crowning ceremony, people give Mother Mary a crown of flowers and place flowers at her feet! The crown reminds us that the Blessed Mother is Queen of Heaven and Earth! During May, we celebrate Mary as not only the Mother of Jesus, but our Mother as well! Just as your mother loves you and wants to help you, so does Mary! By growing closer to Mary, we will be growing closer to Jesus. She loves her son very much and talks to him a lot! **What are some ways that we can honor Mary this month?** (wear lots of blue, crown a statue of Mary in our home and bring her flowers, say more rosaries, make a rosary cake!) For some ideas on having your own May Crowning celebration, visit: <https://acatholicmomslife.com/may-crowning/>
- 2. Other than the Hail Mary Prayer, do you know any other prayers said to Mary?** There are many beautiful prayers said to our Blessed Mother. Hail Holy Queen and the Memorare are two of the more commonly said prayers. **Do you know which one is said at the end of the Rosary?** Hail Holy Queen, that's right! It goes like this:

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus, O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary! Pray for us Oh Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.
- 3. Read John 21:1-19. Have you ever heard this story?** The disciples were fishing and having a hard time catching anything. Then Jesus appeared and they caught so many fish that they could barely pull them all up on the boat! Then Jesus stayed and shared a meal with His friends. **How could Jesus appear and eat if he was dead?** Because He came back from the dead! This was Jesus's third visit to His disciples since he had died. The story is a great reminder that Jesus overcame death and truly is the Messiah. Every day we must choose to live a new life in Him!

4. **Have you ever been to a Shrine or a Holy Site? What are they?** There are many shrines and holy sites across the World! Shrines are sacred places visited by many people! Typically, the remains of a particular Saint is buried there.

Oftentimes at a Shrine, there may also be relics (or special objects) that the saint once owned!! A few examples of some popular shrines include: The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C., The National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, MD, and Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Many Holy Sites are places where events in Jesus's life took place. Have you ever heard of the Holy Land? It spans several countries in the Middle East and are all the places where Jesus spent His life! **What shrine or holy site do you want to go next?**

5. **May 3rd is the Feast Days of Saint Philip and Saint James (the Lesser).** These men were Apostles (very close friends and followers) of Jesus. After Jesus died, Philip and James spread the news about Jesus all throughout the Middle East. Both of these Holy men were martyred for their faith. **Do you know what it means to be a martyr?** It means that they were killed for believing in and preaching about Jesus. Over history, there were many people who did not like Jesus and they punished people for following Him. Martyrs like Saint Philip and Saint James are modern-day superheroes!

Review Question: When is the Paschal Candle lit? The Paschal candle is lit during the Easter season, during baptisms, and at funerals!

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