

FAITH IN 5

Ordinary Time: Week 31

Ages 3-8

- This Sunday's Gospel comes from Luke 19: 1-10. Who is the story about?** The story is about a tax collector named Zacchaeus. **Why do people in the gospel call Zacchaeus a sinner?** Unfortunately people hated tax collectors. They often had a lot of money themselves and took money from their friends and family for the government. **What does Zacchaeus say to Jesus?** Zacchaeus is mesmerized and in total awe of Jesus- he immediately asks forgiveness and tells Jesus that he will make things right by repaying all those who he has taken money from. **What does Jesus say in response?** He forgives him! He tells him that he will be saved and will see his reward in Heaven. Jesus wants us all to turn back to him, regardless of our sin. Jesus loves us so much and wants to spend eternity with us in Heaven!
- What is All Saint's Day?** All Saints Day is a special day in the Church dedicated to all the Saints who we know are in Heaven! **What does it mean when we say someone is a Saint?** It means we know with certainty that they are in Heaven with God! Saints are holy men and women, just like you and I! They set great examples in how to live a Christ-centered life and are real life superheroes! We can learn so much from the Saints!

Who is your favorite Saint? How will your family celebrate All Saints Day? There are so many fun ways to celebrate All Saints Day (dress up, have a party, make a special dish after a Saint) but the very most important thing you can do is go to Mass! It is a Holy Day of Obligation :)
- What is All Souls Day?** On All Souls Day, we pray for all our family and friends who have passed away. **Why do we pray for them?** We pray for them that they get to be with our Lord in Heaven! Souls that have passed away and are not yet in Heaven need prayers from people still living on earth. This day is a reminder to us that life continues after death. Our lives matter beyond death and we hope, through Christ's power, that we can be in Heaven! All Souls Day is a reminder to us that prayer is powerful and we should pray for our loved ones who have passed away. **Is there someone (or multiple people) you will be praying for this year?**

St. Francis of Assisi is known for his love for animals, but do you know of any other Saints who were especially fond of animals? Saint Martin de Porres is another. **Have you ever heard of Saint Martin de Porres?** St. Martin de Porres

was raised in Peru and unfortunately had a very difficult family life. He chose, however, to change his life for the better and join a Dominican community. He never took vows as a priest or brother but he lived the Dominican way of life as a layperson. He had a special gift as a barber. When you think of a barber you probably think of someone who cuts hair, but back then, they were also trained in medicine- they could help bandage wounds, fix broken bones and knew a lot about herbs and ointments- they were kind of like pharmacists! St Martin de Porres had a huge heart and loved everyone and it showed in the way that he took special care of the other brothers and priests when they became ill. He also took great care of the homeless and sick people in his town as well- always welcoming those into the monastery who needed a place to rest and get better! St. Martin de Porres, like Saint Francis, had such an immense love and compassion for all God's creatures- which included animals as well! He is often seen in many pictures with mice running around his feet! At one point while living in the monastery, there was a bad rat and mice problem- they were eating their food and destroying things! The story goes that St. Martin de Porres talked to a little mouse and told him to tell his friends to leave the monastery and not return and if they did, he would feed them every day in the garden. All of a sudden, all the priests and brothers of the monastery saw the mice follow St. Martin out the door! St. Martin de Porres' feast day is celebrated on November 3rd. He is the patron saint of people of mixed race, barbers, innkeepers, and public health workers. *St. Martin de Porres, pray for us!*

St. Martin de Porres is a great example of a Saint who lived the First Commandment. Do you remember what the first and most important Commandment is? Jesus tells us in the Gospels that the first and most important commandment is to "love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. Just says that the second most important is just like it "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22: 37-39) St. Martin de Porres lived a selfless life out of his love for God and as a result of this immense love for our Lord, was able to love others and care for them so well!