

## FAITH IN 5

Easter: Week 6

Ages 8+

- 1. Have you learned to Memorare prayer?** It is a popular prayer for help to the Blessed Mother. The origins of this prayer are unknown except that it is part of a longer prayer from the 15th century. The word Memorare means remember. This beautiful intercessory prayer goes like this: *"Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen."* Mother Teresa of Calcutta would invoke Our Lady's help in dire situations with the Memorare! **Have you heard of a flying novena?** Mother Teresa would pray nine Memorares in a row, confident in Mary's intercession.
- 2. What will most parishes celebrate this Sunday?** We will be celebrating Jesus' Ascension into Heaven! (This celebration date may vary from diocese to diocese). **What kind of parting message does Jesus leave to His disciples before His Ascension into Heaven?** In the gospel of John 14:23-29, Jesus assures his disciples He will send His Holy Spirit, the Advocate, as their teacher and helper. It is understandable that Jesus' disciples would have been sad or even distraught to see Jesus leave again. **How does Jesus want his Disciples to react?** He says to them "If you loved me you would rejoice that I am going to the Father." Jesus' Ascension is a glorious event since He goes to open Heaven to all believers! We also see again God's power over sin and death. It showed us that Jesus was done with His earthly ministry. It showed us His Glory! Most importantly Jesus' Ascension provides us all with the Hope of Heaven, Jesus shows us where we were all meant to reside for eternity.
- 3. What is the sacrament of Confirmation?** The sacrament of Confirmation is the sacrament where a baptized person is sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It is the strengthening and completion of our baptism. The confirmed person is now a missionary for Christ! Confirmations are administered by the Bishops with the use of Chrism oil, just like at baptism. A confirmation sponsor provides prayer and support. A confirmation name is chosen from among the saints for powerful intercession! **What saint name would you like to take for your confirmation?**
- 4. Apologetics: The Bible forbids "graven images" so why do Catholics use statues?** Actually, in the Bible, God tells Moses to make statues for the ark of the covenant (that is where the ten commandments were kept). Exodus 25:18 says "Make two

cherubim of beaten gold." The *worship* of idols or images or statues is forbidden. Images or statues of saints and angels can help us when praying to God! When we see statues of the Blessed Mother or a painting of St. Joseph, they can help encourage us in our faith! These are aids to our prayer life and reminders of holy people who inspire us. They can help bring us closer to Christ!

5. **What is the Holy Spirit?** The Holy Spirit is the second person of the Blessed Trinity. The Holy Spirit is the love between the Father and the Son. **What are some symbols for the Holy Spirit?** A dove is a symbol of the holy spirit as well as tongues of fire and wind- the wind represents the unseen power of love. **What does the Holy Spirit do for us?** The Holy Spirit sanctifies souls through the gift of grace. Sanctify means to make holy! (The Baltimore Catechism, chapter 9)

**REVIEW QUESTION: What is the sacrament of First Holy Communion?** First Holy Communion is the sacrament when a Catholic receives The Blessed Sacrament, the Eucharist, for the first time!

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