

FAITH IN 5

Easter: Week 7

Ages 8+

1. **What is the feast of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary?** The feast of the Visitation remembers Mary's journey to see her cousin Elizabeth after the Annunciation. Elizabeth was pregnant with Jesus' cousin John the Baptist. The Blessed Mother goes to Elizabeth, carrying The Savior in her womb. In Luke 39:-56 we read that St. John the Baptist leaps for joy in his mother's womb! **How does Elizabeth greet Mary?** The gospel of Luke tells us that Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and blessed Mary and the fruit of her womb. Her words are the beginning of the Hail Mary prayer! She also calls Mary the mother of her Lord- identifying Mary as the Blessed Mother of God. **How can we celebrate this feast day?** Make your own visitation to somebody, especially somebody expecting a new baby! Imitate the Blessed Mother, bring Christ's love to them by dropping off a meal or offering some help with your visit.
2. **What is the Magnificat?** The Magnificat is Mary's response to her cousin Elizabeth's greeting. She gives glory to God. The word magnificat means my soul magnifies the Lord in latin. It is a canticle or hymn of Mary's words. **What is it used for?** The Magnificat is used in evening prayer to echo Mary's sentiment. Mary said to Elizabeth:

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.*

*He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.*

*He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.*

*He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children forever.*

3. **What is the First Friday Devotion?** Similar to First Saturday devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart, the First Friday is a devotion to Jesus' Sacred Heart. On the First Friday of the month you consecrate yourself to Jesus' sacred heart and make reparations for our sins and the sins of our world. **Where did this devotion begin?** This devotion was born of a private revelation when Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a French nun in the 17th century. He requested she spread this devotion. There are 12 promises from Jesus to those who devote themselves to His Sacred Heart on First Fridays. [Read the 12 promises here!](#) **How do you participate in this devotion?** Attending mass and receiving First Holy Communion for nine consecutive first Fridays of the month. There is also a prayer recited after mass- often during Adoration. Most parishes participate in this devotion with mass followed by Eucharistic Adoration. [Click here to learn more about First Friday Devotions.](#)

4. **Apologetics: How can we believe Peter is the first Pope?** In Matthew 16:18 Jesus says "And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church." Just like countries have leaders, it was important for the Universal Church to have a leader. But wait a minute!! In Matthew 16:23 Jesus rebukes Peter saying "Get behind me, Satan." **How could Peter be chosen to be the rock of the church?** Jesus did rebuke Peter for his sin- Peter was thinking of his way and his plan and speaking against Jesus' suffering and death when Jesus rebuked him. Popes can sin! Popes are still given authority to lead the church despite sin and Jesus confirms Peter as the head of the church after His resurrection. Jesus says to Simon Peter "feed my lambs...tend my sheep....feed my sheep" in John 21:15-17

5. **Catechism: How many kinds of grace are there?** There are two different kinds of grace. Sanctifying grace and actual grace. **What does sanctifying grace do for us?** It makes us holy and pleasing to God, makes us adopted children of God, makes us temples of the Holy Spirit and gives us a right to Heaven. **How do we get sanctifying grace?** Sanctifying grace is imparted to us at our baptism! (Baltimore Catechism, chapter 9)

REVIEW QUESTION: 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.

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