FAITH IN 5

Lent Week 4

1. **Read John 9:1-41 as a family. What is this gospel reading about?** This is the story of Jesus healing a blind man. **How did He do it?** He made clay out of the ground and His saliva, then spread it over the blind man's eyes. He also told him to go wash in the Pool of Siloam. When the blind man was done as he was told he was able to see! **How did people react to this?** His neighbors wanted to know what had happened. But the Pharisees and the Jews responded with anger and doubt. They didn't think the man had truly been blind from birth. They also didn't believe Jesus was sent from God, especially since he healed on the sabbath. **What did the Blind Man himself believe?** When Jesus questioned him, asking him if he believed in Him, the Son of God, the blind man answered "I do believe, Lord and worshiped Him." **Who is actually blind in this story?** The Pharisees may have their sight, but they can not see that Jesus is the Son of God. They are also blind to their sin. **What can we learn from this Gospel?** Let's pray that we always recognize Jesus as the Son of God. Let's pray for our eyes to be opened to see our sinfulness and where we need the healing of Jesus.

2. **Do you know the name for the Fourth Sunday in Lent?** The Fourth Sunday of Lent is called Laetare Sunday. **What does that mean?** Laetare Sunday comes from an entrance antiphon that says "Laetare Jerusalem" or "Rejoice Jerusalem" **Why are we rejoicing in this mass?** Laetare Sunday is reminding us of the great joy and feast ahead that awaits us at Easter. We assume an attitude of hope and expectation for the day. **What will be different at church?** The Priest will be wearing Rose colored vestments, and flowers can adorn the altar. **How can we bring the attitude of Laetare Sunday into our home?** Put out a vase of flowers or spread a rose colored tablecloth. Make a menu for Easter. Recommit yourself to your Lenten fasts with zeal, knowing Easter is coming.

3. **What is a Solemnity?** A solemnity is the highest ranking feast day (formerly known as a first class) That means the Gloria and the Credo would be said at mass, even a daily mass. **Are there any Solemnities during Lent?** There are two Solemnities during Lent- The Solemnity of St. Joseph (March 20th 2023, celebrated on Monday because St. Joseph's feast day of March 19 falls on a Sunday) and the Annunciation of the Lord. These are both days of great celebration that override our Lenten fasting on those days! **How can we celebrate the feast of the Annunciation?** Since the Annunciation is when God became man, as a baby in the Blessed Mother's womb, ask your

parents to see your ultrasound picture. Pray the joyful mysteries! Wear blue and sing your favorite Marian hymn!

4. **Are there any Indulgences for Lent?** Yes, there are many! Here are 4 ways to gain a Plenary (partial) Indulgence during Lent. Praying the Stations of the Cross, Saying a Rosary at church or with family, Studying the scriptures, and going to Eucharistic Adoration. What else? The requirements for these indulgences is to go to Confession, make a Holy Communion, pray for the intentions of the Holy Father and have an attitude of detachment towards your sins. **Why would we want to gain Indulgences?** Aside from the pardon from temporal punishment, gaining Indulgences enriches our prayer life and devotional practices! They lead us to better know and love Our Lord.

5. **What must we do to obtain an Indulgence for ourselves?** To gain an indulgence for ourselves we must be in a state of grace, desire to gain the indulgence, and perform the works required for that particular indulgence. **Who else can we obtain an indulgence for?** We can gain indulgences for the souls in purgatory, but not for others on earth. (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 33)

REVIEW QUESTION: **How many kinds of Indulgences are there?** There are two types of indulgences, plenary and partial. **What is a plenary indulgence?** A plenary indulgence is the remission of all the temporal punishment due to our sins. **What is a partial indulgence?** A partial indulgence is the remission of *part* of the temporal punishment due to our sins. (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 33)

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