

FAITH IN 5
Lent Week 5

1. **Read John 11:1-45 as a family. Who is this gospel about?** This gospel tells the story of Lazarus. **Who are Lazarus' sisters?** His sisters are Martha and Mary, who poured perfumed oil on Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. Lazarus is Jesus' friend, "the one who he love[d]." **What happens when Jesus gets to Bethany, the village of Lazarus?** Jesus learns that Lazarus has been buried, already dead for four days. Both Martha and Mary are grieving Jesus' absence, saying if He had been there Lazarus would not have died. Showing us his full humanity, Jesus also weeps. Jesus not only mourns his friend, He mourns when we are mourning! He also prays to His Father in Heaven. **What happens after Jesus' commands Lazarus to come out of the tomb?** Lazarus is raised from the dead and walks out of the tomb. After seeing Jesus' humanity when he cried, we now see His full Divinity and power over death! **Why do you think Jesus did not go and heal Lazarus' illness?** He explained to his disciples "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Many Jews who witnessed Lazarus' rising, began to believe in Jesus as the Son of God.

2. **What looks different at church during the Fifth week of Lent?** Holy images and Crosses are covered with purple cloth until Good Friday. **Why is this done?** Covering the crosses and holy images immediately signals that something is different, we are now entering a time of preparation for the Sacred Triduum. They give us a sense of anticipation and longing for Christ' Resurrection. The covered images force us to listen to the words proclaimed from the Bible as Jesus enters his Passion. **Can we do this in our home?** Yes! Our homes are the domestic church. Use purple linen to drape over your crosses and holy images, too.

3. **What is OCIA?** OCIA stands for Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. It is a process for becoming Catholic. Candidates will take classes to learn about the Catholic faith and to deepen their relationship with Jesus for several months. They will receive their first Sacraments in the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. (OCIA was formally RCIA, Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, but was re-translated from Latin by the US council of Bishops in 2021) We want to pray for all those in OCIA in our parish!

4. **What are the Scrutinies?** This is a special rite, dating back to the early church, where the "Elect" (those adults who are entering the Church at Easter) come forward from the pews to kneel before the Priest. The priest

prays for each one of them silently and with intercessions read aloud. These prayers are helping to prepare the Elect for the sacraments they will receive at Easter Vigil! **So are they actually being scrutinized, or inspected?!** God is taking a close look at the Elect, but not to find out what is wrong with them. God's divine light illuminates the good in them and calls out their sinfulness. **What should we do during the scrutinies?** We should pray for the Elect! We should also ask God to scrutinize our hearts and recommit ourselves to the promises of our baptism.

5. Catechism- In the gospel about Lazarus, Jesus prays aloud to His Father in Heaven. **What is prayer?** "Prayer is lifting up of our minds and hearts to God. We speak to God and listen in our hearts to see what God wants us to do." **Why do we pray?** We pray to ADORE God, to THANK Him for His blessings, to ask for FORGIVENESS of our sins and to ASK for blessings or graces for ourselves or others. (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 37)

REVIEW QUESTION: **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.

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