

FAITH IN 5
Ordinary Time W.1

1. **What happens in the gospel reading John 1:29-34?** This gospel is about John the Baptist identifying Jesus as the Son of God. **What else does he call Jesus when sees him coming towards him?** He says "Behold, the Lamb of God." **How did John the Baptist know Jesus was the Son of God and not just another prophet?** John the Baptist explained that He saw the Holy Spirit come down in the form of a dove and remain with Jesus. **Why do you think it is important that John the Baptist is telling his followers about Jesus?** John the Baptist was sent to make Jesus known. Not all Jews were able to read and interpret the scriptures and understand that Jesus was the Messiah they were all waiting for. John the Baptist also wanted to separate himself as prophet, baptizing with water, from the Savior, who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. Like John the Baptist, we are called to make Jesus known as Savior to those around us! **Brainstorm with your family some ideas- How can you live your life and speak to others in a way that proclaims Jesus?**

2. **Have you heard of St. Sebastian?** St. Sebastian was part of the Roman army, mostly hoping to help Christians who were being persecuted by the Romans! He was such a good soldier that he was promoted to Praetorian Guard of the Emperor Diocletian. **Was he actually able to help Christians from within the Roman army?!** Yes! He was even known to convert other members of the army to Christianity. **Was he ever discovered?** St. Sebastian came to the aid of twin brothers, Marcus and Marcellian, Christians who refused to sacrifice to Roman gods. While their parents begged the imprisoned brothers to renounce their faith, St. Sebastian convinced the parents to convert! These conversions led to his discovery by the Emperor. He was ordered to be tortured and killed, his body used as a target for arrows. Believed to be dead after such awful torture, the archers left his body. He was found and nursed back to health by Irene of Rome. He then made his way to the Emperor to rebuke his persecution of the Christians. Surprised to see Sebastian alive, Diocletian was startled! He ignored St. Sebastian's rebukes and again had him tortured- this time he was beaten to death with clubs. **Who is St. Sebastian the patron saint of?** He is the patron saint of soldiers and athletes. We remember St. Sebastian on January 20th.

3. **Do you know the Cemetery prayer?** We learned in [November](#) about the Catholic Church's beautiful tradition of praying for the dead. One way to practice that devotion is by saying a prayer when you drive or walk past a graveyard or cemetery. It goes like this: *Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.* You can keep a copy of this prayer in your car until you are able to memorize it!

4. **What do we do when we enter the church for mass?** We bless ourselves with holy water when we enter the sanctuary. This action professes our faith in the Holy Trinity and reminds us of our baptism, our adoption into God's family. This action also helps remind us of where we are and what we are doing. We have left the outside world to enter something sacred! **What do we do before we enter our pew or cross in front of the altar?** We genuflect, meaning we briefly kneel on our right knee. **Do you know why we genuflect?** We genuflect as a sign and moment of adoration. We are acknowledging the real presence of Christ in the tabernacle.

5. **Catechism- What is Baptism?** Baptism is the sacrament that gives our souls the new life of grace by which we become children of God. **What sins does Baptism take away?** Baptism takes away original sin (the sin we inherit from Adam and Eve) and any actual sin (sin we commit ourselves).

REVIEW QUESTION: Did you know there is also something called Sacramental grace? Sacramental grace is a special help which God gives to attain the end for which He instituted each Sacrament. For example, in the sacrament of Baptism, we receive a share in God's life. The sacramental grace helps us keep that life of God in us, to believe in it and live the way God calls us to. Sacramental grace helps us avoid sin. (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 23)

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