

FAITH IN 5

Ordinary Time: Week 32

Ages 3-8

1. This week, read from Luke 20:27-38. This gospel reading can be a difficult reading to understand. The most important piece of it is to understand that one day we will all be raised from the dead. **What does it mean to be raised from the dead?** It means we will have eternal life with God. We will not be dead, but will be alive with God in Heaven. At the end of time our bodies will be raised up and will meet our souls in Heaven! The fact that our body and souls are two separate things is difficult to understand, but an important part of our faith! **Who in the Gospels was raised from the dead?** Jesus, of course! **When we think about Jesus, Mary and the Saints, do we think about them as dead?** No, we think of them as alive but no longer living on this earth. They are alive in Heaven with God!

2. **The Feast Day of St. Martin of Tours is celebrated on November 11th. Have you ever heard of this great Saint?** St. Martin of Tours lived a long long time ago- from 316 to 397, but we surprisingly know a lot about this holy man! **Did you know that it used to be against the law to practice Christianity?** It's true, but fortunately by the time St. Martin of Tours was born, it was no longer illegal. St. Martin of Tours was one of the first early Saints who was not martyred. He was born in what we now know as Hungary and later moved to Italy with his family. When he was only 15 years old, he became a soldier in the Army. St. Martin of Tours was not raised in a Christian home, however when he was 18, he heard the voice of God and was baptized and started the process of becoming a Christian (back then, it took a very long time!) When he was 23, he refused to fight in the war. He is known as the first known conscientious objector- which is someone who feels because of their morals, that war is wrong. He was released from the military and lived as a monk. He was good friends and the mentee (or student) of St. Hilary, who is a doctor of the Church! St. Martin of Tours started (what is believed to be) the first monastery in France- where he lived for over 10 years and formed many disciples there! He then went on to become Bishop of Tours. St Martin of Tours is Patron Saint of the poor, soldiers, and conscientious objectors. *St Martin of Tours, pray for us!*

3. **Why did Christianity used to be against the law?** In the early years of the Church (the years following Christ's death and resurrection) it used to be illegal to worship Jesus. The Romans ruled the area and they did not like Christians because they refused to worship the Roman gods or bow down and worship the Roman emperor. The Christians had to meet in secrecy to celebrate Mass- many times in people's homes or underground cemeteries- known as catacombs. These brave Christians did whatever it took to make sure they were living out their Christian faiths- no matter the cost!
4. **The Church- What part of the Church is called the Nave?** The Nave is where we sit during Mass! **What is the area we walk through to get to the Nave?** This area is called the Narthex. **How should we behave while sitting in the Nave?** We should be quiet and reverent. We should also bend our knee and genuflect before we go into our pew and before we leave our pew. **Why do we genuflect?** We genuflect out of reverence for Jesus who is present in the tabernacle. When we genuflect, it is like we are saying a special "hello" to our King and Lord.
5. **Order of Mass-** Before working through our October Saints, we discussed the order of the Mass. We are now going through the Liturgy of the Eucharist. After the gifts have been brought to the altar, we then say the Eucharistic Prayer ("Holy, holy holy" or "Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus") in preparation for the Consecration. **What comes next?** The Consecration is next. This is the part we've all been waiting for! **What happens during the Consecration?** The bread and wine (though they will still look like bread and wine) become the body and blood of Jesus! Jesus is now here! Many churches will use bells to tell us when Jesus is here. The Priest will say: *"Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is My Body which will be given up for you."* and then we may hear bells. The Priest will do the same thing with the wine and say *"Take this, all of you, and drink from it. This is the cup of My Blood, the Blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me."* and again, you may hear bells as a reminder that the crucified and resurrected Jesus is here with us! **Why do we kneel?** We kneel down out of reverence and in humility before the incredible miracle that is before us!