

Faith in Five- Children Ordinary Time Week 10

1. Do you know what Corpus Christi means? Corpus Christi means The Body of Christ in Latin. Corpus Christi is also known as The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus. Read John 6:51-58 together as a family. What does Jesus call himself? Jesus calls himself the "living bread that came down from Heaven." Do you think this was an easy teaching to accept and believe? No, this reading tells us that the Jews quarreled trying to understand what he meant or how to carry out this teaching. To this day christians still argue about this teaching. It is the Catholic church who has embraced and lived out Jesus' instructions. How do we gain eternal life? "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." Today let us pray in thanksgiving for the supreme gift of the Eucharist, and to be filled with longing for our heavenly food.

2. What is a Eucharistic procession? A Eucharistic procession is a beautiful ritual that publicly proclaims and celebrates Jesus' presence in the Eucharist. What does a procession look like? The Priest leads the procession with Jesus in the monstrance, just like what is used in adoration. An ombrellino, a silk canopy, is carried over the monstrance. You may also see altar servers with incense or the choir leading hymns following behind the priest. The faithful (you and me!) then walk behind the priest, altar servers and choir. When do we have processions? Traditionally, they are done on certain Solemnities like Corpus Christi! Why do we have processions? Processions remind us that we are a pilgrim people, journeying to our heavenly home, following Christ. They can also evangelize those who witness the procession. Most importantly, processions are an act of worship. Family challenge! Participate in a local Corpus Christi procession, even if you have to travel to a different parish.

3. What is a spiritual communion? A spiritual Communion is an act of faith and devotion where one can unite themselves with Jesus in the Eucharist. How do you make a spiritual communion? To make a spiritual communion, you must earnestly desire to receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament into your heart. You communicate your faith in the sacrament and your love and desire to Jesus through prayer. When would you make a spiritual communion? You can make a spiritual communion anytime but especially when you are unable to go to mass or receive the Eucharist. This is also a wonderful thing children can do as they eagerly await their First Holy Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus Liguori)

4. Apologetics- Can you say Transubstantiation?! That is a biiiiiig word that means the process that changes the bread and wine at mass into the real, true substance of Jesus' body and blood. We use our faith in where our senses (what we see and touch and taste) fail. The bread and wine don't look any different to our eyes, right? But a miracle occurs at each and every mass! How do we know the bread and wine are not just a symbol? Jesus himself would have told us if we were only supposed to eat His body symbolically. Instead, at the last supper, He said "take and eat, this is my body."

5. Catechism- What do we mean when we say that God is the Supreme Being? When we say God is the Supreme Being we mean that He is above all creatures. What do we mean when we say God is eternal? When we say God is eternal we mean that He always was, always will be, and that He always remains the same. (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 2)

REVIEW QUESTION: What is meant by the mystery of the Trinity? "A mystery means it is something we cannot understand, but we believe it because Jesus told us. We will not understand it until Heaven. We call the mystery of three Persons in ONE God the Blessed Trinity." (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 3)

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