



Faith in Five- Children  
Ordinary Time Week 15

1. **Read Matthew 13:1-23 as a family. What is a parable?** A parable is a story that teaches a moral or spiritual truth. Jesus spoke in parables to explain the Kingdom of Heaven to everybody, not just the wise scribes and Pharisees who were used to studying the word of God. Lots of people Jesus taught at this time would have been familiar with farming. Jesus uses what they know to make connections about God. **Who could be the sower?** Jesus is the sower! The seed is the Word of God. **What does the soil represent?** The soil represents our souls. The soil is vulnerable due to birds, rocks, scorching sun and thorns. Our souls are also vulnerable because of hardships we endure, bad influences and sin. This prevents us from growing in virtue and charity the same way rocky soil won't produce a plant. Our Father is a loving gardener, we ask that he tills our soil to make it healthy and rich. This way we can hear and accept the word of God, and produce fruit: a virtue filled life!
2. **What is a novena?** A novena is a prayer devotion. You say a certain prayer for nine days in a row, either for a particular favor OR in preparation for a liturgical feast day. St. Anne's feast day is July 26th. On July 17, your family can begin a [novena to St. Anne!](#) St. Anne is Our Lady's mother, a most powerful intercessor for us!
3. **Who is St. Mary Magdalene?** Mary Magdalene was a close friend of Jesus. She was healed by Jesus when He drove out evil spirits from her. From then on she was accompanied Jesus devotedly. **Where do we read about her in the bible?** It was Mary Magdalene who washed Jesus' feet with her tears, wiped them with her tears and kissed his feet, anointing them with a costly perfume (Luke 7:37-44). Mary Magdalene was with Jesus during his death and burial. She was also given the privilege of seeing the resurrected Jesus three days later as she kept vigil by His tomb. Jesus sent her to bring the news of the resurrection to the apostles! **What is St. Mary Magdalene the patron saint of?** She is the patron saint of converts, repentant sinners, women, perfume makers, hairdressers and the contemplative life.
4. **Apologetics- Do Catholics have man-made traditions?** Catholics don't have to follow man- made traditions, but the Bible does say we are to follow the traditions of the apostles (also known as apostolic or sacred traditions). "I praise you because you remember me in everything and hold fast to the traditions, just as I handed them on to you." (St. Paul in 1 Corinthians 11:2) Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Pope and Bishops preserve and pass on the traditions of Jesus and His apostles.

5. **What is sanctifying grace?** Sanctifying grace (God's life in us!) makes us holy and pleasing to God, adopts us as God's children, makes us temples of the Holy Spirit and gives us the right to Heaven! We receive sanctifying grace in our soul at our Baptism! (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 9) Sanctifying means purified and set apart as holy.

**REVIEW QUESTION: What is Gregorian Chant?** Gregorian chant is the core of Catholic music, it is sacred music. It is monophonic which means there is only one line of music/melody and the singers sing in unison. There are no meters or musical accompaniments so it looks different from a sheet of piano music or violin music you are used to seeing. The notes just go up and down without any other structure. It can be very simple or very complex! The prayers and text used in Catholic liturgy all used to be chanted. Today you may only hear the Kyrie Eleison or the Agnus Dei chanted at your parish.

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