



Faith in Five- Children  
Ordinary Time Week 17

- 1. Read Matthew 13:44-52 together as a family. Does this seem similar to the gospel readings the past few Sundays?** Yes, Jesus is still using parables to teach us about the Kingdom of Heaven! **Do you have any treasures?** Maybe it is your favorite toy, a rare baseball card, or a special gift from your grandparents. You are probably really, really protective of that thing since it is worth so much to you! **In the parable, what does the person do when they find the buried treasure, or special pearl?** They sell everything else they own to get the treasure and the pearl. The buried treasure and the fine pearl represent the Kingdom of Heaven. **So does God want us to sell everything we own and only care about going to mass?** No, we don't have to sell all of our belongings to inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. But Jesus does want us to understand that Heaven IS worth that!! Life with Jesus is the most important treasure we have and we must love it above all things and guard our treasure carefully. **How can we do this?** We can always start by asking Jesus for that grace: *"Jesus, please help me to know how important you are, please help me to love you above all things and to always put you first. It is not always easy!"* Then, we can order our lives around Jesus- prioritizing Holy Mass and all the sacraments as our source of joy!
- 2. Who is St. Ignatius of Loyola?** St. Ignatius was born in 1493 in northern Spain. At the age of 18 he became a soldier, involved in many battles and eventually leading his own troops. In 1521 he was injured by a cannonball and his leg was badly mangled. Despite many surgeries, his condition only worsened and he prepared to die. While he was sick, St. Ignatius spent much of his time reading about the life of Christ and the lives of the saints. Despite being bedridden, he was completely inspired to know Christ, to serve him and to convert non-Christians. When his health improved, St. Ignatius went to Paris to be educated. There he met St. Francis Xavier and Peter Faber and together they founded the Jesuits, first known as the Society of Jesus. The Jesuits went throughout Europe to establish schools, colleges and seminaries. St. Ignatius wrote spiritual exercises for the monks who entered his order. The work of St. Ignatius and the Jesuits was very effective during the protestant reformation, a time when the Catholic faith was attacked. July 31st is the feast of St. Ignatius.
- 3. Why do we wear our dress clothes to Holy Mass? Doesn't Jesus love us just the way we are?** Jesus most definitely loves you just as you are! Wearing our dress clothes is a way for us to give Our Lord the honor that He is due. If you were going to see a very important person or event, we put on nice clothes to show how much we care

and show our respect. Also, what we wear helps to dictate how we behave. **How do you like to behave when you are in your pajamas?** You probably like to snuggle or lounge. **How do you behave when you are in a swimsuit?** Bathing suits are for swimming and sunbathing and playing in the sand by the water. When we are in dress clothes we tend to be attentive, well-behaved, and reverent. Our clothes tell our minds and our bodies that we are participating in something special and sacred.

4. **Do you know who the Holy Father is?** Our Holy Father is Pope Francis. He is the leader of the Church and a successor to St. Peter. We know our Pope is infallible when teaching on faith and morals. **What does infallible mean?** Infallible means incapable of being wrong. The Holy Spirit will not allow the earthly leader of our Church to make a mistake on matters of faith. **How can we support our Pope?** Please pray for Pope Francis everyday! You can say and Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be everyday for the intentions of our Holy Father.
5. **Catechism- What are the four marks of the Church?** The Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic. **What is a mark?** A mark is a sign. **What does the word Catholic mean?** The word Catholic means universal. **What does apostolic mean?** Apostolic comes from the word Apostle. The bishops today are the apostle's successors. (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 12)

**REVIEW QUESTION: Do Catholics believe that our church is the one true church?** In John 10:16 Jesus began just one church when he said "There will be one flock, one shepherd." Thanks to historical records and the writings of the apostles and their followers we know that the Catholic Church IS the one Church Jesus founded. It was the Catholic faith that collected and preserved the writings of the New Testament.

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