

FAITH IN 5

Ordinary Time: Week 23

Ages 8+

1. What do you remember from the gospel reading this Sunday? In Luke 14:25-33 Jesus is challenging the crowds on how to be his disciple. "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life he cannot be my disciple." What do you think Jesus means? Jesus does not want us to hate anybody, He wants us to love Him and serve Him above anybody else. He says later in the gospel that those who do not renounce their possessions cannot be His disciple. Jesus is asking to be our priority over all of our things and over all other opinions. There was one more thing Jesus asks of his disciples in this reading, can you remember it? "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." Carrying our cross means to accept the sufferings that come our way, to put Jesus first at all costs and to live a life of service!
2. What special feast day do we celebrate on Thursday? It is the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary! What does that mean? Nativity is another way of saying it is the Blessed Mother's birthday! With most saints, their feast day is on the day of their death but with Mary we celebrate her humanity! Mary is a reminder of God's promise to save humanity. With her fiat, she became a living temple to our Savior. How should we celebrate? Making a birthday cake seems fitting for Mary's birthday! Since she brought us the Light of the world, don't forget the candles. Decorate with blue and say a rosary as a family!
3. What part of the mass is the liturgy of the Word? The part of the mass dedicated to reading the sacred scriptures is called Liturgy of the Word. Do you know the different types of readings? On a Sunday or Feast Day there are two readings, from the Old and New Testament. There is also a Psalm we sing together. The last part of the liturgy of the word is the Gospel reading. What is our posture during this part of the mass? We are seated during the first and second readings and the psalms. We stand for the Gospel. What do we sing before the gospel? We sing the Alleluia (except during Lent!) How can we make sure we pay attention during this part of mass? You can read the readings before church to become familiar, you can also read along during the readings from the book in your pew. Try your best to participate when singing the Psalm- it is a way of praying and praising God! It is helpful to invoke the Holy Spirit during the liturgy of the word and ask God to enlighten your mind. You can also try to find a theme, or a common idea and teaching that runs through all of the different scripture readings.

4. Catechism- What is the 7th Commandment? The 7th Commandment is thou shalt not steal. The Baltimore Catechism explains that we are to respect what belongs to others. What is forbidden by this commandment? "All dishonesty such as stealing, cheating, unjust keeping of what belongs to others and unjust damage to the property of others" (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 20) This commandment helps us NOT to become attached to treasures on this earth, to remain detached and store up treasures in Heaven. It also challenges us to trust in the Lord to provide our needs.
5. Apologetics- Once you become a Christian, you can't lose your salvation...true or false? That is false! The Bible warns Christians many times they must persevere in faith and be obedient to the teachings of Jesus throughout their life. Believers can fall away. "Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy, but they have no root; they believe only for a time and fall away in time of trial." (Luke 8:13) We do not want to be puffed up with false security in our salvation. We are NOT discouraged; however, the Church has given us the sacraments as an ever present help on our journey of faith.

REVIEW QUESTION: Do you know what the sacred vessels are? The sacred vessels are the utensils and receptacles used during mass for the consecration and the Blessed Sacrament.

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