

FAITH IN 5

Ordinary Time: Week 25

Ages 3-8

1. This week's gospel reading comes from the book of Luke- Chapter 16: 1-13. **What is Jesus trying to teach us in this week's Gospel reading?** Jesus wants us to know that money is only temporary. It is not something that will come with us to Heaven. It is meant to be used as a tool to serve God and provide for our families. Some people are obsessed with money and wealth. **Do you think God likes this?** No! Jesus says: "you cannot serve two masters" (meaning money and God.) **What commandment tells us this principle?** The First Commandment says: " I am the Lord your God. You shall have no gods except me." It may sound silly to compare money to God, but when you think about it so much and become greedy, wanting more and more- it can become more important to someone than God. We always want God to be #1 in our lives!
2. **In Mass, after we pray the bidding prayers or intercessory prayers, what comes next?** When the priest walks to the altar, the first part of the Mass, known as the Liturgy of the Word, is over. **What is prepared in the second part of the Mass?** The second part of the Mass is when we prepare for the body and blood of Jesus, present in the Eucharist. This is known as **the Liturgy of the Eucharist**. It is the gift part of the Mass. God is giving himself to us.
3. **What is it like in Heaven?** It can sometimes be sad and scary to think about death. But when we realize how incredible Heaven is, there is no more fear! In Heaven there is "no more death and no more mourning or sadness." (RV 21:4) God is perfect and so is Heaven! There is only beauty, happiness, and joy. Imagine the most beautiful place you've ever been or the best day you've ever had. Heaven is so much greater than that! So next time you're feeling sad or scared, remember how amazing Heaven will be. This life on earth is only temporary (or for a little while)- our real life is meant to be spent in Heaven with Jesus!
4. This week on September 21st, we celebrate the Feast day of Saint Matthew. **Have you ever read a bible story from the book of Matthew?** St. Matthew wrote the book of Matthew! **Who was Saint Matthew?** There is not much we know about Saint Matthew, but we do know that he was a Jewish tax collector who left his

work to follow Jesus. Tax collectors worked for the Roman government and were often hated as traitors by Israelites because they took money from the poor, from neighbors and family. Saint Matthew loved money. But he was able to quickly leave it all behind when he met Jesus. He left his greedy lifestyle, repented, and became one of Jesus's closest friends and disciples. After Jesus's death and resurrection, St. Matthew wrote his book and then went on to spread the gospel across a lot of the world. St Matthew is the patron saint of bankers. St Matthew, pray for us!

5. This week on September 23rd, we also celebrate the feast day of St. Padre Pio. **Have you ever heard of this great Saint?** St. Padre Pio was an Italian priest who is remembered for his deep love for others and great devotion to Jesus. He had a very strong faith as a young boy and legend says that he could see his guardian angel and often spoke to Jesus and the Virgin Mary! As a priest, he experienced the stigmata- which are the markings and wounds of Christ. They were very painful for him, but he endured them out of love for Jesus. It is said that they smelled of flowers! He performed miracles and people traveled from all over to see this incredible man. At his funeral, over 100,000 people came! He is the patron saint of young people. Padre Pio says to "pray, hope and not worry." St Padre Pio, pray for us! (And parents- there's a great Padre Pio movie coming to theaters soon!)

REVIEW QUESTION: What are intercessory prayers? They are prayers said for other people

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