

FAITH IN 5

Ordinary Time: Week 27

Ages 8+

SAINT STUDIES for OCTOBER!

1. **Have you heard of St. Therese of Lisieux?** She was a French Carmelite nun who found the "Little Way" to Heaven. **What is the Little Way?** St. Therese did not feel strong or disciplined to become a great saint but her desire to serve God was so great. So she based her way to Heaven on Proverbs 9:4 "whoever is little, let him come to me" Little means humble! St. Therese knew her limitations and weaknesses but didn't let that stop her from pursuing holiness. In her humility, she referred to herself as the Little Flower, a wildflower, just as beautiful as more well-known flowers like the rose and lily. St. Therese had a devotion to the child Jesus and a devotion to practicing little sacrifices out of love. **How did she practice little sacrifices?** A smile, an extra chore, acts of service or love to those she came in contact with, especially those people who may have been unkind to her. **Why are people so devoted to St. Therese?** When she was dying she said "After my death, I will let fall a shower of roses. I will spend my Heaven doing good upon earth. I will raise up a mighty host of saints" We have a wonderful help in St. Therese! **When is her feast day?** Her feast day is October 1st. Celebrate by decorating with roses or [make your own sacrifice beads](#).
2. **Who is the patron saint of animals?** St. Francis of Assisi! He loved all animals and was known to even preach to the birds! **What do you know about St. Francis?** He was born to a wealthy family, and served in the military where he was captured and held in prison for three years. It was at this time that young Francis had visions and heard a message from God telling him to "repair my church, which is falling in ruins." He gave all his money to the church and took a vow of poverty. As he began a life of preaching and poverty, many others started to follow him. Eventually they traveled to Rome to get permission to start the Franciscan Order. They didn't look like other priests or monks because they were poor and appeared dirty. **What else is St. Francis famous for?** He set up the first known nativity set. **When do we celebrate St. Francis?** St. Francis' feast day is October 4th. Many parishes will have a blessing of the animals and pets on his feast day!
3. **Do you know who has a feast day on October 5th?** St. Maria Faustina! St. Maria Faustina was a Polish nun who received the vision of the Divine Mercy image and the Divine Mercy prayer. She felt called to religious life from a very young age but her parents did not want her to join the convent. She tried to be obedient to her parents but could no longer ignore her vocation when she had a vision of Jesus while out dancing with her sister. He was suffering and told her to join a convent.

Did you know it is not always easy to enter a convent? St. Faustina was poor and turned away from many convents. She eventually was accepted by the Sisters of Mercy where she traveled to their different convents as a cook. She began having visions of Jesus, and he appointed her to be a secretary to God's mercy. She kept a diary of her visions and conversations with Jesus. Thanks to St. Faustina the devotion to Jesus' Divine Mercy is widely practiced!

4. **Who is St. Bruno?** St. Bruno was a professor of theology. He was known for writing commentaries, or explanations, for the book of Psalms and St. Paul's epistles. **Did he teach his whole life?** No, St. Bruno and some of his companions began to live a life of poverty and prayer and manual labor. They built a monastery and founded the Carthusian Order. **What else did St. Bruno do?** He was an advisor to Pope Urban II, but refused to become a bishop. His feast day is October 6th.

5. **Who is the Queen of all Saints?** The Blessed Mother! October 7th is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. This is such an important devotion that the whole month of October is the month of the rosary! **What are we doing when we pray the rosary?** We are meditating on Jesus' life and Mary's virtues. We learn the value of faithful prayer. St. John Paul II says "To pray the rosary is to hand over our burdens to the merciful hearts of Christ and His Mother." **How can we celebrate Our Lady of the Rosary this day and this month?** As a family, you could make a Marian Altar in your home! Challenge yourselves to pray the rosary daily- perhaps starting with just a decade a day, right after dinner. Listening to Marian hymns is a beautiful way to honor Mary! Spread the message of the rosary to friends and family, a rosary makes a wonderful gift.