

## FAITH IN 5

Ordinary Time: Week 29

Ages 8+

### SAINT STUDIES for OCTOBER!

- 1. Who do we celebrate on October 16th?** St. Margaret Mary Aloccoque, the French nun who spread the devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus! **What was her childhood like?** St. Margaret Mary lost her father at a very young age, and became quite poor. She was devoted to the Blessed Sacrament as a child, preferring to stay with Jesus rather than run around and play with other boys and girls her age. She was also sick and bedridden for a time, eventually experiencing a miraculous healing when she made a vow to the Blessed Mother to become a nun. As a Visitation nun, she experienced visions and private revelations of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Jesus detailed to her the devotion of the First Friday devotion so widely practiced today! **Do you think everybody believed St. Margaret Mary?** No, not at all. Many people did not believe her visions were real, even in her own community of nuns. She was called an imposter. **What is she the patron saint of?** Devotees of the Sacred Heart and those suffering from polio and from the loss of a parent can all take recourse to St. Margaret Mary Aloccoque. She died on October 16, 1690 and it was not until 75 year later that the practice of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus became official.
- 2. Who is St. Ignatius of Antioch?** St. Ignatius was the third bishop of Antioch, in Syria. He was a student of the Apostle John! He is called one of the early Christian Fathers because of a series of letters that contain so many theological truths of our faith. He wrote about the sacraments and the role of bishops. One beautiful tradition about St. Ignatius was that HE was one of the little children Jesus took in his arms and blessed. **How did he die?** He was martyred in the Roman Amphitheater around the year 107. He was killed in an effort to stop the spread of Christianity but instead was able to meet with congregations of Christians on his journey to his death.
- 3. What do you know about St. Luke?** He wrote one of the four gospels! **Did you also know he wrote the Acts of the Apostles?** He is also known as Luke the evangelist. An evangelist is somebody who helps to spread the gospel. Not only did Luke do this by writing down Jesus' story and the lives of the first Christians, but also by traveling with St. Paul. He is believed to have been a physician and an artist. The symbol for St. Luke is an Ox. The ox represents both strength and sacrifice. **What is different in St. Luke's gospel?** The other gospels were all written by Jews, but St. Luke was a gentile. His gospel was actually written as a letter to Theophilus. He was instructing and encouraging him on the truth of Jesus' life! St.

Luke recorded some of Jesus' most famous parables- such as the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan. St. Luke was also the only gospel author to tell us about Jesus appearing on the road to Emmaus after his resurrection!. His feast day is October 18.

4. **What is a missionary?** A missionary is Christian who is sent to teach and promote the faith, often in foreign countries. One famous missionary is St. Isaac Jogues! **Do you know his story?** He was a French Jesuit priest who chose to work among the Huron Indian tribe. He had success for many years, ministering to the Native Americans. What do you think he did with the Native Americans? St. Isaac Jogues taught the gospel with his companions. One companion, St. John de Brebeuf, learned the Huron language to teach catechism lessons. **What happened to St. Isaac?** While traveling, he was captured by the Mohawk tribe and kept as a slave where he was brutally tortured. The first baptisms in New York are attributed to St. Isaac Jogues during this period of his captivity, as he was allowed to go among the villagers and baptize dying children. Even though Dutch settlers helped him escape and go home to France, St. Isaac Jogues chose to come back to New York to work with the Mohawks and work for peace among different Native American tribes. St. Isaac Jogues became a martyr in 1646, when a small group of the Mohawks tortured and killed him upon his return visit. He is the patron saint of North America.
  
5. **What is a mystic?** We hear some saints described as a mystic. This means they achieved a depth of unity with God, or spiritual progress, that participates in the mystery of Christ through the sacraments and the mystery of the Holy Spirit. Some mystics may have special graces or extraordinary signs but we are all called to this intimacy with God! **Have you heard of St. Paul of the Cross?** He was a priest and mystic. From Genoa, Italy, he was left with a great inheritance from his uncle. Instead, he kept only his uncle's breviary, and started a new order called the Passionists. Like other Catholic orders, they lived a life of poverty and obedience but were particularly focused on the Passion of Christ. His mission was to "keep alive in the world the love of Jesus Crucified as seen in His Sacred Passion." He spent long hours in contemplative prayer, but also traveled far to preach to the sick, poor, hopeless and abandoned. His feast day is October 20th.