

FAITH IN 5

Ordinary Time: Week 33

Ages 8+

- 1. What did you think about today's gospel reading, Luke 21:5-19?** There are a lot of things mentioned, such as earthquakes and famines and plagues and wars! While this is startling to read, this gospel is actually about God's faithfulness and protection over us. **Do you remember how the gospel begins?** Some people are commenting on temple decorations when Jesus tells them a time will come when the temple will be destroyed. Understandably alarmed, they want to know if there will be a sign for when it will happen. **How does Jesus answer them?** Instead of telling them a time, Jesus warns them not to be deceived by people who think they know the future. Only God knows the future! Instead, Jesus says Do not be afraid! **How could we be brave with all the frightening things we read about?** Our faith in God will always protect us, no matter what the future holds. He will provide for us all that we need. We can look to the future with confidence knowing it is all in God's hands.
- 2. Did you know there are two types of basilicas?** There are major and minor basilicas. We learned last week about the origins of basilicas. The name basilica is an honor and a title given to churches that have religious and historical importance. **What is a major basilica?** A major basilica is the name given to the four highest ranking churches. There are four major basilicas and they are all in Rome. St. John Lateran Basilica, St. Peter's of the Vatican, St. Paul's Outside the Walls, and St. Mary Major. They all have a papal altar and a holy door used for those making a pilgrimage to Rome. **What is a minor basilica?** All other basilicas are called minor basilicas. They have ceremonial privileges and the papal arms, or flag, can be displayed on the outside of the church. Did you know there are 91 basilicas in the United States? Perhaps your family can look for the nearest one to your home and make a pilgrimage together!
- 3. Who is St. Elizabeth of Hungary?** St. Elizabeth was born in 1207, princess of Hungary! She was married very young to Louis, a ruler in Germany. St. Elizabeth had an extremely generous heart and sought to live a life of humility and service. She loved the poor and the homeless. She not only gave them food and drink from the castle pantry but she even started a hospital in the castle and worked there herself! She would sell her own jewelry for resources to continue helping the needy. She was known to dress as a peasant. While her in-laws did not think her behavior was appropriate, her husband was understanding and even encouraged her acts of charity. Legend tells of a time that Louis was on his way home from a hunting party with all his friends when he ran into his wife, hiding rolls in her cloak to give to the poor. He demanded she open her cloaks as his family had been

accusing his wife of stealing from the castle and giving to the poor. Obediently she opened her cloak but instead of the rolls, he saw red and white roses and knew she was doing the will of God. Sadly, she was widowed when her husband died on the way to fight in the crusades in the Holy Land. Devastated, Elizabeth left the castle, sent her children away to be cared for, and she herself lived as a beggar. When she finally received money from her late husband's family, she used it to open a hospital. She eventually joined the Third Order of the Franciscans.

4. **Catechism- What is the 2nd Commandment of the Church?** The 2nd Commandment of the Church is to fast and abstain on the days appointed. **What is fasting?** Fasting is to refrain from eating for some period of time. A fast day in the Catholic church is when we eat only one full meal. We can eat something in the morning or the evening, but they should not be more, combined, than the one full meal. This guideline is only for Catholics over the age of 18. **What is abstinence?** A day of abstinence is a day where we don't eat meat. **Why do we fast or abstain?** "When we do not eat meat (or fast) we show Our Lord that we are willing to give up something we like for the love of Him. We show Him that we thank Him for giving up His life for us on Good Friday." (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 21) **Who must observe the days of abstinence?** Baptized Catholics 14 years and older, unless there is a dispensation.

5. **How would you answer this challenge about priests: Priests are forbidden to marry, isn't that against the bible?!** Some men volunteer to stay single because they are better able to serve the church and the kingdom of God. St. Paul was one of those men! "An unmarried man is anxious about things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; but a married man is anxious about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and he is divided." (1 Corinthians 7:32-34) While the Catholic church does require Catholic priests to stay single, no one is required to become a priest! A priest, since he is unmarried, can truly serve all the needs of his flock without distraction or division.

REVIEW QUESTION: We've learned about the Ten Commandments of God, but do you know the commandments of the Church? The first commandment of the Church to assist/attend Mass all Sundays and holy days of obligation.

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