

## FAITH IN 5

Ordinary Time: Week 34

Ages 8+

- 1. What are we celebrating this Sunday?** This Sunday is the Solemnity of Christ the King! **What is the gospel reading about?** In Luke 23:35-43 we read about how Jesus was treated as he hung on the cross. **What are the soldiers and the rulers doing?** They are sneering at Jesus and taunting him. **Who is hanging next to Jesus?** There are two criminals crucified on either side of Jesus. **How do they treat Jesus?** One of them also challenges Jesus cruelly, telling Jesus to save himself and the criminals. The second criminal rebukes the first. He recognizes Jesus for who he is! His power, His majesty, His innocence, His kingship. "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." These days Jesus is still often mocked, accused, and sneered at. Let us be challenged to recognize Christ as King and give him all due worship. We pray we can serve him well all the days of our life, remembering the consolation Jesus gave to the second criminal "Amen, Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."
- 2. Have you heard of St. Cecilia?** St. Cecilia is a martyr from the 3rd Century. She was born to a wealthy family. Cecilia wanted to be a bride of Christ, but she married a man named Valerian. She told him of her desire to be pure for Jesus and how her guardian angel protected her purity. Longing for her husband's conversion to Christianity, she promised that he would be able to see her guardian angel when he became a Christian. Sure enough, her husband did become a Christian and was able to see Cecilia's guardian angel, crowning Cecilia with flowers! Valerian's brother also became a Christian. Together with Cecilia, they preached about Jesus. Not only did they convert many people, they also dedicated themselves to burying all those Christians who had been martyred, since it was illegal to be a Christian at the time. **How did Cecilia die?** Like Valerian and his brother, Cecilia was eventually discovered as a Christian and was put to death. **What is she the patron saint of?** St. Cecilia is the patron saint of music. Cecilia sang to God in her heart during her wedding.
- 3. Last week we learned about fasting and abstinence. When do you think of abstaining from meat?** Most of us think about abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent as well as on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Friday was the day Jesus was crucified, so abstaining from meat is our way of remembering his sacrifice and sacrificing something small as an act of love. **Did you know that Fridays are still a day of penance, even outside of Lent?** The Church's commandment on abstinence on Fridays is still binding unless a national bishop's conference has changed it. In the United States, the bishop's conference has obtained permission from the Vatican to be able to substitute other forms of

penance for abstinence. **What kind of penance could we do in place of abstinence from meat?** You can perform works of charity or works of piety (such as studying the bible, spending time in special prayer devotions like the Divine Mercy chaplet). Another idea would be to abstain from something else. You could give up tv for the day, or dessert. Many families find it most simple to keep Friday's day of penance by abstinence just like in Lent.

4. **Catechism-What is the third commandment of the church?** The third commandment of the church is to confess once a year. This means that not going to confession at least once a year is a mortal sin. **Should we only go to confession once a year?** Once a year is the minimum! With the easy access we have to churches and priests, we should go to confession frequently. We receive grace and strength against temptation from the sacrament of confession. **Did you know the Pope goes to confession every single week?!** If you and your family are not used to confession frequently, that is okay! Try and make a new family habit of going once a month.
  
5. **Apologetics- Isn't it too embarrassing to tell your sins to a priest?** It does take humility to confess our sins. Try to remember "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." (Corinthians 5:18) Confession is a gift to us, and the priest is not in the business of judging you or laughing at you. The Priest is only concerned with, through the power of Christ, forgiving your sins so your soul can be well. It can also be embarrassing to show yourself or your wounds to a doctor, but you do it so you can be healed. Confession is a healing sacrament! Our priests desire the healing and wellness of our soul, we don't need to be embarrassed by any of our sins!

**REVIEW QUESTION: 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.

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