

FAITH IN 5  
Ordinary Time W.4

1. **Read Matthew 5:1-12 as a family. Do you know the name of this famous gospel story?** This gospel story is called the Beatitudes. **What does Beatitude mean?** Beatitude means supreme blessedness. In this gospel Jesus is preaching to a crowd. He lists some hardships that people endure and blesses them- **can you remember some of those hardships?** He mentions those poor in spirit, mourning, and meek and those who are persecuted or insulted. He also mentions some virtues like those who work for righteousness, the pure of heart, and peacemakers. **What does Jesus promise in the Beatitudes?** He gives his blessings on all the hardships and virtues. He promises them the Kingdom of Heaven, satisfaction, comfort, inheritance, mercy and even to see God. **Where will this all happen?** "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in Heaven." While God does give us many blessings here on earth, the fullness of his blessing will be in Heaven. The beatitudes remind us to have hope, to continue to pursue God's Kingdom where we will have all our tears dried and wonderful rewards for serving Him faithfully. We rejoice while we wait because we serve a good and loving God who never leaves us alone in our suffering.
2. **Who is St. John Bosco?** St. John Bosco was born in Italy in 1815. His family was poor and his father died when he was only a toddler. His mother was a great Christian example, always giving to those less fortunate. St. John Bosco spent most of his time at church. He also helped his family grow food and tend sheep. When he was only 9 years old he had a dream about boys who were laughing and playing and swearing. John was offended by their language and began to fight with them to stop them. But Jesus appeared to John and told him he must not fight with these boys but to love them and teach them virtue. Jesus assured John that He would help him teach these poor boys. He left home at the age of 12 to work and he liked to put on shows, or recite homilies to teach those that watched. Despite his poverty, he was able to enter the seminary and was ordained a priest six years later. He was now known as Don Bosco. **What did he do as a priest?** Don Bosco felt especially called to work with boys. He was fatherly and gentle towards them, encouraging them to partake in the sacraments. He especially worked with orphans as he wanted to keep them out of jails. He would rely on magic tricks and shows to attract boys in the street. **Was it easy for Don Bosco?** No! When he started an Oratory, The Oratory of St. Francis de Sales, both parish priest and the police, gave him trouble. His mom came to him and helped him! **What else did St. John Bosco do?** He founded the Salesians, who worked to educate and help these boys by offering Sunday School, apprenticeships, hospitals and much more. **What is he the patron Saint of?** St. John Bosco is the patron saint of the youth, boys,

magicians, apprentices, schoolchildren and publishers. We remember him on January 31st.

3. **What is the feast of Candlemas?** Candlemas is celebrated on February 2nd. It is The Presentation of Jesus, when the Blessed Mother went to the temple for a Jewish purification ritual. The prophets Simeon and Anna were there, they blessed Jesus and called him "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to you people Israel (Luke 2:32) **What do we do on Candlemas?** You can go to mass or read the story of the Presentation. Traditionally, Christians bring their candles to church on Candlemas to be blessed. It is a wonderful way to remember the Presentation, and to have blessed light in our home during the dark winter days.
4. **What is the homily?** The homily is when the Priest (or Deacon) spends time after the Liturgy of the Word explaining the Scriptures and teaching Church doctrine, all for our spiritual edification. **What does edification mean?** Edification means the improvement of a person, morally or intellectually. The homily is meant to help us in virtue, to apply the Church teachings and the Scriptures to our lives. **Do you remember what the Liturgy of the Word is?** The Liturgy of the Word is when we hear readings from the Old and New Testament, the Psalms and especially, the Gospel reading. It is helpful to hear the Priest explain more about the readings, especially things that may be hard to understand! The Priest wants to encourage us in our relationship with Jesus!
5. **Catechism- What is the Sacrament of Penance?** Penance is the sacrament by which sins committed after our baptism are forgiven. **What must we do to receive the sacrament of Penance worthily?** First, we must examine our conscience. Second, we must be sorry for our sins. Third, make up our minds not to sin again. Fourth, confess our sins to the priest. Fifth, be willing to do the penance the priest gives us. (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 29) We can understand the sacrament of Penance by remembering Jesus as the Good Shepherd and we are His sheep. When we sin, we are like lost sheep, and the Sacrament of Penance is how the Good Shepherd rescues His lost sheep. **Does Jesus like to forgive sins?** Jesus LOVES to forgive our sins. He isn't like us, who often find forgiveness difficult. Jesus finds great joy in the rescue of forgiveness.

**REVIEW QUESTION: Who can administer the sacrament of Baptism?** In normal circumstances, a Priest administers the sacrament of Baptism. If there is any danger that somebody will die without being baptized, anybody else may and should baptize.

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