

FAITH IN 5
Ordinary Time W.5

1. Read Matthew 5:13-16 as a family. **What is Jesus calling his disciples to be like?** Jesus is calling his disciples to be like salt and light. **What does table salt and light do for us?** Salt flavors our food, helping to bring out the strength of the individual ingredients. Light enables us to see, it guides us and illuminates the beauty of creation around us. **How could the disciples be like salt and light?** They can draw out the individual, God-given gifts and talents of others! The disciples are like light when they spread the news of the gospel, a true guide for living! They are showing the way to Heaven. **How can you be salt and light at home or at school?** With the graces we receive through prayer and the sacraments, God calls you to be a disciple too. To live in a way that proclaims Him and glorifies Him. We can be a disciple not just with our words but with our actions. If we behave with charity and kindness, those good works will always point to our Heavenly Father!

2. **Have you heard of St. Paul Miki and his companions?** St. Paul Miki and his companions were the first martyrs of Japan. **Do you remember what a martyr is?** A martyr is somebody who has died for their faith. Christianity was brought to Japan by St. Francis Xavier and other missionaries in 1549. Many Japanese became Christians! In 1587 a man named Hideyoshi came to power and was scared of the growing number of Christians. Power hungry, he outlawed christianity and ruined many of their churches. **How did Christianity survive there?** You had to be a christian in secret! Many loyal missionary priests stayed and disguised themselves as Japanese. Paul Miki was from a noble family and had become a Jesuit brother. He was famous for his preaching. Thanks to his bravery, christianity continued to spread and thrive, even if it was all kept secret. **What happened to St. Paul Miki?** In December of 1596, Hideyoshi arrested 3 Japanese Jesuits, six European Franciscans, and seventeen Japanese laymen and had them all crucified. They were tortured on their way to death but stopped to preach to all the people who had gathered on their path. They even sang songs of praise and prayed the rosary. When they reached a hill overlooking the city of Nagasaki, they were killed cruelly on February 5th. St. Paul Miki forgave all his torturers! Their martyrdom did not scare away christians but inspired them!! St. Paul Miki would have been the first Japanese priest since he had already completed all his studies. St. Paul Miki, pray for us to have your courage and zeal for Christ!

3. **What is the Offertory?** The offertory is part of the mass, where the gifts, bread and wine are brought to the altar to be used for the Consecration. There is also a collection basket going around. **Why are people putting money in the basket?** Parishioners are giving their tithe, or a portion of their earnings, to the church. This money helps support the needs of their church building and the needs of the

diocese and all the priests. It also is used for the church's ministries, which help take care of the less fortunate in that area. A hymn is sung during this time.

When does the Offertory happen in the mass? It comes after the Creed and the Prayers of the Faithful, the prayer intentions the parish offers together. **How can we spiritually participate in the Offertory?** Take a moment in prayer during the offertory to give an intention for the mass. This can be a prayer for a loved one. It can also be a need of your own, something you are struggling with. Offer Jesus something from your heart.

4. **Do you know what the month of February is dedicated to in the Catholic Church?** February is the month of the Holy Family. Inspired by Jesus, Mary and Joseph, February is a great month to focus on strengthening our own families. **How can you accomplish this?** Honor the Holy Family in your home with a statue or an image. [Consecrate your family to the Holy Family](#). Begin praying the rosary together. Set aside time for family outings or game nights, sharing experiences together strengthens family bonds. Forgive each other richly! Put a holy water font at your front door for blessing yourselves and others when leaving and returning. Pick a family feast day based on your favorite saint, or your parent's wedding day. Invite your parish priest over to have your home blessed, since your home is the domestic church!

5. Catechism- We are learning more about the Sacrament of Penance. **What is contrition?** "Contrition is sincere sorrow for having offended God, and hatred for the sins committed, with a purpose of sinning no more." **Did you know there are two types of contrition?** There is perfect and imperfect contrition. Imperfect contrition is when we are sorry for our sins because they are hateful and we fear God's punishment. It is a mix of love of God and selfishness. What is perfect contrition? We have perfect contrition when we are sorry for our sins because sin offends God, whom we love above all things for his own sake. Perfect contrition comes from a deep love of God. **Do we have to have perfect contrition for the Sacrament of Penance?** No, imperfect contrition is sufficient. "Our sorrow is sincere when it comes from the heart, not just from the lips. We cannot always FEEL sorry but if we wish we had not done it, we ARE sorry." (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 30)

REVIEW QUESTION: 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.

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