

FAITH IN 5
Ordinary Time W.7

1. Read Matthew 5:38-48 as a family. **Who is Jesus speaking to in this gospel reading?** Jesus is talking to his disciples. **How does Jesus want us to treat those who are unkind to us?** Jesus says "offer no resistance to one who is evil." He also says "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." **How do you think we can carry out these commands?** We need the love of God to carry out these commands. It may seem impossible not to get revenge or to hate those who have hurt us, but with God all things are possible. **What will set us apart from non-Christians and help us truly evangelize?** God's love living in us, enabling us to forgive and love our enemies will set us apart and help us to bring others to Christ. Family challenge! Nightly, pray God's blessings and love over any person who has hurt you or made your life difficult. Be consistent! Watch the power of God's love change your heart!
2. **What is Ash Wednesday?** Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. **Why are we given ashes?** Ashes are a sign of our mortality, a sign that we all one day will die and our bodies return to dust. **What happens when we remember our mortality?** When we remember our death, we are often stirred to repentance because we would like to spend our eternity in Heaven. Our sins are all worthy of hell but in God's great mercy, we have this season of Lent to atone for our sins and practice penance. **What does it mean to practice penance?** To practice penance means to deny ourselves things that we want as a sign that we are sorry for our sins (this could be fasting from afternoon television or giving up sweets or taking on extra chores) **Does our penance forgive our sins?** No, only Jesus has the power to take away our sins. It is in this season of Lent that Jesus will endure the Cross for us! Our penance is a sign of our unity with the suffering Our Lord will take on for us. We begin this penance with fasting and abstinence on Ash Wednesday.
3. **Who is St. Polycarp?** St. Polycarp was a disciple of St. John the apostle! He became the bishop of Smyrna when he was young, admired and respected by St. Ignatius of Antioch and St. Irenaeus, along with many others. **What happened to him?** He preached and led Christians in an area filled with pagans. His mission was to hand on all he had learned from the apostle John. He was persecuted for being a Christian, led to a stadium where he would be set on fire. Polycarp showed no fear, only joy and trust in God. Miraculously, the flames could not kill him. Eventually he was killed by a sword. His feast day is February 23rd. St. Polycarp, pray for us!
4. **What is the Eucharistic Prayer?** It is the height and the heart of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the second half of mass. Last week we read about the preface (Thanksgiving) and the Sanctus, when we sing Holy, Holy, Holy. That is also called

the Acclamation. The priest continues to pray invoking the saints and the Holy Spirit. **What is the Consecration?** When the actual words and actions of Christ are repeated by the Priest, in the person of Christ, and the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. **What is our posture during the Eucharistic prayer?** We are as reverent as possible, generally kneeling.

5. **What is the sacrament of Matrimony?** Matrimony is the sacrament by which a baptized man and a baptized woman bind themselves for life in a lawful marriage and receive the grace to discharge their duties. **What must married people do?** Married people must live together until death, they must bring into the world the children God sends them, and they must educate their children especially to know and love God. (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 35) **Do you know the story of the wedding feast of Cana?** Jesus worked his first miracle at a wedding, changing water into wine for bride and bridegroom. Even today, Jesus provides help and grace to married couples!

REVIEW QUESTION: **What is the Anointing of the Sick?** Anointing of the Sick is the sacrament which gives health and strength to the soul and sometimes to the body when we are in at least probable danger of death.

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