

FAITH IN 5

Ordinary Time: Week 34

Ages 3-8

1. This Sunday's Gospel reading comes from the book of Luke. It is the last Gospel reading of Ordinary Time before we begin Advent! The reading comes from Luke 23:35-43. **Do you know where Jesus is in this story?** He has been crucified and is on the cross. **Who are the other two men who are hanging on the crosses beside him?** They are criminals who are being crucified for their crimes. One of the criminals is not like the other, however. One of the men mocks Jesus, while the other defends him. The man who defends Jesus asks Him for forgiveness. **How does Jesus respond?** Jesus responds by saying "Amen I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." **What do you think Jesus means when he says that?** Jesus has forgiven the man and He will see him in Heaven! This lesson is important because it is a reminder that no matter how serious our sin may be, Jesus ALWAYS forgives us and loves us- even up until the moment of our death!
2. **This Sunday (November 20th) we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King! Do you know why we celebrate this special holy day?** On the Feast of Christ the King, we are reminded that Jesus is King of our entire lives. Jesus is the "King of Kings.! **How did this feast day come about?** It wasn't until 1925 that the feast day was instituted. Around that time in history, there were a lot of wars and corrupt (bad) governments that tried to distract their people from Jesus. The Vatican instituted The Feast of Christ the King as a reminder to the Christian community that no matter who is in power in a country, Jesus should always rule our lives and our decisions- He is the one and only true King. The Feast of Christ the King is celebrated on the last Sunday of Ordinary Time, before the season of Advent begins.
3. **On November 23rd, we celebrate the feast day of Blessed Miguel Pro. Have you ever heard of this holy man?** Blessed Miguel Pro lived in Mexico from 1891-1927 (just a little over 100 years ago!) He was an extremely creative man, with a special talent for drawing and acting! Miguel studied to become a priest in the United States and Europe, where he continued his love of acting- often putting on shows for his fellow seminarians! Unfortunately at this time in history, Mexico's government hated the Catholic Church. They hated the Church so much that they

destroyed churches and statues and made it a crime for people to celebrate Mass. Despite the brutal conditions in Mexico, Blessed Miguel believed it was God's will that he needed to go back to his home country and help his people. Blessed Miguel used his great talent of acting in order to celebrate Mass and give people the gift of the Eucharist. He put his life at risk in many instances. Churches were closed and Miguel was not allowed to wear his priestly garments so had to disguise himself- often pretending to be a worker or a simple farmer. Miguel's system worked for about a year- he was able to bring communion to those who couldn't leave their homes and he created a large system of distributing food and clothing to those in need. It was said that he even led retreats to hundreds of people- all in secret! Unfortunately his underground workings were unable to last and he was eventually captured and killed by the Mexican government. What an incredible life he lived though- always serving God and spreading Christianity! Blessed Miguel Pro is an excellent holy person to remember as we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King this week. Jesus is always King! **Bless Miguel Pro, pray for us!**

4. **The Church: Where is the Sanctuary in the Church?** The Sanctuary is the special area separated from the nave (where the people sit) in the front of the church where the tabernacle, altar, and priest celebrant sit. It is the place where our eyes are fixed towards during Mass! **What does your parish's Sanctuary look like? Does your church have flowers in the sanctuary during Sunday Mass? Are there any statues? What does your Church's tabernacle look like?**

5. **The Order of Mass: After we say the Our Father together in Mass, what happens next?** Jesus gives us His peace, and then we may pass on the sign of peace to others. **What happens during the sign of peace?** Oftentimes, you'll see parishioners shake hands or say to each other "peace be with you." Some churches may share the sign of peace, while others may not. It is always followed with Agnus Dei. **What is the Agnus Dei?** The prayer goes like this: *Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Lamb of God, you who take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.*
What does this prayer mean? In this prayer, we are asking God for forgiveness while also thanking him for his sacrifice on the cross and for giving us his pardon and peace.