

FAITH IN 5
Ordinary Time: Week 13
Ages 8+

1. **What is the Pentateuch?** The first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy, make up the Pentateuch. It is a part of the Old Testament. **What is the Old Testament?** The Bible is split into two parts. The Old Testament is the first part of the Bible. These five books tell the incredible story of God's covenant with the Isrealites, their captivity in Egypt and the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments. We read all about how God wants us to worship Him. We read about God's faithfulness!
2. **Where is Jesus headed to in this Sunday's gospel reading?** In Luke 9: 51-62, Jesus is going to Jerusalem. (Remember: Jerusalem is where Jesus went to celebrate the Passover meal and institute the Eucharist. It is where He suffered and was crucified) **What are they talking about on their journey?** The disciples and Jesus are talking about following Jesus. Some are confidently saying they will follow Jesus anywhere while others want to take care of their families before following Jesus. Some of Jesus' responses "Let the dead bury their dead" or "no one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what is left behind is fit for the kingdom of God" seem really harsh and confusing! **What do you think Jesus means?** To follow Jesus means to put Him first, to do His will above all else. Sometimes we make excuses for failing to devote our best and first attention to Jesus. Perhaps we let our daily duties interfere with our prayer time or even mass. Jesus wants to be first in our life!
3. **What two important saints do we celebrate on Wednesday June 29th?** June 29th is the feast of Saints Peter and Paul! **What do we know about these saints?** We know that Peter was a fisherman by the name of Simon before he followed Jesus. He once denied Jesus, yet Jesus still chose him to be the leader of His Church, the first pope. Paul, first a jewish man named Saul who actually persecuted christians, became an incredible missionary who spread the gospel to the gentiles. **What can we learn from these saints?** No matter how we have messed up in the past, Jesus loves and chooses us to be part of His plan in salvation history. With Jesus' help we are capable of change and help spread the gospel. **How can we celebrate Saints Peter and Paul?** Go to mass and remember to say a special prayer for our pope, all church leaders and missionaries. Eat an Italian dessert (tradition suggests they were both martyred in Rome) Make a visit to the closest basilica or cathedral since both places of worship are connected to the seat of the Bishop and the Papacy. Go fishing like St. Peter! Sleep in a tent like St. Paul!

- 4. Catechism- What is Purgatory?** "Purgatory is the place of temporary punishment where the souls of those who die in the state of grace must be cleansed before entrance into Heaven." (Baltimore Catechism) At the root of the word purgatory is "purge" which means to rid, remove or cleanse. The souls in purgatory are certain of their salvation, eternity in Heaven, but must be pure to enter. **Why do we pray for the souls of purgatory?** We pray for the faithful departed, that they may enter Heaven and enjoy eternity with God as soon as possible, since we don't know how long purgatory lasts. We can even have masses said for the souls of those we love who have passed away.
- 5. Apologetics- How do you answer the challenge:** Purgatory doesn't exist! You are either saved or you are not saved! Purgatory IS for the saved. Remember, it is a place for those who died in God's grace and friendship who are then cleansed and made perfect. Revelations 21:27 tells us "Nothing unclean will enter it." Think about it.. If the Queen of England was coming to your house, you would clean up your home and get dressed up properly. Purgatory is a place to clean up our souls before seeing the King of Kings!

REVIEW QUESTION: What does your guardian angel do for you? The Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 4 states "Our guardian Angels pray for us, protect and guide us, and offer our prayers, good works and desires to God." God gave us guardian angels out of His great love for us. They are even called "special servants" and "faithful friends" in the Catechism

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