

FAITH IN 5

Ordinary Time: Week 31

Ages 8+

- 1. Who do we read about in Sunday's gospel?** In Luke 19: 1-10 we read about the tax collector named Zacchaeus. **Why do the other people in the gospel grumble and call Zacchaeus a sinner?** His job was to collect taxes and he was very dishonest in his practice. He likely demanded more taxes than were due and kept the difference for himself. Tax collectors were hated and distrusted. **What do we learn about Jesus from this story?** Jesus desires to come to the house of our soul, regardless of our sin. We learn that Jesus seeks us out of our lost and sinful ways and he brings salvation. **What does Zacchaeus teach us?** Zacchaeus, touched by the love and interest of Jesus, displays beautiful humility. He not only enthusiastically receives Jesus, he immediately repents of his ways. He promises to make amends for his greed and the wrong he has done. Let's follow Zacchaeus' example! We must eagerly welcome Jesus' love into our hearts and lives and renounce our wrongdoings!
- 2. What does Halloween really mean?** Halloween is actually All Hallow's Eve. **What does Hallow mean?** Hallow means a saint or a holy person. Halloween is the eve of a great feast day. The day after Halloween is the Solemnity of All Saints. **Why do we celebrate the saints again even though we celebrate their individual feast days?** The saints are an enormous gift to us, the faithful. By their example, we strive for Heaven, confident in our place with God. More than just inspiring stories, the saints intercede for us from Heaven! What does intercede mean? Intercede means to pray on behalf of others. Pope Francis says " *We can compare the saints to the church windows which allow light to enter in different shades of color. The saints are our brothers and sisters who have welcomed the light of God in their heart and have passed it on to the world, each according to his or her own hue. But they were all transparent; they fought to remove the stains and the darkness of sin, so as to enable the gentle light of God to pass through. This is life's purpose: to enable God's Light to pass through; it is the purpose of our life too.*" All Saints day is a Holy Day of Obligation!
- 3. What is All Souls Day?** All Souls Day, on November 2nd, is the day the church remembers and prays for all those who have died. **Why would we pray for the dead?** We pray for those we have lost because we don't know the state of their soul. So we pray and hope for Heaven! We pray for a life of eternal peace or repose of their soul. **Do our prayers really help?** Yes! They will provide comfort to those in purgatory, becoming pure before entering Heaven. The Catechism says "From the beginning the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, that that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God. The Church also commends almsgiving,

indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead. (CCC 1032)
This is beautiful! God allows us to play a part in getting our loved ones to Heaven. These practices of prayers and remembrances are also an important comfort to us. We have a job to do, action to take, something to do with the grief we feel following a death. These prayers help us to hope! **How can we practically pray for the dead through the month of November?** Light a candle with the names of your deceased friends and family and burn the candle as you pray for their souls. Have masses said for your lost loved ones. You could decorate with photographs of your beloved dead as a reminder to offer prayers and sufferings. Praying a rosary for their souls is also very powerful!

- 4. Who was St. Martin de Porres?** St. Martin de Porres was a Dominican priest from Lima, Peru. His dad was a Spanish knight, and his mother was a freed slave. **What do we remember about St. Martin?** He loved to serve the poor and the sick. St. Rose of Lima was his friend. With her help and support, he opened an orphanage and hospital for African slaves that were brought to his country. St. Martin himself experienced discrimination for the color of his skin. He loved animals and once even saved the mice who were infesting the monastery from being poisoned by asking them to leave and go live in the garden. The mice obeyed and a grateful St. Martin bought them food in their new home every day. He performed miracles! He could levitate and bilocate, which means to appear in two places at one time. He spent hours in prayer. He liked all night vigils, where he laid down in prayer as if crucified. **What is St. Martin de Porres the patron saint of?** He is the patron saint of social justice, racial harmony and mixed- race people, public health workers, innkeepers and barbers! His feast day is November 3rd.
- 5. What is a pilgrimage?** A pilgrimage is a journey to a holy place. It is more than just travel; however, as there is a spiritual element to the journey. The goal is to become closer to God, to honor God. In the past, pilgrimages were sometimes an act of penance because the pilgrim would have to travel on foot, have little to eat, and no comfortable place to sleep. **What are some examples of a pilgrimage?** Traveling to the Holy Land, Israel to walk where Jesus walked or going to sites of Marian apparitions such as Fatima, Lourdes or Guadalupe. Going to see the homes or convents of holy saints are also pilgrimages. **Do you have to travel overseas or far away to go on a pilgrimage?** Not at all, you can make a pilgrimage to your closest basilica or cathedral or to a shrine for a saint that is local to your area!
Family Challenge- Find a place to make a family pilgrimage together!

REVIEW QUESTION: Who is the patron saint of lost causes? St. Jude

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