



Faith in Five- Children  
Ordinary Time Week 32

- 1. Read Matthew 25:1-13 as a family. What was the difference between the wise and the foolish virgins in this parable?** The wise virgins brought oil for their lamp and the foolish ones did not. **What happens when they go out to meet their bridegroom?** The foolish virgins had no more oil to light their lamps. They had to go to the market instead of going to meet the bridegroom and when they returned, they had missed the wedding feast. **Who does the bridegroom signify?** Jesus is the bridegroom of the Catholic Church. All of us are pilgrims on our way to Heaven, carrying our own lamp. **What is the oil, our fuel, to keep our lamps shining on our journey?** Frequenting the sacraments of confession and communion are the most powerful ways to keep our lights burning. Also, we need to set aside prayer to develop a strong relationship with our bridegroom!
- 2. Who is St. Margaret of Scotland?** Margaret was born in 1045 and was an English princess who grew up exiled in Hungary. It was here that she developed a deep love of her Catholic faith, prayer and reading. She married King Malcolm of Scotland. Together they were a powerful force. While they worked to improve living conditions and promote education and arts, the most important work that Margaret did was for the faith. She worked tirelessly to found monasteries, and took care of the poor and the sick. She had 8 children, including King David of Scotland, also a saint. She encouraged pilgrimages, designing The Queen's Fairy for the travelers to the shrine of St. Andrew. Her feast day is November 16. St. Margaret is the patron saint of Scotland and service to the poor.
- 3. What does it mean to have a mass "said" or "offered" for somebody?** To have a mass said for someone, or to offer a mass for their intentions is the most powerful way to intercede for them! It means the priest will offer up the sacrifice of the mass with this particular person or intention in mind. Since the mass is the highest form of worship, many graces flow from this intercession. **How do I have a mass offered for someone?** If you call your parish office, they will guide you. Most parishes have a simple form to fill out. It is customary to make a small donation, around ten dollars for the mass intention. What a meaningful thing to do with your allowance! There would be no better gift a kid could give his parents, siblings or friends than to have a mass said for them. Remember, in November we are praying for the souls in purgatory and our beloved deceased. This would be a wonderful time to offer a mass for them.

4. **Apologetics: What is the origin of the Apostles' Creed?** The Apostles' Creed is similar to the Nicene Creed we say at Mass each Sunday. The Apostles' Creed is a statement of beliefs that contains all the chief truths of our faith. While the author of the Creed is unknown, tradition suggests that it was written by the Apostles themselves at Pentecost under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. More recently the Creed seems to have been formed through statements of faith and interrogations of Catechumens, those preparing to enter the church. A shortened version of the creed can be traced back to the second century, also used for baptisms. The form we say now is traced back to the 7th century and Pope Innocent III declared it the official profession of the faith for the Catholic Church.
  
5. Catechism: **Who is God?** God is the Supreme Being who made all other things. **Why did God make us?** God made us to show forth His goodness and to share with us His everlasting happiness in heaven. (Baltimore Catechism, lesson 1) As Catholic Christians, we never have to question our purpose in life! We were made for Heaven, to live in happiness with our Creator. Mother Church guides us, through the saints and the sacraments, on our journey home.

**REVIEW QUESTION: Is purgatory a second chance to get saved?** Purgatory is only for the saved. Even those going to Heaven still have imperfections. These are purged away and the souls are made clean before seeing God. "But if a man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire." (1 Corinthians 3:15). Remember this month to pray for your deceased friends and family in a special way this month!

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