



Faith in Five- Children  
Ordinary Time Week 22

- 1. Read Matthew 16:21-27 as a family. Who does Jesus rebuke in this gospel reading?** Jesus rebukes Peter. Peter is aghast and contradictory when Jesus tells his disciples he must suffer and die. Jesus says “You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.” Like Peter, many of us are distressed at the thought of suffering. **How does Jesus say we are to save our lives?** “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” To lose our lives for Jesus’ sake means to surrender our lives to the will of God. His will be done, not ours. Jesus showed us how to do this himself, by denying himself and being crucified. **How can you take up your cross and follow Jesus?** Every morning, give your day to Jesus through a morning offering prayer. Make time for short periods of silence to learn to listen to the Lord. Follow the ten commandments, most especially honoring your mother and father. Receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist frequently and Our Father will make known His will for your life. Our lives will include ordinary suffering like unwanted chores, occasional fights with siblings or friends, illnesses and injuries, or perhaps difficulties at school. In embracing our hardships and uniting them to Jesus in prayer, we will find our true life in Christ! We open ourselves to true joy instead of the passing pleasure that comes from just doing the things we want when we want.
- 2. What is the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary?** The nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary is the Blessed Mother’s Birthday!! The Blessed Mother’s birthday is on September 8th. **Why do you think we celebrate her birthday?** To celebrate Mary is to celebrate Jesus and to worship God! The Blessed Virgin’s birth, born without original sin is an absolute wonder! Thanks to this most miraculous event, Our Blessed Mother was able to welcome Jesus, Our Savior, into her womb. Mary’s nativity is a most important part of our salvation. **How can we celebrate this special feast?** As always, going to mass is the highest form of worship and the most special way to honor Mary. It is also super fun to have a birthday party for Mary, complete with a cake and singing Happy Birthday!
- 3. How can you live out your faith as the school year begins?** There are so many ways to do this! Bless your backpack with holy water, consecrating your school year to God. You can have a miraculous medal pin blessed and pinned to your backpack too. Pray as a family before school. Also, remember to invoke God into your school work- pray before tests or challenges that arrive, He cares for all aspects of your life! **How can you evangelize to those around you?** The best way is by simply living charitably- loving those around you and treating all with kindness. Look out for “the least of these,” kids

who may be lonely, bullied or struggling. Treating them with love is to love Jesus! Pray before snack and lunch time and invite your friends to mass on Sunday.

4. **Apologetics- Why do we HAVE to go to mass in church on Sunday? Can't we feel close to God and worship him out in nature, or just reading our bible in the living room?** It is a commandment to keep holy the Lord's Day. It is also a commandment of the Catholic Church that we attend mass on Sundays. In fact, it is a mortal sin to miss mass without a serious reason. This is because we owe God worship! God doesn't need our worship, but we do need the strength and grace we get from the Eucharistic feast at mass! If we decide we don't need to attend mass weekly to worship God, we are putting something else before God (sleeping in, sports, laziness, nature walks) and our priorities are off. We absolutely can encounter Our Lord outside of mass! But it does not excuse us from our obligation to attend mass. This obligation is truly a grace and a mercy as Mother Church knows what we need!
  
5. **Catechism- What are the corporal works of mercy?** These actions are directly from what Jesus teaches in scripture and the model Jesus lived out for us. There are seven of them. They are:
  - Feed The Hungry
  - Give Drink to the Thirsty
  - Clothe the Naked
  - Visit the Imprisoned
  - Shelter the Homeless
  - Visit the sick
  - Bury the dead

**REVIEW QUESTION: Do you know the Jesus prayer?** The Jesus prayer is: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner."

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