



Faith in Five- Children
Ordinary Time Week 25

- 1. Read Matthew 20:1-16 as a family. What is this parable about?** The parable of the landowner is about a man who hires people to work in his vineyard. **Why are some people upset when he pays the laborers?** The laborers are all paid the same amount of money even though some people have worked all day and some only for a few hours. **How does this parable relate to the kingdom of Heaven?** The landowner represents our generous and merciful Father. The most generous thing God has given us is His beloved Son, Jesus Christ. By no merit, or work on our part, Jesus pays out all our wages at a very high price- his blood on the cross. None of us are worthy, even if we toil day after day in charity. This is a free gift of mercy to ALL! Our hope and our reward is Eternal Life. It is not our business to decide whether others are worthy of the same generosity that we ourselves don't deserve! *Jesus, help us to be generous and joyful to those around us as we all journey together to eternity with you!*
- 2. What is Michealmas?** Michealmas is September 29, the feast of St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael. **Do you know who they are?** St. Michael, St. Gabriel and St. Raphael are the three archangels that are named in the Bible. St. Gabriel is God's messenger, appearing to the Blessed Mother at the Annunciation. St. Raphael appears in the book of Tobit, accompanying Tobias on a journey, also healing his father of blindness and his young wife of a demon. His name means "God heals." **What does St. Michael's name mean?** Michael means "Who can Compare to God." He shows God's power by fighting and defeating Satan and casting him from heaven. **Why are Catholics devoted to St. Michael?** St. Michael is a powerful ally! He is a guardian of Christians and our defense against evil.
- 3. Do you know the prayer to St. Michael?** *St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell, all evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.* **When do we pray this?** This prayer was traditionally prayed after all masses after St. Leo XIII wrote it in 1886. Even if your church doesn't say it, kneeling down at the end of the mass and reciting the St. Michael prayer is a very powerful way to go back into the world, serving God! You can also pray this every morning or night as a family. It is a good prayer to pray together before leaving the home for work and school.

- 4. Apologetics- Why aren't there women priests in the Catholic church? Does the church not think women and men are equal?** This is such an important and wonderful thing to learn about our faith. The Church absolutely knows that women and men are equal in importance, dignity and how much they are loved by God! Men and women can both excel at a lot of the same things- they can both be parents, doctors, firefighters, artists, missionaries, and saints just to name a few things! Despite many similar abilities, God created men and women differently, with different gifts. Jesus only ordained men (his apostles) to be priests. Sacred tradition is a vital part to our faith. We carry on the traditions that Jesus started. The Church doesn't change the sacraments. We don't baptize babies in apple juice instead of water or confirm people using sunscreen or use apples instead of a piece of bread for the Blessed Eucharist. We follow the actions of Christ. BUT! Women were (and still are!) absolutely vital to the Church. It was a woman who first spread the news of the risen Christ, and in 1 Corinthians chapter 14, the women were praying and prophesying in the first Christian assemblies. And throughout Jesus' ministry, he was consistently aided in his mission by faithful women. And it was a woman, Our Blessed Mother, who was chosen by God to help bring about our salvation.
- 5. How can we live out some of the Spiritual Works of mercy?** We can teach others about the Catholic faith, and know how to answer questions about our faith. We can speak up against sin, in humility and constantly examine our own life for sinful tendencies. Spend time with those who are sorrowing, send letters or treats to the lonely. Forgiving right away and meditating on God's forgiveness by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Be patient with those around you, try to refrain from defensiveness. Have masses said for both the living and the dead.

REVIEW QUESTION: Why do Catholics use incense? The smoke of incense is powerfully symbolic in many ways. The rising smoke symbolizes our prayers rising up to God. It also represents sanctification and purification. These are both requirements before we dwell forever with God in Heaven.

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