



Faith in Five- Children  
Ordinary Time Week 28

- 1. Read Matthew 24:1-14 as a family. What are the King's servants invited to in this parable?** The King is giving a wedding banquet! **Were the servants thrilled with the invitation?** No, the servants refused to come. And when they were invited again, some ignored the invitation while others actually mistreated and killed the King's servants. **Who gets invited to the wedding feast instead?** The servants were instructed to go out and invite whoever they could find, "the bad and the good alike." **Why do you think the wedding banquet represents the Kingdom of Heaven?** The wedding feast represents the Kingdom of Heaven because Jesus is our bridegroom and the Church is His beloved bridegroom. **Do we ignore our Heavenly King's invitations to us?** It can be easy to choose play over prayer or fitting in over standing up for God. But we were made for the Kingdom of Heaven! Let us dress in our wedding garments by behaving in a manner worthy of this great invitation!
- 2. Who is St. Margaret Mary Alacoque?** St. Margaret Mary was born in France in 1647. Tragically, she lost her father at a very young age. One of her consolations was the Blessed Sacrament. She chose to spend time in front of the Blessed Sacrament and in prayer rather than playing with other children her age. She became paralyzed for four years but was miraculously healed after she made a vow to The Blessed Mother to become a nun! She joined the Visitation Convent at 24 years old. In great humility, she had a practice of doing the jobs she liked the least in order to offer her sufferings up to God. St. Margaret Mary is best known for starting the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Jesus himself tasked her with this evangelizing work, as he appeared to her in many visions. While devotion to the Sacred Heart wouldn't be officially recognized until 75 years after her death, Jesus called her "the beloved disciple of his Sacred Heart." We have St. Margaret Mary to thank for the beautiful devotion of First Fridays! **What is she the patron saint of?** She is the patron saint of the devotees to the Sacred Heart, polio and those who have lost a parent. Her feast day is October 16th.
- 3. The month of October is Respect Life Month. What does that mean?** Respect Life month reiterates our belief that ALL life has dignity from the moment it begins until our death, even those with physical or cognitive disabilities. **Why is this a counter culture belief?** Modern society doesn't acknowledge that we all belong to one another and God has called us to bear one another's burdens. People are not burdens, but opportunities to love. Infants, the elderly and those with disabilities may require more work to take care of, but this makes them all the more precious and important in the eyes of God!

**Who else is often looked upon as a burden?** The imprisoned, the homeless or poor also deserve dignity! Every human was created by God to be loved. **How can we respect life?** We can support and help pregnant mothers. Cherish babies and help care for them! Give great respect to the elderly and help them with duties that have become more difficult for them (mowing grass, making meals) or simply spend time with them. Pray for the imprisoned, poor and homeless and donate your extra items or time to your local shelters.

4. **Why are Catholics encouraged to pray the Rosary?** The simplest answer is because our Mother asked us too! When Our Lady appeared at Fatima in 1917, one of her instructions was to pray the rosary every day. The Venerable Sister Lucia, one of the shepherd children Our Lady appeared to, explains “ the rosary puts us in contact with God, to thank him for his benefits and ask for the graces we need.” St. Lucia also explains “ the rosary is a prayer that is within our reach. It can be recited in common or in private, either in church or in the presence of The Blessed Sacrament or at home, either when traveling or at work in the fields. A mother can say the rosary while she rocks her baby’s cradle or does housework. A day has 24 hours in it. It is not asking a great deal to set aside a quarter of an hour for spiritual life, for our intimate and familiar converse with God.” Outside of mass Sister Lucia maintains that the rosary “is the most pleasing prayer we can offer to God and the one which is most advantageous to our own souls. If it were not the case, Our Lady would not have asked for it so insistently.”
  
5. **What is the Fatima prayer?** *O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy.* **When do we say this prayer?** This prayer is recited after the Glory Be at the end of each rosary decade.

**REVIEW QUESTION: What is the Vatican?** The Vatican is a city-state ruled by the Pope. It is the center of the Catholic Church. It is also called the Holy See, derived from the Latin word *sedes* for seat. **Where is the Vatican?** Vatican City is in the center of Rome, Italy.

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