



Faith in Five- Children
Ordinary Time Week 30

- 1. Read Matthew 22:34-40 as a family. What question do the Pharisees ask Jesus?** Wanting to test him, they ask him what commandment of the law is the greatest. **How does Jesus respond?** He answers by telling them the first and the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul and mind. To their surprise, he adds a second great commandment! “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” This was new to the Pharisees, as it was not part of the Commandments given to Moses. **What do you think Jesus means when he says “the whole law and the prophets depend on these commandments?”** The Pharisees were very familiar with the Ten Commandments, the Law, and were strict in their observance. They obeyed the laws with their minds, but not from their hearts. The purest and highest way to live out the Ten Commandments is with love. Each commandment is carried out either by love of God or love of neighbor. It may seem simple enough to honor our mother and father like the 4th commandment demands, but it takes love to have grateful, charitable hearts that goes beyond just doing as they say. Obeying the commandments with love is our high call and Jesus shows us the way!
- 2. What is All Saint’s Day?** All Saints Day is a most solemn feast celebrating all the saints, known and unknown. All Saint’s is November 1st and is a Holy Day of Obligation. **Why is this day necessary, don’t saints already have their own feast day?** We know the names and feast days of canonized, or officially recognized saints, but there are many saints whose names and stories we may not know, but still want to honor! **How do we celebrate All Saint’s Day?** Most importantly, you will attend mass! A very fun tradition is to dress up like your favorite saint and have a parade. If your parish is not doing this, perhaps you could organize a saint parade with your family and friends! Decorating with pictures of your favorite saints or reading your favorite saint storybooks is a great way to spend the day.
- 3. What is the Church devotion in the month of November?** November is dedicated to All Souls, all those who have died. As Catholics, we have the duty and privilege to pray for those who have passed away. **What are we praying for?** We are praying that they will go to Heaven and have eternal happiness. **How can we participate in this devotion?** Setting out pictures of your loved ones who have died, offering our rosaries or divine mercy chaplets for them. You can contact your parish office to have masses said for the souls of your deceased family members or friends. Also, there is a plenary

indulgence for the souls in purgatory granted the days of Nov 1st to Nov 8th by visiting a cemetery and praying for the departed. The feast of All Souls is November 2nd.

4. **Do you know a simple prayer for the dead?** *Eternal Rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest In Peace.* You can also add a simplified “and may the souls of the faithfully departed rest in peace” to the end of your mealtime prayers as a way to consistently pray for the dead.

5. **What is purgatory?** Purgatory is a place or state for those who have died in God’s friendship! Revelation 21:27 says “nothing clean will enter it,” meaning Heaven. In purgatory, the dead are purified or made perfect so they can enter Heaven!

REVIEW QUESTION: What are the guidelines for receiving the Holy Eucharist? The first requirement is to be in a state of grace. This means you have confessed any mortal sins. We also must observe the Eucharistic fast. This means no eating or drinking (except water) one hour before receiving the Blessed Sacrament.

This is a free resource! For more information, check out www.acatholicmomslife.com