



Faith in Five- Children  
Ordinary Time Week 31

- 1. Read Matthew 23:1-12 as a family. Why does Jesus tell the crowds to only observe the teachings of the Pharisees but not to follow their example?** Jesus explains that those scribes and Pharisees are preaching the law but are not carrying it out themselves. **What was their motivation for doing the works of the law?** “All their works are performed to be seen.” **What do you think is missing from the Pharisees?** The Pharisees lack love and humility. They have a great wealth of knowledge but do not have the love it takes to carry out the law well. They also lack humility- they wanted to be great! All of us can fall in the trap of pride. We can know the right things to do, or even do them when people are watching, but fail to do anything with love and service. We must follow our Savior’s example, “the greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”
- 2. What is Martinmas?** Martinmas is the feast of St. Martin of Tours, November 11. Martin was born in 316 in modern day Hungary. He secretly became a Christian at the age of 10. He longed to join a monastery but was forced to join the Roman army. He submitted and obeyed but tried to live the life of a monk while he was a soldier. He was always looking for opportunities to serve and was known to clean his servant’s boots for him! The most famous story about St. Martin is about his great generosity. While on duty one bitterly cold day, St. Martin saw a naked beggar. St. Martin’s cloak was so big and warm. He drew his sword and slashed the cloak in two, wrapping half of it snugly around the beggar. The other soldiers laughed and mocked St. Martin. That night he dreamt Jesus himself was the beggar, wearing half of his red cloak. Eventually he left the army and became a priest. He founded monasteries and replaced pagan temples with Christian churches. **How do we celebrate Martinmas?** It is traditional to celebrate Martinmas with lanterns. The lanterns represent St. Martin’s warmth and light he brought with his generosity. [This is a great resource for more Martinmas ideas!](#)
- 3. What are ways we can imitate St. Martin?** Charity and generosity flow from the heart! Daily ask God to give you the virtue of charity and generosity! This is a perfect time of year to go through your coat closet and all your warm weather gear to see what you can donate. St. Martin was also known for his humble service. You may be able to serve at a homeless shelter or a soup kitchen as the weather cools down. Most importantly, serve those right in your home!! Help younger siblings dress themselves, share your favorite dress with your sister, or ask your mom how you can help get dinner ready. St. Martin, pray for us!

4. **Apologetics: 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!
  
5. **Catechism: “ What must we do to gain the happiness of Heaven?** To gain the happiness of Heaven we must know, love and serve God in this world.” (Baltimore Catechism, Lesson 1).

**REVIEW QUESTION: 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.

This is a free resource! For more information, check out [www.acatholicmomslife.com](http://www.acatholicmomslife.com)