



Faith in Five- Children
Ordinary Time Week 34

- 1. Read Matthew 25:31-46 as a family. What will the Son of Man do when he comes in glory and is seated upon his throne?** With the nations assembled before him, they will be separated. The sheep on his right, the goats on his left. **How did those on his right inherit the kingdom?** “For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.” This Sunday is the feast of Christ the King! We are servants to the most humble and generous of all royalty. He asks one thing of us, a thing that will give supernatural strength to carry out his will. Jesus asks for our love. With this love, we are propelled to serve our neighbors. **How can you love the “least of these” and find Jesus in their eyes?** Discuss this as a family, remembering that the “least of these” may be the bullied kid at school, the lonely older neighbor, the often ignored youngest sibling...
- 2. Who is St. Andrew?** St. Andrew was the brother of Peter. He worked as a fisherman, along with James and John, before encountering Christ and leaving everything to become his apostle. After Jesus’ death he preached the gospel throughout modern day Greece and Turkey until he himself was crucified. It is rumored that he preached for two days from his x shaped cross! He is the patron saint of Scotland and Russia. His feast day is November 30.
- 3. What is St. Andrew’s Novena?** St. Andrew’s novena is a devotion, a novena to prepare your heart for Christ’s coming. It begins on St. Andrew’s feast day, November 30th and is prayed 15 times a day until December 24th. 15 times a day may sound like a lot! It’s very manageable if you pray 5 at each meal. It is a beautiful way to devote time meditating on Jesus’ upcoming birthday. *Hail and Blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in the piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe O my God, to hear my prayers and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of his Blessed Mother. Amen.*
- 4. What is Advent?** Advent is a liturgical season, a period of expectation and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Christ AND the return of Christ at the Second Coming. **How is it different from Christmas?** Christmas is a season of feasting and celebration whereas Advent is a penitential season. That is why you will see purple liturgical colors at mass. It can be difficult to not go straight into Christmas mode since

many cultures do not observe Advent. Our faith encourages us to enter Advent deeply, knowing it will enrich our encounter with Jesus at Christmas. **So how can we observe Advent?** Decorate for advent with a wreath and purple colors. Make time to go to confession, and pray the St. Andrew novena as a family. It is a great season for dim lights, candlelight or doing a [Jesse Tree](#).

5. **What is the month of December dedicated to in the Catholic Church?** The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception. **What is the Immaculate Conception?** The Immaculate Conception is when Mary was conceived, in her mother's womb, without the stain of original sin. Immaculate means perfect. This grace would mean that Mary's womb would be a pure and perfect first home for Jesus, the word made flesh. The feast of the Immaculate Conception is on December 8th and is a Holy Day of Obligation. **How can you celebrate the Immaculate Conception at home?** Mass is the most important way to celebrate! After mass, it is really fun to eat something white like vanilla ice cream or mashed potatoes. Light a white pillar candle while praying the rosary or singing a Marian hymn.

REVIEW QUESTION: What is the Divine Office? The Divine office, also known as the Liturgy of the Hours, is the Church's tradition of praying without ceasing. The Church developed a schedule and compilation of psalms, canticles from scripture, and prayers that are made to be prayed every few hours. The book that contains these prayers is called a breviary.

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