

SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS



Icon of All Saints

May 31, 2026: Sunday of All Saints

Epistle: Heb. 11:32 - 12:2

Gospel: Mt. 10: 32-33, 37-38 & 19: 27-30

This Weekend	4:00 pm + Ron Dubiac (Sister, Marlene) 10:30 For Our Parishioners
Mon., June 1	9:00 Intention Available: See Father Nestor 6:00 pm Moleben to Jesus Christ
Tues., June 2	9:00 Intention Available: See Father Nestor
Wed., June 3	9:00 + John Zak (Cookie & the Zak Family)
Thurs., June 4	9:00 + Anne & Michael Shumek (Michael Shumek Family)
Fri., June 5	9:00 + Forgotten Souls in Purgatory (Andrea Novak)
Sat., June 6	No Morning Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Confessions 4:00 pm Thanksgiving
Sun., June 7	10:30 For Our Parishioners; Baptism

FEAST OF ALL SAINTS CELEBRATED BY THE EARLY CHURCH ON THE SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

All Saint's Day is a Christian holy day observed by Eastern churches on the first Sunday after Pentecost, keeping the traditional date as celebrated in the early church. The feast was transferred for the Latin church to November 1 in 835 by Pope Gregory IV. The day now honors all saints of the church, even those not known by name.

All Saint's Day is celebrated by Roman Catholics, Eastern Christians, both Catholic and Orthodox, Anglicans, and

Lutherans. However, because of their differing understandings of the identity and function of the saints, what these churches do on the Feast of All Saints differs widely. For Roman Catholics, Eastern Christians, both Catholic and Orthodox, and to some extent, Anglicans, All Saints is a day to remember, thank God for, but also to venerate and pray to the saints in heaven as intercessors for various helps.

In the early days the Christians were accustomed to solemnize the anniver-

sary of a martyr's death for Christ at the place of martyrdom. In the fourth century, neighboring dioceses began to interchange feasts, to transfer relics, to divide them, and to join in a common feast. Frequently groups of martyrs suffered on the same day, which naturally led to a joint commemoration. In the persecution of Diocletian the number of martyrs became so great that a separate day could not be assigned to each. The Church, feeling that every martyr should be venerated, appointed a common day for all.

The first trace of the observance of this feast on the Sunday after Pentecost is found in Antioch. In the fourth and fifth centuries there is also mention of a common day in a sermon of Saint Ephrem the Syrian, and in the 74th homily of Saint John Chrysostom of Constantinople.

At first only martyrs and Saint John

the Baptist were honored by a special day. Other saints were added gradually, and increased in number when a regular process of canonization was established. As early as 411 there is in the Chaldean Calendar a *Commemoratio confessorum* for the Friday after Easter.

In the sixth century, Pope Boniface IV accepted the Pantheon as a gift from the Emperor Phocas and proclaimed May 13, 610 as the Feast of All Holy Martyrs. He dedicated it as the Church of Santa Maria Rotonda in honor of the Blessed Virgin and all martyrs.

During Pope Gregory III's reign, the festival was expanded to include all saints and a chapel in St. Peter's church was dedicated accordingly. In 835, Pope Gregory IV changed the date to November 1 for the Latin Church and the name to Feast of All Saints.

HOW CAN WE PRAY TO THE SAINTS?

Praying to saints is an integral part of the spiritual journey. When approaching a saint in private prayer, one typically begins with a heartfelt invocation, calling upon the specific saint by name: for example, "Holy [Saint's Name], pray for us." In this invocation, we ask for the saint's intercession, since he or she, being close to God, can aid us: as it says in the Bible, "The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects" (James 5:16). The

prayer then unfolds as we express our specific needs, concerns, or gratitude. We can ask the saint's guidance, protection, or assistance, and often we ask for grace to follow his or her good example in living as a disciple of Jesus. Thus, we acknowledge the saint's virtues and exemplary life, which serve as an inspiration for the believer to cultivate similar qualities in his or her own spiritual journey.

During the public worship of the

Church – the Divine Liturgy, Vespers, Molebens, and other services – Ukrainian Catholics pray to the saints in many different ways. During the Divine Liturgy, we regularly honor the Theotokos, the Virgin Mary, and the priest also remembers a variety of saints. Almost every day of the year has one or several saints who are remembered on that day, and, over the centuries, different hymns have been written in their honor, which Ukrainian Catholics sing during the Divine Liturgy and other services. Some saints are widely venerated, and their feast days are celebrated with real solemnity: these include John the Baptist (June 24

and August 29), the Apostles Peter and Paul (June 29), and, of course, the Mother of God. Mary has many feasts, but the most important are her birth (September 8), her entry into the Temple (November 21), the Annunciation (March 25), and her Dormition (August 15).

Other saints also have major feasts in their honor: for example, the Great Martyr George (April 23) and the Great Martyr Demetrius (October 26), the prophet Elias (July 20), St. John the Theologian (September 26), St. Nicholas (December 6), and the three holy hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom (January 30). But this list is far from complete.

15 QUOTES FROM POPE LEO XIV'S FIRST ENCYCLICAL 'MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS'

By EWTN Staff

Pope Leo XIV just released his first encyclical — and it may be the most important Church document of our lifetime. *Magnifica Humanitas*, on safeguarding the human person in the time of artificial intelligence, was released by the Holy See on May 25. The encyclical develops Catholic social teaching in light of artificial intelligence, situating new questions of human dignity, labor, and the common good within the tradition that runs from *Rerum Novarum* through *Centesimus Annus* and *Laudato Si*.

Here are 15 powerful quotes from the encyclical:

1. “Never has humanity had such power

over itself” (No. 4).

2. “In practice, however, technology is never neutral, because it takes on the characteristics of those who devise, finance, regulate, and use it. Therefore, the primary choice is not between a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ to technology, but rather between constructing Babel or rebuilding Jerusalem; between a power that claims to dominate the heavens and a people who work together in the presence of God to rebuild the walls of fraternal coexistence” (No. 9).

3. “In the era of artificial intelligence, when human dignity is threatened by new forms of dehumanization, ours is the pressing duty to remain profoundly human. We must

lovingly safeguard the grandeur of humanity bestowed upon us and revealed in its fullness in Christ, the splendor of which no machine can ever replace” (No. 15).

4. “Thus, the ‘rejected stones’ — the poor, the sick, the migrants, and the least among us — will become the cornerstone, and a solid, welcoming common home will emerge on the earth, where love and faithfulness will finally meet, and righteousness and peace will embrace (cf. Ps 85:10)” (No. 16).

5. “Human dignity does not depend on a person’s abilities, wealth, or position in life, nor on the right or wrong choices made; instead, it is a gift that precedes and transcends each person, endowed by God as an expression of his unfailing love” (No. 50).

6. “Among these ideologies, I consider particularly insidious the one that suggests that every person must earn or justify his or her own worth, to the point of attributing greater value to those who are more efficient or effective” (No. 51).

7. “No sin, failure, humiliation, or exclusion can diminish the profound value of a human life that God has willed and called into being” (No. 52).

8. “Solidarity demands that decisions regarding data, algorithms, platforms, and artificial intelligence take into account not only the immediate benefit for a few, but also the impact on all peoples and on future generations” (No. 76).

9. “For an algorithm, an error is a flaw to be corrected; for a person, however, an error can be a catalyst for profound change. A person’s future is not calculable, but

depends on one’s freedom — elevated by the inexhaustible grace of God — and on the relationships cultivated” (No. 128).

10. “Having a personal mobile device at too early an age and using it without adult supervision can exacerbate young people’s vulnerabilities, foster addiction, and expose them to isolation, bullying, and cyberbullying, as well as to pressures to share intimate images or sensitive information” (No. 141).

11. “Even in the darkest nights, the Lord raises up men and women who refuse to give up, who persevere in doing good, who protect the vulnerable and open pathways to reconciliation. The memory of the saints, righteous people, and the oft-forgotten peacemakers, show us that grace does not magically eliminate conflict, but instead it inspires active resistance to evil and an astonishing creativity in doing good” (No. 211).

12. “The civilization of love will not arise from a single or spectacular gesture but from the sum total of small and steadfast acts of fidelity that serve as a bulwark against dehumanization” (No. 213).

13. “‘Let us disarm words and we will help to disarm the world.’ Words have enormous power, something we experience in our daily interactions; for example, spoken words can change our mood for better or for worse” (No. 214).

14. “No computational system, however sophisticated, can create a heart that gives itself, or a conscience that discerns good from evil. Even when machines excel in efficiency, a human face that asks to be gazed upon

remains the center of our history. This human face is the fullness toward which history is moving” (No. 233).

15. “Let us remain faithful to the truth! Living amid incessant flows of information, opinions, and images, we know how easy it can be to influence decisions and preferences through increasingly sophisticated

algorithms. In this context, it is imperative to cultivate hearts that love the truth, prefer what is right despite the most appealing content, and pursue wisdom rather than immediate results” (No. 237).

This story was published originally at EWTNNews.com.

PRAYER REQUEST FOR FR. ROBERT HITCHENS

We ask for your continued prayers for Fr. Robert Hitchens, Rector of our St. Josaphat Seminary and Pastor of the Ukrainian Catholic Shrine of the Holy Family, who has recently been diagnosed with esophageal cancer.

Fr. Robert is scheduled to undergo surgery this Monday. During this difficult time, we entrust him to the loving care of our

Lord. May God grant him strength, peace, and healing, and may He guide the hands of the surgeons and all the medical staff, so that the surgery may be successful and his recovery swift.

Let us keep Fr. Robert in our prayers, asking for the intercession of the Most Holy Mother of God and all the saints.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to **Lyla Diann Poff** on the joyous occasion of her baptism. With love, we celebrate alongside her parents, Robert and Ashley, as she begins this beautiful

journey of faith. We warmly welcome Lyla into our Parish family and pray that God grants her many happy and blessed years.

ONE OF OUR OWN..... MOVING TO PITTSBURGH

Our dearly beloved Mrs. Eileen Kushner is moving to Fombell (Pittsburgh), Pa., to live with her son, Kurt, and his wife, Linda, at the end of month. Mrs. Kushner is now in her 90's and living in Blakely.

At this time in her life, it will be an adjustment to move from her home, but she will not be alone, but living with family. (Roman passed away in 2023, Michael and Linda

are in Delaware, and the grandchildren are in Florida). Her friends from the parish and community will miss her dearly, but she is only a card/letter away. (Birthday Dec. 23rd). As of June 1, 2026, the address for Mrs. Eileen Kushner is 103 Short Street, Fombell, PA 16123.

Mrs. Kushner was the secretary at Ss. Cyril's and Methodius Rectory (1974 - De-

ember 2008). While at the rectory, she did the office work, plus cooking, etc., for Msgr. Hrynuck. Mr. Roman Kushner was the Maintenance foreman for the Church, grade school, “new” kindergarten hall, cemetery, etc. Working with Monsignor Stephen Hrynuck at the rectory for 34 years was an achievement for both of them. Upon Msgr. Hrynuck’s retirement (2008), the Kushners gladly opened their home. Monsignor lived

with the Kushner Family until Monsignor’s (his) death in March of 2014.

We are so thankful for Eileen Kushner’s love and commitment to St. Cyril’s Church, the parishioners, friends, and Monsignor Hrynuck. We wish her the best of health and happiness as she accepts this new stage in her life. We will miss Mrs. Kushner and will keep her in our prayers, always. Mnohaya Leeta

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team for the month of May 2026 is Team #1: Jerry

Sereditch, Michaelene Davis, and Gloria Jablonski.

Sunday Collection for May 23 & 24, 2026: \$

Sincere thanks to all of you for your kindness and generosity.

A TIME TO CELEBRATE

Happy Birthday and Mnohaya Leeta to the following Parishioners who celebrated their birthday in May:

Lauren Carey
Christina Chezik
Alexa Creavey
Jim Creavey

John Martin
Tim Sczesniak
Joyce Spryn

Mary Ann Turko
Greg Turko
Michele Vervan

Happy Anniversary and Mnohaya Leeta to the following Parishioners who celebrate their Wedding Anniversary during May:

Frank & Susan Lesnefsky
Patrick & Cathy Marcinko
Paul & Rosemary Mizerak

John & Susan Sakson
Bill & Michele Vervan

If your Birthday or Anniversary is not listed, and you would like it listed, please drop us a note indicating when your Birthday or Anniversary is. We only publish this information by request. If you do not provide this information, it will not be published.

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

Telephone: 570-291-4451

Web Site: stcyrils.weconnect.com

E-Mail: olyphant@ukrcatholic.org

Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

From the Fathers

When you perceive that God is chastising you, fly not to his enemies . . . but to his friends, the martyrs, the saints, and those who were pleasing to him, and who have great power ...

St. John Chrysostom

A Christian people celebrates together in religious solemnity the memorials of the martyrs, both to encourage their being imitated and so that it can share in their merits and be aided by their prayers.

St. Augustine of Hippo

In this way is he [the true Christian] always pure for prayer. He also prays in the society of angels, as being already of angelic rank, and he is never out of their holy keeping; and though he pray alone, he has the choir of the saints standing with him.

St. Clement of Alexandria

In addition to the study and true knowledge of the Scriptures are needed a good life and pure soul and virtue in Christ, so that the mind, journeying in this path, may be able to obtain and apprehend what it desires, in so far as human nature is able to learn about God the Word. For without a pure mind and a life modeled on the saints, no one can apprehend the words of the saints.

St. Athanasius the Great

The divine Scripture likewise says that the souls of the just are in God's hand and death cannot lay hold of them. For death is rather the sleep of the saints than their death. "For they travailed in this life and shall to the end," and "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." What then, is more precious than to be in the hand of God. For God is Life and Light, and those who are in God's hand are in life and light.

St. John of Damascus