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## From the Pastor's Office

My Dear Friends:

The month of November has so many important feast days of the Church! To me it is important to know what these feast days mean. For this reason, I have included in this publication articles about **All Saints Day** (page 2) and **All Souls Day** (page 3). Please take time to read them, then spend some time in prayer, attending Mass (livestream or outdoors) and offering your special prayers and intentions on these days. Note the schedule of Masses below:

### **SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER**

#### **OCTOBER 31, SATURDAY: VIGIL MASS FOR ALL SAINTS DAY AT OLS**

- 3:00–4:00 PM: Confessions  
3:30 PM Rosary with Litany of the Saints  
4:00 PM Mass  
After Mass blessing of water for visit to the cemetery

#### **NOVEMBER 01, SUNDAY: MASS FOR ALL SAINTS DAY**

- 8:00 AM St. Joseph the Worker  
9:30 AM St. Dominic Savio  
11:30 AM Our Lady of the Sierra  
All masses are preceded by:  
Rosary with Litany of the Saints  
Prayers for the Dead  
Bless water to be used when you go to the cemetery. Prayers for the visit to the cemetery will be distributed.

#### **NOVEMBER 02, MONDAY: ALL SOULS DAY AT OLS**

- 9:00 AM Rosary – Litany of the Poor Souls in Purgatory  
Mass

October 28, 2020



## Objectives of The Feast

Today, we thank God for giving ordinary men and women a share in His holiness and Heavenly glory as a reward for their Faith.

This feast is observed to teach us to honor the saints, both by imitating their lives and by seeking their intercession for us before Christ, the only mediator between God and man (1 Tm 2:5).

*Holiness* is related to the word *wholesomeness*. We grow in holiness when we live wholesome lives of integrity, truth, justice, charity, mercy, and compassion, sharing our blessings with others.

The Church reminds us today that God's call for holiness is universal, that all of us are called to live in His love and to make His love real in the lives of those around us.

## History

All Saints' Day was not always a solemnity observed by the universal church, and was not celebrated everywhere on Nov. 1. The feast originated in the earliest centuries of the Church, when Christians commemorated the many martyrs who died at the hands of their Roman persecutors. Because there were so many martyrs, they could not each have their own feast day; but they were seen as such important witnesses that the Christians did not want to leave any of them out. As a result, a single commemoration for "all the martyrs" was observed each spring, which celebrated those who did not have their own unique feast.

After Christianity was legalized throughout the Roman Empire in 313 and the violent and bloody persecutions came to an end, it was common to commemorate the martyrs in various areas around the empire. St. Ephrem (d. 373) and St. John Chrysostom (d. 407) attest to this feast day in their preaching. Pope Boniface IV (ruled 608-615), fully established it when he consecrated the Pantheon of Rome to the Virgin Mary and all the Martyrs on May 13 in AD 609. Pope Gregory IV (ruled 828-844), made All Saints' a holy day in the mid-eighth century and moved it to November 1.

Now, centuries later, All Saints' Day is a holy day of obligation and recognized as one of the most important feasts on the liturgical calendar. However, the celebration of Halloween typically overshadows the commemoration of All Saints' Day. Most of us realize that Halloween is in reality the vigil of All Saints' ("Allhallows Eve" or "Hallow E'en"), but All Saints' Day itself has become a bit of an afterthought.

It shouldn't be this way! The saints are our friends, our intercessors, our brothers and sisters in Christ. They care deeply for us, and their lives are recognized by the Church as exemplary, as models to follow.

Whether you commemorate individually or as a family, you have a lot of things to do. The most important is going to Mass, because it is a holy day; read the lives of the saints; watch a movie about a saint; pray the litany of saints; think back to your confirmation saint and study the life of a saint.

All Saints' Day is the perfect time to pray to all these holy men and women, asking for their intercession for the conversion of sinners, so that we might all become saints.



## A Commemoration of the Dead

### History

The importance of **All Souls Day** was made clear by Pope Benedict XV (1914-22) when he granted all priests the privilege of celebrating three Masses on All Souls Day: one for the faithful departed; one for the priest's intentions; and one for the intentions of the Holy Father.

The Commemoration was originally celebrated in the Easter Season, around Pentecost Sunday. By the tenth century, the celebration had been moved to October, and sometime between 998 and 1030, St. Odilo of Cluny decreed that it should be celebrated on November 2 in all of the monasteries of his Benedictine congregation. Over the next two centuries, other Benedictines and the Carthusians began to celebrate it in their monasteries as well, and soon the commemoration of all the Holy Souls in Purgatory spread to the entire Church.

The reasoning beyond praying for the poor souls in Purgatory stems from the notion that when a soul leaves the body, it is not entirely cleansed from venial (minor) sins. However, through the power of prayer and self-denial, the faithful left on earth may be able to help these souls gain the Beatific Vision (vision of God in Heaven) they seek, bringing the soul eternal sublime happiness.

On All Souls Day, we not only remember the dead, but we apply our efforts, through prayer, almsgiving, and the Mass, to their release from Purgatory.

There are two plenary indulgences attached to All Souls Day, one for visiting a church and another for **visiting a cemetery**. (The plenary indulgence for visiting a cemetery can also be obtained every day from November 1-8, and, as a partial indulgence, on any day of the year.) While the actions are performed by the living, the merits of the indulgences are applicable only to the souls in Purgatory. Since a plenary indulgence removes all of the temporal punishment for sin, which is the reason why souls are in Purgatory in the first place, applying a plenary indulgence to one of the Holy Souls in Purgatory means that the Holy Soul is released from Purgatory and enters Heaven.

**Praying for the dead** is a Christian obligation. In the modern world, when many have come to doubt the Church's teaching on Purgatory, the need for such prayers has only increased. The Church devotes the month of November to prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and participation in the Mass of All Souls Day is a good way to begin the month.