

FAMILIES ON FIRE



REFLECTION: NOVEMBER-COMMUNION OF SAINTS

The Communion of Saints is extremely powerful. So powerful, we mention the term in our Creed. The Church has always honored the faithful departed and strongly encourages their remembrance. This is apparent in the celebration of Halloween, also known as, All Hallows Eve! The holiday has been overshadowed by scary witches and evil creatures over time. Some are surprised to know that Halloween is actually a preparation for the Catholic feast of All Saints and followed by All Souls. The three go hand in hand. During the month of November, we call to mind our connection with those who have died. Here are some suggestions for families to recognize their union to those in Heaven.

1. **Story Time:** Many families have stories of those who have died coming to the aid of family members. For example, Fr. Len tells the story of his grandmother who days before she died said that she could see her deceased sister. Then the day his grandmother died, she said her deceased husband, Len, was there. She kept repeating, “Len is here” as she died. Many families have similar stories that could be shared during this month. How has your family experienced the closeness and presence of a deceased loved one? Take time this month to share certain instances where you or other members have encountered your departed ones here on earth.
2. **Prayer Time:** Praying for everyone, living or dead, is a strong Christian practice. Your family can incorporate praying for the dead with your grace before and after meals. An example is, “Bless us Oh Lord, and these Thy gifts which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord and we want to pray for Grandma Felicity, Amen”. This can also encourage your family in knowing that when you pray for the deceased, they in return, pray for you.
3. **Simple Reminders:** We are visual people. Place pictures and/or names of your ancestors in a special place with candles. This will help your family recall your loved ones. On November 2nd, the Feast of All Souls’ Day, there is a candle Mass at Holy Apostles where candles to remember past family members are blessed. You can participate in the special mass and the candles can then be used at home throughout the month.
4. **Friends in High Places:** The Saints of the Church are such a treasure! You can take some time this month to research different saints and their lives. Can’t make up your mind on a saint? Have one choose you! As a family, go to <http://saintsgenerator.com/> and enjoy learning about all the amazing men and women who are waiting for you to call on them.

“I want to spend my heaven in
doing good on earth”

St. Therese of Lisieux

