

The early version of Trick or Treating involved going door to door and receiving the names of the loved ones of others to pray for, and in return, getting a “soul cake” — a light, fluffy bun. It was very much a tradition connected to the feast days that followed – All Saints Day (All Hallows Day on Nov. 1), and All Souls Day (Nov. 2), as we strive to live in communion as one Church, and in love, help others on their way to Heaven, to becoming saints.

In the Church, we usually use the term saint to refer to those 11,000+ individuals officially declared to be in Heaven. Every day of the year, there are 10-20 saints or groups of saints who were canonized or martyred together that are celebrated on that day, along with a number who are somewhere in the process who have been declared Servants of God or Blessed. But everyone in Heaven is a saint—whether they are formally canonized or not.

The origin of this feast was the creation of the Feast of Our Lady and All Martyrs, begun with the dedication of the former pagan temple of the Pantheon in Rome as a Church. One day to celebrate all in Heaven, given even most of the canonized get skipped over in our liturgical cycle. These models of holiness for us, and intercessors along our own journey to Heaven, should be an important part of our lives. They are all different—married and ordained, religious and single, young and old, men and women, boys and girls of every generation, including now one who was born just 34 years ago, St. Carlo Acutis! They are doctors and nurses, teachers and students, artists and farmers, parents and widows, website designers and architects. Yet they all followed Jesus, the way, the truth and the life. And so must we.



Besides whatever secular festivities you partake in, make November 1st a true Feast of the Saints in your home. Our SJ first graders will dress up like a chosen saint and spend some time telling their stories at the Wednesday Nov. 5th School Mass. Some of our children will join us as saints at MQP at the 9AM Mass on November 1st, as well as at OLOS at the 5PM Mass that day. Let the children lead you – spend some time learning about some new saints yourself. Perhaps have everyone at the table tell the story of their favorite saint. Or add a little litany to your mealtime prayer. How will you celebrate All Saints Day differently this year, as you are drawn more deeply into the mystery of our faith?

Because the feast falls on a Saturday this year – it is a Holy Day, but not obligatory.

November 1st Masses:

9AM Mary, Queen of Peace

9AM St. Joseph – in Spanish (most first Saturdays)