

November 1, 2020

Blessed Sunday. Happy All Saints Day! Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to all

of our parishioners who are celebrating special events this month!



Here are some special messages for all of us to contemplate on our day of rest.

a. <https://youtu.be/HTe6ViSgNwY>

b. Nov 1-8 are special days to pray for the dead. This is an indulgenced prayer for the souls in purgatory given to St.

Gertrude.

Prayer for Holy Souls in Purgatory



Our Lord promised
Saint Gertrude
that 1000 souls would be
released from purgatory
each time this prayer is said
devoutly.

*Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood
of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses
said throughout the world today, for all the holy
souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for
sinners in the universal church, those in my own
home and within my family. Amen.*

1. Today's Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/110120.cfm>
2. **The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus:** Solemnity of All Saints
Why do we celebrate All Saints Day and who do we celebrate? Could you explain it to a Protestant friend?
3. Quotes of the Day:
 - a. "To be Saints is not a privilege for the few, but a vocation for everyone." *Pope Francis*
 - b. "I say to live in these troubled days, we have to become saints. A saint is one who makes Christ lovable. That's the definition of a saint." *St. Therese: A Treasured Love Story*
4. November Virtue - Charity - "The measure of charity may be taken from the want of desires. As desires diminish in a soul, charity increases in it; and when it no longer feels any desire, then it possesses perfect charity." *St. Augustine*
5. Ascension's insights with Fr. Mike Schmitz on All Saints Day - Video about 7 minutes : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mad1Jqf0jow&feature=youtu.be>
6. Sunday Song: Gregorian Chant for All Saints ~ approximately 3 minutes. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3T9GP78vNCO>

Thank you to our parishioner suggestions today! Our messages are a team St. Joseph effort!

Finally, since All Saints Day is for saints we do not know about, make sure you pray to

them and thank them for watching over you!



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Why celebrate All Saints Day?

Some of our Protestant friends object to the Catholic custom of celebrating certain saints and giving them special attention. Aware that there are liturgical days commemorating individual saints, they want to know why there aren't celebrations for all the other people in heaven.

After all in Revelation John describes the population of heaven this way:

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no man could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits upon the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Rev. 7:9-10).

Don't all those other people deserve recognition, too?

The answer is that they do, and this is why we have All Saints Day. Since there are only 365 days in the year, not every person in heaven can have his own liturgical commemoration, but they all should be recognized for the way they cooperated with God's grace. Thus All Saints Day was created to commemorate every last individual in heaven, even those whose salvation is known to God alone.

So if your departed grandmother is in heaven, even though she's never been canonized, on All Saints Day the Catholic Church commemorates her and the work God did in her life. She, too, has a place in the liturgical calendar, alongside the more famous saints.

Precisely when that day occurs will depend which liturgical calendar you are using.

In many Eastern Catholic Churches, the commemoration of all the saints is held on the Sunday after Pentecost, which has a certain logic since Pentecost was the event that led to the evangelization of the world and the salvation of so many souls.

In the West, November 1st became the date on which all the saints are commemorated. Sometimes people will try to tarnish this with pagan associations, claiming that it was based on the Gaelic holiday Samhain, as celebrated in the British Isles.

Parish Office Communication

But All Saints Day didn't originate in the British Isles. The reason November 1st was picked is that Pope Gregory III (731-741) dedicated a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome to all the saints and fixed its anniversary as November 1st.

Later, Pope Gregory IV (827-844) extended this celebration to the whole of the Western Church. This led to the commemoration of the evening before as All Hallows Eve, and it led to the following day—November 2nd—being celebrated as All Souls Day, when we pray for all the souls who are still being purified on their way to heaven.

Though we disagree about various matters, both Catholics and Protestants say the Apostles' Creed, and when we do so we profess belief in "the communion of saints." The celebration of All Saints Day is one of the ways Catholics live out this profession.

All Saints Day came to be a very important liturgical day, and today it is a holy day of obligation, meaning that Catholics must observe it by going to Mass, as they do on Sundays.

This makes All Saints Day different than the commemorations of individual saints. None of the saints living after biblical times are commemorated with holy days of obligation. However famous saints like Augustine, Aquinas, and Thérèse of Lisieux may be, they don't have such an important day on the liturgical calendar.

But the whole body of the saints in heaven—sainted grandmothers included—do. The Catholic Church thus not only remembers individual saints; it takes seriously its profession of the entire communion of saints.

Source: catholic.com