

Out of the Upper Room - 06

All Saints and All Souls

The pumpkins have been carved and placed in the compost, way too much candy has been collected by trick-or-treaters, and the world is ready to move on to Christmas. We, however, are not. We are still a ways away from that beautiful season. But that does not mean we are in a time of nothing at the Church. We are in the month of November— a month where we recall the lives of the saints and remember and pray for all those who have died.



Today, November 1st, is the Solemnity of All Saints— more commonly known as All Saints Day. On this day we celebrate all known and unknown saints. There are 10 000 known saints in the canon of saints— but we also know that there are far more people who are saints in heaven that have not been officially declared a saint by the Church. It is important to remember that it is not us lowly humans who decide if someone is a saint or not— God alone decides that. The canonization of a person simple confirms to us what God already knows.

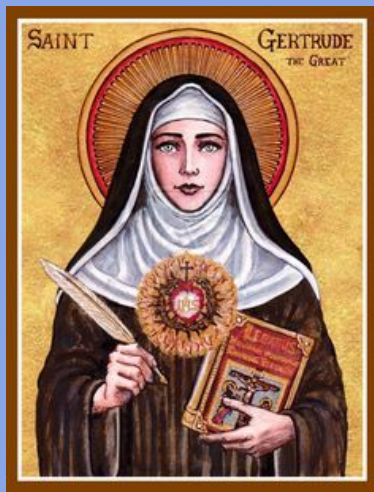
All Saints Day is a specific occasion to reflect on the lives of the saints and how they are a model for us. We are encouraged to celebrate the faithfulness of these holy men and women who have lived throughout history. The saints provide for us an example of how to be. They came from all walks of life- some saints lived very grand lives, some led very simple existences, some made terrible life choices, some were selfless, some were children, some teens, others parents, grandparents, single persons, priests, religious, educated, non-educated, soldiers, pacifists, advocates, gardeners, and gamers. Some were faithful their whole lives, some came only upon their deathbeds. We are meant to look at the saints to show us how to live our lives as children of God with the knowledge that none of them are perfect, but all of them love God.

For a bit on the history or how this feast day came about let's look to the November edition of Living with Christ where it says, "*Originally a feast in the Eastern Church for all martyrs, it was extended to the whole Roman Church in the 9th C. as a feast including non-martyrs. It was given this date, November 1, to counter a pagan feast on the same day. In England it was called "All Hallows" ('Hallow' is from the old English word for 'holy')* [like in the Our Father, "Hallowed be Thy name" = "Holy is Your name"] Thus "*Hallowe'en*" a vestige of this pagan celebration is from

“Allhallows even” or “ the eve of All Saints.””

Tomorrow, November 2nd, is another special day, **The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed**, or simply, **All Souls’ Day**. Since the time of the early Church, Christians have prayed for the dead. This day is a time for us to remember and pray for all those who have died in a pointed way. When a person dies, their soul goes to one of three places: Heaven- where the holy men and women (saints) in a state of perfect grace and union with God go, Hell , or Purgatory– where most of us go. Without getting too much into the understanding of purgatory, it is a place to purify our souls that have not yet attained full sanctification and moral perfection which is a requirement for entrance into Heaven. Our sanctification happens while we are in purgatory with the help of prayers of those still on earth and by the sacrifice of the Mass. All Souls’ Day is a day dedicated to prayer for all the souls in purgatory.

How should we mark these two holy days? For starters, Mass. Morning Mass is at 8:30am today (well, everyday except the weekends and Monday). You can also look up a saint, any saint. Maybe start with your name, or your child’s name. Or you can look up who the patron saint is for your occupation or favourite hobby. Learn about that saint’s life and ask them to pray for you.



St. Gertrude showed "tender sympathy towards the souls in Purgatory" and urged prayers for them. She is therefore invoked in aid of the suffering souls in Purgatory. The following prayer is attributed to Gertrude:

'Eternal Father, I offer you the Most Precious Blood of your 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, for those in my own home and in my family. Amen.'

There is a **Memorial Mass on Thursday, November 2nd at 7pm** for all those who have died with ties to our parish. All are welcome to attend. You can say a special prayer for all your loved ones who have died, and/or say a prayer for all the souls who have no one to pray for them. You can also look through the obituaries and say a pray for the people who have died this week (a quick google search can lead you to pray for so many souls).

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

We will commemorate ALL SOULS' DAY this year with a Memorial Mass celebrated at

Holy Spirit Parish Thursday, November 2 at 7:00 pm.

If you wish, you may bring a photograph or the memorial card of your deceased loved one for display during the liturgy.



This Mass will also be livestreamed Thursday, November 2 at 7:00 pm on Holy Spirit Catholic Church Facebook Page and/or saskatoomass.com

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."

"Happy are those who have died in the Lord. Let them rest from their labours for their good deeds go with them." *Revelation 12:13*

For Fr. Joseph's Reflection and Assignments click the link: [MISSION POSSIBLE](#)

holyspiritsaskatoon.ca

Holy Spirit Parish | 114 Kingsmere Place, Saskatoon, S7J 3V7 Canada

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