

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Don't forget that **this Friday, November 1st, is a Holy Day of Obligation – the Solemnity of All Saints**. We will have Mass at 12 noon and Solemn Mass at 7pm. Solemn Mass will be enhanced with music from our fantastic choir.

All Saints Day celebrates truly *all* the Saints of God who have gone before us, officially canonized or not, all of whom now enjoy the eternal vision of God for all eternity. As part of the living, Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, we can still call upon these holy ones to pray for us just as we can ask for prayers from one another.

The celebration of All Saints Day evolved independently of paganism and our modern culture's version of Halloween. After the legalization of Christianity in A.D. 313, a common commemoration of the Saints, especially the Martyrs, appeared in various areas throughout the Church. The Church desired to honor the great number of Martyrs, but, quite simply, there were not enough days of the year for a feast day for each martyr, and many of them died in groups or were unknown. Pope Gregory III (731-741) dedicated a chapel in honor of all the Saints on Nov. 1. This date stuck and became the official date for the celebration of the feast in Rome, and then later, for the whole Church.

The following day, November 2nd, is All Souls Day when we pray for the souls of all the faithful departed, both our loved ones and also those who have no one to pray for them. We will have one Mass for All Souls Day at 12:00 noon Saturday. (Note that the Saturday evening Mass will be for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time).

Throughout the month of November, we continue to pray for all the holy souls of the faithful departed. You likely received an envelope on which you can write the names of deceased loved ones you would like us to pray for. These envelopes are placed on the altar for the entire month of November, and our priests privately remember those listed in a special way at *every* Mass. If you include a donation, this goes to the priests who are offering Masses throughout November, with you uniting your prayer to ours.

Finally, you likely know that November 5th is election day. A prayer...

God of mercy, we ask you to inspire us and guide us as we participate in the upcoming elections for our nation. Help us by your grace to form an earthly government that upholds and protects rights and justice for all citizens, irrespective of race, class, gender, religion, for citizens both born and unborn. We place our nation into the outstretched arms of Jesus Christ, your Son and our true Lord. Amen.

Holy Virgin Mary, the Immaculate Conception and Patroness of the United States, pray for us!

And let us always pray for each other!
Father Wilson