

## *Celebrating All Saints and All Souls in November*

Why does it help to turn to the saints when we pray?

We are all called to lives of virtue and holiness and the saints are friends and intercessors who can inspire us toward this goal! Saints are people who are on fire with the Holy Spirit; they keep God's fire burning in the Church. Even during their earthly life, the saints prayed ardently, in a way that was contagious. At Mass on All Saints' Day, we praise and thank God for their example, their selflessness, and their holiness. We express our faith that they are now around God's throne, where they "sing his praise forever." And we ask them to give us "both strength and good example" so that one day we will meet them when we enter eternal life with God.

### **The Feast of All Souls**

All Souls' Day, also known as "The Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed" is observed on Tuesday, Nov. 2 this year. This is when we remember people who were more like us – the souls of the faithful departed in purgatory or in process. The faithful on earth can assist these purgatorial souls in attaining heaven through prayer, good work and the offering of Mass.

At Mass on All Souls' Day, we pray that through Christ's loving mercy, God's "departed servants...may be granted pardon and peace, and be brought to the joy of God's eternal home. All Souls Day is an especially rich cultural experience for Hispanic/Latino Catholics, who call it "Día de los Muertos" or "The Day of the Dead."

### **Things to do:**

- Visit a cemetery and pray for the dead during the Octave of All Saints Day. This gains a plenary indulgence that can be applied only to the souls in purgatory. On other days, this work gains a partial indulgence.
- During November, spend a little time after Mass during thanking God for all the unnamed saints, some of whom could be our own relatives.
- Have a special meal and if you have young children have them dress up like their favorite saints and play games.
- Request the Holy Mass for your loved ones who died by contacting our parish office.
- Pray the Litany of the Saints – you could make it really special by chanting it ("he who sings prays twice").

### **Decree extends indulgence for the faithful departed throughout November**

During November many Catholics visit a church or cemetery to pray for the holy souls in purgatory, and the Church encourages this custom by attaching a "plenary indulgence" to such prayers for the faithful departed. This indulgence means that through our prayers we can help departed souls complete their preparation for heavenly life. This year, each of the faithful may choose one day of November on which to gain this grace by praying for the dead in a church. Likewise, each may choose any eight days on which to gain an indulgence through prayer at a cemetery. Those who cannot leave home may substitute other forms of prayer for the usual visits.

**Mass Schedule**

NOVEMBER 1ST—ALL SAINTS

8:30 am Chapel

12:00 pm Chapel (Latin Mass)

7:00 pm Church

NOVEMBER 2ND—ALL SOULS

8:30 am Church

12:00 pm Chapel