

ALL SAINTS DAY

November 1st - Happy Solemn Feast of All Saints Day! This coming Tuesday, we celebrate the **Solemn Feast of All Saints Day**. The central message of this wonderful solemn feast is simple, that we are all called to be **saints**, yes, you and me.

True most of us will not be recognized as the official **Saints of the Church** but as baptized Christians our goal is to become saints while we are on a sojourn on earth, a brief and a fleeting life compared to the eternity that awaits all who love and serve God.

The Psalmist wisely instructs us of this truth; **“You have given me my days a very short span; my life is as nothing before you. All mortals are but a breath,”** (Psalm 39:5-6).

Some of you might recall the **Baltimore Catechism** and its first lesson that asked; **“Why did God make you?”** The given answer is **“God made me to know Him, love Him, and to serve Him in this world, and to be happy with Him forever in heaven.”**

In that one simple sentence we learned summed up why we are here on this earth. Truly there is something so deeply exhilarating and empowering when we know our purpose in life, just as one can be trapped in darkness, despair, and emptiness when one’s purpose in life is blurred or absent.

Though we all seek success in life, pursue happiness and fulfillment and they are not bad in themselves, but when sought at all costs, even at the cost of drifting away from our Faith, we have quickly lost the sight of what the bottom line is, we must get to heaven and if not, then all will truly be in vain. No matter what we may have accomplished, accolades gained, statues erected, and our names be memorialized, in **hell** none of that matters at all.

On this **Solemn Feast of All Saints**, we are not only reminded but we encounter so many Saints, so much like us who struggled and sacrificed in life’s situations no different than us and still finally victoriously gained heaven.

Let us reflect this week what is the life that we are daily living, a Christian life as we had professed in our baptisms or life simply mimicking a Christian life but in reality a life no different than those who do not know God or have rejected God.

“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him,” John 3:17.

Its never too late to change the course, never too late to repent and seek conversions, never too late to again rekindle that fire in our hearts to love God genuinely. That what all the men, women, and children we are honoring on this All Saints did.

May one day this Solemn Feast Day **“All Saints Day”** be our personal fest day too in heaven.

ALL SAINTS DAY MASS - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST at 8:00am

ALL SOULS DAY November 2nd

The **month of November** is dedicated to **All Souls** by the Catholic Church in remembrance of poor souls, that is all the souls of our loved ones and countless others who have died and gone before us. The term **poor souls** are used to describe those who have died in realization that all those souls can no longer pray, repent, convert, or to do any penance for themselves anymore upon their earthly death.

The time to do all such things ends with earthly death, it is only in our brief earthly life that we can do them. The reason is mainly because upon the earthly death while our earthly body lies in death-decay our eternal souls live but no longer do any good or harm, attain virtue or vice.

It is only within our brief earthly life with our mortal bodies that we can freely choose to do good or to do evil. **It is only within this brief earthly life that we can repent and convert our lives and grow in virtue, upon earthly death all ceases.**

“Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgement,” Hebrews 9: 27.

In our Christian Charity, and duty to pray for those **poor souls**, as many who are in the state of purgation in Purgatory in need of our prayers.

Biblical and Traditional Foundations:

All Souls Day is a day set aside by the Catholic Church to honor the dead, **the poor souls**. In our Catholic Christian Faith, we believe that the souls of the person who dies go to one of the three places. The **first is heaven**, where a person who dies in the state of perfect grace and communion - friendship with God. The **second is hell**, where those who die in the state of mortal sin are naturally condemned by their own free choices. They had freely chosen in this brief earthly life to totally reject God and died in the state of that total rejection of God - mortal sin. The **third, the intermediate place Purgatory**, which is where people free of mortal sin, in friendship with God but still in the state of lesser sin (venial sin), go. **(1 Corinthians 3: 12-14).**

Purgatory is necessary so that souls can be cleansed and perfected before they enter the glory of heaven. Two of the primary Old and New Testament scripture references; **“Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sins of the dead might be fully blotted out...Thus made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from sin,” 2 Maccabees 12: 26 & 12:32.**

“If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay or straw, the work of each will come to light, for the day will disclose it. It will be revealed with fire,

and the fire itself will test the quality of each one's work. If the work stands that someone built upon the foundation, that person will receive a wage. But if someone's work is burned up, that one will suffer loss, that person will be saved, but only through fire," 1 Corinthians 3: 12-14.

Certainly, the belief in **Purgatory** has not been without controversy. Certainly, tragic and blatant abuses of the doctrine of **Purgatory** did arise, especially in the 15th and early 17th century of the Church's history, especially during the Renaissance period 14th – 17th centuries.

In 1517, an Augustinian Catholic priest Martin Luther (1483-1546) who later abandoned the Catholic Faith, argued with the monk, Johan Tetzel O.P. (1465 – 1519) over the abuse of the selling of indulgences by some Church leaders.

Indulgences were sold as spiritual pardons to the poor and applied to the souls of the dead (or the living) to get people to heaven. The blatant abuse of such sad state and sometimes fraudulent practices of selling indulgences for money, led to Martin Luther's protest.

Though what may have begun as righteous act, tragically Martin Luther abandoned the Catholic Faith and married Katharina von Bora and had 6 children. He also is considered one of the prime causes of the Protestant Reformation (1517 – 1685).

Martin Luther translated the Bible into German, and he purposely omitted the **Seven Books of the Old Testament canon books *Tobias, Judith, Baruch, Ecclesiasticus, Wisdom, First and Second Maccabees*** and also certain additions of **Esther and Daniel**, which had references to prayers for the dead.

For over 1,000 years all Christians had accepted all those books as canonical and were accepted yet taking authority upon himself tragically removed - omitted them. Tragically too Martin Luther altered **Romans 1:17** to meet his own personal belief - explanation of salvation by justification alone.

While many Protestants – Lutherans professed in Faith alone, as Catholic Christians we hold the belief that Faith is central and without it one cannot be saved, but Faith alone do not save us.

"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, go in peace, keep warm and eat well, but you do not give them necessities of the body, what good is it? So also, faith of itself if it does not have works, is dead," James 2: 14 – 17.

While Martin Luther and many Protestants belief hold that Faith alone save – Justification by Faith Alone, thus concluding that there is no need for Purgatory.

The **Seven omitted books of the Old Testament** had been accepted over 1,400 years by Christians in both East and West before but removed the Seven Books of the Old Testament and introduced heretical teachings that dead people are saved and that there is no need to pray for the dead.

Thankfully the Catholic Church reeling from the tragedy of the abuse and from Martin Luther's actions, began to reform itself in the **Council of Trent (1545)**, and began the period of **Catholic Counter – Reformation** which brought about wide needed reforms and rejuvenation.

The **doctrine of Purgatory** was further clarified; the souls of the faithful who at death have not been purified from the temporal punishment due to venial sins and from attachments to forgiven mortal sins cannot immediately attain the beatific vision of heaven.

In other words when we die, we who had not yet attained full sanctification and moral perfection necessary to enter heaven, then by the mercy of God can be saved through Purgatory, **“so be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect,” Matthew 5:48.**

“But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who does abominable things or tell lies. Only those will enter whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life,” Revelation 21:27.

Our brothers and sisters in **Purgatory** are called the **Church Suffering**, while we on earth are called the **Church Militant**, who still must struggle faithfully to enter heaven. Those who are now in heaven are called the **Church Triumphant**, they have attained their goal, eternal life.

In love and mercy of God, through our Baptism who are members of the Church, the body of Christ are united together as one, as Church Suffering, Church Militant and Church Triumphant.

Novena Masses and Prayers for the Poor Souls

Throughout the month of November Novena Prayers for the deceased will be prayed with the daily Novena Masses for them. As in the years past, we will have a Novena Mass Prayer Intention Box dedicated to the Poor Souls with a candle lit next to it at the sanctuary.

If you are turning in your Novena Prayer envelopes for the Poor Souls, please write the names clearly, as each name will be prayed during the course of the month of November.

Also, Daily Novena Prayers for the Deceased, **“To Eternity, Prayers for the Deceased for Every Day of the Week”** are being passed out. Please take one if you are using the Novena Prayers Daily united with us here in the parish daily.

You are welcome to attend the Novena prayers and Masses on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday of the week at 8:00am. Novena prayers and Masses for Thursday, and Saturday will be held in the morning masses at **7:00am.**

On Saturday Vigil at 4:10pm and on Sunday, 7:10am & 9: 40am (20 minutes) before each respective weekend masses.

ALL SOULS DAY MASS WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd, at 8:00am

Lighting and remembrance of all who died in November Year 2021 – November Year 2022 beginning at 8:00am with Novena Prayers for the deceased followed by the Holy Mass.

In the evening at 6:00pm we will light a Candle in Memory of parishioners who have died this year. invite families or friends of the deceased to attend. Let us remember to pray for all our loved ones who have gone before us.

Someone once inquired “why do we continue to pray for those who had died?” I answered, “because though in earthly terms we experience time, upon death there is no time but the state of the soul in Purgatory, therefore we can always pray for the deceased as though they had just died today, even though it has been weeks, months or years ago.” And if our deceased loved ones are already in **Heaven**, our prayers always assist other souls in need of our prayers in **Purgatory**. We do not pray for those tragic souls in **Hell** for no prayers can ever assist them anymore.

Let us Remember and Pray for all our loved ones who have gone before us.

In the brief prayer ceremony candles will be presented for the following poor souls...Wednesday, November 2, at 6:00pm

Year November 2021 – November 2022

+Lorna Gallero Galicinao	November 14, 2021
+Benjamin Petelo Pule	February 10, 2022
+Richard Henry Kahanu	April 26, 2022
+Joann Villanueva Webb	May 22, 2022
+Laura Theolinda Toledo	June 20, 2022
+George Alden Abdul	June 22, 2022
+Dolores Galicinao Ramiscal	June 26, 2022
+Imelda Dumpit Rapusas	September 21, 2022
+William C. Fejeran	September 26, 2022
+Annie Merfalen	September 27, 2022
+Lono McCallum Lauahi	October 13, 2022
+Richard Kong Jr.	October 20, 2022

ALL SAINTS DAY – Monday, November 1st.

We will be celebrating All Saints Day on November 1st with Prayers seeking the intercession of the Saints and with a solemn mass at 8:00am Monday, November 1st.

ALL SOULS DAY – Tuesday, November 2nd.

On All Souls Day, on November 2nd we will remember in our prayers and at mass all poor souls, all who have gone before us; especially our beloved family members, friends and others we loved. *Mass at 8:00am for ALL SOULS DAY

November 2nd All Souls Day is dedicated by the Catholic Church for the remembrance of All Souls – Poor Souls, our beloved loved ones and countless others who have died and gone before us.

On Tuesday, November 2nd there will be a rosary for the deceased and a candle representing each soul who died the year 2020 November - 2021 November. We invite family members to be present to participate in the rosary, the presentation of the candle and mass offered for their souls.

It is our Christian charity and duty to pray for them and many who are in the state of purgation in Purgatory in need of our prayers.

During the whole month of November **Novena of Poor Souls and Masses** will be offered daily. **All Souls envelopes in remembrance of our loved ones are found in your collection envelopes or can be found at the entrance of the church.** Please clearly print the names of your loved ones and with the offering place them in the drop box as we pray for them throughout the month of November.

Next weekend Novena Prayers for Poor Souls **“To Eternity – Prayers for the Deceased for Every Day of the Week”** will be made available to all who wish to pray here at the church or at home.