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**All Saint's Day November 1, 2020**

All Saints Day is intended to honour the memory of countless unknown and uncanonized saints who have no feast days.

Today we thank God for giving ordinary men and women a share in His holiness and Heavenly glory as a reward for their Faith. This feast is observed to teach us to honour the saints, both by imitating their lives and by seeking their intercession for us before Christ, the only mediator between God and man (I Tm 2:5). The Church reminds us today that God's call for holiness is universal, that all of us are called to live in His love and to make His love real in the lives of those around us. Holiness is related to the word wholesomeness. We grow in holiness when we live wholesome lives of integrity, truth, justice, charity, mercy, and compassion, sharing our blessings with others.

**Reasons why we honour the saints:**

- **The saints put their trust in Christ and lived heroic lives of Faith. St. Paul asks us to serve and honour such noble souls. In his Epistles to the Corinthians, to Philip and to Timothy, he advises Christians to welcome, serve and honour those who have put their trust in Jesus.**
- **The saints enjoy Heavenly bliss as a reward for their Faith in Jesus. Hence, they deserve our veneration of them.**
- **The saints are our role models. They teach us by their lives that Christ's holy life of love, mercy and unconditional forgiveness can, with the grace of God, be lived by ordinary people from all walks of life and at all times.**
- **The saints are our Heavenly mediators who intercede for us before Jesus, the only mediator between God and us. (Jas 5:16-18, Ex 32:13, Jer 15:1, Rv 8:3-4,).**
- **The saints are the instruments that God uses to work miracles at present, just as He used the staff of Moses (Ex), the bones of the prophet Elisha (2Kgs 13:21), the towel of Paul (Acts 19:12) and the shadow of Peter (Acts 5:15) to work miracles.**

"What is it like to be a Christian saint?" "It is like being a Halloween pumpkin. God picks you from the field, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off you by inviting you to confess your sins and seek reconciliation. Then he cuts off the top and scoops out the yucky stuff. He removes the pulp of impurity and injustice and seeds of doubt, hate, and greed from you. Then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light of holiness or Holy Spirit inside you to shine for the entire world to see by your serving and sharing love, mercy and forgiveness." This is the Christian idea behind the carved pumpkins during the Halloween season.

**Recently Deceased:** Damiano Ambrosini, Mimma Muni, Michele Malarbi, Carmelita Mangaliman

**Anniversaries:** Antonio Esmaguel, Johanna, Eugene & Hans Herrmann & Ludwig Weifritz, Maria Bonadio, Leo Montealegre

**The sick in our parish:** Teresa and Con Lamonaca, Carmela Bovezza, Eleanor Priest, Nola, Leanne Branchflower, Kathy Romanow, Judiel Teodoro, John Markis, Frank Cichello, Rosa Latanzio, and, Peter Corcoran

**Life messages:**

- **We need to accept the challenge to become saints.** Jesus exhorts us: "Be made perfect as your Heavenly Father is Perfect" (Mt 5:48). St. Augustine asked: "If he and she can become saints, why can't I?" (*Si iste et ista, cur non ego?*). On the feast of All Saints, the Church invites and challenges us to walk the walk of the saints and not just talk the talk: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in Heaven" (Mt 7:21).
- **We can take the short cuts practiced by three Teresas:**
  - i) **St. Teresa of Avila:** Recharge your spiritual batteries every day by prayer, namely, listening to God and talking to Him
  - ii) **St. Therese of Lisieux:** Convert every action into prayer by offering it to God for His glory and for the salvation of souls and by doing God's will to the best of one's ability.
  - iii) **St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa):** Do ordinary things with great love.
- **We need to walk the walk:** On the feast of All Saints, the Church invites and challenges us to walk the walk of the saints and not just talk the talk: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in Heaven" (Mt 7:21). 2) The feast gives us an occasion to thank God for having invited so many of our ancestors to join the company of the saints. May our reflection on the heroic lives of the saints and the imitation of their lifestyle enable us to hear from our Lord the words of grand welcome to eternal bliss: "Well done, good and faithful servant! Enter into the joys of your master" (Mt 25:21).
- **We need to pray to the saints,** both the canonized and the uncanonized, asking them to pray on our behalf that we may live our lives in faithfulness like theirs, and so receive the same reward.

**Humour:** "Both of us are Halloween!": Two little neighbour girls about the same age, one Christian and one Jewish, were constant companions. After one Easter holiday, the grandfather of the Christian girl asked her what her friend had received for Easter. The girl looked at her grandfather in surprise, and said, "But Grandpa, you should know that Becky is Jewish and she wouldn't get anything for Easter." Then she went on to explain patiently, "You see, I'm Easter and she's Passover. I'm Christmas and she's Hanukkah." Then with a big smile, she added, "but I'm really glad that both of us are Halloween."