



WHAT'S  
INSIDE:



We are surrounded!  
All the Saints.

It is a good thing to  
pray for those who  
have died. All Souls  
Day.

Our Veterans. May  
God bless them.

Happy New Year! Advent  
begins.

Give thanks to the Lord.  
We Celebrate  
Thanksgiving Day

Virtual Family Retreat—  
Wednesday, Nov. 10th—  
7 p.m. See page 4

a community of life and love

# family

## November 1st—All Saint's Day

NOVEMBER

2021

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us. Hebrews 12:1

**What is a Saint?** In the general sense, this can be any person known for Christian holiness. How many of us have heard the expression, said of someone who is loving and self-sacrificing, "He is a saint!" Or, "My mom was a saint."

**But in the formal sense, this is a person who has shown heroic devotion during his or her life and who is officially honored by the Church as one who has attained heavenly glory and as one through whom God often works.** (The Essential Catholic Handbook)

**The Saints are our holy role models, our heavenly friends. We ask them to pray for us. See more on the Communion of Saints, Page 4.**



## PLAN ON IT!

All Saints' Day is a **solemn holy day** of the Catholic Church celebrated annually on **November 1**. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven.

Although millions, or even billions of people may already be saints, All Saints' Day observances tend to focus on known saints --that is those recognized in the canon of the saints by the Catholic Church. [Catholic.org](http://Catholic.org)

### Did you know?

The night before All Saints' Day is called All Hallows Eve—or Halloween. The word "Hallowed," as spoken in the Lord's prayer, means holy. So Halloween is the night before the day we celebrate the Holy Ones of God!

## ALL SOUL'S DAY NOVEMBER 2ND

This feast commemorates all the faithful departed and is observed each year, usually on November 2nd. Special prayers for the dead are offered, a tradition that has come down from the earliest days of the Church. (The Essential Catholic Handbook)

One of the very first indications of prayer for those who had died comes from 2 Maccabees 12:39-46 and St. Paul prays for a faithful disciple who has died in 2 Timothy 1:18.

The practice of praying for the dead is rooted first in Christian belief in the everlasting life promised in Jesus' teachings. After death, even though separated from our earthly body, we continue a personal existence. It is as living persons that God invites us into a relationship whose life transcends death.

Praying for the dead has further origins in our belief in the communion of saints. Members of this community who are living often assist each other in faith by prayers and other forms of spiritual support. Christians who have died continue to be members of the communion of saints. We believe that we can assist them by our prayers, and they can assist us by theirs.

**Click on:** [Why Do Catholics Pray for the Dead -](#)

(Prince of Peace Catholic Church, Olathe, Kansas)

See prayers for the faithful departed on page 4.

## Catholic Social Teaching

### Catholic Social Teaching on Family, Community and Participation

Last month we shared Catholic Social Teaching on the Life and Dignity of the Human Person.

However, we understand that the person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society - in economics and politics, in law and policy -- directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

**Click on:**

[United States Catholic Bishops on Family, Community and Participation](#)



## Veteran's Day November 11



### We Pray for our Veterans

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m. Click: [History of Veteran's Day](#)

## ***Thanksgiving Day—November 25***

“Thanksgiving doesn’t originate in any one event. It is based on the New England puritan Thanksgiving, which is a religious Thanksgiving, and the traditional harvest celebrations of England and New England and maybe other ideas like commemorating the pilgrims. All of these have been gathered together and transformed into something different from the original parts.”—James W. Baker, Senior Historian at Plymouth Plantation . Click on: [Thanksgiving Day: Facts or Fiction?](#)

The concept of a national Thanksgiving had been around since the earliest days of the republic. During the American Revolution, the Continental Congress issued proclamations declaring several days of thanks, in honor of military victories.

In 1789, a newly inaugurated George Washington called for a national day of thanks to celebrate both the end of the war and the recent ratification of the U.S. Constitution. Both John Adams and James Madison issued similar proclamations of their own, though fellow Founding Father Thomas Jefferson felt the religious connotations surrounding the event were out of place in a nation founded on the separation of church and state.

After the tides of the Civil War began to turn toward the Union, Lincoln’s official proclamation fixing the national observation of Thanksgiving on the final Thursday in November, came in 1863, a move he hoped would help “heal the wounds of the nation.”

Click on: [Thanksgiving Day Origins](#) Watch: [For Kids: The First Thanksgiving](#)

Click on: [Catholic Digest: 5 Prayers to Pray on Thanksgiving](#)

Click on: [Thanksgiving Ideas and Crafts for Kids - Catholic Icing](#)



## ***Happy New Year—The Season of Advent***

### ***Begins Sunday, November 28***

Beginning the Church's liturgical year, Advent (from, "ad-venire" in Latin or "to come to") is the season which includes the four Sundays (and weekdays) leading up to the celebration of [Christmas](#).

The Advent season is a time of **preparation** that directs our hearts and minds to Christ’s second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord’s birth on Christmas. From the earliest days of the Church, people have been fascinated by Jesus’ promise to come back. But the scripture readings during Advent tell us not to waste our time with predictions. Our Advent readings call us to be alert and ready, not weighted down and distracted by the cares of this world (Lk 21:34-36). Like Lent, the liturgical color for Advent is purple since both are seasons that prepare us for great feast days. Advent also includes an element of penance in the sense of preparing, quieting, and disciplining our hearts for the full joy of Christmas.

The priest will wear violet or purple during Advent, except for the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) when rose is worn. During the final days of Advent, from December 17 to December 24, we focus on our preparation for the celebrations of the Nativity of our Lord at Christmas.

Advent devotions including the Advent wreath, remind us of the meaning of the season. The Advent calendar can help you fully enter into the season with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.

Click on: [Meaningful Advent Traditions - Catholic Icing](#)

Watch: [Advent in Two Minutes - Busted Halo](#)

Watch: [How to Celebrate Advent - Christian Brothers](#)



## LIFE AS A CATHOLIC PRACTICES

### What is the Communion of Saints?

As God’s holy people, we share in the holy mysteries and are united in the Eucharist. But we are also united to all other members of the Church—those still living and those who have preceded us into the Kingdom of Heaven. We are part of the Communion of Saints. (US Catholic Catechism for Adults. Page 152)

The Communion of Saints includes the faithful on earth, the souls in Purgatory, and the blessed in heaven. In this Communion, the merciful love of God and his saints is always attentive to our prayers for one another here and for the souls of the faithful departed. The Communion of Saints also refers to “holy things,” above all the Eucharist, by which the believers are formed into one Body of Christ. (US Catholic Catechism for Adults. Page 160)

For a beautiful explanation of our teaching on Purgatory click on: [Why Purgatory? Catholic Exchange](#)



## CATHOLIC HOUSEHOLD BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS

### Prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

*The Eternal Rest Prayer is a beautiful prayer of our Catholic faith. We pray for those who have passed away and call on God’s love and mercy to grant them rest and eternal happiness with Him in Heaven.*

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. Amen. [Blessed Catholic Mom](#)

For additional prayers click on: [Prayers for the Holy Souls in Purgatory](#)

Watch and pray:

[Prayer for the Souls in Purgatory](#)



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK  
YOUTH FAITH FORMATION  
Catechetical

Created by the Office of Youth Faith Formation, Family Catechesis Advisory Committee:

Sr. Joan Curtin, CND  
Sr. Zelide Ceccagno, MSCS  
Sr. Nancy Elizabeth Doran, SSC,  
Editor  
Mrs. Maria Gallo  
Mrs. Margaret Hoblin  
Sr. Mary Crucifix Pandullo, CSJB  
Office of Youth Faith Formation  
1011 First Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
212-371-1000 x2867  
Email:  
[nancy.doran@archny.org](mailto:nancy.doran@archny.org)

For more information about the Saints and Feast Days we honor this month, visit:

[www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day](http://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day)

[www.catholic.org/saints](http://www.catholic.org/saints)

Listen: [How to Apply Our Faith to our Families](#) on Formed.

Join us! Virtual Family Retreat—Wednesday, November 10th.

Register here: [Virtual Family Retreat](#)