



WHAT'S
INSIDE:



Do you know a Saint? -
Maybe you ARE one! All
Saint's Day November
1st

Why do we pray for those
who have died? All
Souls Day November 2nd

Faithful Citizenship—
Election Day November 8

Christ the King—
November 20

It is right to give Him
thanks and praise!
Thanksgiving Day—
November 24

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Wait...What?? First Sun-
day of Advent—
November 27

a community of life and love

family

When the Saints Come Marching In—All Saints Day—Nov. 1

When we hear the word “saint” we always think of a person of great holiness who never stops praying and who does extraordinary things for God.

It is true that our “official” saints, those who have been canonized by the church, have led lives that are examples to the rest of us. But, were they perfect? What does it look like to follow Jesus no matter the cost? What does truly living as a disciple mean? They show us the way.

We believe these great witnesses are in heaven with the Lord and all His angels and we can ask them to pray or intercede for us in our need.

But...are the “saints” only in heaven?

When we recite the Apostles’ Creed together—or the Nicene Creed at Mass—we say we believe in the “Communion of Saints.”

Who are the Saints making up this “Communion?”

The Saints in Heaven, yes. We call them the Church Triumphant! They reached the finish line and they were winners. They persevered and never gave up. When they fell (or fell short of what God asked of them) they got up again.

But then we have the Church Suffering. Who are they? We believe there is a place of purification, a place where these souls wait who, loving God, may still have had some offences to atone for when they passed. This place is called Purgatory. These souls are suffering because they have not yet been completely united with God in heaven but they are joyful because they know that day will come.

Last comes the Church Militant. Who might they be? Those who are on earth still working out, with the power of God’s grace, our salvation. We are fighting the good fight. We are striving for the goal.

We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses—the Saints who love God—one might be right next door. One might be you!

Archdiocese of New York—Youth Faith Formation

NOVEMBER 2022

Did you know? **All Souls Day: Nov. 2**
Our faith teaches us it is a good thing to pray for those who have died.
Where does that idea come from?

Praying for the dead might not make sense to nonbelievers but for Catholics it is part and parcel of the faith tradition, rooted in Old Testament readings and supported by the Catechism and the Church’s funeral liturgy. The clearest Bible reference about prayers for the dead is from the Second Book of Maccabees. [Praying for the Dead](#) (Franciscan Media)

The New Testament echoes this notion in the second letter of Timothy when Paul prays for someone who died named Onesiphorus, saying: “May the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that day.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church also has something to say about prayers for the dead, stating: “All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven” (1030). (Catholic News Herald)

Faithful Citizenship

Election Day—November 8

"We need to participate for the common good. Sometimes we hear: a good Catholic is not interested in politics. This is not true: good Catholics immerse themselves in politics by offering the best of themselves so that the leader can govern." - Pope Francis, 9/16/13

The Catholic bishops of the United States are pleased to offer once again to the Catholic faithful "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship", the teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics. This statement represents guidance for Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy. Use this statement to help form our consciences; to teach those entrusted to our care; to contribute to civil and respectful public dialogue; and to shape political choices in the coming election in light of Catholic teaching.

The statement lifts up our dual heritage as both faithful Catholics and American citizens with rights and duties as participants in the civil order.

[Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship - English](#)

[Formando la conciencia para ser ciudadanos fieles](#)

[Family Guide to Faithful Citizenship - USCCB](#)



Christ the King

November 20



On the last Sunday of each liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King.

Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas primas* ("In the first") to respond to growing secularism and atheism. He recognized that attempting to "thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law" out of public life would result in continuing discord among people and nations. This solemnity reminds us that while governments come and go, Christ reigns as King forever.

In its core document, *Our First, Most Cherished Liberty: A Statement on Religious Liberty*, the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty "urged that the Solemnity of Christ the King—a feast born out of resistance to totalitarian incursions against religious liberty—be a day specifically employed by bishops and priests to preach about religious liberty, both here and abroad." Let us pray fervently that we will help others encounter anew Christ, our King, bringing the Gospel to the margins of society, that all might bear witness to Him before others.

Read more: [Feast of Christ the King - USCCB](#)

Read: [Solemnity of Christ the King - Simply Catholic](#)

Watch/listen teens/adults [Christ the King](#)

[Hymn to Christ the King](#)

“It is right to give Him thanks and praise.”

Thanksgiving Day November 24

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the United States. For Christians, Thanksgiving has a patriotic history and spiritual roots that go back to the Old Testament.

In the United States, Thanksgiving is historically a day to praise and thank God for blessings and ask Him to heal the nation's wounds. It was also a national day of penitence to humbly repent for our sinfulness and disobedience.

Thanksgiving became a national holiday in 1863. During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln declared Thanksgiving:

As a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.



Abraham Lincoln wasn't the first president to declare a national day of thanksgiving for the people of the United States. In 1789, George Washington proclaimed "a day of public thanksgiving and thanks" to thank God for his protection and as the source of all that is good.

Read: [The History of Thanksgiving Day](#) (Christianity Today)

Young kids watch: [Thanksgiving for Kids](#)

[Little Pilgrim - Thanksgiving Songs for Children](#)

[Thanksgiving Crafts for Kids](#)—Catholic Icing

Happy New Year!

First Sunday of Advent November 27

Everything we do, say, and see in our Church has a meaning and tells a story. Even the colors we use tell us what liturgical season we are in.

On November 27th you will see the color purple. Purple is for “Penance” and purple is for “preparation.” It is the season of Advent, the beginning of a new Church year.

The word “advent” means the arrival of a notable person, thing or event. What could be more notable than the arrival of God, come to us as a human person, the Incarnation. Jesus, God the Son, has come into the world.

We spend this season of Advent preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus and to celebrate the day when human history was cut into two parts—the time before He came to us and the time after He came to us.

2022 A.D.—Anno Domini—the year of our Lord.

How do we prepare? This is called a penitential season hence the color purple for penance. We think about our lives and how we are measuring up against the way God calls us to be.

Are we avoiding deliberate sin? If not, we say we are sorry. We receive the sacrament of Penance/Reconciliation. We accept God's grace in the sacrament which strengthens us.

Are we praying each day? A simple prayer can commit our entire day to prayer—“Good morning sweet Jesus my day is for you. I offer to you all I think, say and do.”

Are we kind and giving?

We prepare to celebrate this wonderful season in a spirit of love and generosity—just as the Father, out of love and generosity, sent to us the greatest gift of all.

John 3:16

CATHOLIC PRAYERS AND PRACTICES



Prayers for the dead

All Souls Day—November 2

The Mass is the highest form of prayer in the Church, and the most effective prayer that could be said on behalf of those who have gone before us. In Masses for the dead, and especially funeral Masses, “the Church offers the Eucharistic sacrifice of Christ’s Pasch for the dead so that, since all the members of Christ’s Body are in communion with one another, what implores spiritual help for some, may bring comforting hope to others.” (“General Instruction of the Roman Missal,” 379)

PRAYING WITH THE DYING

As death approaches, the Church stays close to the one who is dying, to give comfort and support. The family should ask that Communion be brought to the dying (this is called “Viaticum, Latin for “food for the journey”).

Members of the local church may wish to join the family in a vigil of prayer. After the person’s death, the family is encouraged to continue praying, and to participate in the preparation of the vigil (wake) and funeral liturgies.

The following prayer may be recited with a dying person, alternating with times of silence. The Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be are also appropriate. The dying person may also be signed on the forehead with the cross, as was done at baptism.

Holy Mary, pray for me.
St. Joseph, pray for me.
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER DEATH

The following prayer may be recited immediately after death and may be repeated in the hours that follow:

V. Eternal rest grant unto him (her), O Lord.
R. And let perpetual light shine upon him (her).
V. May he (she) rest in peace.
R. Amen.

[Family Thanksgiving Prayers](#)



ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK
YOUTH FAITH FORMATION
Catechetical

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

Sr. Zelide Ceccagno, MSCS
Sr. Joan Curtin, CND
Sr. Nancy Elizabeth Doran, SSC,
Mrs. Maria Gallo
Mrs. Margaret Hoblin
Joseph Long
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

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

www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day

www.catholic.org/saints

Movies:

[Thanksgiving Movies for the Family](#)

Books:

[Thanksgiving Books for Kids - to buy](#)

[Free printable Thanksgiving Book for young children](#)