

A Note from Fr. Keith, Our Pastor

Greetings from Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas! I am receiving combat training at the Army's Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center. After ECRC, I will be flown to Naval Support Activity Bahrain before arriving in the Middle East around Thanksgiving. Beginning on December 1st, I will have days available for Mass intentions. Please contact the Ministry Center if you would like me to offer a private Mass for your intentions. The normal policies of the Diocese of Joliet regulating Mass offerings will still apply even though I will be in Qatar at that time. This will be another opportunity for us to remain in spiritual communion during my deployment.

Last week, I shared my summary of The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church, the Bishop's document about the Eucharistic Revival. This week, we prepare to celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints and the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. Historically, Halloween originated as All Hallows' Eve, the Vigil of All Saints Day, which began the observance of Allhallowtide, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs, and all the departed. Halloween, All Saints, and All Souls was a "triduum," similar to Holy Week, of remembrance.

The Solemnity of All Saints is a Holy Day of Obligation, except when it falls on a Monday or Friday, because the Church regards the witness of the Saints as an example to us. Some men and women are officially recognized for their holiness by Canonization. This is the process of recognizing their sanctity through the attestation of two miracles after Beatification (one miracle) and being declared a Venerable (worthy of veneration) or Servant of God (open for consideration).

Apart from this official recognition, the Church believes that there are countless more saints, known and unknown, who are united with God in Heaven. These holy men and women are also celebrated on All Saints' Day. They are what we one day hope to become.

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed is commonly known as All Souls' Day. This is the traditional remembrance of all those who have died. The Church especially commends to our prayers those who are in Purgatory awaiting their purification to enter Heaven. The Poor Souls in Purgatory experience the spiritual poverty of being saved but needing resolution of the temporal effects of their sins.

All Souls' Day also begins the period of days when the faithful are encouraged to pray for their deceased relatives and ancestors at cemeteries with the favor of a special indulgence. According to the *Enchiridion of Indulgences*, *an indulgence applicable only to the souls in purgatory is granted to the faithful who devoutly visit a cemetery and pray for the departed. The indulgence is plenary each day from the first to the eighth of November; a partial indulgence is granted on other days of the year.*

All Saints Day, All Souls Day & The Table of Remembrance

Tuesday, November 1st is the Solemnity of All Saints, a holy day of obligation. Masses will be offered at 8:00 A.M., 12:15 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. in St. James Hall. Wednesday, November 2nd, is the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed and Masses will be offered at 8 A.M. and 6 P.M. in St. James Hall. Although not a holy day of obligation, it is a very special time when we remember our beloved dead.

A table will be set up in the narthex until the end of the weekend on November 6th. You may place a picture of your deceased loved one(s) on the table before Mass. (*Please label the back of your frame with your name and number.*) It is our hope that this will be a time of sweet remembrance, healing and blessing for all those mourning a loved one. Please remember to take your picture with you after Mass has concluded on the weekend of November 5/6.