

Lecturer's Notes: November; the end is near, finally

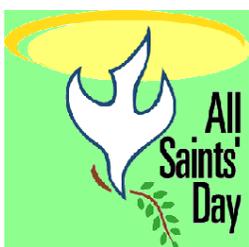


“I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God almighty and the Lamb. The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and to it the kings of the earth will bring their treasure. During the day its gates will never be shut, and there will be no night there. The treasure and wealth of the nations will be brought there, but nothing unclean will enter it, nor any [one] who does abominable things or tells lies. Only those will enter whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.” (John speaking of Heaven)

Revelation 21: 22-27

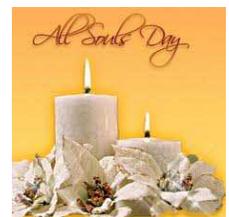
In November, windblown trees lose their leaves, shadows grow long and the cold dampness is frightful. The days grow shorter and darker and seem to overtake us in a flurry of busyness as we prepare for holidays that are becoming ever more secularized. October is in the rear view mirror and the church directs our attention toward “All Saints” and “All Souls”, the triumph of our earthly lives.

Now for a very brief bit of history and clarity: I’ve read that the origins of lie with pagan Druids of northern Europe which has a long, wet, cold, dark season. At this time of year they had a lot of superstition and spirit worship. When missionaries set out to Christianize that land, in order to wean them from their pagan ways they proposed new holidays in a way that could be understood by the locals and still lead them out of paganism.



On November 1st the universal church provides us with All Saints Day. All Saints’ Day celebrates the people who have died in God’s favor and are now in Heaven. Knowing more about them and how they made it can reveal what God expects of us and, like old friends, we can ask for their intercessory prayers.

All Souls’ Day is celebrated on November 2nd. On All Souls’ Day we remember those who have died but are not yet able to enter into heaven, so reside in Purgatory. Knowing that they pray for us we are reminded that we must also pray for them. A great way to pray for them is to offer Masses for them. These people are destined for Heaven but have some unfinished business. As the verse above tells us about Heaven, “...*nothing unclean can enter it.*”



As we prepare for the climb to the next summit of our faith, the Church presents us with the examples of all those who have gone before us. They remind us that others have made this journey and so can we. As our greatest example and Savior, Jesus did it after being betrayed, sleep deprived, tortured, parched and made to carry a tree while wearing a crown of thorns.



Fortunately, most of us won’t be called upon to make such a sacrifice. Most of us are blessed to live and die quietly in relative obscurity. Still, our faith walk is hard, it’s lonely, and at times it seems hopeless. But like a steep hill we must climb, there is work involved and a little preparation if we want to be successful. The best way to prepare for eternity is to take part in the life of the

Church. Observe the seasons of the liturgical calendar; each has hidden gifts for you. Go to Mass every Sunday. Take an active part in the sacraments regularly, especially confession and communion. No matter how difficult it seems and no matter what others may say, this is not a hopeless task. The saints remind us that Heaven is meant for each of us.



The good news is that the Church is always ready to help us with the climb. The Church is the keeper and dispenser of all of the graces necessary to overcome any obstacle in the journey to Heaven.

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November business meeting is on Tuesday November 6th at 7:00pm. Second Friday Memorial Mass for the deceased Knights of this council is on Friday, November 9th at 5:45pm followed by the Respect Life Rosary. This is a great time to make a good confession and get cleaned up spiritually.

Pray that God give us the grace to seek Him in prayer. Pray for the men and women who serve in law enforcement and the military. Pray that politicians have a conversion of heart. Pray for strong families. Above all, pray that Holy Mother Church around the world can withstand the buffets of her enemies. Pray for our priests.

