

# LITURGY BYTES



## November Saints & Souls



As we put the Halloween costumes away, the Church calls us to remember those women and men given that special title of Saint (with a capital S). I am sure we all know many people who are saints both here and in heaven. We recognize them with a small "s" when we refer to them as saints. The lives of the Saints show us how they were self-giving, living the example of Jesus in many ways. We give their names to our children and take them at the time of Confirmation to further guide and assist us in being disciples of Our Lord. November 1<sup>st</sup> we remember all of the Saints even though throughout the Church year they are individually remembered on the anniversary of their death. I always enjoyed this day when I was a Director of Religious Education because it became a part of our 4<sup>th</sup> grade program to present our parade of Saints to the parish each year. Eight students would volunteer to talk about the Saint whose costume they wore. We had St. Peter be the Master of Ceremonies introducing each one. Many of the students took that name years later for Confirmation because of what they had learned about that person. Not only did our young people gain insight into the Saints, but many adults did too.

The following day, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Church celebrates all those we love who have gone home to heaven. They are called the communion of saints, and we are united with them. This name reminds us that God has bound us together, and death cannot separate us. In fact, the entire month of November is dedicated to remembering our beloved dead. Many families have Masses offered in November and even on special days for their beloved family member, as well as visit their gravesite.

In most parishes, families who have lost a loved one during the year are invited to a **Mass of Remembrance** where the local faith community prays by name for those buried that year from their parish. Here at Holy Cross, we do this yearly on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

*Eternal rest is granted 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.*

Have a peaceful, blessed, and prayerful week ahead! ~ *Michele Hall*