



ALL SAINTS, ALL SOULS

LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



Moving right along, did you notice November 1st, All Saints' Day, falls on a Sunday this year? It is followed by the feast of All Souls on Monday, November 2nd. On these days, we will honor and remember both saints with a capital "S" and saints with a small "s," who have gone home to heaven.

This year All Saints' Day is celebrated as part of the Sunday celebration and not a stand-alone holy day of obligation. This feast was originally called All Martyrs' Day and is traced back to the very early Christians. By the 3rd century, Christians were annually honoring those who had given their lives defending Christ. In the year 735, Pope Gregory III dedicated an oratory in St. Peter's Basilica to house the relics of the apostles, martyrs, and saints making November 1st, for the churches in Rome, the feast of All Saints. Later on, in the 800s, Pope Gregory IV assigned November 1st as the feast of All Saints, a holy day of obligation for the entire Church. It is a wonderful day to tell our young people about the saints, what they did and how strong their faith was. It shows our young people that they, too, can become saints, simply by loving and following Jesus each day.

The commemoration of the faithfully departed evolved after All Saints' Day, sometime between 998 and 1030, when an abbot in France encouraged all the monks to pray for the souls of those who had died. He suggested everyone should do this every year on the day after All Saints. On this day, the entire Church prays for our beloved dead. We light candles, display pictures of our loved ones in church, visit grave sites and have Masses said in remembrance of them. Here at Holy Cross, we have a special All Souls' Mass of Remembrance in the evening of November 2nd, praying for all those buried from our parish in the past year. We also remember all those friends and family members who have died in the past, too.

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord."