

# LITURGY BYTES

## November Saints



November is the month dedicated to our beloved family and friends who have passed. We remember them in a special way by praying for them or visiting their graves. It is that in between time when we also spend time being thankful and grateful for all we have and for those special people in our lives. This is the bridge that leads to the season of Advent which begins this year directly after Thanksgiving. There are some saints whose lives might be helpful to reflect on as we welcome the Advent season.

Let's begin with **St. Charles Borromeo** – November 4<sup>th</sup> is his feast day. He is known as the patron saint of seminarians and bishops. He's famous for his leadership during a bad plague in the city of Milan. He led the priests in taking care of the sick and administering the sacraments during this frightful time. None of the priests who were caring for the sick ever got sick themselves. Here is a prayer St. Charles wrote himself: *"The candle that gives light to others must itself be consumed. Thus, we also have to act. We ourselves are consumed to give a good example to others."*

Next on the calendar is **St. Martin of Tours** – November 11<sup>th</sup> is his feast day. He was the son of pagans but became a Christian at the age of 10, all on his own. He became a Roman soldier and was known to be kind and generous. He divided his cloak in half and gave it to a beggar to keep him warm. It was in a dream that he saw Jesus who was wearing his cloak. This caused him to resign from the army and decide to be a soldier for God. In later years, he became a Bishop. Here is a quote from him: *"Lord, if your people need me, I will not refuse the work. Your will be done."*

Another well known November saint is **St. Albert the Great** whose feast is celebrated on November 15<sup>th</sup>. He was considered a medieval scholar, one of the greatest minds of all times and a leading scientist. He actually was a theology teacher of St. Thomas Aquinas. Even after he became a bishop, he still remained a humble Dominican in spirit. He greatly loved God and neighbor. Here is a prayer in his own words: *"It is by the path of love, which is charity, that God draws near to man, and man to God, but where charity is not found, God cannot dwell. If then, we possess charity, we possess God, for God is charity."*

*Have a blessed, safe, healthy, and saintly week ahead!!~~Michele Hall*