



30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Oct. 29, 2006

The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.

— Psalm 126:3

Upcoming Parish Events

Mon, Oct 30
Bible Study & Prayer Group,
7:30 pm, Scanlan Hall

Tue, Oct 31
Halloween Night

Wed, Nov 1
Holy Day of Obligation: All Saints Day

Thu, Nov 2
All Souls Day

Legion of Mary,
7:30 pm, Scanlan Hall

Fri, Nov 3
First Friday of the Month

7:00 pm
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

8:00 pm Mass

Youth Group,
6:30 pm, Scanlan Hall

Prince of Peace,
8:30 pm, Scanlan Hall

Halloween – What Does it Mean? - by Fr. Rick

Everyone is thinking about Halloween this week...but did you ever wonder what the word "Halloween" means? The fact is that the origins of the word are in Catholic faith. In old English, the word "hallow," as a verb, meant "sanctify," and as a noun, meant "saint." The expression "Halloween" is thus a contraction for "All Hallows Eve," or the evening before the Feast of "All Hallows," or All Saints, on November 1. What is the history of this feast?

During the sixth century, the Catholic Church evangelized the pagans of Europe. Often, however, the newly converted pagans would continue to celebrate their traditional pagan festivals. This posed a dilemma, for if the festivals were banned, the people would be tempted to return to paganism. The solution was to Christianize those pagan festivals, giving them a new meaning. The celebration of the Feast of All Saints began at the pagan Pantheon in Rome, which had been erected in honor of all their gods. On May 13, AD 609, Pope Boniface IV consecrated the Pantheon to the honor of all the saints and made that date a yearly feast. In the following century, Pope Gregory III moved the feast from May to November 1, to make it fall on the date of some popular pagan feasts and thus to Christianize them.

The Feast of All Saints reminds us of two important points. The first is that we are all called to become saints. We are encouraged in this by the example of the multitude of ordinary people who have gone before us and lived heroic lives of faith and love. Let's not imagine that becoming saints means withdrawing from the responsibilities of our daily lives in order to strive for Christian perfection. Quite the contrary, we are called to become saints in whatever state of life we find ourselves. The saints of heaven thus include, not only those whose names and heroic virtues are well-known to all, but also a multitude of unknown heroes whose hidden holiness beatifies them with the Lord. What God did in their lives, He can also do in ours. That is why we remember all our departed loved ones on the day following the Feast of All Saints, which is the day of All Souls, our Christian Memorial Day.

The second message of the Feast of All Saints is what we say when we recite the creed: "we believe...in the communion of saints." What it means is that when we are united to Christ in full communion with His Church, we are also in communion with the saints of heaven. They are aware of our situation in this world and want to support us with their prayers as we run the race of faith. As the Bible says, "With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started" (Hebrews 12:1). According to the Bible, the saints of heaven are continually in prayer, not only worshiping God, but also interceding for us (Rev. 5:8-12; 6:9-10). That is why we should continue to ask them for their prayers. As the Bible tells us, "the heartfelt prayer of a righteous one works very powerfully" (James 5:16). We, in turn, pray for those of our loved ones who have recently departed this world, asking the Lord's mercy upon them as their souls are made perfect (Hebrews 12:23).

Now that you know all that lies behind Halloween, don't let it be limited to parties and "trick-or-treat." Join in our worship on All Saints (Wednesday, Nov. 1, at 8:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.). Remember your departed loved ones at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 2, at our All Souls mass. And don't forget: you're called to become a saint – you're called to greatness!

Readings, Saints & Special Observances for the Week

Sunday, Oct 29: Daylight Saving Time ends; World Youth Day, Jer 31:7-9; Ps 126; Heb 5:1; Mk 10:46-52
Monday: Eph 4:32 — 5:8; Lk 13:10-17
Tuesday: Halloween; Eph 5:21-33 [2a, 25-33]; Lk 13:18-21
Wednesday: All Saints; 1 Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a
Thursday: Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls); Wis 3:1-9; Rom 5:5-11 or 6:3-9; Jn 6:37-40
Friday: St. Martin de Porres; First Friday; Phil 1:1-11; Lk 14:1-6
Saturday: St. Charles Borromeo; First Saturday; Phil 1:18b-26; Lk 14:1, 7-11
Sunday, Nov. 5: Dt 6:2-6; Ps 18; Heb 7:23-28; Mk 12:28b-34

Full plate Program: Thanks for your support of this program. Pls bring your donations of canned foods and dry goods & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. October menu items: 1 bag of rice, 2 cans of vegetables, 1 canned ham (or other canned meat), 1 plastic bottle of cooking oil. No glass items please. Thanks.

Mass Intentions

Oct 20—Nov. 4

- 10/29 Sun 10:00 AM Vicente Nepomuceno+
8:00 PM People of the Parish
- 10/30 Mon 8:30 AM Souls in Purgatory+
- 10/31 Tue 5:30 PM Irma Gobert+
- 11/01 Wed 8:30 AM Victoria Medina (b'day)
- 11/02 Thu 5:30 PM Napoleon Flores, Sr.+
- 11/03 Fri 8:30 AM Joseph Otayde, Sr.+
8:00 PM Catherine Haley+
- 11/04 Sat 8:30 AM Mario & Josephine Velada (thksg)
5:00 PM Francis Rodrigues+

Please call the office to schedule. Participating in the Mass you offer is appreciated.

Welcome

.... to **Archbishop George Niederauer** and **Archbishop Fouad Twal!** Welcome too, to everyone who are with us today especially for our celebration of the feastday of Our Lady of Palestine and Jordan!



...This Wednesday, **November 1** is **All Saints Day**. It is a holy day of obligation. Our Masses will be at 8:30 AM and 8:00 PM. Thursday is also All Souls Day. Our Mass is at 5:30 PM.

*This coming Friday is also the **first Friday** of the month. We will have adoration at 7 pm. Mass will follow at 8 PM.

*It is not too late! Send in your list of **dearly departed** to the office. Pls list the names of departed friends/family members you would like us to pray for during this month of remembrance. Use the envelopes provided at the entrances to our church. Drop in the collection basket or the parish office. A donation in any amount is appreciated.

*Do you think God might be calling you to be a **Deacon?** What gifts should you already have? How do you prepare for ordination? How are your wife and family involved? What is expected if you are single? What do you do as a permanent deacon? How do you apply? For answers to these and other questions, come to the Permanent Diaconate Information Night on Monday, 11/13/2006 at 7pm, in the Archdiocese Pastoral Center (1 Peter Yorke Way, SF). Lots of free parking available!

*Come to the **Faith Formation Conference** on Nov. 10 & 11 at the Santa Clara Convention Center! Come & hear about the Gutsy Women of the Gospel, Ritual & Prayer, the Sacraments and the Postmodern World, Budgeting as Theological Reflection and many other great workshops for today's Catholic. Please log on to www.sitekreator.com/faithformation for more information. If we have enough people, carpool arrangements can be made. \$30 to register at the door.

Welcome to Our New Parishioners ...

I have chosen to become a member of St. Thomas More and commit myself to building a community that seeks to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with God. I will commit myself to this mission by my active and consistent presence at worship each week and will respond consistently by my financial giving even when I cannot be present.

(Please print)

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Phone(s) _____
 Email: _____

I want to receive the envelopes & commit to a weekly contribution.
 Yes _____ No, thanks _____

Subscribe to our mailing list by e-mailing us: stmchurch@aol.com

(pls. cut this out & drop in collection basket. thanks.)



All the sick people in our parish especially **Issam Totah, Eddie Bernal, Zenaida Salamat, Martha Panaszewicz, Nahil Nazzall, Rhona Palencia, Mary Lee Burke, George Crawford, Majida Totah, William & Deena Tannous, Nazzal Nazzal;** and for the repose of the souls of recently deceased members of our parish especially **Praxedes Aquino.**

Thank you for your contributions. Please remember us in your prayers.

(Due circumstances beyond our control, we are unable to give you last week's offertory. We will post it in next week's issue of the bulletin.)

Today's second collection is for **Saint Vincent de Paul Society**. Thank you for your generosity.

Construction Fund

Actual Construction & Repairs money in the Bank is:
 \$130,652

Our goal:
 Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
 (\$500,000)

Please continue to support our Construction Fund. We need to repair the Skylight, upgrade the lights in the church and upgrade Carroll Hall.