

GROW IN YOUR FAITH

ALL SAINTS DAY & ALL SOULS DAY

Thursday is the Solemnity of All Saints (and a Holy Day of Obligation), followed on Friday by the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls day). What are these holidays (holy days) about?

On All Saints Day, we celebrate all of our loved ones and all the additional people who've died and gone to heaven. In fact, whether formally recognized by the Church as a saint, all people who have died and gained everlasting life with Christ in Heaven are deemed saints. So this is a day to remember and celebrate all those who are currently partakers of the beatific vision, and ask for their prayers. The feast day seems to have started around 300 years after Christ, as a celebration for all the martyrs, and eventually developed into a feast for all those in heaven, whether or not they're martyrs.

The next day, on November 2nd, we remember all those who have died and have not yet reached heaven. Since the earliest days, we Christians have been encouraged to remember those who have gone before us, to pray for their reception into heaven, and to lessen their time in purgatory. It is still a tradition of the Church to have Masses said and to say special prayers for our deceased friends and family.

All Hallow's Eve, or Halloween, developed as the vigil before All Saints Day. There are several ideas on how the holiday developed into what we see today, including influences from other cultures. In Ireland, for example, farmers went door to door collecting food for a village feast. In medieval times churches would often display the bones of saints on All Hallow's Eve for veneration. The ghoulish, bloody, or scary imagery we see in today's celebration of Halloween are quite modern. The roots of the festivities, however, are still quite Catholic. So, go-trick or-treating, but also remember and celebrate the saints in heaven, attend Mass, and pray for those who haven't yet attained heaven. And even better, dress up as your favorite saint!



SAINT OF THE DAY

Saints Simon and Jude Saints of the Day for October 28th

Jude is so named by Luke and Acts. Matthew and Mark call him Thaddeus. He is not mentioned elsewhere in the Gospels, except of course where all the apostles are mentioned. Scholars hold that he is not the author of the Letter of Jude. Actually, Jude had the same name as Judas Iscariot. Evidently because of the disgrace of that name, it was shortened to "Jude" in English.

Simon is mentioned on all four lists of the apostles. On two of them he is called "the Zealot." The Zealots were a Jewish sect that represented an extreme of Jewish nationalism. For them, the messianic promise of the Old Testament meant that the Jews were to be a free and independent nation. God alone was their king, and any payment of taxes to the Romans—the very domination of the Romans—was a blasphemy against God. No doubt some of the Zealots were the spiritual heirs of the Maccabees, carrying on their ideals of religion and independence. But many were the counterparts of modern terrorists. They raided and killed, attacking both foreigners and "collaborating" Jews. They were chiefly responsible for the rebellion against Rome which ended in the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

Saint of the Day reprinted with permission from Franciscan Media.

FORMED PICK

Symbolon: Knowing the Faith

Episode 9: Mary and the Saints

Discover the "Cloud of Witnesses"



Episode 9: Mary and the Saints

What is our connection to Mary and the rest of the saints? Why do we ask Our Lady and other "dead people" to pray for us? Discover a framework for the Communion of Saints.



"Well done. Very good analogies used here."

Watch on formed.org

—John T., Tehachapi, CA



Visit stursulaparish.formed.org for free access to FORMED