

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The first two days of November are a time to think of the next world—the life to come. When someone dies, we are inclined to soften the grief with comforting words: “It’s okay. Uncle Henry is with the Lord now” or “Susie is an angel now” or “Aunt Bertha is in a better place.” While this is understandable, we should also be realistic in our expectations about the next life.

Common sense tells us that while most people are not wicked and faithless enough to go to hell for all eternity, neither are most of us saintly and faith-filled enough to go directly into the Lord’s presence when we die. Saints are those children of God who, in this earthly life, have reached their full potential by God’s grace. They have become the perfect souls God created them to be.

The church teaches that at the point of death each soul will be assigned their eternal destiny.

Most of us who die in the state of grace will not go directly to heaven, but experience a stay in purgatory until the temporal punishment due for our sins is satisfied, our “unfinished business” is completed, and we are purified enough to be admitted to the presence of God in heaven.

November 1 - All Saints' Day is the church's glorious celebration of those Christians who are most certainly in heaven. It is usually a Holy Day of Obligation. However, this year All Saints' Day falls on a Saturday, so the obligation is lifted. At OLR we will celebrate All Saints' Day with our usual First Saturday Mass at 9:30. This will be the only Mass for All Saints' Day and, as usual, we will have a display of holy relics for veneration.

While we celebrate All Saints on November 1, we pray for All Souls on November 2. The Church teaches that we should always pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died. To fail to do so deprives those souls of a charitable act on our part and robs them of the help our prayers and sacrifices could give them as they complete their necessary purification before being welcomed into heaven.

All Souls' Day is on Sunday so all the Sunday Masses will be for All Souls. The 10:30 am Mass will feature a very special liturgical performance of Faure's Requiem. Mr. Phillips and our choir members have worked hard to prepare this great treasure of Catholic culture for our worship. The book of the Dead will be available from Saturday after the All Saints' Day Mass for you to list the names of your departed loved ones. The Book of the Dead remains on the altar for all Masses during the month of November.

We are encouraged to offer prayers for the dead and to obtain indulgences on their behalf. Fr Ballard has explained this tradition and these guidelines will be posted on the parish website [HERE](#) for your information.

Thank you for taking the eternal dimension of our faith seriously!

Your pastor,
Fr Longenecker