

All Saints' Day

All of the Masses the weekend of Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 will be celebrated as Masses for All Saints' Day.

As a special feature of the All Saints' Day celebration here at Our Lady of the Rosary, a selection of first class relics will be displayed around the church for veneration by the faithful. Some of the saints whose first class relics will be present are: St Bernard of Clairvaux, St Maria Goretti, St Margaret Mary Alacoque, St Therese of Lisieux, St Theresa of Avila, St Catherine Laboure, St Elizabeth Ann Seton, St John Neumann, St. Teresa of Calcutta and others.

A first class relic is a particle from the saint's mortal remains. A second class relic is a fragment of something the saint owned or used regularly, or an object that was in close contact with them. A third class relic is any object, most often a piece of cloth or a religious medal, that has been touched to a first class relic

The tradition of venerating relics is very ancient in the Church. The remains of the holy martyrs would be gathered up and treated with great reverence. Their above ground tombs would often be used as an altar, so the tradition of placing a relic within a permanent altar became widespread and eventually mandatory. Fr. Dwight Longenecker says "this beautiful ancient tradition reminds us that the saints are real, historical figures. They are ordinary people made extraordinary by God's grace. In venerating the saints we pay our respects to the action of God's grace in their lives and pray that He might also bring us one day to perfection in Christ."

All Souls' Day

An All Souls' Day Mass will be celebrated on Nov. 2, at 10 a.m. in the upper church, which will also be the school Mass. All Souls' Day provides the opportunity to gain indulgences for our departed loved ones and for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory. From the *Handbook of Indulgences*: A plenary ("full") indulgence, which is applicable only to the Souls in Purgatory, is granted to the Christian faithful who devoutly visit a church or an oratory on All Souls' Day. Requirements for Obtaining a Plenary Indulgence on All Souls' Day include:

Visit a church and pray for the souls in Purgatory, or for a particular departed soul

Say one "Our Father" and the "Apostles Creed" during the visit to the church, and pray for the Pope's intentions

Worthily receive Holy Communion (on the day or soon thereafter)

Make a sacramental confession within 20 days of All Souls' Day

For a plenary indulgence, also be free from all attachment to sin, even venial sin (otherwise the indulgence is partial, not plenary)

In addition, you can gain a plenary indulgence for the holy souls in purgatory by visiting a cemetery each day between November 1st and November 8. The columbarium in the lower church is considered a cemetery in meeting this qualification. During these days the lower church will be open during school hours so that you can visit. A partial indulgence, applicable only to the souls in Purgatory, can also be obtained when saying the "eternal rest" prayer: "Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."

Fr. Richard Ballard
Parochial Vicar