



Our Journey Ends in Glory

Saints, Souls, and the King of Heaven

Dear Parish Family,

Throughout this past year, our newsletter has focused on rediscovering the rhythm of the Church year and deepening our understanding of the beliefs that shape our faith. As we prepare to begin again in January, we'll move naturally from reflection to action with our new theme: **“Planting Mustard Seeds of Faith.”**

Like the mustard seed, faith begins small—often unseen—but with care and trust in God, it grows beyond our imagining. Our role is simply to plant the seeds: an encouraging word, a quiet act of kindness, an invitation to prayer or community. We need not worry about making those seeds sprout—that is God's work, unfolding in His time and in His way.

May this season of gratitude and remembrance prepare our hearts to plant new seeds of faith in the year ahead, trusting that God will bring forth the growth when the time is right.

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The Liturgical Year in November

November is a month of reflection, gratitude, and hope. It begins with **All Saints' Day** (Nov 1), when we honor all who now live in the fullness of God's presence, and **All Souls' Day** (Nov 2), when we remember and pray for those who have gone before us, still awaiting the fullness of heaven.

Throughout the month, the Church invites us to reflect on the **communion of saints**—*our spiritual family that extends beyond time and space*—and to renew our awareness of eternity. As the days grow shorter and the liturgical year draws to a close, our readings turn our attention to **Christ's second coming** and the promise of new life beyond this world.

The liturgical year concludes with the **Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**, often called **Christ the King Sunday**. This feast reminds us that Christ reigns over all creation and that every moment of the Church year, from Advent to Ordinary Time, leads us back to Him—our beginning and our end.

Remembering the Saints and the Souls — A Communion of Love

Every November, the Church invites us into a beautiful rhythm of remembrance—**All Saints' Day (Nov 1)** and **All Souls' Day (Nov 2)**. These two feast days, side by side, remind us that *the Church is far greater than what we see on Sunday mornings*.

On **All Saints' Day**, we celebrate those who have reached the fullness of life with God — the great and famous saints, but also the countless holy men and women who lived quietly and faithfully, *perhaps sitting in the pew next to us years ago*. The saints are not distant figures; they are family. They cheer us on, intercede for us, and remind us that holiness is possible in every walk of life.

The very next day, **All Souls' Day**, we turn our hearts to those who have died but are still being purified — those in the loving process of being prepared to see God face to face. This day is about love that refuses to forget. In praying for the dead, we continue to be connected to them through the Communion of Saints — the unbroken bond between the Church on earth, in heaven, and in purgatory.

This sacred pairing of feasts reminds us that love never ends. We are called not only to admire the saints **but also to assist the souls**. In November, many Catholics visit cemeteries, light candles, or offer Mass intentions for loved ones. These simple acts say to God, “I remember them. I trust in Your mercy.”

Why Catholics Pray for the Dead — A Work of Mercy Rooted in Hope

One of the distinctive and deeply compassionate traditions of our Catholic faith is **praying for the dead**. From the earliest days of Christianity — even from the time of the Jewish people before Christ — believers have offered prayers and sacrifices for those who have died.

But why do we do this? Because we believe in **God's mercy** and the **continuing journey of the soul** after death. The Church teaches that some souls, though destined for heaven, must first be purified of the lingering effects of sin. This state of purification is what we call **purgatory** — not a punishment, but a merciful preparation for eternal joy.

Our prayers, Masses, and good works offered for the deceased can help them in this process. It's one of the most beautiful expressions of love: when we can no longer help someone physically, we can still **help them spiritually**.

Why It Matters

You may notice that not all Christian denominations practice this tradition. For Catholics, this means **our responsibility is even greater** — to lift up those souls who may have no one else to pray for them.



Scriptural Foundations for Purgatory

1. 2 Maccabees 12:38–46

“It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins.”

2. 1 Corinthians 3:11–15

“Each one’s work will be made manifest... If someone’s work is burned up, that one will suffer loss, yet will be saved, but only as through fire.”

3. Matthew 12:32

“Whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”

4. 1 Peter 1:6–7

“...so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

5. Revelation 21:27

“Nothing unclean shall enter [heaven].”

6. Hebrews 12:22–23

“You have come... to the spirits of the righteous made perfect.”



Simple Ways to Pray for the Dead in November

Here are some meaningful ways to honor and pray for the dead this month:

1. Visit a Cemetery and Pray for the Departed

From **Nov 1–8**, the Church grants a **plenary indulgence** to those who visit a cemetery and pray for the faithful departed.

2. Attend mass on All Souls' Day (Nov 2) Also an indulgence opportunity.

3. Unite your prayers at Mass for someone who has died

4. Pray Daily for the Holy Souls

There are plenary (and partial) indulgences you can earn on behalf of the souls in purgatory ... a beautiful gift of grace for a suffering soul. The Archdiocese has suggested this [helpful website](#) to guide you in selecting and completing the prayers and works required.

Christ the King: The Kingdom Not of This World

As the Liturgical year draws to a close, we celebrate one of the most majestic feasts of all — **The Solemnity of Christ the King**. This feast is deeply personal. It asks each of us a simple question: *Who reigns in my heart?*

Pope Pius XI established this feast in 1925, at a time when the world was still reeling from war, political turmoil, and growing secularism. Nations and leaders were claiming absolute power, and the Church sought to remind the faithful — and the world — that true peace and order come only under the reign of Christ. A century later, the message is just as urgent.

Christ's kingship is unlike any earthly rule. He does not govern by force or fear, but by love and truth. His crown was made of thorns; His throne, the Cross. Yet from that place of suffering flowed mercy and redemption for all humanity.

To proclaim Christ as King is to say that **our allegiance is to love itself** — to justice, mercy, and truth over comfort, power, and pride. His kingdom begins in every heart that welcomes Him and extends wherever compassion, forgiveness, and faith take root.

This solemnity also prepares us for **Advent**, when we await the coming of the King not only in Bethlehem's manger but at the end of time. It's a moment to look inward and ask:

- Does Christ reign in the way I spend my time, my words, my relationships?
- Do I serve others as He served me?
- Am I building His kingdom here and now?

The Feast of Christ the King reminds us that history is not spiraling aimlessly — it is moving toward the moment when every knee shall bend and every tongue confess that *Jesus Christ is Lord*.

Some November Eucharistic Miracles

As we close out the liturgical year, instead of a single Eucharistic Miracle, we leave you with a list of a few miracles that occurred in November. Be sure to check out the links for the full stories!

Eucharistic Miracle of Sokolka, Poland (2008)

A consecrated Host was found to contain human cardiac muscle tissue, still alive according to scientific analysis.

Eucharistic Miracle of Volterra, Italy (1472)

During a war, a soldier threw a ciborium with many consecrated Hosts; the Hosts rose illuminated and hovered in mid-air for a time.

Eucharistic Miracle of Rimini, Italy (1227)

A miracle involving a mule and the Eucharist: after the mule hadn't eaten for three days, it ate the Eucharist and the heretic was converted.

Eucharistic Miracle of Salzano, Italy (1517)

A priest carrying Viaticum encountered donkeys who kneeled before the Eucharist and followed the priest respectfully.

Eucharistic Miracle of Alatri, Italy (1228)

A young woman tried to use a consecrated Host for a love potion; the Host became flesh. The miracle is recorded by Pope Gregory IX.

Eucharistic Miracle of Daroca, Spain (1239)

In the midst of a battle, a priest concealed consecrated Hosts; later they were discovered covered in blood.



Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree This Advent ... for ADULTS!

As Advent approaches, many of us feel that familiar tug — a desire to slow down, reconnect with God, and prepare our hearts for Christmas amid the noise of the season. This year, **FORMED** offers a beautiful way to do just that with a new series called **“Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree.”** In this **25-day video journey**, we are guided through the family tree of Jesus, showing how God’s promises throughout Scripture—from Adam to Abraham, David to Mary—lead us to Christ. Each daily reflection lasts just about **7 minutes**, making it easy to fit into even the busiest schedule.

👉 How to Join:

- Already signed up on FORMED? Sign up for daily reminder emails [here](#).
- If you need to register with FORMED click [here](#) to sign up.

The Jubilee Year: A Time of Grace -- November is the last month!!

[2025 Jubilee Year of Hope Brochure](#)
[2025 Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites](#)



November Major Feast Days

1. **ALL SAINTS**, Solemnity
2. **ALL SOULS**, Commemoration
9. Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, Feast
10. Leo the Great
11. Martin of Tours; Veterans Day (USA)
12. Josaphat
13. Frances Xavier Cabrini
17. Elizabeth of Hungary
18. Rose Philippine Duchesne (USA)
21. Presentation of Mary
23. **OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE**, Solemnity
30. FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 🎉 Happy New Year!

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