St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

> Established 1866



October 25, 2020

Pastoral Staff

Pastor Rev. Elias Lopez

Permanent Deacon Walter Busa

Permanent Deacon Grant Holt

Seminarian Matthew Krusleski

Secretary / Bookkeeper Carol Serres

Altar Society

Delores Posinski President

Baptism Classes

EJ Maupin

Coordinator of Religious Education

Kirby Borski

Finance Council

David Borski President, Russell Pasket
Susan Wisnoski, Gary Klodzinski,
Susie Homeyer, Ben Leman, Larry Sechelski Jr.

Music Coordinator

Margaret McClosky

RCIA

Kim Ritchie

RCIC

Dana Wagner & Marcy Pavlock

Pastoral Leadership Team

Daniel Otto, Russell Pasket, Marcus Reaves, Thomas Sechelski, Linda Toler, Dana Wagner Jerome Klawinsky

Mass Schedule

Tuesday Noon
Wednesday Noon
Thursday Noon
Friday Noon
Saturday 4:15
Sunday 8:00 am & 10:00 am

Weekly Collections:

October 17th & 18th

\$ 3,324.35

Upcoming 2nd Collections:

November 8th Retired Priests

Please pray for those in active military duty:

Andrew Anderson, Austin Barnes, Andrew Burzynski, Don Fontaine, Travis Hayes, Cody Klawinsky, Travis Klawinsky, Joe A. Lopez, Matthew Macejewski, John McKnight, Phillip Walkoviak

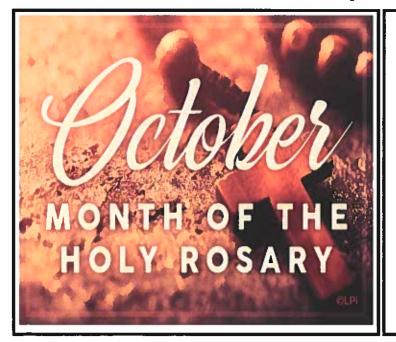


Our Church is open for daily prayer during office hours.

Office hours are Tuesday-Friday 8 to 4

Please pray for our parish family who are ill and/or homebound:

Aria, Laverne Backhus, Sheila Blinka, Pat Davis, Don Dobiyanski, Margaret & Praslin Fann, John Faust, Paul Henry III, Dolores Holler, Mae Dell Izard, John Koch, Caroline Kolbasinski, Barbara Kurtin Kellyanne Katkoski, Tammy Kitchen, Bibian Loukins, France Loukins, Desiree Oliver, Mathew Oliver, Regan Oliver, Henry Ostermann, Ashley Paskett, Charlie Pasket, Tina Pasket, Kenny Sechelski, Katie Smith, Chris Szymczak, LaNell Szymczak, Bobby Torres, Philip Vezorak, Anna Mae Vezurk, Ann Wesolick, Rocky Weller, Fr. Louis Sikorski



Building on our past, Securing our future!



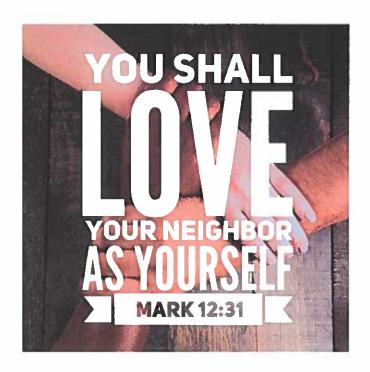
Welcome to St. Stanislaus Kostka

Please contact the parish office if you wish to register or know someone who would like to become a member of our parish. 936-873-2291

Our Holy Father's Prayer Intentions October

The Laity's Mission in the Church

We pray that by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.



The Old Testament lists more than 600 laws by which the Israelite people were to live. Jesus, in fulfilling the law, tells us that the whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments: loving God, and loving our neighbor as ourselves. Living by God's law is the best advertisement in drawing others to want to know and follow Jesus Christ. Our actions really do speak louder than our words.

Altar Society: Meets the first Thursday of every month. The next meeting will be Thursday November 5th at 6:00 in the rectory. All Catholic ladies are welcome.

<u>Baptism:</u> Classes are necessary for baptism. Please contact the parish office to make needed arrangements.

<u>Birthdays & Anniversaries</u>: On the 1st weekend of every month Fr. Eli will bless anyone with a birthday or wedding anniversary during that month following each Mass.

<u>Cemetery Guidelines:</u> If you have any questions of concerns pertaining to the cemetery, please contract Charles Posinski at 936-873-2113. If work needs to be done you must call Charles Posinski first.

Choir Practice: Do to COVID-19, No practice at this time.

Counseling: Gratia Plena is a nonprofit organization that provides mental and spiritual health services for mental illnesses, addictions, and marriage/family problems. All counselors are Catholic and provide services in a way that is faithful to the teachings, values and traditions of the Church. Their closest office is near The Woodlands, but counselors are also available by video session. For more information, see their website at www.gratiaplenacounseling.org or call (832) 532-0129, or email info@gratiaplenacounseling.org

Divine Mercy: Every Friday after the noon Mass. Everyone is welcome to join us.

<u>Gabriel Project:</u> Pregnant. Scared. Need to talk! Gabriel Project offer assistance to women experiencing difficult circumstances. Please call Wanda O'Brien 936-597-6328 or St. Mary's Catholic Church 936-894-2223

Knights of Columbus: KC Council #4054 meets at the KC Hall every 2nd Tuesday at 7pm. Please join us. All Catholic men are welcome. Contact Deen Miller 936-524-1700 for membership information. And James Moran 936-825-7866 for rental information. Spaghetti Dinner Oct. 16th

<u>Marriage:</u> There is a required preparation process that must be completed prior to one being married in the Catholic Church. Please call the office for more information.

RCIA & RCIC: Anyone seeking the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults / Children or adult confirmation. Please call the church office at 936-873-2291

<u>Reconciliation:</u> 30 Minutes before Wednesday & Friday Masses (Please call ahead to let the Priest know) and 3:00 to 4:00 on Saturdays

12 Hour Adoration: Our church is open every Monday 8 am to 8 pm. Everyone is welcome to join in the worship with the scheduled persons.



BANNS - Ordination to the Diaconate for

Russell Pasket

It is herewith announced that **Russell**, a candidate for the Order of Diaconate will be ordained a deacon on **Friday**, **January 29**, **2021** at **7:00** p.m. at a Mass to be celebrated by Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston.

If any persons know of a serious reason why this candidate should not be called to ordination, please notify

Deacon George Silva, Director of Formation
Office of the Diaconate
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
281-543-2986
george.silva@smseminary.com.

Please keep Russell in your prayers as he prepares for ordination into this sacred ministry. May he always be faithful to the diaconal ministry of service of word, liturgy and charity to which he is about to be ordained.

This announcement is in compliance with Canon 1051:2 of the Code of Canon Law.

| | | | | us Fr. Eli | E | | | is Fr. Paul | <u> </u> | | | | us Fr. Eli | ï | | | | us Fr. Elli | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|--|
| January '21 5 M T W T F \$ 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 28 30 31 | Saturday | 7 | 9:00 a.m. COL Fr. Eli | 4:15 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli | 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli | 14 | | 4:15 P.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Paul | 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli | 21 | | | 4:15 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli | | ŀ | 28 | | 4:15 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli | 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli | | | | | | |
| December 20 s M 1 w 1 F s 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | Friday | 9 | 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli | 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli | | 13 | 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli | 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus | F. El | 20 | 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli | | 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus | £ | | NO MASS | | | | | | | | | |
| October 20 s M T W T F S 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 | Thursday | ro. | 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli | Fr. Adam 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Ell | | 12 | 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli 12nm St. Stanislaus | Fr. Adam | 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli | 19 | 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli | 12pm St. Stanislaus | Fr. Adam | 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli | | 9:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus | Fr. Adam | 9:00 a.m. COL Fr. Eli | | | | | | | |
| | Wednesday | 4 | 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli | 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli | L | Veterans Day | 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli | 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus | Fr. Ell | 18 | 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli | | 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus | iii | | 8:30 a.m. COL Fr. Eli | | 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus | Fr. Eli | | | | | | |
| 20 | Tuesday | 8 | | 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli | 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli | 10 | 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus | Fr. Ell | 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli | 17 | | 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus | Fr. Eli | 6.00 m m COI Er Eli | | 54 | 12:00 p.m. St. Stanislaus | F. El | 6:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli | | | | | Notes | |
| ber 20 | Monday | 2 | | | 4 | 20 | | | | 16 | | | | | | 3 | | | | 30 | | | | | |
| November 2020 | Sunday | 1 Daylight Saving | 8:00 a.m. COL Fr. Eli | 10:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 1:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli | 6 | | 8:00 a.m. Ct. Stanislaus Fr. Adam | 10:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli | 1:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli | 15 | 8:00 a.m. COL Fr. Eli | 8:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Adam | 10:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Ell | 1:00 p.m. COL Fr. Ell | - | 8:00 a.m. COL Fr. Eli | 8:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Adam | 10:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli | 1:00 p.m. COL Fr. Eli | 28 8:00 a.m. COI Fr. Eli | 8:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Adam | 10:00 a.m. St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli | Libo P.m. COL Pr. Ell | 22 | |

October 25, 2020

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ex 22:20-26 | 1 Thes 1:5C-10 | Mt 22:34-40

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

In today's Gospel, Jesus has just silenced one group of religious leaders, the Sadducees (which seems to be quite a feat, if we look at their behavior in the Scripture!) and is now speaking to another group of religious leaders, the Pharisees. Jesus says that the greatest commandment in all the law is actually two: love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and soul; and love your neighbor as yourself. These two groups of religious leaders like to test him a lot, and while I might want to tell people like them to take a hike, Jesus never does. He always speaks the truth to them, in love, even if he is frustrated with their behavior.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Sometimes it's hard to see how three particular readings fit together on a Sunday, but I was struck by how well these do. The first reading, listing ways that we should *not* behave, can easily be summed up as: love your neighbor as yourself. We all are, or have been, some form of what the Lord mentions: an outsider (alien), vulnerable (widow/orphan), in financial need (loan recipient), or requiring some other assistance (needing a cloak). How do we want others to treat us in those times? Then we should behave the same. It seems like the Thessalonians understood this, for Paul praises them for being a model for other believers. They have a reputation for being truly loving; of turning to God from idols, and serving him. We can be discouraged by our human failings, as all of us living in lockdown/quarantine these recent months know. It may not take much to set us off. But this is where God's grace can help us to speak truth in love. and be a model for those around us.

ACTIONS Reflect on any obstacles to truly loving God with full heart, mind, and soul. Then think creatively about how to love God, and in turn, others.

- How I can love God with my whole heart? After spending time in prayer, write down how you see God in your family and friends. And then go tell them!
- How I can love God with my whole mind? Use "online time" to engage with a faith-related website such as Bishop Barron's wordonfire.org, or follow Pope Francis on Twitter.
- · How I can love God with my soul? Pray the litany of humility.

THE LORD
YOUR GOD
WITH YOUR
WHOLE HEART
AND

YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF

Child's Prayer Before Trick or Treating

God, bless all the people we will meet.

Let our visit with them be a pleasant treat.

Whatever the costumes we wear tonight,

May we all be clothed with Christ's light.

Protect us from danger and the devil's ways,

That tomorrow with the saints we may sing your praise.

-Diana Macalintal, The Work of Your Hands





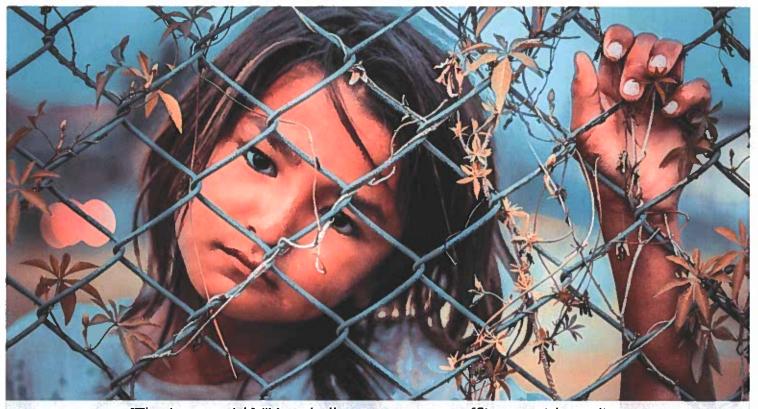
October 25, 2020

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Ex 22:20-26

1 Thes 1:5c-10

Mt 22:34-40



[The LORD said,] "You shall not oppress or afflict a resident alien, for you were once aliens residing in the land of Egypt." —EXODUS 22:20

God's Lessons of Love

The readings today are all about love. The first reading tells us who we should love; the Gospel tells us how we should love. We know that it is not difficult to love those who love us, who are kind and generous to us, who make us feel that we are important. The reading from Exodus moves us in a different direction. We are to love the alien, the widow, the orphan, and the poor neighbor. In a patriarchal society, such as was ancient Israel, aliens, widows, and orphans were the ultimate outsiders. They had no male relative through whom they would benefit from the kinship structure. While the neighbor might be of the same tribe or clan, it is the poor neighbor who was to be loved, the one who might be a drag on one's life and resources.

In other words, we are to love the ones who cannot

promise to make our lives more comfortable or enjoyable. In fact, the point of loving them is to make *their* lives more comfortable and enjoyable.

How are we to love them? The Gospel reading offers two different answers that are really very much alike. We are to love God totally, with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind. We are to love others as we love ourselves, with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind. More practically, we must do for others what we would do for ourselves, for to love them is to love God.

-Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- Who are the outsiders or people living on the margins of your society?
- What might you do to make their lives more comfortable or enjoyable?

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Dear Padre,

When I was young, we always prayed for "the poor souls in purgatory." Is this because some go to hell and some go to heaven?

On the feast of All Souls' Day, we remember all of our faithful departed. Most of them are already with God in heaven. But some of them might still need some purification. Those needing purification from

the temporal punishment still due to their sins are in purgatory. These people aren't damned. They are the elect and are friends of God. They are already saved, assured of salvation. There is no going to hell from purgatory. There is only upward movement to heaven.

There has always been an ancient tradition in the Church that there exists a strong bond between the faithful who die and those of us who are still alive. The Church especially



emphasizes the mutual help that Christians on earth and in purgatory give to one another by their prayers. It is the belief of the Church that our prayers lessen the amount of time a person could spend in purgatory. Our prayers speed their journey into the fullness of God's love.

On this upcoming All Saints' Day (November 1) and All Souls' Day (November 2), we are invited to unite with all the faithful Christians, living and dead. These feast days are our opportunities to pray for and with them and to receive the benefits of their prayers for us in return.

From Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask, @ 2003 Liguori Publications



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

All of us, living and dead, are in communion, that is, as a union; united in the community of those who have received baptism, and of those who are nourished by the Body of Christ....We are all the same family, united. For this reason, we pray for each other.

-GENERAL AUDIENCE, NOVEMBER 30, 2016

Calendar

Monday OCTOBER 26

Weekday Eph 4:32—5:8 Lk 13:10–17

Tuesday OCTOBER 27 Weekday Eph 5:21–33 Lk 13:18–21

Wednesday
OCTOBER 28
Sts. Simon and Jude,
Apostles
Eph 2:19–22
Lk 6:12–16

Thursday OCTOBER 29 Weekday Eph 6:10–20 Lk 13:31–35

Friday
OCTOBER 30
Weekday
Phil 1:1–11
Lk 14:1–6

Saturday OCTOBER 31 Weekday Phil 1:18b-26 Lk 14:1, 7-11

Sunday NOVEMBER 1 *All Saints* Rv 7:2–4, 9–14 1 Jn 3:1–3 Mt 5:1–12a



October 25, 2020

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord." John 6:56

Fidelity to God's two great commandments sets a good example for others to follow.

1511 Hwy 90 South P O Box 210

Anderson, Texas 77830

936-873-2291

936-873-3304 Fax

Email: ststan@embarqmail.com

Web: www.saintstans.org

In the first reading, the Lord tells the Israelites the laws regarding treatment of aliens, widows, and orphans, and the lending of money to the poor. Paul compliments the Thessalonians for their faith and for becoming a model for all the believers ... not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has gone forth. In the Gospel, a scholar of the law tests Jesus. regarding the greatest commandment in the law. Jesus answers with two commandments. concerning love of God and love of neighbor.

Mass Intentions

Tuesday October 27th noon Helen Molitor & Margaret Creel Wednesday October 28th noon Living & deceased members of the Fritz & Gertrude Heyman family Larry Sechelski Thursday October 29th noon

Living & deceased members of the Henry & Martha Busa Family Friday October 30th noon

Willie, Christine & Frank Sechelski John & Maggie Pasket Floyd & James Pasket Saturday October 31st 4:15

Lewis & Verna Sechelski Sunday November 1st 8:00 & 10:00 am All Saints Day

ONLINE GIVING

go to www.saintstans.org

Click on Stewardship

Then click online giving.

Mail

P O Box 210

Anderson, Tx 77830

Father Eli

lopez.eli68@gmail.com

www.FORMED.org Enter Parish code: **MVMZKF** to register

Ststanskostka.flocknote.com/ **Text STSTANS to 84576**



If you cannot be present, please find a replacement

Liturgical Ministers Schedule

If you cannot be present, please find a replacement



Lectors:

Saturday October 31st 4:15pm Delores Posinski & Carolyn Kimich

Rosarv: Delores Posinski

Altar Servers:

Andrew Borski, Jacob Borski & Evan Borski

Ushers:

Stephen Pasket, Michael Wisnoski, Johnny Pasket Jr., Darrell Wagner

Sunday November 1st 8:00am

Volunteers

Rosary: Barbara Dibello

Sunday November 1st 10:00am

Lectors:

Margaret McClosky & Christi Leman

Rosarv: Eugene Yanchak

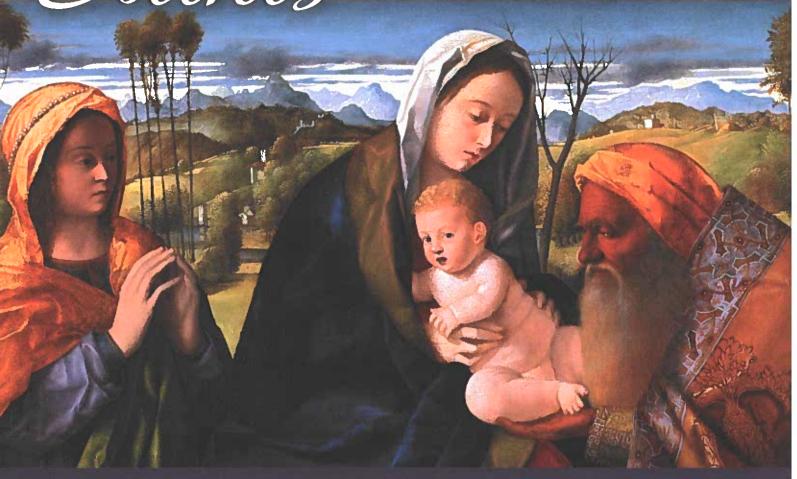
Altar Servers:

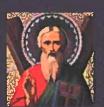
Tyler Abraham, Hannah Abraham & William Abraham

Ushers:

Don Sowell, James Busa, Stan Sechelski, Jerome Klawinski

Daints for advent & CHRISTMAS 2020





NOVEMBER 30 ST ANDREW

Born in Calilee, Andrew was the sibling of Simon Peter, and like his brother, was a fisherman by trade. During his lifetime, he became a disciple of John the Baptist, one of the Twelve Apostles, likely the first of Christ's disciples. Andrew and his brother are recorded in the New Testament as having

been declared "fishers of men" as Jesus observed them and called them to discipleship. Andrew was martyred in Greece in 60 AD.



DECEMBER 3 ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

One of the original seven members of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Francis was sent as a missionary to the East Indies and Japan (1540). He spent his time preaching, instructing, baptizing and establishing missions for those who were to follow him. His preaching and example led to hundreds of thousands of converts. Canonized in 1602, he is the patron of all foreign missions.

DECEMBER 4 ST. JOHN DAMASCENE

Born in Damascus, after a mostly theological education be accepted a position with the ruling Arabs, which he resigned to become a monk and later a priest in the monastery of St. Sabas, near Jerusalem. The last of the Greek Fathers of the Church, John was a renowned homilist and scholar whose

work greatly influenced later theologians. Named doctor of the Church in 1890.

DECEMBER 7 ST. AMBROSE

Ambrose excelled in law, literature and rhetopastor. He famously stood up to the Roman



emperor for interfering in Church doctrine and practice. He also influenced the

great doctors of the Latin Church (1298).

DECEMBER II ST. DAMASUS I

Damasus became pope (366) and during his long pontificate Christianity was declared the

official religion of the Roactive builder and restorer the language of the liturgy, spoke our against major



heresies in the church and cile for what became known as the church's officially declared

DECEMBER 9 ST. JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN

In 1531, Mary appeared to Mexican peasant Juan Diego



at Guadalupe, Mexico. When the bishop questioned Juan's account, Mary told Juan to gather flowers and give them to the bishop. When he did so, roses fell from his cloak, revealing a painted image of the Lady of Guadalupe. This relic is now

preserved in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Juan Diego was canonized in 2002.

DECEMBER 14 ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS,

Born in poverty, at 21 John entered the Carmelites and was



ordained a priest (1567). With St. Teresa of Avila he helped reform his order and create the reformed (Discalced) Carmelites. Canonized in 1726, he was named a doctor of the Church (1926). In his published works, John describes the spiritual

life as a journey of the soul to divine union.

DECEMBER 21 ST. PETER CANISIUS

Born in Holland, he joined the Jesuits (1543) and worked



in southern Germany, Austria, Bohemia and Switzerland as a leader of the Catholic Counter-Reformation. Noted for his scholarship and theological insight, his preaching and teaching, he developed popular and influential catechisms for

both adults and children. He was canonized and declared doctor of the Church (1925).

DECEMBER 23 ST. JOHN OF KANTY

John was born in Kanty, Poland. A popular teacher and



preacher, he was noted for his simple lifestyle and love for the poor, especially needy university students. He was buried in the Collegiate Church of St. Anne, where his tomb became and remains a popular pilgrimage site. He was named patron of Po-

land and canonized in 1767.

DECEMBER 26 ST. STEPHEN

His story is told in Acts chapters 6-7. He is the first-named among the seven deacons chosen by the 12 apostles to



minister to the Greek-speaking Christians in the Jerusalem community. When the Jews accused him of blasphemy, he defended himself by recalling God's guidance throughout Israel's history, as well as Israel's idolatry and disobedience. Stoned

to death by an angry mob he is the first recorded martyr of the New Testament.

DECEMBER 28 THE HOLY INNOCENTS

This feast commemorates the boys slain instead of Jesus

by King Herod the Great (Mt 2:16-18) to eliminate the threat to his throne from the newborn king. In contrast to the Magi's welcome, Herod's murderous rage foreshadows the opposition that Jesus will later meet, culminating in his crucifixion



by the Romans. To escape Herod's massacre, the holy family became refugees in Egypt.

DECEMBER 29 ST. THOMAS BECKET

Born in London, Becket was ordained a deacon, named Lord Chancellor of England and Archbishop of Canter-

bury by King Henry II in 1162. After disagreeing with the king on the Church's independence, he fled to France. After his return he and the king clashed again and in a fit of rage was murdered by the king's men in Canterbury cathedral. He was



quickly declared a saint (1173), and Canterbury became a popular pilgrimage site.

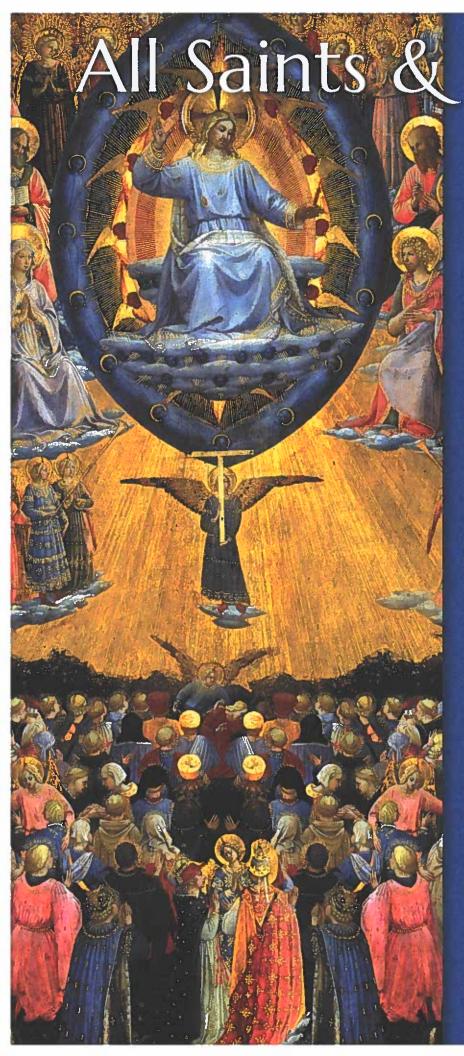
DECEMBER 31 ST. SYLVESTER 1

Sylvester was elected pope in 314 shortly after the emperor Constantine's Edict of Milan (313) which for the first time granted the Christian religion official recognition and allowed public worship. During his 21 year pontificate as formal Church



and state relations began to develop, large public churches like St. John Lateran were built by the emperor and other benefactors.





All Souls

We Are All in This Together

On coping with the pandemic during this past year, we have all become more aware of our common life together and our shared responsibility for one another's health and well-being. But we must note that this also applies to our spiritual solidarity as God's holy people. The feasts of All Saints and All Souls are a good way to remember and celebrate our spiritual unity in Christ. The Church calls this spiritual solidarity the "communion of saints," which binds together "all the faithful of Christ, those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified, and the blessed in heaven, all together forming one Church" (Pope Paul VI, *Creed of the People of God*). And death cannot sever this relationship that all the faithful share in Christ.

All Saints' Day November 1

This feast, honoring all the saints of the Church, known and unknown, provides an opportunity to reflect on our personal call to holiness and to celebrate the exemplary faithfulness of holy men and women of every place and time, whose lives and deeds continue to inspire us. It was given this date to counter a pagan feast held to appease the dangerous evil spirits associated with the coming of winter and darkness whose customs still linger in our celebration of Halloween (meaning All Hallows' [= Holy Ones, Saints] Eve).

All Souls Day November 2

This feast remembers the many nameless and forgotten persons like our deceased family and friends who led us to Christ and into the communion of his mystical Body. It purposely follows All Saints' Day to shift our focus from the recognized saints to ordinary people, especially those

who might need our prayers. From the earliest times, Christians prayed for the dead and many monasteries adopted the tradition of remembering



all the faithful departed. Eventually this custom spread throughout Europe and was included into the Church's liturgical calendar.

The COMMUNION of SAINTS

"The Church lives within the communion of the saints. In the Eucharist, this communion, which is a gift from God, becomes a spiritual union binding us to the saints and blessed ones whose number is beyond counting (Rev 7:4). Their holiness comes to the aid of our weakness in a way that enables the Church, with her maternal prayers and her way of life, to fortify the weakness of some with the strength of others. May the saints and blessed ones intercede for us and obtain for us the grace of living and walking always according to the mercy of God and with an unwavering trust in his love."

-Pope Francis



With a Little Help from Our Friends

Intercessors & Patron Saints

From the earliest times, Christians believed that members of the Christian community, though separated by death but now alive in Christ, were still able to help one another. "Being more closely united to Christ, those who dwell in heaven fix the whole Church more firmly in holiness. They do not cease to intercede with the Father for us, as they proffer the merits which they acquired on earth through the one mediator between God and humanity, Christ Jesus. So by their fraternal concern is our weakness greatly helped." (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, #49; Catechism of the Catholic Church, #956). Thus the importance of the saints as intercessors for us with God became more popular.

The identification of saints as mediators with God introduces their role as patron saints, that is, one to whom we can go when we have specific needs that require help. Saints are designated as patrons or special advocates for nations, churches, places, crafts, activities, jobs, classes, clans, families, illnesses, causes, etc. Most patrons have been so designated as the result of popular devotion and long-standing custom. The Church has officially designated rather few patrons, and most patron designations, especially more recent ones, are unofficial. (You can find a long list of patron saints online at *catholic.org/saints/patron.php*)



Reminders of Saints All Around Us

A Household Activity

The reminders of the saints and their popularity are all around us. Gather your household and take some time to recall this saintly influence so that you might find new inspiration from their lives and seek their help for your needs. Invite everyone in the household to answer these questions.

What saint or saints might you be named after?

- —What do you know about that saint's life?
- —What about that saint most attracts you to imitate him or her?
- -Can you find a picture or photo of what that saint looked like?
- —What is that saint the patron saint of?

What saint or saints is your parish (or neighboring parishes or your diocesan cathedral church) named for?

- —What do you know about that saint's life?
- -How might my parish be most like him or her?
- —What is that saint the patron saint of?

What cities, businesses, streets, rivers or other things can you think of that are named after saints? (Remember that in Spanish "San" means saint, so San Francisco means St. Francis and San Antonio means St. Anthony.)



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281-413-5505

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