

Fr. Martin's Reflection – 10/31/21 Bulletin

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This coming week we celebrate **All Saints Day and All Souls Day**. On November 1, we acknowledge all those who, while on this earth, lived saintly lives. Being as human as we are, they are an inspiration and an encouragement to us to live our lives as God would want us to live. As we approach Christmas and we are thinking about gifts to buy a loved one, maybe we should consider giving a book on the '**Lives of the Saints**', or why not treat yourself to this gift. It is a gift you will treasure for the rest of your life. All Saints Day is also an opportunity to reconnect with our patron saint, the one that inspires us and intercedes for us. If we don't have a patron saint, then go in search of one.

November 2 is also a very special day, the day we remember all our departed loved ones, the day we call '**All Souls Day**'. We especially remember those who didn't live saintly lives but struggled. Those whom God desires to have in heaven but because of life choices and sins not confessed, whose souls now dwell in purgatory and need us to pray for them and make sacrifices on their behalf. Praying for the dead is a Christian obligation. In the modern world, when many have come to doubt the Church's teaching on Purgatory, the need for such prayers has only increased. The Church devotes the month of November to prayer for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and participation in the mass of All Souls Day is a good way to begin the month. Prayer for the dead is one of the greatest acts of charity Catholics can perform, to help souls during their time in Purgatory so that they can enter more quickly into the fullness of heaven.

**"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
And let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May they rest in peace.  
Amen."**

May God's grace and love guide you and keep you forever in God's care.

*Fr. Martin*