



EOHSJ Orange Area Spirituality Newsletter

Our Lady of the Rosary; All Saints & All Souls; Christ the King!



The Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary October 7th

This feast was instituted by Pope St. Pius V in thanksgiving for the great naval victory over the Turks at the battle of Lepanto on this day in the year 1570, a favor due to the recitation of the Rosary. This victory saved Europe from being overrun by the forces of Islam. Lepanto, perhaps the most complete victory ever gained over the Ottoman Empire, on October 7, 1571, is commemorated by the invocation "Help of Christians," inserted in the Litany of Loretto. At Belgrade, the Turks were defeated on the Feast of Our Lady ad Nives in 1716. A second victory gained that year on the Octave of the Assumption determined Pope Clement XI to command the Feast of the Rosary to be celebrated by the universal Church. Leo XIII added the invocation "Queen of the most Holy Rosary, pray for us," to the Litany of Loretto. The Feast is in reality a great festival of thanksgiving for the countless benefits and graces bestowed on Christendom through the Rosary of our blessed Queen.



Orange Member's Favorite Rosary Prayer

*A little pair of Rosary Beads, As plain as plain can be,
But only God in heaven knows How dear they are to me.
I have them always with me, At every step I take,
At evening when I slumber At morn when I awake.
In bright and cloudy weather, In sunshine or in rain,
In happiness or sorrow, In pleasure or in pain.
It helps me in my struggle It reproves me when in sin,
Its look of gentle patience Rebukes the strife within.
In days of pain and anguish The greatest help I knew
Was to hold my Rosary Beads Until I calmer grew.
So when the time approaches When I will have to die,
I hope my little Rosary Beads Will close beside me lie.
That the holy name of Jesus May be the last I say,
And kissing my sweet Rosary Beads,
My soul may pass away. Amen.*

Prayer to Our Lady Queen of Palestine Patroness of the Order

To you, Virgin Mother Mary, Queen of the Land of Christ we come to praise you, to thank you and entrust to you all your children, inhabitants and pilgrims of this Land. Virgin, Daughter of Zion, teach us the love you have for everyone without distinction. Show us your merciful heart, give us your clarity of vision as in the days of Nazareth teach us to listen attentively to the voice of God and to his Word of life. Teach us fidelity in our daily work and silence capable of creating profound communion. Like in Cana watch over families, so that there is no lack of joy and unity. As on the streets of Galilee and Judea, precede us on the path of discipleship in the footsteps of your beloved Son to the supreme offering at the foot of Calvary. As in the Upper Room, intercede with the gift of the Spirit that cries in us: "Abba". The One Father for Jews, Christians and Muslims, Help us all to walk on the paths of forgiveness and reconciliation so the walls that divide may fall. Mother of the Prince of Peace, also gift us the taste of Heaven that supports our hope, so that soon "justice and peace will kiss" this Holy Land and the entire earth. Amen.

The Solemnity of All Saints November 1st

All Saints' Day can be traced to the earliest Christians. By the third century, the followers of Christ were annually honoring their brothers and sisters who had been martyred while witnessing for and defending Jesus Christ. Typically,



on the anniversary of a martyr's death, the living would gather to remember and offer prayers. On Nov 1, 735, Pope Gregory III dedicated an oratory in St. Peter's Basilica to house the relics of the apostles, martyrs, saints and confessors. Later Pope Gregory IV assigned Nov. 1 as the feast of All Saints throughout the Latin Church and proclaimed it a holy day of obligation. Today, All Saints' Day is a solemnity and holy day of obligation on which the universal Church honors the martyrs, the saints and the confessors, and all unknowns who have gained the reward of heaven.



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The Solemnity of All Souls November 2nd

Prayers for those who have died are ancient in origin. In the Old Testament's Book of Maccabees, written around 100 B.C., Maccabeus orders his army to pray and offer sacrifices on behalf of their fallen comrades. Tombs found in the Roman catacombs are inscribed with prayer requests for the deceased. The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, or All Souls' Day, evolved onto the Church calendar long after All Saints' Day. Sometime between 998 and 1030, St. Odilo, the abbot at the Benedictine Monastery in Cluny, France, encouraged all the monks to pray for the souls of those who had died,



those who were awaiting the joys of heaven. He instituted this commemoration on the day after All Saints' Day, and soon other religious orders and churches began, on that same date, to annually remember all who had died. Remembering and praying for the faithful departed is tied directly to our belief in purgatory. On All Souls' Day the universal Church prays for all those in purgatory, people who were much like us, whose offense may have been less than ours. By pleading for them, we are inspired to lead purer lives. On that day, and during the entire month of November, we remember our departed brethren as we go to the cemetery where they are buried, attain indulgences for them, give alms, do some good work, ask for Masses to be said in remembrance, all on behalf of those close to us and to others we may have neglected during the year.

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe November 20th

On the last Sunday of each liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King. Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas primas* ("In the first") to respond to growing secularism and atheism. He recognized that attempting to "thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law" out of public life would result in continuing discord among people and nations. This solemnity reminds us that Christ reigns as King forever. During the early twentieth century, in Mexico, Russia, and some parts of Europe, militantly secularistic regimes threatened not just the Catholic Church and its faithful but civilization itself. Pope Pius XI's encyclical gave Catholics hope and—while governments around them crumbled—the assurance that Christ the King shall reign forever. Christ is King of the entire universe because "in him were created all things in heaven and on earth...all things were created through him and for him." As the Second Vatican Council (*Gaudium et spes*) taught, only in Christ is man's true identity revealed. The Church instituted this feast day to remind an increasingly secular world that only by acknowledging our origin and end in Christ will human individuals and societies find peace, justice, freedom, and happiness. Christ is the authentic measure of all creation, including governments, states, and societies.



In its core document, *Our First, Most Cherished Liberty: A Statement on Religious Liberty*, the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty "urge[d] that the Solemnity of Christ the King - a feast born out of resistance to totalitarian incursions against religious liberty - be a day specifically employed by bishops and priests to preach about religious liberty, both here and abroad." Let us pray fervently that we will help others encounter a new Christ, our King, bringing the Gospel to the margins of society, that all might bear witness to Him before others.