

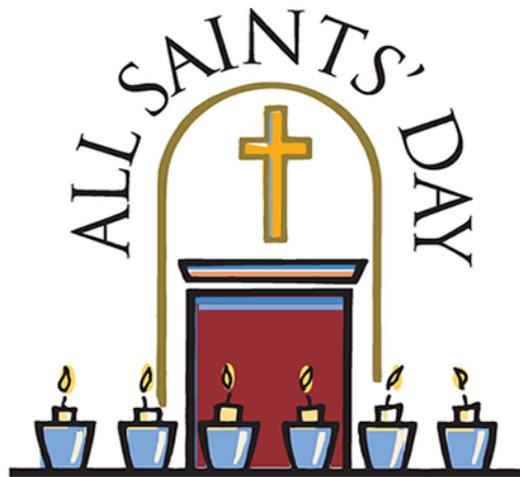
# HALLOWE'EN – Eve of All Saints Day

October 31

Hallowe'en a Christian Holiday

*What should we do about Halloween?*

The medieval Catholic Church created the feast of All Saints Day on November 1 to honor the blessed people who could not be included in the church's formal list of saints. In England, the word "hallow" was used to mean the sacred, and thus All Saints Day became All Hallow's Day and the eve before became All Hallowed Eve. Like Christmas Eve and Easter Vigil the church celebrates the greatest feasts beginning the evening before. We need to begin to re-Christianize or re-Catholicize by repairing the link between Halloween and All Saints Day. Halloween can be a real teaching moment.



The key to this is understanding the Communion of Saints. The communion of saints is really a definition of the Church – the unity of all believers' past, present and future, in heaven and on earth. We are united as one body in Christ. That is why Catholics honor saints and "pray to the saints" – actually what we are doing is asking the saints to pray with us and for us. This is known as "intercessory prayer". It is because of our believe in the communion of all the faithful in Christ – in this world or in the next – that Catholic prayers for the dead, for all those who have died and are being purified (In Purgatory) that they will soon be granted eternal rest in heaven with God and the Saints.

As Catholic parents our job is to make clear the real meaning of the Hallowed Evening and it's link to the communion of saints. Hallowe'en is chiefly celebrated in the United States as a children's holiday. By explaining why we celebrate this day and the meanings of the signs and symbols of Halloween we can still have the fun of Hallowe'en and not lose the meaning of the Holiday. Do an internet search for Christian Halloween and you will find many sites that offer costume ideas (how about dressing as a saint, a hero or someone who does good for others)? There are party ideas, games and crafts – even coloring sheets that are cute and not evil. You can also incorporate the pumpkin, trick or treating and other symbols of Halloween. Use Halloween to teach and it will be safe and fun for all!!! Enjoy family time together.