

Within a few short weeks, we will be starting once again a new Liturgical Year of Grace. Advent will be upon us and then soon to follow will be the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. Needless to say, we are entering one of the busiest times of the year and in a very real way, this busyness begins with the two celebrations that we had this past week.

November and December are times of the year in which we spend a great deal of time with our friends and family. Sometimes, this may not be our choice (we must always remember that each family dynamic is different), but it is a time that is spent sharing meals, time and memories with those that we love.

On November 1<sup>st</sup> we celebrated the feast of All Saints. The Catholic Church throughout her history has always venerated particular men and women who have devoted themselves in service to God and His church in a very special way. But of course, the saints that are celebrated in the Church calendar are not the only men and women that have done extraordinary things in the Church. We have men and women today that are doing amazing things in the Church and there are so many others whose work goes unnoticed. So we have this day where we remember all the saints that are a part of this great cloud of witnesses that encourage us to continue on the path that one day will lead us to God.

November 2<sup>nd</sup> was the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. This day is one in which we take time to pause and reflect upon all our brothers and sisters that have been called back to be with our Lord God in heaven. We say a pray for them, that God will be merciful and welcome them into His Kingdom. We also ask that they continue to journey with us and walk with us as we continue our own earthly journeys.

These two days at the beginning of November are days that in a very real way set the tone for the busy holiday season that we are about to enter. As we make our way to Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas, let us take this time to remember those that have gone before, those whom we have made memories with and shared our lives with. Let us thank God for all who have been a part of our lives and may this spirit of love and gratitude be with us in the weeks to come!

May all the Holy Saints and Angels, pray for us!

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in eternal peace!