

# LIVING FAITH

OCTOBER 27, 2019

30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY

### Luke 18:9-14

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: 'Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income." But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner!" I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.'

## TAKING THE GOSPEL HOME

In today's Gospel, Jesus continues to teach us about prayer, and how to pray. When the Pharisee prayed, he talked about his own good deeds, boasting about them to God. When the tax collector prayed, he asked for God's mercy. One focused on himself, the other focused on God. What is Jesus trying to say to us today? Focus on God. Talk with God. Share your life, your joys and sorrows, with God. God is closer to you than your dearest or most-loved friend. God is interested. God loves you. God wants to hear what's on your mind and your heart. But... take a little time to ask God what's on God's mind, on God's heart. We pray, not to change God, but that we might be changed.

## PONDER AND DISCUSS

- What do you think prayer is?
- How do you pray?
- Where would you go to learn how to pray better?

## OCTOBER IS EXTRAORDINARY MISSION MONTH A THOUGHT AND AN ACTION FOR THE DAY

### **Sunday, October 27**

**Reflection:** No Christian is exempt from the duty of witnessing to Jesus and offering an invitation to others in our day-to-day lives. (Archbishop of Pittsburgh)

**Action:** Ensure that we do this.

### **Monday, October 28**

**Reflection:** "Behold I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come to them and eat with them, and they with me" (Rev. 3:20)

**Action:** Be conscious of God's constant presence.

### **Tuesday, October 29**

**Reflection:** "A family's living space could turn into a domestic church, a setting for the Eucharist, the presence of Christ seated at its table" (*Amoris Laetitia* 15)

**Action:** Make your home a place where Christ is welcomed in His poor.

### **Wednesday, October 30**

**Reflection:** "An evangelizing community is supportive, standing by people every step of the way no matter how difficult or lengthy this may prove to be". (*Evangelii Gaudium* 24)

**Action:** Be an evangelizing community by walking with others, especially those who are suffering.

### **Thursday, October 31**

**Reflection:** "An authentic faith, which is never comfortable or completely Personal, always involves a deep desire to change the world". (*Evangelii Gaudium* 183)

**Action:** Pay attention to news items to see those compelled to change the world.

## PRAYER FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY MISSION MONTH

Heavenly Father, when your only begotten Son Jesus Christ rose from the dead,  
he commissioned his followers to "go and make disciples of all nations"  
and you remind us that through our Baptism  
we are made sharers in the mission of the Church.

Empower us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit

to be courageous and zealous in bearing witness to the Gospel,  
so that the mission entrusted to the Church, which is still very far from completion,  
may find new and efficacious expressions that bring life and light to the world.

Help us make it possible for all peoples to experience the saving love  
and mercy of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
One God, forever and ever. Amen.



*World Mission Sunday: Thank you very much for your generous contribution to last week's World Mission Sunday collection. This support is a blessing to Bishops, Priests, Sisters, Brothers and Lay Catechists who depend on this help from the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Please continue to pray for those who serve in mission countries so that they may remain steadfast in their vocation to bring Christ's message of love to those they serve.*

View video about Extraordinary Mission Month [here](#).

# THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH CALENDAR

## THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS

### NOVEMBER 1



All Saints' Day, also known as All Hallows Day, the Feast of All Saints, or the Solemnity of All Saints, is celebrated in honour of all the saints, known and unknown.

Christian celebration of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day stems from a belief that there is a powerful spiritual bond between those in heaven (the "Church triumphant"), and the living (the "Church militant"). In Catholic theology, the day commemorates all those who have died and are with God in Heaven. It is a national holiday in many historically Catholic countries.

In the Western Christian practice, the liturgical celebration begins at Vespers on the evening of 31 October, All Hallows' Eve (All Saints' Eve), and ends at the close of 1 November. It is thus the day before All Souls' Day, which commemorates the faithful departed.

The exact origins of this celebration are uncertain. The primary reason for establishing a common feast day was because of the desire to honour the great number of martyrs in the early Church. In fact, there were so many saints that there were not enough days of the year for a feast day for each martyr and many of them died in groups.



A common feast day for all saints, therefore seemed most appropriate. Over time, the Church settled on November 1, which seemed appropriate, as this is in the late Fall, when the days grow shorter, the nights longer, and we are surrounded by signs of the dying of the year and of nature.

It was Pope Gregory VII (1073-85) who set the date for the celebration of All Saints on November 1.





## ALL SOULS DAY NOVEMBER 2 THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED



Along with the Feast of All Saints developed the Feast of All Souls. The Church has consistently encouraged the offering of prayers and Mass for the souls of the faithful departed. In the early days of the Church, the names of the faithful departed were posted in Church so that the community would remember them in prayer. Today, many parishes invite people to write the names of their beloved dead in a book which is exhibited in a place of honour throughout the month of November.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*



While All Souls Day is now paired with All Saints Day (November 1), which celebrates all of the faithful who are in Heaven, it originally was celebrated in the Easter season, around Pentecost Sunday (and still is in the Eastern Catholic Churches).

We all remember those who have gone before us, often with gratitude, and sometimes with pain. Praying for the dead is a Christian obligation. It benefits the dead, and it helps those who are still living to heal and grow, to be grateful and to be conscious that our beloved dead are very close to us, and that only a veil, as thin as gossamer, separates us from those who have gone before us and are with God.

All Saints Day



All Souls Day