

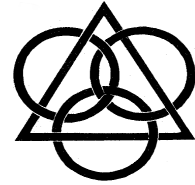


Trinity Topics

LATE OCTOBER

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ALL SAINTS' and ALL SOULS': The Church's Celebrations

All Saints' Day and **All Souls' Day** are two Feast Days that the Church celebrates in her catholic Calendar. Perhaps there is nothing pragmatic in doing so. We might be hard-pressed to explain to the rest of the world why we do this; or even to give ourselves a good reason for taking the time and making the effort to do so. To clarify this (and many other things in the Christian life), we sometimes have to think deeply about our faith if we're to understand the "what" and the "why" of things.

So in light of that, I would suggest we can learn from the prayer we pray at the conclusion of every Eucharist (the Postcommunion Prayer, p. 339). In that prayer – having received Holy Communion – we Christians give thanks to God that “we are very **members of the mystical body of (God's) Son, the blessed company of all faithful people.**” In other words, we assume certain things as we make our prayers to God and worship God in our liturgies.

We assume that God really has done something with regard to our status or place in life and in the world. By virtue of His Baptismal grace, He has made us – along with many others across space and time – to be members of “the mystical Body of His Son” – the Church. Now, that either counts for something, or it does not. But one thing that I think it counts very much for is that it puts us into a peculiar – but very real – relationship with other human souls who were Christians before we were, and who are still very much loved and cared for by God.

If we can accept and act on this assumption of our faith, then it makes good sense for the Church to have these liturgies in which she remembers and prays for all the Saints in ages past and for the Faithful Departed. It may not be pragmatic for us to take the time and make the effort to do so; but since when was pragmatism the ultimate value of a human life? (Half-hearted apologies to William James and John Dewey).

And besides, these are the people with whom we're going to spend eternity in the Kingdom of God. If we have to exercise our pragmatic bent, then wouldn't it be wise to acknowledge them and pray for them now? May the Lord be glorified in his Saints, and may the Faithful Departed rest in peace and rise in glory.

Fr. Kip

PARISH NOTES

PLEDGE PACKETS for our **2011 Pledge Campaign** were mailed on Monday, October 18. The packet contains a letter from the Wardens and Rector, a document called “Pledge Principles”, a blank Pledge Card, and a stamped return envelope.

PLEDGE SUNDAY is **Sunday, October 31**. This is the day that parishioners are asked to offer their pledge cards by putting them in the Alms Basin, to be presented to God at the Offertory (you can mail them in, but the symbolism of offering them in the Church is significant, I think). If you cannot return them by that Sunday, try to have them in on or before Sunday, November 7, the conclusion of our 2011 Pledge Campaign.

Since our last writing, and after two surgeries, **JEFF RADCLIFFE** has recovered from his bout with kidney stones. Thanks be to God! Jeff is better, but unfortunately **CHARLIE RICE** is in the hospital due to a bout with cellulitis. Please pray for Charlie’s recovery.

The **ALL SAINTS’ DAY** liturgy will be celebrated on Monday evening, November 1 at 7:00 pm at the High Altar.

ALL SOULS’ DAY - the commemoration of and prayer for the Faithful Departed - will be celebrated on Tuesday evening, November 2 at 7:00 pm at the High Altar. Prayer requests forms for the Faithful Departed are available on the table in the foyer.

THE FEAST OF ST. SIMON AND ST. JUDE will be celebrated on Thursday, October 28 at 8:30 am in the Lady Chapel.

TRINITY FELLOWSHIP FOR NOVEMBER will need to meet a week later than usual because of a conflict with our celebration of All Souls’ Day. Instead of November 2, Trinity Fellowship will meet on Tuesday, November 9 in the Parish Hall from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. All are welcome.

GUILD OF THE CHRIST CHILD - PART II

Since I last wrote about this topic, I have received some basic materials pertaining to the ministry of this Guild. In short, it looks to pay attention to the newborn and baptized children of the parish until they reach either 3 or 4 years old (or, whenever they might transition into the Church School ministry).

There are materials to be sent to the child/parents at eight different points in time:

1. As soon as possible after birth of the child
2. At child's Baptism
3. Just before first anniversary of Baptism
4. Just before second anniversary of Baptism
5. Just before the Christmas which follows second anniversary of Baptism
6. Just before third anniversary of Baptism
7. Just before the Easter following third anniversary of Baptism
8. For Pentecost following Unit 7 (above)

I think the idea is that these points provide a minimum contact that the parish has with the child; it provides a framework in which we could do more with our own, creative ideas.

I would also envision this Guild as the one who pays attention to the physical set-up and accommodations for these young Christians, and who has oversight for all of this. **The most pressing need right now is for the hiring of Nursery Attendants** (the Vestry has provided for a very good salary in the Budget, which I hope they will continue to do). There is also room for a more creative arrangement down in the Church School to accommodate the different needs of developing children (infants, crawlers, walkers, etc.)

As I said in my previous article, “this Guild could be a valuable addition to the total life of our parish, and it would enable us to minister to an age-grouping of people that we are not currently equipped to minister to very well. If we could mobilize a small group of people to dedicate themselves to this ministry, then I think it could enhance our total parish life – serving those who are already members, and structuring our parish church as an attractive possibility for newcomers.” Please let me hear from you.

Fr. Kip

UNITED THANK OFFERING

Trinity Church collected \$474.21 at the Fall Ingathering of the UTO. The Spring Ingathering will be on the 4th Sunday in Lent – April 3, 2011. “Blue Boxes” for giving thanks and collecting coins are available from the Parish Office.

**BISHOP-ELECT CONSENT
PROCESS BEGINS**

The Presiding Bishop’s Office has informed the Diocese of Springfield that the Consent Process for Bishop-Elect Daniel H. Martins will run from October 19, 2010 to February 16, 2011. Consents from a majority of the Bishops with jurisdiction and the Standing Committees of the Episcopal Church are required to proceed with Fr. Martin’s consecration to the Episcopate on March 19, 2011.

Our Prayer Book Tradition

This is traditionally referred to as the “Self-Oblation”; that is, the offering of our selves to God, in conjunction with the bread and the wine of the Eucharist.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies.

- From the Canon of the Mass,
Eucharistic Prayer II

LITURGY FOR NOVEMBER 2010

Monday, Nov. 1:

ALL SAINTS’ DAY

7:00 pm = Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, Nov. 2:

ALL SOULS’ DAY

7:00 pm = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, Nov. 3: Richard Hooker

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, Nov. 7:

24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

7:45 am = Litany & Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, Nov. 10: Leo the Great

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, Nov. 14:

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

7:45 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, Nov. 17: Hugh of Lincoln

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, Nov. 21:

Last SUN. AFTER PENTECOST

7:45 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, Nov. 24: Feria

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Saturday, Nov. 25: THANKSGIVING DAY

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Sunday, Nov. 28:

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:45 am = Holy Eucharist

10:00 am = Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, Nov. 30: ST. ANDREW

8:30 am = Holy Eucharist