What is Halloween really all about?

The term Halloween comes from All Hallows Eve. A 'hallow' is a saint, and therefore this celebration is the anticipation of All Saints' Day (also known historically as Allhallowmas), which is always celebrated on November 1. The purpose of All Hallows' Eve is to prepare ourselves for All Saints' Day (much in the way that Christmas Eve is meant to help us, in a special way, prepare for Christmas). You can help prepare yourself in several ways: prayer, prayerful devotion, and attending a prayer vigil held at your local parish or Catholic cemetery (and celebrating with a bit of free candy doesn’t hurt, too). But what are we preparing for? What is All Saints’ Day really all about?

All Saints’ Day is a joyful celebration in honour of all the saints, known and unknown. We believe there is a prayerful spiritual bond between those in heaven and those living on earth. You can celebrate this bountiful day by attending Mass, reconnecting with one or two of your favorite saints in prayer, learning about a new saint, and also by the regular way we celebrate – with good food and loving relationships around all you.

All Saints’ Day is always followed by All Souls’ Day, also known as The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (the third day of the Hallowtide Triduum), which is November 2nd. This is a day of prayer for those who have died. Catholics are encouraged to visit one of their local Catholic cemeteries to pray for the dead, to remember them, and to give thanks. An All Souls’ Day Mass is often celebrated at your local parish or Catholic cemetery.

Are GHOSTS REAL?

This is a difficult and mysterious question to answer, and the Catholic Church has not articulated a definitive position on it, but Fr. Gabriele Amorth, who was the full-time exorcist of the Diocese of Rome for over thirty years, says this: “There are no good spirits other than angels; there are no evil spirits other than demons. . . . God allows a [human] soul to return to earth even in very rare, exceptional cases, but we recognize that this subject is still full of unknowns.”

Several of these exceptional cases have been documented, many of which appear in The Life. For example, a case of Joseph Nicholas of Tolentine, for example, provides several examples, such as the following:

On a particular Saturday night as Nicholas lay down to sleep, he heard the voice of St. Pellegrino of Osimo, a deceased friar whom he had known personally. The friar revealed to Nicholas that he was in purgatory and he begged Nicholas to offer Mass and pray for his soul and the many other Holy Souls who were there to be set free. For a whole week Nicholas every day followed this request and was rewarded with second visions of St. Pellegrino who gave thanks and assured Nicholas that a great deal of souls were now enjoying the heavenly presence of God through his prayers.

Welcome to St. Ann's Parish

Our Vision Statement: to be a Christ-centered community of missionary disciples.

Our Mission Statement: to work and pray to be a welcoming, Eucharistic community that spreads the good news of Christ. We each strive to share our gifts within and beyond the parish for the glory of God.