

FROM FATHER DAVE, PASTOR

Did you ever stop to consider just how much the Saints are in our lives? For example, some of us are named after a saint. Parishes and schools are known by Saints names. Some of our Pittsburgh streets especially on the Southside are known by Saints names. Some cities across the world derive their name from a Saint. There is even a National Football League Team named after the Saints. Beyond the names, there are the images of Saints that abound found in statues, sculptures and paintings. Some even have images and names of Saints emblazoned on jewelry. Indeed, Saints fill our lives.

The Saints hold a special place in our Christian, Catholic Tradition, most especially the Sacred Liturgy. In fact, there are three times that we can refer to them in the Mass. First, in the Confiteor, "I Confess," we "ask the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the angels and Saints to pray for me to the Lord our God." In the Profession of Faith, when we use the Apostles Creed, we acknowledge our belief in "the communion of the Saints." Finally, in the Eucharistic Prayer the celebrant will invoke the name of the parish patron Saint, the Saint of the day and if it is Eucharistic Prayer I, other Saints are mentioned as well. At the Easter Vigil and at baptisms we typically pray the Litany of Saints.

While today we begin the 31st Week in Ordinary Time, we nonetheless celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints. What is it about these men and women that makes them so popular? There are many answers to this question. The Word of God today helps us to address this question. The author of Revelation in the first reading tells us that these Saints "are the ones who survived the time of great distress. In the second reading Saint John points out to us that the Saints are "children of God" who see God as he is. Finally, in light of the gospel of the Beatitudes, Jesus would tell us that the Saints are the ones who embraced the Beatitudes who now claim their great reward in heaven.

Perhaps the best description of the Saints come from the Preface, that is, the prayer before the Holy, Holy. In the Preface for All Saints we hear the priest say, "By their way of life you offer us an example, by communion with them you give us companionship, by their intercession, sure support, so that, encouraged by so great a cloud of witnesses, we may run as victors in the race before us and win with them the imperishable crown of glory, through Christ our Lord."

The Saints are for us an "example," "companions" and "witnesses." The Saints are also intercessors who are always ready to plead our cause and case before God. They were close to God on earth and are ever so close to him in his Kingdom. The Saints surround us at Holy Mass and are always present to intercede for us. Saints of God, come to our aid. Pray for us!

Today is a Solemnity, so be sure to celebrate with your immediate family. Happy All Saints Day!

Monday, November 2, is the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed otherwise known as All Souls Day. There will be two Masses on this day. In order that no one will need to be turned away due to the restrictions in capacity, both Masses will be celebrated outdoors. The **8:00 a.m. Mass** will be in the parking lot of Saint Alexis campus. There will also be a **6:30 p.m. Mass** in the parking lot of Saint Alphonsus.

Bishop Zubik has asked all parishes to have Eucharistic Adoration the day before the general election. To that end, we will have Eucharistic Adoration in Saint Alexis Church on **Monday, November 2, from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Capacity will be limited to 90 individuals, please sign up at: <https://bit.ly/3oxH8ck>. Adorers will be asked to mark the space in which they sat with the notices at the end of each pew so that it can be cleaned.

If you have not done so already, be sure to vote!

Bishop Zubik has relaxed some of the restrictions for the distribution of Holy Communion to the Sick and Homebound contingent on the fact that all ministers are trained in the protocols and procedures during this time of pandemic. If you are an Extraordinary Minister and wish to begin functioning again, please email the Parish Center at parish@saintaidanparish.org or call 724.935.4343, so that we can begin a process of retraining.

The Annual Mass of Remembrance for families who buried a loved one from Saint Alphonsus Parish, Saint Alexis Parish or Saint Aidan Parish will take place privately this week. Families were invited and signed up to one of two possible Masses. A candle will be lit in their memory and the names of the deceased will be called out in remembrance.

Don't forget that in anticipation of Christmas, the Masses of which will be outdoors, we are hoping to light up both sites with electric luminaria. Each light will represent a family in our parish. Starting **Wednesday, November 4**, you are welcome to be a part of this endeavor. To offset the cost of a luminaria and have your family name listed in the bulletin and listed on the website, simply go online to our website homepage and click the link to give us your family name and you can make your donation of \$10.00. We will also have forms in the vestibule of the Parish Center offices. We not only want to light up our community in what is a dark time but we also want to give recognition to "the first Church" of the family. When our church buildings closed, the domestic Church continued to be open and light the way for all of us. For more information, call or email mependel@saintaidanparish.org.

Finally, we are beginning a process of cleaning out the old Saint Alexis Church. If you are interested in having one of the old pews, please call the Parish Center. Have a wonderful week!