Wellspring
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November 2, 2026

Brothers and Sisters,

Today is All Souls' Day, a day set aside for us to remember the Faithful Departed. The Church has a rich tradition of remembering those who have gone before us and continues to challenge us to remain faithful in living the Gospel. Many Christians visit cemeteries where their loved ones are buried. Some cemeteries offer candles to be placed on these graves. The candles are blessed and marked with the names of the deceased to be placed at the designated grave sites. The Catholic Church remembers deceased members of the local parish community on this day.

All Souls' Day was first instituted at the monastery in Cluny in 993 AD and quickly spread throughout the Christian world. People held festivals for the dead long before Christianity. It was Saint Odilo, the abbot of Cluny in France, who in the 10th century, proposed that the day after All Saints' Day be set aside to honor all the departed and not just recognized as saints. Although All Souls' Day is observed informally by some Protestants, it is primarily a Roman Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox holy day.

The month of November, Christian communities throughout the world remember those who are no longer with us. We remember in hope and in faith and with much love because we know that the death of those we love is not the end of their story or the story of our relationship with them. Death is not the end of life or the opposite of life. It is a doorway, a threshold into the eternal - the fulness of life, love, and joy that Jesus came to bring us.

The good news of Jesus Christ, once dead on the cross, and now alive with glory offers us the strength, the hope and the grace to live through the pain of our loss. We continue our journey of life in the firm and certain hope that God has prepared for our loved ones, and for us too, a dwelling place with him, a welcome table with all who love him, where we will celebrate our communion with the saints of God. Every Sunday, we make our profession of faith in "the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting." This is the reason for remembering and celebrating the memory of our loved ones.

Let us take a few moments each day of this week to remember our loved ones, in spirit and prayer. Let their memory bless us and challenge us to live lives of faith, hope and love.

God bless you and your family and keep you safe in His Love.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

Thirty-first Week in Ordinary Time
November 2 – 7, 2026

The feasts of All Saints and All Souls are "days of hope."
The virtue of "hope" is like a bit of leaven that enlarges your soul.
There are difficult moments in life, but with hope you go forward
and keep your eyes on what awaits us. Today is a day of hope;
our brothers and sisters are in the presence of God,
and we, too, will be there in the Lord's arms if we follow the path of Jesus.
(Pope Francis November 1, 2013)

November 2 – All Souls Day

Keep your mind and heart clean and pure
and you will find peace and serenity.

Wisdom 3:1-9

This excerpt from the Book of Wisdom reminds us that those whom we remember in prayer today are in the hands of God. The quality of their future depends on how they have lived their lives and not on their accomplishments. But they are in the hands of a loving God. They have entered into a new life with God.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
He refreshes my soul.

Romans 6:3-9

Paul reminds us that the life we long to live has already begun in our baptism. In baptism, we are immersed into the death and resurrection of Jesus…we die with him so as to rise to a new life with him…. we walk in the newness of life with him. To walk with Christ means to emulate his character, his virtues, his lifestyle…to live the way he lived and die the way he died, giving himself totally in love. Paul calls us today to reflect on how we have been walking with Christ.

John 6:37-40

Jesus had fed five thousand men with five loaves and a couple of fish. He, then invited them to believe in him and in believing, have eternal life. He said to them that it was God's will that all should inherit eternal life. He affirmed that it was to do God's will that he came from heaven; that it was God's will that he should not lose anything that had been given to him; that it was God's will that all who believe in him should have eternal life. Believers in Jesus are offered a share in eternal life.

Saint of the Day, November 2 - All Souls' Day

All Souls' Day is dedicated to prayers for the dead. Many western churches annually observe All Souls' Day on November 2 and many eastern churches celebrate it prior to Lent and the day before Pentecost. Many Christians visit cemeteries where their loved ones are buried. Some cemeteries offer candles to be placed on these graves. The candles are blessed and marked with the names of the deceased to be placed at the designated grave sites. The Catholic Church remembers deceased members of the congregation on this day.

All Souls' Day was first instituted at the monastery in Cluny in 993 AD and quickly spread throughout the Christian world. People held festivals for the dead long before Christianity. It was Saint Odilo, the abbot of Cluny in France, who in the 10th century, proposed that the day after All Saints' Day be set aside to honor all the departed and not just recognized as saints. Although All Souls' Day is observed informally by some Protestants, it is primarily a Roman Catholic, Anglican and Orthodox holy day.

Our love and service and prayer are our blessing for those
who have gone before us and their love
and life are their blessing for us who are still on the journey.

November 3 - Tuesday, Thirty First Week in Ordinary Time

Peace and serenity are present right here and now, in ourselves and in everything we do and see. We need only to be awake, and alive in the present moment.
(Thich Nhat Hanh)

Philippians 2:5-11

We continue to read and reflect on the ancient Christian hymn which calls all Christians to empty themselves in compassion and love. Paul invited the Philippians, and he invites us today

to be imitators of Christ, to nurture the mentality of Christ, to make the mind and heart of Christ our own. The mentality of Christ, the spirit with which he lived was one of total giving, emptying himself for all in total surrender to the will of his father. Ordinarily, everything in us, human beings, tend to move toward accomplishments, achievements and fulfillment and the way of the world is toward self-fulfillment. The disciples of Jesus are called to empty themselves for others in love and service.

Give yourself to each other in love and service!

Psalm 22

I will fulfill my vows before those who fear him.
The lowly shall eat their fill;
They who seek the Lord shall praise him:
May your heart be ever merry!

Luke 14:15-24

Jesus had just taught his listeners to be generous and gracious in giving and in showing hospitality. He challenged them to give generously to those who are unable to return the favor, the cripples, the lame, the beggars and the poor. Jesus told them a parable about a man who invited many to a large dinner party. Those who were invited refused to attend at the last minute because they had business interests, care of property and affairs of marriage getting in the way of participating in the banquet. Finally, only the poor and the marginalized got to participate and enjoy the dinner.

Learn to free yourself from those things that get in the way of your participation in feast of God's kingdom! Reflect on some of the modern-day (present-day) excuses people make for not participating at the Lord's "Table"? What are your personal excuses?

Saint of the Day, November 3 - St. Martin de Porres and 22 other saints are remembered this day.

Martin was born in Lima, Peru on December 9, 1579. His mother was black and his father was a wealthy Spanish noble who abandoned his wife and two children. Martin, his sister and his mother lived in poverty during the early years of their lives. At the age of 12, Martin became a barber. Barbers of those days did more than cut hair. They set broken bones, dressed wounds, prescribed healing herbs, etc. They were healers of body as well as troubled minds.

Martin won the trust of people and became a helper at the Dominican monastery. Some felt that he shouldn't be in the monastery because he was black and others encouraged him because of his knowledge and kindness. At the age of 24, he became a Dominican brother and

spent his life caring for the poor, the sick, the homeless and the helpless. He had a deep reverence for birds, animals, trees and all of God's creation. He died on November 3, 1639, in Lima, Peru. Let us draw inspiration from the humble and self-sacrificing life of Martin.

November 4 - Wednesday, Thirty First Week in Ordinary Time

Every breath we take, every step we take, can be filled with peace, joy, and serenity. We need only to be awake, alive in the present moment.
(Thich Nhat Hanh)

Philippians 2:12-18

Paul encouraged the Philippians to be faithful even in his absence. He taught them to be "innocent, straightforward, children of God beyond reproach…holding fast to the word of life". He encouraged them to rejoice in their calling.

Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation,
Whom should I fear?
The Lord is my life's refuge, Of whom should I be afraid?
One thing I ask of the Lord, this I seek:
to dwell in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life.

Luke 14:25-33

Jesus spoke to his followers about the cost of discipleship with startling honesty. Being a disciple could mean division, separation even from loved ones because loyalty to Christ has to take precedence over the dearest loyalties of this world.

To choose Christ could mean denial of other things and other loyalties! The disciple must be ready to take up the cross, to be regarded as a criminal and to die without glory or fame or name or wealth.

Be prepared to welcome and accept the pain and the loss that come with being faithful to your call.

Invest yourself into loving God and God's people!

Saint of the Day, November 4 - Saint Charles Borromeo and 13 other saints are remembered this day.

Saint Charles Borromeo was born on October 2, 1538, at the castle of Arona near Milan. His father was the Count of Arona and his mother a member of the House of Medici. At the age of 12, the young Count Charles Borromeo dedicated himself to a life of service to the Church. His uncle gave to him the family income from the Benedictine abbey of Saints Gratinian and Felinus. Even as a youth, his integrity was obvious. He was explicit in telling his father that he could only keep the money required for his education and to prepare him for service to the Church. All other funds belonged to the poor of the Church and were to be passed along to them.

Charles suffered from a speech impediment that made him appear slow to those who did not know him. Despite this challenge, he performed well and impressed his teachers. He attended the University of Pavia and learned Latin. He was praised because he was hardworking and thorough. In 1554 his father passed away and although Charles was a teenager, responsibility for his household fell to him. Charles continued in his studies and earned a doctorate in canon and civil law.

His uncle, Cardinal Giovanni Angelo Medici became Pope Pius IV on December 25, 1559. The new pope asked his nephew to come to Rome and appointed him as a cardinal-deacon. With the rank came the job of assisting and advising his uncle full-time. A month later, Pope Pius IV made his nephew a cardinal. With the new rank came even more duties including the government of the Papal States, the supervision of the Knights of Malta, the Franciscans, and the Carmelites. He was only 23 years old. Borromeo was appointed administrator of the Archdiocese of Milan in 1560. Since he would become the ecclesiastical administrator of Milan, he decided that the Lord was calling him to the priesthood.

In 1562 his brother died, and his family urged him to leave the service of the church to preserve the family name, but he refused. He became more insistent upon becoming a good bishop and in compelling others to lead exemplary lives of clerical service. Borromeo was ordained first to the order of deacon. Then, he was ordained to the holy priesthood on September 4, 1563. Then, he was ordained as a bishop on December 7, 1563. He became Archbishop of Milan on May 12, 1564. The Protestant Reformation was spreading throughout northern Europe and constantly threatened to move south. The greatest defense against Protestant doctrinal errors and claims against the hierarchy of the Catholic Church was reform and the restoration of integrity to the Catholic Church. Archbishop Borromeo saw this clearly and he made this his mission.

His strategy was to provide education to many clergy he saw as ignorant. He founded schools and seminaries and colleges for clergy. He also ended the selling of indulgences, a form of simony, and ordered monasteries to reform themselves. His work of cleaning up the Church also made him enemies. On one occasion a member of a small, decrepit order known as the

"Humiliati" attempted to assassinate him with a pistol but missed. In 1576 a famine struck Milan followed by the plague, and many of the wealthy and powerful fled the city. Archbishop Borromeo remained. He used his own fortune to feed the starving people. When that money was spent, he took loans and went deep into debt. He may have fed 70,000 people per day. Eventually, the Archbishop convinced the local governor to return to his post and care for the people.

In 1583, Archbishop Borromeo traveled to Switzerland and began the work of suppressing heresy there. Protestant heresies, along with witchcraft and sorcery had been widely reported. He founded the Collegium Helveticum to serve and educate Swiss Catholics. Eventually, the Archbishop's life of work and toil began to take its toll. In 1584, he became ill with a fever. He returned to Milan where his condition worsened. When it became obvious that he would die, he was given his last Sacraments. He died on November 3, at the age of 46. He was canonized by Pope Paul V on November 1, 1610.

November 5 – Thursday, Thirty First Week in Ordinary Time

Learn silence. With the quiet serenity of a meditative mind,
listen, absorb, transcribe, and transform.
(Pythagoras)

Philippians 3:3-8

Paul insisted that the real circumcision was not a mark in the flesh; it is true worship, true confidence in the Grace of God in Jesus. So it is Christians and not Jews who are truly circumcised. He claimed that he was circumcised in the flesh, was a true Israelite of the tribe of Benjamin, born of Hebrew parents and now a Christian and so he is truly circumcised in all the sense of the term. However, Paul claimed that the only gain for him was his knowledge of Jesus Christ and everything else a loss in light of Christ.

Psalm 105

Sing to him, sing his praise,
Proclaim all his wondrous deeds.
Glory in his holy name;
Rejoice, O hearts that seek the Lord!

Luke 15:1-10

Jesus was accused of being in the company of sinners. He told them the parable of the lost sheep. Even one single sheep is precious. The loss of that single sheep is great. The joy of discovering the lost is even greater!

Jesus told them another parable about a woman who diligently searched for a lost coin. The loss of a single coin calls for diligent search because it is precious (not just any coin)! Re-discovery of the lost precious coin calls for great rejoicing! **So will it be with the re-discovery of every person……the heavens rejoice!**

You are not just "another" in tens or hundreds or thousands or millions - you just are! And as you are, you are precious in the eyes of God! Great is the loss if you are lost because you are not just one in a million! You just are one unique, precious person! Greater is the joy of your discovery! Even the angels rejoice!

Saint of the Day, November 5 - St. Elizabeth and 15 other saints are remembered this day.

What we know of St. Elizabeth comes from the Gospel of Luke. Elizabeth, a daughter of the line of Aaron, and the wife of Zacharias, was "righteous before God" and was "blameless" but childless. Elizabeth is also a cousin to the Virgin Mary. Zachariah, desiring a child, went to pray in the temple and was told by the angel Gabriel not to be afraid because the Lord has heard his prayer. The Angel assured him that Elizabeth would bear a son to be named John (Luke 1:13-15). Zachariah was skeptical because both himself and his wife were elderly. For his skepticism, Zachariah was rendered mute until the prophecy had been fulfilled.

Elizabeth became pregnant shortly thereafter and she rejoiced. Gabriel then visited the Virgin Mary at Nazareth, telling her that she would conceive of the Holy Spirit and become the mother of Jesus. Mary then visited Elizabeth, and her baby leapt in her womb for joy (Luke 1:41-45). Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months and returned home. Elizabeth gave birth to a son and named him John. Although Elizabeth's neighbors assumed the child would be named Zachariah, her husband insisted that his name should be John. At the moment Zachariah insisted that his son should be named John, and his speech returned. After this, there is no more mention in the Bible about Elizabeth.

November 6 – Friday, Thirty-first Week in Ordinary Time

Peace is the simplicity of heart, serenity of mind, tranquility of soul, the bond of love.
(Pio of Pietrelcina)

Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

Paul invited the Philippians to be fellow imitators of Christ. He also encouraged them to be aware of those whose lives were scandalous and not follow them because "our citizenship is in heaven". Paul was saying to them that they must never forget that they are citizens of heaven and that their conduct must match their citizenship.

Remember who you are! You are fellow citizens with the saints! Be faithful to your calling!

He instructed them to "stand fast in the Lord". The meaning of "Stand Fast" as Paul uses is like the soldier "standing fast" in battle with the enemy surging down upon him.

Be strong! Stand fast in the Lord! Be rooted and growing in the Lord!

Psalm 122

I rejoiced because they said to me,
"We will go up to the house of the Lord."
And now we have set foot
within your gate, O Jerusalem.

Luke 16:1-8

Jesus told them the parable of an enterprising manager who was about to be dismissed. The manager used his "practical (economic) wisdom" to deal with the crisis of being fired from his job. His employer praised him for being enterprising and Jesus held him out as an example to his disciples - not because he abused his employer's wealth, but because he used his wisdom to gain friends for himself for a future time of need.

Then Jesus called his disciples to higher values. He called them to use material possessions to build relationships, friendships, fellowship, and communion with others. He called them to be honest and trustworthy in all relationships, even in dealing with material things. He called them to be honest in using material things, which are God's gifts. All possessions are God's gifts for the good of the community.

You cannot serve both God and possessions. We are at the service of God and possessions are at our service.

Saint of the Day, November 6 - St. Nicholas Tavelic and Companions and 19 other saints are remembered this day

St. Nicholas Tavelic and his three companions were martyred in the Holy Land in 1391. Nicholas and his three companions are among the 158 Franciscans who have been martyred in the Holy Land since the friars became custodians of the shrines in 1335. Nicholas was born in 1340 to a wealthy and noble family in Croatia. He joined the Franciscans and was sent with Deodat of Rodez to preach in Bosnia. In 1384, they volunteered for the Holy Land missions and were sent there. They looked after the holy places, cared for the Christian pilgrims, and studied Arabic.

In 1391, Nicholas, Deodat, Peter of Narbonne, and Stephen of Cuneo decided to take a direct approach to converting the Muslims. On November 11, they went to the huge Mosque of Omar in Jerusalem and asked to see the Qadix - Muslim official. Reading from a prepared statement, they said that all people must accept the gospel of Jesus.

When they were ordered to retract their statement, they refused. After beatings and imprisonment, they were beheaded before a large crowd. While their method of evangelization is different from what we would use today, their zeal and courage are evident in their actions Nicholas and his companions were canonized in 1970. They are the only Franciscans martyred in the Holy Land to be canonized.

November 7 – Saturday, Thirty First Week in Ordinary Time

Serenity comes when you trade expectations for acceptance.

(Gautama Buddha)

Philippians 4:10-19

In this excerpt, we read about Paul expressing his gratitude for the support that the Philippian community gave him because of their concern for hum. What he appreciates is their concern and thoughtfulness. He tells them that he knew what it meant to be content and to be in want. While the rest of the world sought to be self-sufficient, Paul sought to be God-sufficient. Paul could face anything because he had Christ in every situation.

The person who walks with Christ can cope with anything. Learn to walk with Christ.

Psalm 112

Happy the man, who fears the Lord,
who greatly delights in his commands.
His posterity shall be mighty upon the earth;
The upright generation shall be blessed.

Luke 16:9-15

Jesus taught his disciples to use material possessions to build relationships, to seal and cement friendships. He taught them to be honest and trustworthy in all relationships, even in dealing with material things.

A man's true wealth consists not in what he kept, but in what he gave away.

Jesus taught them to be faithful, even to the smallest details of commitments. A man's way of fulfilling small tasks is a sure sign of his being trustworthy. God has trusted you with many gifts. Be worthy of his trust.

Jesus taught them that serving God cannot be a part time job. All our energies are to be directed to the service of God.

Saint of the day, November 7 - St. Didacus & 18 other saints are remembered this day.

Didacus of Alcalá, also known as Diego de San Nicolás, was a Spanish Franciscan lay brother who was among the first group of missionaries to the newly conquered Canary Islands. Didacus was born c. 1400 into a poor but pious family in the small village of San Nicolás del Puerto in the Kingdom of Seville. Near that town a holy priest led a hermit's life. Didacus obtained his consent to live with him and, though very young, imitated the austerities and devotions of his master. They cultivated together a little garden, and also employed themselves in making wooden spoons, trenchers and similar utensils. After having lived a hermit's life for some time, he returned to his home, but he, soon after, went to a convent of the Observant Friar Minors at Arrizafa, and there took the habit among the lay brothers.

After his profession he was sent to the mission of his Order in the Canary Islands, where he did a great work in instructing and converting the people. He served as chief guardian of the community of Friars, care of the sick Friars, etc. In 1463 he was taken ill died at Alcalá de Henares on 12 November 1463 and was canonized in 1588. San Diego, California, is named after this Franciscan

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

You cannot be half a saint;
you must be a whole saint or no saint at all.
(St. Therese of Lisieux.)