



The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them.... [T]hey are in peace.

WISDOM 3:1, 3

The Great Halloween Mistress

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

One Halloween, the lady who lived in the big white house down the block gave out bottles of Coke for trick-or-treat. Not 6-ouncers, not 10-ouncers, but 12-ouncers! I remember going up to her door like we did at every other house, stomping up the steps, ringing the bell and waiting, then yelling, “Trick or treat!” for a piece of penny candy as the door opened. Instead, our eyes widened with disbelief as we gasped, “Wow! A bottle of Coke! Gee, thanks a lot.” I remember her smile and the look of delight in her eyes at making some scraggly neighborhood kids so excited. Before long, word got out among that night’s goblins and saints. Kids I had never seen before, kids from neighboring communities, all came streaming in, and she gave each of them a bottle of Coke. To me, it was unbelievable—such generosity. That year, nobody

dared “trick” her house. We made sure. Among us kids, such generosity did not go unrewarded.

On All Souls’ Day, we remember those who have died, and we remember them with an awareness of the need we all have for God’s mercy. Sometimes, I think that God is like that woman who lived in the big white house down the block. God is the Great Halloween Mistress. We come to her, armed with our tricks to get what we want, and she disarms us with her unbelievable generosity—the greatest “treater” of all time. God gives us everything undeserved—the most generous treats ever, all year round. ●

Reflect

What experiences of God’s generous blessings have I known? Have I taken any for granted?

Dear Padre,

Do we pray for the dead on All Souls' Day for what we can do for them, or for what they can do for us?

On All Souls' Day, the Church celebrates the one body in Christ that unites its members on earth, in purgatory, and in heaven. For more than a thousand years, we've commemorated this transcendent bond on the second day of November, whether at Mass, in a cemetery, or on a home altar to the faithful departed. This bond of companionship between the living and deceased is

so vital to our spiritual well-being that All Souls' Day is celebrated even when November 2 falls on a Sunday.

Because Catholics are in communion with one another through an active relationship that transcends death, our prayers, Masses, sacrifices, and works of charity can be offered up on behalf of the deceased. (See 2 Maccabees 12:38–46.) Souls that get to heaven, in turn, offer their prayers on behalf of the living. Thus, our assistance to the deceased, and their intercession for us, is mutually beneficial! “A perennial link of charity exists between the faithful who have already reached their heavenly home, those who are expiating their sins in purgatory, and those who are still pilgrims on earth. Between them there is, too, an abundant exchange of all good things” (*Indulgentiarum Doctrina*, 5; *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1475, 954-955, 962). May perpetual light shine upon the souls of the faithful departed. ●



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A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In a world wounded by violence and conflict... I am convinced that if we are...free from ideological and political conditioning, we can be effective in saying “no” to war and “yes” to peace, “no” to the arms race and “yes” to disarmament, “no” to an economy that impoverishes peoples and the Earth and “yes” to integral development.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 19, 2025

Monday

November 3

Weekday

Rom 11:29–36

Lk 14:12–14

Tuesday

November 4

St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop

Rom 12:5–16b

Lk 14:15–24

Wednesday

November 5

Weekday

Rom 13:8–10

Lk 14:25–33

Thursday

November 6

Weekday

Rom 14:7–12

Lk 15:1–10

Friday

November 7

Weekday

Rom 15:14–21

Lk 16:1–8

Saturday

November 8

Weekday

Rom 16:3–9, 16, 22–27

Lk 16:9–15

Sunday

November 9

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Ez 47:1–2, 8–9, 12

1 Cor 3:9c–11, 16–17

Jn 2:13–22