

October 28, 2018

## ***From Fr. Jim . . .***



**Feast of all Saints** is Thursday, November 1. This is a Holy Day that all the faithful are expected to attend. I say this only because I know it gets confusing for some people to remember what obligatory Holy Days are and what are not. Our Bishops dispense us from the obligation of attending Mass on Holy Days only when the Holy day falls on a Saturday or a Monday. This is done primarily out of courtesy to the growing difficulty for priests, musicians and the faithful to attend two major masses within twenty-four hours of each other and pray them well. When full schedules for both the Sunday and the Holy Days are kept then it is quite possible that priests and musicians could be attending six or more masses and it can put the faithful in a very uncomfortable position of having to choose which feast or mass they will attend if they are unable to go to two masses within twenty-four hours.

The Holy Days of Christmas and the Immaculate Conception are exceptions. The faithful are always expected to attend Mass on these days regardless of what day of the week they are to be celebrated. The church puts special emphasis and importance on these days because the Feast of the Immaculate Conception is the National Feast Day for our country and Christmas needs no explanation. When the obligation to attend mass is dispensed, the faithful are still invited to gather to celebrate Eucharist on that day and opportunities should be available for them to do so but there would be no need for a full schedule of masses.

The feast of All Saints is a wonderful time for the faithful to gather together at the tables of Word and Eucharist to give thanks to God for the great sharing in the life of God that God offers to all of us. The life of God and our sharing in it, is made visible in the life of the saints both the official saints named and listed by the church throughout the ages and still being named and listed today and the unofficial saints of all the baptized who have been called to live their lives in holiness and grace through this world to the next one.

This truly is a festival day for all of us and can there be a better way for us to celebrate than to gather as the Body of Christ and pray the Eucharistic Liturgy? It could make us want to ask why an obligation to attend mass is even needed. From this perspective, like our birthdays, we would want to celebrate in some way. Wouldn't we? Please join us for The Feast of All Saints, Thursday, November 1, 2018, 7pm.

**Feast of All Souls (The Faithful Departed)** This Feast is Friday, November 2. It is not a Holy Day. However, I will be having Mass at 7pm At Our Lady of Visitation and everyone is most welcome to attend. Please remember that there is a book of names of the faithful departed for whom we are praying. This book is on a table in the back of St. Leo's Church. If you have been praying for a deceased family member or friend and have not included their name in this book, now would be a good time to do so. We remember all those who have gone before us. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.