

Catholic Identity

Saints are holy people whose love for God is stronger than their love for anything or anyone else. All the Saints loved and served God in everything they did. They knew they needed grace to help them follow Jesus. The Saints lived holy lives on Earth. Now they live with God in Heaven. We are all called to be saints.

NOVEMBER 1

ALL SAINTS' DAY

This feast day grew out of the love and devotion of God's people. It is so much a part of ourselves to feel gratitude for and to honor the saints. We mean *all* of the women, men and children who have died and are now in heaven.

Some passed through purgatory to be purified for the Lord's presence. They stayed until the moment when they were ready to see God. They are with him now forever. Some saints have been singled out for their own feast day. The Church offers their witness of heroic, joyful lives for Jesus. But there aren't enough days of the year to fit all the countless saints who walked through this life witnessing to Jesus.

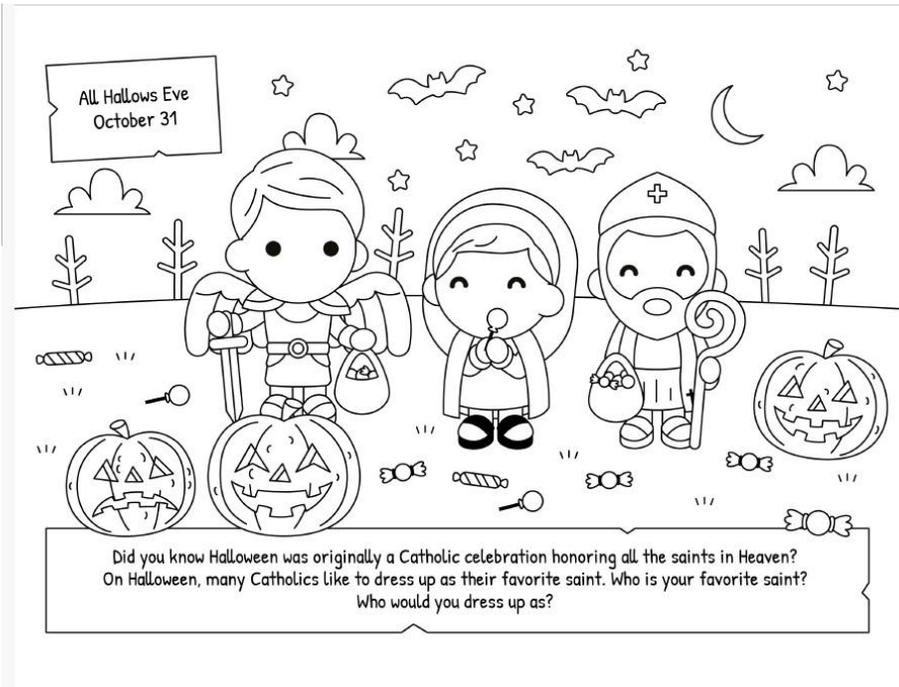
Some kept close to the Lord all their lives. Others found him along the way. Some led good lives without major difficulties. Others made big mistakes, but found the Lord on the road of repentance and genuine sorrow.

They made it! We celebrate their journey that led to eternal happiness with God. We celebrate our own family members, relatives, neighbors and friends whom we believe to be in heaven.

Today we can rejoice in our hearts with all the saints in heaven. We can make up our own prayer to them, thanking them for the witness of their lives. We can thank them, too, for helping us overcome our difficulties and temptations. We ask them to help us on our own journey through life.



Did you know Heaven is like a big party? Jesus calls it a wedding feast and he has already sent you an invitation. On November 1st, we have a special holiday to celebrate all the saints who have made it to Heaven and are waiting for us. Do you want to go?



Halloween

All Saints' Day (the Solemnity of All Saints) is celebrated on November 1st in honor of all known and unknown saints. An older name for this solemnity is *All Hallows*—*hallows* meaning *saints* or *holy people*.

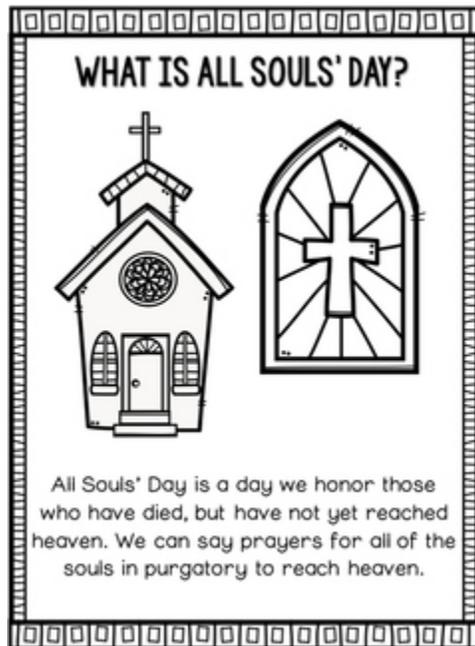
The day before *All Hallows* (November 1) is *All Hallows' Eve* (October 31). Over time, *All Hallows Eve* became *Halloween*.

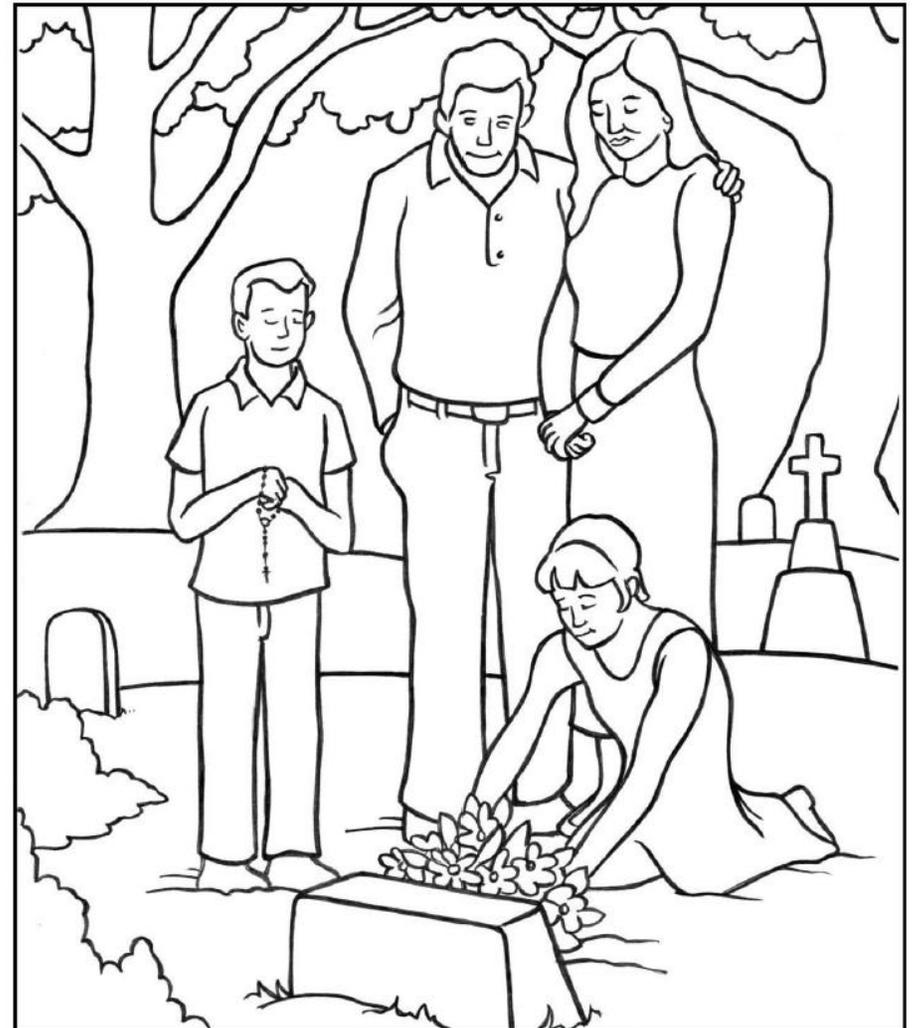
The British and Irish had a custom called souling where the poor would go door-to-door and ask for baked pastries called “soul cakes.” In exchange, prayers would be said for the dead of that household. The custom is credited with being the origin of trick-or-treating.

Our customs of skeletons and scary things on Halloween reminds us that we will die and we need to prepare for that day so that we can be among the saints in heaven. The scary things can also remind us that God is stronger than those scary things. Remember to pray for the households who give you treats on Halloween.

All Souls Day

November 2 is All Souls Day, also called the Day of the dead. It is the day that we remember and pray for our family members who have died and all the souls who maybe haven't made it to Heaven yet and are waiting in Purgatory. Many places have traditions to honor the dead. Do you do anything special to honor them?





V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
R. And let the perpetual light shine upon them.
And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.
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