



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?



St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29th of January 1928.
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.

Address: 45 Somerset Road, Sandys MA 03, Bermuda
or
P.O. Box MA 05, Mangrove Bay, Sandys MABX, Bermuda.
Telephone: (441) 234-2321
Email: stjosephbermuda@gmail.com

PASTOR: FR. JACOB SWAPAN GOMES
(441) 292-0607 Ext. 5
(441) 704-1874 (cell)



Mass Schedule

Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Baptism	By appointment: one month in advance
Weddings	By date: one year in advance (approx.)
Sacrament of Reconciliation	By appointment
Filipino Mass – Saturday 11:00 a.m.	15th November 2025
Kids & Youth Ministry	2nd November 2025
Children's Mass	23rd November 2025
Pastoral & Finance Council	TBA
Coffee Social	23rd November 2025
Second Collection	Second weekend of the Month

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA
Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiewak
www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

Parish Team Leaders

Mrs. Elizabeth Card – Pastoral Council Chairperson	Mrs. Annette Barclay St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative
Walette Cross Stewardship Representative	Natalia Walker & Justin Tavares Religious Education Kids & Youth Ministry
Mrs. Mary Harvey - Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader	Mrs. Jane Farge - Music Ministry



Entrance:	Shepherd of Souls	#808
Offertory:	In Every Age	#696
Communion:	Only in God	#679
Recessional:	For All the Saints	#504



Leader of Song: Aidan Stones

The St. Joseph's Parish family takes this opportunity to thank you for coming to worship with us today. May the loving Lord always be with you, and with your families.



Sunday – 9th November 2025

Proclaimer of God's Word
Opening/Closing of the Church
Eucharistic Minister
Collection Counters
Altar Server
Music

Elizabeth Card
Annette Barclay
Joanne Smith
Simon & Mary Stones
Seamus Stones
Jane Farge

Prayers: Please keep our **sick and shut-ins** in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Andrew Card, Eleanor Correia and Mary Maybury.

MASS INTENTIONS:
Saturday, 1st November ***John, Louise & Richard Card**
Sunday, 2nd November ***John & Lucy Moffat**

ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

MASS	Attendees	Collection
Saturday 25 th October - 4:00 p.m.	7	10.00
Sunday 2 th October - 9:00 a.m.		368.00
Donation for rental of Parish Centre		150.00
TOTAL:		\$528.00

Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated. Banking information: St. Joseph's Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100 – Bank NT Butterfield

BIRTHDAYS

Ana Frois (Pereira) **2nd November**
Olga Garcia **3rd November**
May God, our loving heavenly Father, bless you all with many more special days



Kids' & Youth Ministry today, will resume today.



Next weekend 8th/ 9th November, is the second weekend of the month, therefore, there will be two collections – regular and maintenance.



Our **Youth Mass** is scheduled for Sunday, 23rd November 2025. Please encourage your children to participate.



COFFEE SOCIAL: Our next Coffee Social is scheduled for Sunday, 23rd November. If you would like to contribute towards the refreshment table, your kindness and “goodies” will be very much appreciated.



Our Annual Christmas Bingo will be held on Saturday, 6th December at 6:30 p.m. Menu: Soup, Sandwiches, assorted hors d'oeuvres and desserts.

BISHOP's CORNER

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

November is the traditional month for prayer for the deceased, a time to remember our departed loved ones, and to pray for their eternal rest. It is a pious practice in many Christian traditions, particularly Catholic ones. It is during the month of November that the Church meditates on the Communion of Saints, which is the link with the faithful who have already reached heaven (the Church Triumphant), the faithful departed who are still expiating their sins in Purgatory (the Church Suffering), and of the pilgrim faithful still here on earth (the Church Militant). As Pope Paul VI describes it in his *Credo of the People of God*: “We believe in the communion of all the faithful of Christ, those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified, and the blessed in heaven, all together forming one Church; and we believe that in this communion, the merciful love of God and his saints is always attentive to our prayers”.

Praying for the dead is considered an act of mercy, as these prayers are believed to be helpful for the souls of the departed. The practice is also linked to the Christian hope in the resurrection and the belief that death is a transition to a new life with God. It is common to write the names of loved ones in a "Memorial Book". Visiting cemeteries is encouraged as a way to pray for the dead and reflect on their lives.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Have a serene weekend and a good week!

Bishop Wes



All Soul's Day - Stewards Prayer

“...because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me....” JOHN 6:38

When **Stewards** pray the “Our Father”, say the words slowly so you truly recognize what you are saying. Every day when praying this prayer, we repeat what Jesus said in the scripture passage – “thy kingdom come, thy will be done.” Even though we say these words, do our actions reflect those words? This is the difference between saints and the rest of us. Saints were faithful and obedient to God's will. Start today – start aligning your words and actions with God's will for you.

ALL SOULS' DAY

All Souls' Day is a day when Catholics pray for the souls of the dead. It is celebrated on November 2 every year. On this day, we remember those who have died, especially those in Purgatory. We pray that God will help them on their journey to Heaven.

The Catholic Church teaches that Purgatory is a place where souls are purified before entering Heaven. Some souls are not ready to enter Heaven right after death. Our prayers can help them. This is why All Souls' Day is important.

On All Souls' Day, Catholics often go to Mass and pray for the dead. Many visit cemeteries to pray for their loved ones who have died. The Church encourages us to pray for all the souls in Purgatory, not just our own family or friends.

All Souls' Day is different from All Saints' Day, which is the day before. All Saints' Day honors all the saints in Heaven. All Souls' Day focuses on helping those still waiting to enter Heaven. Both days remind us of the hope we have in eternal life.

The souls in Purgatory cannot pray for themselves. They depend on the prayers of the living. This is where All Souls' Day comes in. On this day, Catholics pray for the souls in Purgatory to help them reach Heaven. Our prayers help speed up their time in Purgatory.

All Souls' Day is important because it reminds us to care for others, even after death. It is a day when we show love for our deceased family members and friends. It is also a chance to help other souls who have no one to pray for them. Every prayer makes a difference.

The Church teaches that we are all part of one family. The souls in Purgatory are still connected to us. We can help them with our prayers, just like we help each other on earth. All Souls' Day is about that love and care we show for each other.

When we pray for the dead, we follow the example of early Christians. From the beginning, Christians have prayed for the dead, asking God to bring them to Heaven. This tradition continues today, especially on All Souls' Day.

In this way, All Souls' Day reminds us of our connection to those who have gone before us. Our prayers help the souls in Purgatory, and we believe one day, they will be with God in Heaven.

Offering prayers for the dead is not only a duty but a privilege. It reminds us to look beyond ourselves and to think of others, even those who are no longer with us. Through prayer, we can give them a gift that has eternal value.

Source: Young Catholics: October 2025

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. ●



RAWPIXEL.COM / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



STUDIO ROMANTIC / SHUTTERSTOCK

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

Our Sunday Readings

For all the Dead

Suggested Readings:
WISDOM 3:1-9
PSALM 23
ROMANS 5:5-11
JOHN 6:37-40

ROMANS 5:5-11

1. In what ways are we God's *enemies*?
2. Describe a world at peace with God.
3. What do people commonly boast about?
4. What all can Christians boast about?
5. How is Christian hope both fulfilled and unfulfilled?
6. In what particular ways have you become a more loving person?
7. In what ways must you still grow in love?
8. What makes this passage suitable for today's feast?

THE SECOND READING

Undeserving

Even if we think we're basically good people, we still succumb to evil inclinations and are ensnared in groups and institutions that harm others. In our fundamental opposition to the self-giving ways of God we became God's *enemies* (v.10). God intervened to create *peace* and *reconciliation* between us and God (vv.1,11).

Justifying

In Paul's day the term *justify* was used in a legal context. When a judge acquitted someone, that person was formally free of all the charges

brought against them. In a similar way, God acquits or justifies those who believe he has established peace through Jesus.

Boasting of the cost

Paul insists that we can celebrate the suffering we endure as we strive to follow Christ. The difficulties we encounter compel us to trust all the more in God's strength and to persist more readily in rejecting evil.

Making good

It's hard for people to give up their lives for someone else, and even then the other person must seem worthy of the sacrifice (v.7). God, by contrast, saved us while we were still enemies (v.8). Thus, God doesn't love us because we're good, God's love empowers us to become good.

The wrath

Paul uses the term *wrath* to express God's final intervention in human history (v.9). Paul doesn't mean that God is so angry about human sin he plans to punish people viciously for all eternity. Rather, God's love is so powerful it will expel sin and the effects of sin from the whole world forever.

JOHN 6:37-40

Reading closely

1. What does the Father give Jesus?
2. Why does Jesus promise not to reject anyone who comes to him?
3. What all has *come down from heaven*?
4. Does Jesus do what he wants?
5. What is God's will?
6. What all does *eternal life* mean?
7. What all does *the last day* mean?

Living the word

8. How does this passage help you reflect on God's will?
9. How is Jesus a model for how to obey God?
10. What makes this passage suitable for today's feast?

THE GOSPEL READING

Something better from heaven

Jews believe that God's law, which came down from heaven, is their greatest treasure. Jesus declares that he himself has *come down from heaven* (v.38). He is God-in-the-flesh, so to speak. Unlike tablets written on stone, Jesus is God's living, breathing representative. As God's agent or emissary, Jesus does exactly what God wants.

God's gifts

Jesus incarnates God's love: when people look at Jesus, they see God's love for them and the whole world. Those who accept this love and entrust their lives to Jesus become gifts of God the Father to his Son Jesus.

The fact that we are first God's gifts to Jesus and not Jesus' gifts to God seems strange until we note that Jesus doesn't do anything for himself or on his own. Jesus receives everything from his Father and then offers all that he has—even his very life—back to God. We are part of what he gives back to God.

Rest assured

Jesus reassures those who worry that they might somehow provoke God to reject them despite the sincerity of their faith in his Son (v.39). Other people might reject them, but God never will.

Jesus then declares that he will *raise up* those who believe in him. Jesus himself was *raised up* both on the cross and at his resurrection. He now lives in a transformed, glorified state. He will bring those who believe in him into that same new life.

PRAYING FOR THE DEAD

All the writers of our New Testament insist that our new life with Christ begins now, in the present. Terms like the *last day* refer to Christ's return, when God will finally cast out all evil everywhere and complete his reign on earth.

Catholics pray for those who have died because we want God to purify the dead and bring them fully into his presence while we await the fulness of his kingdom. We call this moment of purification Purgatory. Some people think of it as a place.

Our prayers for the dead also affirm our communion with one another, a bond that death does not break.

Christians in medieval Europe began formally praying for the dead nearly a millennium ago. The practice spread until Church leaders chose November 2 as the universal day of prayer for the dead.

PRAYER

from the Order of Christian Funerals

Leader: Let us pray for our beloved friends and family who have died. For whom do we pray?

L: Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,

All: And let perpetual light shine upon them.

L: May they rest in peace.

All: Amen.

L: May their souls,
and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
All: Amen.

May the love of God and the peace of the Lord
Jesus Christ bless and console us
and gently wipe every tear from our eyes:
in the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.