

Sunday and Feast Day Liturgical Notes for Priests and Deacons

Suggestions for Leading Worship



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RE: Liturgical Suggestions for the Solemnity of All Saints – Cycle A

Feast Day date: November 1, 2008

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

While not a holyday of *obligation* this year, as November 1 falls on a Saturday [cf. the Ordo, and the Office of Worship link on the diocesan website (www.diobr.org/worship) for a complete liturgical calendar], this feast day is one that Catholics keep by voting with their feet. This is usually a well-attended holyday. This solemnity is not an interruption or intrusion into Ordinary Time. It is consistent with where we may be on the paschal journey – in Jerusalem, leading to suffering and death. We are encouraged for Christ has already won the victory over sin and death. The Saints, our communion of Saints, are witnesses to this. While most Catholics would not include themselves in this company, the liturgy attempts to bring sainthood back to earth and within the reach of us all. As one observer once said *in the end, our life work is to become a saint.*

Faith Sharing Questions...

1. Who is your favorite saint and why are you attracted to him/ her?
2. How would you describe yourself as “holy”?
3. What do you think holiness means?

Some Other Considerations as You Prepare...

1. In the Penitential Rite today you may want to consider using the *Confiteor*, with its reference to “*all the angels and saints...*” Or, consider this sample penitential litany: “Lord Jesus, you show us the way to holiness of life; Christ Jesus, you are the splendor of the Father; Lord Jesus, you are the judge of all the world...”
2. The first Opening Prayer option is recommended.
3. The Preface for All Saints is prescribed as mandatory this day.
4. Consider using Eucharistic Prayer I (The Roman Canon), mentioning all of the saints listed therein.
5. Note that there is a Solemn Blessing at the closing which is prescribed as mandatory as well.

Looking Ahead . . .

1. Begin preparation for your parish Thanksgiving liturgy: consider its advertisement? ministers? music? There is a “Blessing of Food for Thanksgiving Day” given in the *Book of Blessings*, Chapter 58.
2. Tomorrow is Sunday, November 2, the Commemoration of All Souls.
3. A Study Day on *Lectio Divina and the Year of St Paul* given by Stephen Bintz, will be held on Saturday, November 8, from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm at the Kleinpeter Activity Center of St. George Parish, sponsored by the diocesan RCIA Steering Committee. This workshop is for *anyone* who wants to learn more about praying with the Bible and the letters of St. Paul. One does not have to work in catechumenal ministry to attend. More information is available on the diocesan website.
4. The Campaign for Human Development collection will be, as is traditional, taken up on the Solemnity of Christ the King at the end of the month.

Sample Intercessory Prayers for All Saints

Priest: In communion with all the saints, we offer our prayers to our heavenly Father.

Deacon (or other reader if there is no deacon):

1. For the Church on earth; may we be inspired by the communion of saints who journey in faith with us still, we pray to the Lord...
2. For those who seek public office; for all who lead nations; may they strive to promote the common good through just laws, we pray to the Lord...
3. For those who live in pain; for those who suffer in hunger and without security of home or health, we pray to the Lord...
4. For those who have died in the peace of God; for those who have died unknown, unloved, and unmourned, we pray to the Lord...
5. In silence, we offer our other needs to the Father...

[pause; the presider alone concludes]

Priest: Hold us, O God, in your everlasting care.
Grant our needs, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.