



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON

SECRETARIAT OF COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

November Toolkit – *Homily Helps*

All Saints Day — Nov. 1

- All Saints Day was formally established by Pope St. Boniface IV during a turbulent period of famine in Rome. It was established in tandem with All Souls Day.
- Some historians have speculated that these feasts were placed on this day to replace the pagan feast of Lemuria (or Lemuralia) when Romans would try to appease restless souls. Originally, St. Boniface IV placed All Saints on May 13, but it was later moved to Nov. 1 by St. Gregory III.
- On this day, we are invited to ask for the intercession of all those who have died who have entered the gates of paradise.
- In some cultures, it is customary to visit cemeteries on this day to pay respects to deceased loved ones. This tradition involves cleaning and decorating graves with flowers, candles or other offerings and serves as a beautiful expression of love, remembrance and connection with those who have gone before us.

Blessed Miguel Pro — Nov. 23

- Blessed Miguel Pro (1891-1927) was a Jesuit priest who gave his life for the faith. At the time, the president of Mexico had banned all public worship. In secret, Father Pro offered the sacrifice of the Mass in homes, heard confessions and anointed the sick.
- After an assassination attempt on former Mexican President Álvaro Obregón, Father Pro and his brothers were falsely accused and sentenced to death. It was then that the government learned that he had given his life as a priest.
- At his execution by firing squad, he shouted “Viva Cristo Rey” (Long live Christ the King) as he raised his arms courageously in imitation of Christ on the cross.
- Blessed Miguel Pro is a model of how we must stand up for our beliefs, even if the world turns on us. For example, we must not shy away from discussions about abortion and euthanasia; rather, we must be bold in our defense of all life.
- Blessed Miguel Pro was beatified by St. John Paul II in 1988.

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe — Nov. 26

- Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 to encourage us to celebrate our faith publicly.
- It recognizes Christ’s humanity and his divinity. As the God-Man, he is the true ruler of the world, the ultimate priest, prophet and king.

- The solemnity reminds us that Jesus is descended from King David, but his kingship transcends his humanity. As Jesus said to Pilate, “My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here” (Jn 18:36).
- On the cross, and at his scourging and crowning with thorns, he was hailed as King of the Jews. He conquered death and led his people to redemption by the sacrifice of his body and blood.
- We are in the world but not of it, and ultimately, our allegiance is to Christ, the True King.

Thankful for your Family (*Thanksgiving reunions*)

- For many people, the thought of a Thanksgiving meal can be a source of anxiety or other strong negative emotions. Sometimes, it reminds us of old wounds that have yet to fully heal. Perhaps there is someone that you are still at odds with that you are “being forced” to interact with. Maybe it is a difference in political or religious beliefs.
- We have our faith to lean on in these times. We cannot truly be thankful for what we have if we cannot forgive our neighbor (in this case, our own families), no matter how difficult this may be. This is an opportunity to set aside our differences and share in our common humanity in fellowship.
- We are warned in the book of Ephesians about the dangers of holding onto anger. It says, “Therefore, putting away falsehood, speak the truth, each one to his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun set on your anger, and do not leave room for the devil” (4:25-27). Instead, we are called to sow seeds of love in the place of anger.
- Forgiveness transcends feelings. Forgiveness is a choice, freely made and freely given. Remember, we pray in the Our Father “forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.”
- We need to pray for our families and work to stay in a state of grace. It is in our spiritual family, the Universal Church, that we find true solace. We must remember to be thankful for the ministry of Jesus Christ, through which we have been redeemed and have been given a chance to one day see God face to face.
- Let us pray together for families all over the world to experience peace, united and striving to imitate the Holy Family.

Saint quotes on gratitude

- “The best way to show my gratitude to God is to accept everything, even my problems, with joy.” — *St. Theresa of Calcutta*
- “Jesus does not demand great action from us but simply surrender and gratitude.” — *St. Thérèse of Lisieux*
- “Remember the past with gratitude. Live the present with enthusiasm. Look forward to the future with confidence.” — *St. John Paul II*
- “The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that he, in his goodness, sends to us day after day.” — *St. Gianna Molla*
- “No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks.” — *St. Ambrose*