VIA FIDELIS: UNDERSTAND THE FAITH

Weekly Guide | **November 2026**

THEME - What do we hope for?

NOVEMBER 1: SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

Rv 7:2-4, 9-14 | 1 Jn 3:1-3 | Mt 5:1-12a | CCC 954-959, 961-962



THE SAINTS: GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE

- The term "communion of saints" can be used to refer to the union of the Church that goes beyond time and space
- In the one Christ are united the earthly pilgrim people of God in the present and those who have passed from this life
- These latter include both those being purified who are in need of our prayer and those who enjoy glorious union with God who can intercede on our behalf
- The communion of saints is the Church

What else does "the communion of saints" mean? This expression also refers to the communion between holy persons (*sancti*); that is, between those who by grace are united to the dead and risen Christ. Some are pilgrims on the earth; others, having passed from this life, are undergoing purification and are helped also by our prayers. Others already enjoy the glory of God and intercede for us. All of these together form in Christ one family, the Church, to the praise and glory of the Trinity. (*Compendium #195)*

NOVEMBER 8: THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wis 6:12-16 | 1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14 | Mt 25:1-13 | CCC 992-1004, 1016-1018

JUDGMENT: PARTICULAR AND FINAL

- In death the soul is separated from the body
- The body corrupts, while the immortal soul meets its particular judgment from God and awaits a reunion with the transformed body
- This reunion comes in the final judgment when the Lord returns
- The same God who brought creation out of nothing is the one who can make this resurrection of the body possible

What happens to our body and our soul after death? After death, which is the separation of the body and the soul, the body becomes corrupt while the soul, which is immortal, goes to meet the judgment of God and awaits its reunion with the body when it will rise transformed at the time of the return of the Lord. How the resurrection of the body will come about exceeds the possibilities of our imagination and understanding. (*Compendium #205)*

NOVEMBER 15: THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 | 1 Thes 5:1-6 | Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21 | CCC 1030-1031, 1054, 1471-1479

PURGATORY

- Purgatory is the term we use to describe the state of those who die in the friendship of the Lord but are still in need of purification
- "Eternal punishment," the complete separation from God due mortal sin, is distinct from the "temporal punishment" from all forms of due to the unhealthy attachment to creatures
- The "temporal punishment" of purgatory does not refer to any kind of divine vengeance, but rather to the natural effects of sin on the individual
- The "final purification" of purgatory, therefore, is entirely different from the damnation of hell

What is purgatory? Purgatory is the state of those who die in God's friendship, assured of their eternal salvation, but who still have need of purification to enter into the happiness of heaven. (*Compendium #210)*

NOVEMBER 22: SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

Ez 34:11-12, 15-17 | 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28 | Mt 25:31-46 | CCC 1023-1026, 1053

HEAVEN

- Those who die in God's grace and friendship and do not need purification live forever with God
- Heaven is the perfect life of communion lived with the Trinity
- This "beatific vision" of God is made possible only by God's grace, since humanity is incapable of its own natural capacity to see the transcendent God as he is
- Heavenly communion with God is the fulfillment of the deepest human longing and a state of perfect happiness

What is meant by the word heaven? By "heaven" is meant the state of supreme and definitive happiness. Those who die in the grace of God and have no need of further purification are gathered around Jesus and Mary, the angels and the saints. They thus form the Church of heaven, where they see God "face to face" (1 Cor 13:12). They live in a communion of love with the Most Blessed Trinity and they intercede for us.

"True and subsistent life consists in this: the Father, through the Son and in the Holy Spirit, pouring out his heavenly gifts on all things without exception. Thanks to his mercy, we too, men that we are, have received the inalienable promise of eternal life." (St. Cyril of Jerusalem) (*Compendium #209*)



NOVEMBER 29: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7| 1 Cor 1:3-9 | Mk 13:33-37 | CCC 541-546, 567, 1042-2050

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- In his earthly ministry Jesus proclaimed the kingdom of God both as a future reality and also one that he himself made present
- All are called to this kingdom which is characterized by God's loving mercy
- The fullness of the kingdom of God will come at the end of time

Who is invited to come into the kingdom of God proclaimed and brought about Jesus? All are invited by Jesus to enter the kingdom of God. Even the worst of sinners is called to convert and to accept the boundless mercy of the Father. Already here on earth, the kingdom belongs to those who accept it with a humble heart. To them the mysteries of the kingdom are revealed. (*Compendium #107*)