

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 B

Sunday date: October 31 - November 1, 2009

Dear Fathers and Deacons,

An Overview...

Traces of the observance of this feast in honor of all saints are found in the Eastern Church as early as the fourth century. However, the observance of this feast in Rome did not begin until the seventh century, and this was done on May 13, the date on which Christians began using the Pantheon as a Christian church site. The date was moved to November 1 in the eighth century, and became a universal observance in the ninth century.

If there is a unifying theological theme it is the unity of the Church on earth with the communion of saints, and so their present intercession for the Church on earth. Looking to the liturgy, one can see what is hoped for with the intercession of the saints: forgiveness of sin [Opening Prayer]; help and comfort [Prayers Over the Gifts]; Deliver us from present evil [Solemn Blessing]; serve as our brothers and sisters [Preface]; give us a pattern and an example of faithful living [Solemn Blessing]: helping us seek the joy of the kingdom [Prayer After Communion]. As we pray what we believe, and believe what we express in prayer, the texts for All Saints express our hopes that we be shaped into holiness as were they.

Faith Sharing Questions...

1. With which saint do you most identify? How has this made any difference in your life and choices?
2. How do the Beatitudes affect how you live? Which Beatitude has the most affect?
3. When you think the word “holiness”, what or who is the first thing that comes to your mind?

Some Other Considerations as You Prepare...

1. This would be an appropriate Sunday to use the *Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling* as our baptismal life opens the door to eternal life; and call us to a holy life. Or if you choose to use Form C, these sample texts might be helpful: “You come in power to save the sinner; you reveal the Father’ love through your suffering and death; you lead us in paths of holiness and righteousness”...OR consider using the *Confiteor* with its reference to *all the angels and saints*.
2. The Gloria should be sung today.
3. Use the first form of the Opening Prayer.
4. The use of the Preface for All Saints is required; the use of Eucharistic Prayer I is recommended, with its embedded list of saints being spoken.
5. Some parishes include within the Prayers of the Faithful the names of all who have died within the past year. While this is more appropriate for All Souls Day liturgies, it can be a pastoral inclusion for the All Saints liturgies.
6. The Solemn Blessing is given within the Missal’s texts.
7. Parishes with cemeteries are able to process into the cemetery after one of the Masses on All Saints. This is wonderful way to keep the memory of the saints and all the departed alive within the parish community and to recognize that the dead are still with us. The *Book of Blessings*, in chapter 57, contains the “Order for Visiting a Cemetery on All Souls’ Day.” It may be used on other days and apart from Mass. If the blessing of the cemetery is done on All Saints or All Souls, be sure to use a significant amount of water for the blessing, preferably from a large vessel carried in the procession from the baptismal font. The water can be transferred to smaller bowls for the actual blessing rite.

Looking Ahead...

1. Some parishes use a “Book of Remembrance” in which parishioners write the names of their beloved dead. This book could be kept in a place in the church all during the month of November. It is not put where the Gospel Book is kept, or on the Ambo.
2. You are reminded that at www.usccb.org/liturgy there is a link where you will find the proposed texts of the new translation of the *Roman Missal*. Priests and deacons are encouraged to study and pray with these texts which will be used in the future. Numerous

study materials and workshops will be available from the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions [www.fdlc.org] in the near future. More information to come.

3. Thanksgiving Day is November 26. While not a holy day of obligation or even a religious holiday in the strict sense, it is a secular observance with strong religious overtones. Your parish community ought to celebrate it liturgically in some appropriate way.
4. The First Sunday of Advent occurs the weekend of November 28-29. Time to get the wreath prepared...
5. Information will be going to parishes soon regarding the 2010 diocesan celebrations of the Rite of Election at St. Joseph Cathedral on the First Sunday of Lent, February 21, 2010.
6. The liturgical calendar for Cycle C – 2010 – will soon be posted on the diocesan website.

SAMPLE INTERCESSORY PRAYERS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

Priest: With high hope in God's grace, we pray for our needs and the entire world:

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

1. For the Church, as it continues the mission of Jesus Christ in the world; that we may become holy through living the demands of the kingdom, we pray to the Lord...
2. For the people of the world; that justice and peace among us prevail, so that hope and healing replace despair and dissention, we pray to the Lord...
3. For those who live in chronic pain, that they be encouraged by Christ's victory over evil, we pray to the Lord...
4. For this parish community; that we may become a living sacrifice of praise, we pray to the Lord...
5. [In parishes who wish to remember their dead by name] For all in our parish who have died during this year of grace...[list names]...and for all in the world who have died unknown, unloved and unmourned, we pray to the Lord...
6. In peace and in silence, we pray for our needs
[pause; the presider alone concludes]

Priest: Loving Father, you hold us in life.
Bring to fulfillment the grace of our baptism
that we may see you face to face
in the Kingdom where you live forever and ever.
Amen.