

THIS WEEK AT THE MADELEINE

Furthering the Reign of God, Where All Are Welcome • October 29–30, 2022

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED DEAD

Please bring photos of deceased loved ones

The month of November is traditionally the time in the Catholic Church when we remember those who have passed, both in the previous year and before.

Photos or Memorial Cards

Please bring photos or memorial cards of your deceased family members and friends to place on the Table of Remembrance. Drop them off at the Parish Office, or bring them with you when you attend Mass. Please make sure all photos are clearly marked on the back with name and phone number so they can be returned.

Remembrance Envelopes

In the back of the church, you'll find envelopes for remembering people dear to you who have passed away. Please print legibly the names of the deceased whom you would like to be remembered during November.

ALL SOULS SERVICE OF LIGHT—November 2, 6:30 pm



Our beautiful Service of Light is an opportunity to reflect and pray for deceased loved ones. Join us for a contemplative service of music and scripture as we come together in prayer and remembrance. Service will be held in the Main Church. Those attending are encouraged to bring a picture of their deceased for our Table of Remembrance.

All Saints Day Mass notes: Tuesday, November 1 Masses at 8:00 am and 2:00 pm

SOUL BOX PROJECT AT THE MADELEINE

November 12 in the Parish Hall • www.themadeleine.edu/soulbox

We are proud to announce that The Soul Box Project, a national community art project raising awareness about the scale of lives lost due to the misuse of guns, will be coming to The Madeleine beginning November 12. The powerful project consists of displays of hundreds of 3" cubic origami boxes representing persons killed or injured by gunfire.

In addition to a display in the Parish Hall, The Madeleine will host several other

activities surrounding the project, including an Open House, Family Gathering and a "Make Your Own Soul Box" activity. The exhibit will be available for viewing after all weekend Masses through November 27.

A preview exhibit is up in the vestibule of the main church until the larger exhibit goes up. For more information, visit **www.themadeleine.edu/soulbox**

SEND US YOUR VETERANS' PHOTOS

Upload to www.themadeleine.edu/veterans by November 8

Help us honor our military veterans on November 12 & 13 at The Madeleine. Please send us your photos of those in your family who are Military Veterans...living, deceased, retired, active...preferably in uniform.



We will have a special slide presentation on our screen during all the Masses that weekend.

Please upload your photos no later than November 8 to www.themadeleine.edu/veterans

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

God's mercy calls us to repentance. When we judge others for their behavior, no matter how unsavory it is, we need to remember that God's mercy is not just available to us — it's there for all people. Surprising things happened to Zacchaeus, the maligned tax collector who looked for Jesus. God's mercy is so much bigger than ours.

October is Respect Life Month. Please pray for the protection of all life from conception to natural death.

PRAY FOR OUR Faithfully Departed

- Kathleen Gaitan-Funeral, November 11
- ▶ Jan Sheahan—Funeral November 4
- Sarah Warner–Funeral November 16
- ► Shirley Hughey-Smith ► Betty Couch
- Robert Moriarty
 - y J.C. Kizak Sally McKeon
- Lisa Nice
 Thomas Meixner

PRAYER REQUESTS

For those who are ill, or in need of our prayers

- Mason Lugar
 Minh Ha Nguyen
 Chadd Garvens
- Debbie Barsotti
 Raymond P. Meixner
 Bill Stack
- Bill Stack

WORSHIP & PRAYER

11/01, Tues	Kelly Gorton †
11/02, Weds	Kathy Gaitan †
11/03, Thurs	Pete Bencich †
11/04, Fri	Shirley Hughey-Smith †
11/05, Sat	Marie Hong Tran †
	. The Madeleine Community
10:00 am	Jan Sheahan †

Calendar This Week

All Masses in person only unless noted

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

8:00 am: Mass-Church 10:00 am: Mass-Church ALSO LIVESTREAMS 11:00 am: Safety and Security-Fireside Rm

11:30 am: Laudato Si'–Old Church

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31 6:30 pm: FA Meeting-Fireside Rm

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

All Saints-Holy Day
 8:00 am: Mass–Church
 9:00 am: Adoration–Church
 2:00 pm: School Mass, All Saints Day–Church
 7:00 pm: Knights of Columbus–Fireside Rm
 7:00 pm: Equity Committee–St. Catherine Room

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

8:00 am: Mass—Church11:00 am: Archdiocesan Staff Meeting2:40 pm: Children's Choir6:30 pm: All Souls Service of Light—Church8:00 pm: Madeleine Choir

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3

8:00 am: Mass—Church 7:30 pm: 45th Parallel Concert—Old Church

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

8:00 am: Mass—Church
9:30 am: Jan Sheahan Rosary—Old Church
10:00 am: Funeral Mass for Jan Sheahan Reception follows in St. Catherine Room

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

▶ Collection: Archdiocese of Military Services
 5:00 pm: The Madeleine Auction—Parish Hall, Gym
 5:00 pm: Mass—Church

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Collection: Archdiocese of Military Services
 8:00 am: Mass—Church
 8:45 am: RCIA—St. Catherine Room
 10:00 am: First Penance Class—Fireside Rm
 10:00 am: Mass—Church ALSO LIVESTREAMS
 10:30 am: RCIA—Rectory Dining Rm
 11:10 am: First Penance Class—Church

SAVE THE DATE

- The Madeleine Auction: November 5 themadeleine.edu/auction
- The Madeleine Marketplace: December 8 themadeleine.edu/marketplace
- Mardi Gras: February 21, 2023

PRAYER VIGIL FOR PERSONAL,

PARISH LIFE

NATIONAL, AND GLOBAL PEACE

Tuesday, November 8, 2022 • Main Church

We are all aware of the many crises in our world which can cause anxiety within us. We invite you to join us in prayer for peace within our own hearts, our nation and our world.

We will have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:30 am until 7:00 pm. Deacon Mike, Therese Fenzl, or Marilyn Robb will lead a brief communal prayer (about 10 minutes) at 8:30 am, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 5:00 pm, 5:30 pm, 6:00 pm, and 6:30 pm.

You (adults and children) are invited to join us at any of these times or at any time that works for you. Let us join as a parish community to support one another in our belief that God is present to us always.

SAFETY AND SECURITY SEMINAR SERIES

Sunday, October 30 after 10:00 am Mass • Fireside Room

The Madeleine Safety & Security Committee is hosting a seminar for all interested parishioners in the Fireside Room on Sunday, October 30th after the 10:00 am Mass. This is the first of a series of seminars planned on a semi-annual basis, offering training and information sharing to help build safety awareness and coordination.

This first seminar will provide parishioners an orientation to automated external defibrillator (AED) devices and an in-person training "BeAware: an Introduction to Situational Awareness" presented by Jessica Anderson from the Secure Community Network. Parishioners will also have the opportunity to meet members of The Madeleine Safety and Security Committee as well as get a first look at some of the safety awareness tools they have developed for their use.

RCIA/CONFIRMATION GATHERING

Our RCIA Participants and Confirmation Candidates gathered last Sunday after the 10:00 am Mass. We shared lunch, prayed, and reflected on the mysteries of the Trinity and Paschal Mystery. Christi Bohmbach, Therese Fenzl, and Father Mike shared both our Catholic understanding of these mysteries and from their own lived experience of how these mysteries grace and bless our lives. Participants were invited to do the same. Please pray for our RCIA participants and Confirmation Candidates. Our Confirmation Candidates are: Gillian Beaulieu, Faye Doherty, Aidan Lawler, Siddharth Modha, Kyle Olsen, Sienna Quven-Vuong, Stella Resch, Hayden Shoemaker, Roxy Thompson, Theo Wilson. Names of RCIA participants will be announced later since they are now in a period of discernment.

PAPER SHREDDING EVENT-CHANGE OF PLANS

If you were planning to bring sensitive documents for shredding on Saturday, we have a change of plans. In an effort to be more cost effective on this project, we have cancelled the truck. BUT...if you've already planned your purge, fear not.

Bring your box of shreddables to The Madeleine Parish Office between October 31–November 3. We will store the papers in a locked room here, then when the truck comes by on its regularly scheduled rounds, we will give it to the shredders. **Important details:**

- One "Banker's Box" size box for free (or with a donation if you wish); all others will cost \$10.
- Paper clips, staples and binder clips are OK to shred but NO PLASTIC!

Thanks for your cooperation.



In the Gospel today, Zacchaeus accepts our Lord joyfully; and the sign of his acceptance is his open house and his resolution to give half of his goods to the poor. Through your gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul you also show your acceptance of our Lord by joyfully sharing your goods with your neighbor who is hungry, hopeless, alone and frightened.

PARISH LIFE

THE HAITIAN PROJECT Board comes to The Madeleine

Saturday, November 12 • 5 pm Mass • 6:30 pm Reception & Presentation

THP board & staff members are coming to The Madeleine! Join us for Mass and meet us in the Fireside Room for a light dinner reception to visit with members of The Madeleine and THP communities.

THP President Reese Grondin will give a presentation on the Project's continued success and the development of additional Louverture Cleary Schools throughout Haiti. Special thanks to Fr. Mike Biewend and The Madeleine community for hosting THP in Portland!

RSVP to Dave Albertine by November 5 (503) 282-7848 / davea51@gmail.com

COLLECTION: ARCHDIOCESE FOR MILITARY SERVICES

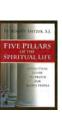
Next weekend, our parish will take up the Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS). As this collection occurs only once every three years, we request your support.

The AMS provides pastoral care to Catholic men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, enrolled at a U.S. Military Academy, being treated as a patient at any of the 153 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, or who work for the federal government beyond U.S. borders—including those from our own parish and diocese. The AMS does not receive any funding from the government or military, and has no parishes from which to receive a weekly assessment.

To donate, find envelopes in the vestibule at Mass or donate online at **www.themadeleine.edu/parishgiving**

BOOK CLUB NEWS

Do you love to read? Would you enjoy opportunities to meet with other parishioners and friends to share in genial discussion/debate over the contents of some very excellent books? If so, you are most



cordially invited to join our group.

We are currently reading Five Pillars of the Spiritual Life by Fr. Robert Spitzer, which we will be discussing in mid-November. For further information or to be added to our email list, please contact our MBC coordinator: Gretchen Stevenson, gypsyfrau47@yahoo.com or 503-312-6834.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE Encounter

Strengthen, renew, and rekindle your marriage sacrament by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on November 18-20 at Mt. Angel Abbey, in Mt. Angel, Oregon, or January 13-15 at Our Lady of Peace Retreat House in Beaverton. To apply for your WWME Experience or search other dates go to rediscoverthespark. org. For information about WWME call 503-704-0836 or by email at reservations@ rediscoverthespark.org

"The Saintly Six" Free Virtual Event

Do you want to learn with fellow Catholic Christians about six holy Black Catholics? Join us for a free Zoom event on Thursday, November 17 at 5:30 p.m. Pacific Time. Register today at saintlysix.eventbrite.com. This virtual event is sponsored by the Knights of Peter Claver in the Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon. For more information, please call Alexander Roth at (630) 217-5005.

builds and many of our deliver-

ies. We love having you on our

good supply of sheet sets, but

could always use more twin size

blankets and comforters, mat-

tress protectors (no extra long

please) and pillows. All dona-

Through the generosity of past beddings drives, we have a

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE BEDDING DRIVE

Through Christmas, Sleep in Heavenly Peace is accepting bedding donations at The Madeleine. Please look for the blue bins located in the vestibule.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace has provided 300 beds to children in the Portland area. Many of those beds were built and delivered by Madeleine parishioners and provided with sheets, blankets and

pillows from Madeleine bedding drives. Special shout out to the Laskowski family, who have been at every one of our bunk bed



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

tions must be new and still in the original packaging.

team!

Thank you Madeleine Community for the continued support!

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

IVIASSES.		
Tuesday, Wednesday, F	riday8:00 am	
	No School: 8:00 am	
	During School: 2:00 pm	
Saturday Vigil		
	8:00 am, 10:00 am	
► Livestream 10:00 am Sunday		
at youtube.com/themadeleineparish		
Penance By appo	intment; call Parish Office	
PARISH OFF	ICE	
Hours Monday–Friday, 10:00 am–3:00 pm		
Phone: 503-281-5777	Fax : 503-281-0673	
School Office	503-288-9197	
PARISH STAFF		
Rev. Mike Biewend–Pastor		
fathermike@themade	eleine.eduext. 111	

fathermike@themadeleine.eduext. []]
Deacon Mike O'Mahoney–Permanent Deacon
deaconmike@themadeleine.edu
Carol Glasgow–School Principal
cglasgow@themadeleine.edu 503-288-9197
John Garrow–Business Manager
jgarrow@themadeleine.eduext. 118
My Schoning–Assistant Business Manager
mhoang@themadeleine.eduext. 118
Darlene Maurer–Pastoral Assistant
dmaurer@themadeleine.edu ext. 125
Therese Fenzl–Director of Spiritual Ministries
tfenzl@themadeleine.eduext. 116
Maria Manzo–Director of Music
mmanzo@themadeleine.eduext. 113
Allison Blakemore–Bookkeeper
ablakemore@themadeleine.eduext. 119
Guy Allen–Events Manager
gallen@themadeleine.edu
Mary Prusso–Registration mprusso@themadeleine.eduext. 112
Julie Kupers-Special Events
jkupers@themadeleine.edu720-936-5635
Janeen Reilly–Parish Administrator
jreilly@themadeleine.eduext. 110
Terry Silva–Facilities Support
tsilva@themadeleine.eduext. 117
Rich Hammons–Director of Communications
rhammons@themadeleine.edu ext. 129
SACRAMENTS
Marriages, Funerals, Anointing of the Sick-
Fr. Mike
Infant Baptism–Darlene Maurer ext. 125
First Reconciliation, First Eucharist-
Rose Horton sac-prep@themadeleine.edu
RCIA-Christi Bohmbach, rcia@themadeleine.edu
Confirmation—Fr. Mikeext. 111
COUNCILS & CONTACTS
Pastoral Council—Meg Scharle
Finance Council–Jim Jones 503-284-3301
Buildings & Grounds-Erin Couch 503-281-9575
School Advisory-Eric Robinson 971-227-3772
Facility Requests-themadeleine.edu/facilities
Maintenance Requests—John Garrow
jgarrow@themadeleine.eduext. 118
St Vincent de Paul (Food, utility, rent assistance)
Mary Clare O'Brien

Bulletin submissions due 5:00 pm Tuesday Email to bulletin@themadeleine.edu

SAVE THE DATE • ALL ARE WELCOME





THE MADELEINE MARKETPLACE

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Holiday Bazaar & Christmas Tree Lighting

DECEMBER 8 2:00-8:00 PM







MADELEINE MARKETPLACE CALL FOR VENDORS

Register at www.themadeleine.edu/marketplace

Our annual Madeleine Marketplace Holiday Bazaar is Thursday, December 8, 2022. We are reaching out to potential vendors with an invitation to operate a booth selling items.

The one-day Marketplace opens at 2 pm and closes at 8 pm, taking place in The Madeleine Parish Hall and Fireside Room. Hundreds of parents, kids, parishioners and community members get a kick start on their Christmas shopping, buy hostess gifts for holiday entertaining, and much more. The evening's festive atmosphere is embellished with our annual Christmas tree lighting.

Food and drink are available for purchase as well as kids crafts, gingerbread house contest, caroling and pictures with Santa.

Vendor FAQ:

- ▶ Table fee is \$60; Registration deadline November 28
- The event ends at 8 pm.
- ▶ Vendors can begin setup at 1:00 pm on December 8.
- ▶ This a family friendly event. Children are encouraged.
- ▶ Tables will be assigned.
- ▶ We have 8-foot rectangular tables & 60" round tables available. Please be sure to specify your preference when you register for the event.
- Vendors take payments at their own risk.
- ▶ Food and drink will be available for purchase.
- The Marketplace organizers retain the right to refuse vendors if the products are not appropriate. (Please no cannabis products or any images or objects that are not child friendly.) If it is determined that your products are not appropriate for this event, your table fee will be refunded.

Questions? Contact Julie Kupers at jkupers@themadeleine.edu, or leave a message at 503-281-5777.

45TH PARALLEL UNIVERSE

Join us for an incredible season of chamber music in historic Irvington at the The Old Madeleine Church!



Join us for ALL-AMERICAN WOMEN

Arcturus Quintet November 3 | 7:00 pm | The Old Madeleine Church Doors open at 6:30 pm

The Arcturus Quintet shines a spotlight on the music of four women who are pillars of American musical culture.

Amanda Harberg | Valerie Coleman | Amy Beach | Vivian Fine

Learn more at 45thparallelpdx.org



AUSIC NOTE

THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS – WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!

This week marks the seasonal transition from summer to fall when the light of summer fades away to the darkness of winter. The ancient Celts believed that during this time, the boundary between the living and the dead blurred. Thus, on the night of October 31 they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. All Hallows Eve—or Halloween—comes from the word, "Hallow" (holy person) and is really just a fancy way of saying "the night before All Saints' Day."

Instead of ghosts and goblins, as Catholics we believe in the Communion of Saints as a spiritual connection between the living and the dead. The Feast of All Saints (or All Hallows' Day) dates back to the 8th century as a day set aside to pray specifically for those martyrs as "heroes and defenders" of faith. Many of us also spend a great deal of time praying to our favorite saints for specific causes. (Have you ever prayed to St. Anthony when you have lost something?) The more popular ones have their own Feast days, of course, and we also give them a "shout out" in prayer at every Mass.

On the heels of the Feast of All Saints, the Church commemorates All Soul's Day as a day to recognize not just those 10,000 canonized saints, but ALL those who have gone before us. We are literally surrounded by Saints! Personally, I take great solace in the fact that I am still connected spiritually to my deceased family and friends—in death as in life. I often pray for my sister's intercession when I need the courage and persistence to face adversity, a spiritual confidante, and—sometimes, admittedly —when I go shopping!

While the Church does not consider All Soul's Day a holy day of obligation, traditionally parishes will honor those that have died with a Requiem Mass or other liturgical service. At The Madeleine, we offer a special Service of Light. Musically, it begins with a setting of the "Lux Aeterna" from the Requiem Mass by John Rutter. A solo angelic voice sings a verse from Revelations; I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours. Seamlessly, this text is woven into the traditional Latin text, "Lux Aeterna," or "Light Eternal." During the service, votive candles will be lit during the singing of the "Litany of the Saints," one of the oldest Catholic prayers that consists of the chanting the names of all those who have died this year in our Parish. So as not to leave anyone out, each phrase concludes with the response, "all you holy men and women, pray for us." At the conclusion of the service, Michael Kissinger's Jazz Requiem combines the ancient Latin chant, "In Paradisum," with an almost lullabylike paraphrase of the ancient prayer-traditionally sung in a procession on the way from the final blessing in the church to the cemetery.

Indeed, as Catholics we believe wholeheartedly that there is a spiritual connection between those in Heaven and on Earth. In death—and in life—we are truly all in this together! As St. Therese of Lisieux said, "I will spend my heaven doing good on earth."

> —Dr. Maria Manzo Music Director, The Madeleine

All Souls Service of Light: Wednesday, November 2 at 6:30 pm



SUPPORT THE MADELEINE AUCTION – PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS ONLINE!

Buying raffle tickets has always been a great way to support our parish school's auction, proceeds of which go to help keep Catholic education affordable for families. But now we're pleased to offer them online, so ANYONE can buy them (well, anyone who's 18 or over and in the state of Oregon, that is). So visit **www.themadeleine.edu/raffle** and buy your raffle tickets today! Just \$10 each!

GRAND PRIZE is your choice of \$4000 Travel Voucher or \$4000 Catholic School Tuition Voucher (Portland-area K-12). **SECOND PRIZE** is a \$750 Travel Voucher. **THIRD PRIZE** is a \$250 Powell's Gift Card. See complete details and contest rules on our website, below.

www.themadeleine.edu/raffle

All Saints

ALL SOULS

We Are Called to Holiness of Life

For centuries prior to Vatican Council II (1962–65), the common understanding of saints identified those men and women whom the Church had singled out as exemplary Christians and whose names had been listed in the official list of saints. They had been "canonized" and were privileged with the official title of *Saint*.

But the Bishops gathered at Vatican II recognized that through our baptism, each of us was called to be holy (1 Cor 1:2) so we are all meant to be holy women and men—saints. "All the faithful of Christ of whatever rank or status are called to the fullness of the Christian life and to the perfection of charity. By this holiness a more human way of life is promoted even in this earthly society" (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, #40*).

While at first we might think that this was a new teaching, we now realize that it was an attempt to reemphasize the ancient mentality of the earliest Christians. From its very beginning, the Church understood the Body of Christ to encompass all baptized persons, both the living and the dead. Christ's kingdom transcends time and space, and not even death can sever the relationship that the faithful have in Christ. All are united in a mystical communion with Christ (the "communion of saints" that we affirm whenever we proclaim the Creed at Mass) by virtue of baptism (1 Cor 6:11). St. Paul often addresses those to whom he writes as "holy ones" (saints) to designate all baptized Christians (see Rom 1:7, 15:25; 2 Cor 1:1; Eph 1;1; Phil 1:1).

And in fact the call to be holy in God's covenant community goes back even further to the Old Testament to God's instruction to Moses on Mt. Sinai to "Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them: Be holy, for I, the LORD your God, am holy" (Lev 19:2). Thus being in a relationship with God obliges us at its most basic level to be holy, to be saints.

All Saints' Day November 1

This feast, honoring all the saints of the Church, known and unknown, provides an opportunity to reflect on our personal call to holiness and to celebrate the exemplary faithfulness of holy men and women of every place and time, whose lives and deeds continue to inspire us. It was given this date to counter a pagan feast held to appease the dangerous evil spirits associated with the coming of winter and darkness whose customs still linger today in our celebration of Halloween (meaning All Hallows' [= Holy Ones, Saints] Eve).

All Souls Day November 2

This feast remembers the many nameless and forgotten persons like our deceased family and friends who led us to Christ and into the communion of his mystical Body. It purposely follows All Saints' Day to shift our focus from the recognized saints to ordinary people, especially those who might need our prayers. From the earliest times, Christians prayed for the dead and many monasteries adopted the tradition of remembering all the faithful departed. Eventually this custom spread throughout Europe and was included into the Church's liturgical calendar.

Honoring Saints in the Early Church

Honoring saints began in the early Church by remembering the martyrs who by their courageous witness had imitated Jesus' faithfulness to God's ways even to death. Local churches kept a record of their own martyrs and each year set aside certain days to remember and celebrate their "birthdays," the dates of death when they were "born" into eternal life.

Their practice is illustrated today in the First Eucharistic Prayer of our Mass, which was the standard prayer adopted in the eighth century liturgical renewal of the Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne. After Mary and the apostles, the prayer recalls the men and women martyrs of the first three centuries, "Linus, Cletus, Clement, Sixtus, Cornelius, Lawrence, Chrysogonus, John and Paul, Cosmos and Damian, Ignatius, Alexander, Marcellinus, Peter, Felicity, Perpetua, Agatha, Lucy, Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia and all the saints." By the fourth century many parts of the Church had set aside special days to remember not only their distinguished martyrs but also "confessors" (those who had witnessed and been punished for their faith but did not die), virgins and those whose example was especially helpful for becoming better Christians.

The many local lists of these exemplary saints grew and soon included persons from all walks of life—popes and bishops, clergy, religious and laity, men, women, and children (e.g., the holy Innocents Dec 28), single and married. Finally in 1583 they were collected into a single book called the *Roman Martyrology*, the official list of saints venerated by the Church arranged according to the calendar. Additions to the list are made when new saints are officially beatified and canonized and the days for their memorial are determined.



Praying to the Saints

From the earliest times, Christians believed that members of the Christian community, though separated by death but now alive in Christ, were still able to help one another. "Being more closely united to Christ, those who dwell in heaven fix the whole Church more firmly in holiness. They do not cease to intercede with the Father for us, as they proffer the merits which they acquired on earth through the one mediator between God and humanity, Christ Jesus. So by their fraternal concern is our weakness greatly helped" (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church,* #49). Thus the importance of the saints as intercessors for us with God became more popular.

The identification of saints as mediators with God introduces their role as patron saints, that is, one to whom we can go when we have specific needs that require help. Saints are designated as patrons or special advocates for nations, churches, places, crafts, activities, jobs, classes, clans, families, illnesses, causes, etc. Most patrons have been so designated as the result of popular devotion and long-standing custom. The Church has officially designated rather few patrons, and most patron designations, especially more recent ones, are unofficial.

