

Saint Francis Village Catholic Chapel

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Father Ken Robinson, Chaplain

November 2, 2025

REFLECTIONS

The month of November in the Catholic tradition is an important time "to remember our brothers and sisters who have gone to their rest." We begin the month with two important liturgies which focus us in just that way.

On the first day of November we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints, a day on which Catholics celebrate all the saints, known and unknown. This celebration arose from the Christian tradition of celebrating the martyrdom of saints on the anniversary of their death. When martyrdoms increased during the persecutions of the late Roman Empire, some dioceses instituted a common feast day in order to ensure that all martyrs, known and unknown were honored. By the 4th century this feast was common in Antioch and celebrated generally during the Easter season, as it continues to be celebrated even today in the Eastern Churches, both Catholic and Orthodox.

First mentioned in the Fourth Century Easter Feast of All Martyrs (3 May) and attested to by Saint Ephrem of Edessa, this feast came to be celebrated on various days. Many Church historians see the origin of this feast in the Western Church as associated with the dedication on 13 May 609 of the Roman Pantheon under the title *S. Maria ad Martyres*. Pope Gregory IV (827 – 844) transferred this feast to November 1st. Despite the historical development, however, what is consistent about this liturgy is that we recognize and honor models of our Christian faith.

The Vigil of the Feast of All Saints is commonly known as All Hallows Eve or Halloween, and despite concerns among some fundamentalist Christians in recent years about the "pagan origins" of Halloween, Church history records that this Vigil was celebrated from the beginning as part of the actual holy day of All Saints.

On All Souls, celebrated on November 2nd, the Church remembers the faithful departed members of Christ's Body who have completed their earthly mission and who are either already in heaven or preparing through purgation to be with

the Lord for all eternity. Rooted in early Christian tradition (Second Century), Saint Odilo of Cluny established in 988 a memorial to the faithful departed, a celebration which was later adopted in Rome and throughout the entire Catholic Church. The first reading for the liturgy assures us that "the souls of the just are in the hand of God." The readings assure us of the fidelity of God's promise that those who are faithful on earth will be part of God's eternal kingdom.

These two liturgical celebrations remind us that as the Body of Christ we are intimately linked with all those who have believed in Christ. We pray for them as they do for us.

From Father Ken



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the month of November, for centuries we have acknowledged, remembered, and prayed for those who have fallen asleep in hope of the Resurrection. On All Saints Day - November 1st - we honor those acknowledged by the Church as Saints as well as those who have died in friendship with God and live in God's Kingdom. On November 2nd, we pray especially for those who have died but may not have fully entered into God's glory. We continue to love them and pray for their speedy entrance in Heaven in union with Christ.



The souls of the just are in the hand of God and no torment shall touch them
... Wisdom 3:1

On our Remembrance Table, located below the statue of Mother Mary on the left side of the Chapel Altar, is a **Memorial Book**.



We invite you to write down the names of friends and loved ones, Catholic and non-Catholic, who have left this earthly life. Throughout November, we will remember those listed in the book in our prayers and Masses.

Monthly Anointing of the Sick
will be Thursday November 6th
during the 9:00 AM Mass



First Friday - November 7th
Mass at 9:00 AM, followed by Adoration
Confessions at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM.



I want to thank all of you who meet regularly to clean our Chapel. Your efforts and reverence in performing this task are deeply appreciated.

Soon we will have a Safe Environment renewal class. If you need to attend the renewal class, please notify Cat in the Chapel Office.

In closing this week's reflections and updates I share with you some observations I discovered about All Souls Day. All Souls Day is celebrated throughout the world in many different ways, but the objective is the same: praying and remembering those who have died.

Mexico	All Souls Day is combined with Indigenous People Day (Day of the Dead). Families build altars, often decorating with marigolds, photos of the deceased, candles, and the person's favorite food or drink.
Philippines	Families gather at the cemetery and spend the entire day cleaning graves, offering prayers, and sometimes sharing a meal.
Poland	Families visit cemeteries, carrying candles and flowers.
Italy	Families prepare favorite meals of the deceased and attend Church Services where special blessings are offered for the deceased and living family members. Sometimes small gifts are exchanged.

All Souls Day, regardless of nationality, teaches us about communion with our deceased loved ones and reminds us that they should be always remembered in our thoughts, words, and deeds.

*May Christ's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
God Give You Peace. Mike Pierson*



Mass Intentions

Nov. 2, 2025	SFV Catholic Chapel Community
Nov. 3, 2025	Intentions of SFV Residents celebrating November Birthdays
Nov. 4, 2025	By Fr. Bob Strittmatter
Nov. 5, 2025	Repose of the Souls of: Becky Adams; Felix Hernandez; Gina McNearney; Josephine Messina & Alice Moreno By SFV Board of Directors
Nov. 6, 2025	Repose of the Soul of Sudi Regan By Bill Ruzika
Nov. 7, 2025	Repose of the Soul of Mable Groh By Jim Groh
Nov. 8, 2025	Repose of the Soul Rev. Manuel Holquin By Father Ken (5:00 PM Vigil Mass)