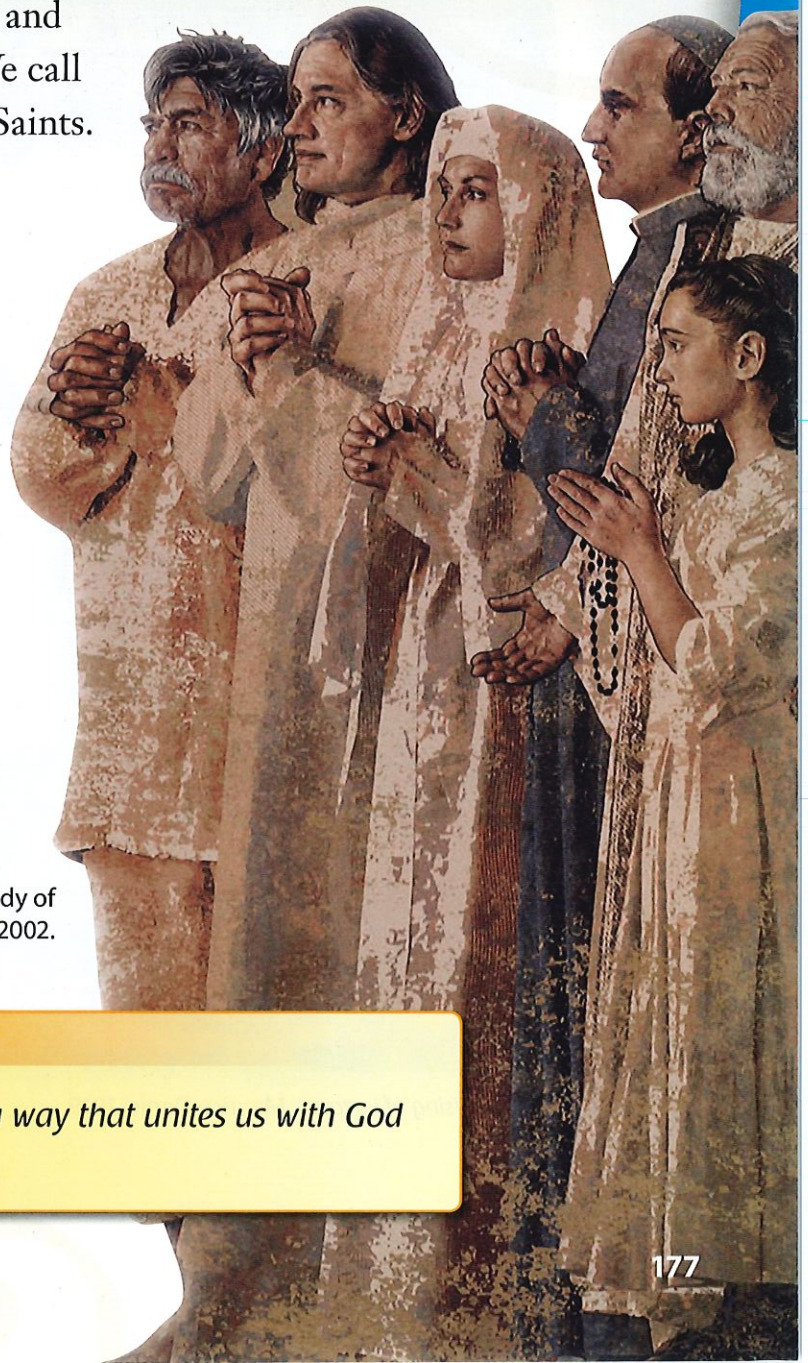


All Saints Day and All Souls Day

On November 1, the Feast of All Saints, we honor those who have died and live with God. This feast especially celebrates the union between those who have been saved in Jesus Christ and those who still live on earth. We call this union the Communion of Saints.

On November 2, the Feast of All Souls, we pray for those in Purgatory who are being prepared to live completely with God. These souls, too, are part of the Communion of Saints, and they need the help of our prayers.



Tapestry at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels in Los Angeles, John Nava, 2002.



Prayer

Merciful Jesus, help us live in a way that unites us with God and the Communion of Saints.

The Gift of Eternal Life

When Jesus heard that his friend Lazarus had died, he traveled to Bethany, the home of Lazarus. Martha, the sister of Lazarus, greeted Jesus. She said she was sorry Jesus had not come sooner, but she believed that Lazarus would be raised on the last day and live forever with God. Jesus told Martha that he himself was the resurrection and the life and that those who believed in him would live forever. Then he called out to Lazarus, who walked out of the tomb, alive.

adapted from John 11:1-44



The Raising of Lazarus, Maurice Denis, 1919.

The Communion of Saints

We all want to be part of a community. Our faith gives us the promise of a life with Jesus and God the Father in Heaven. God helps us by uniting all who have been saved in Jesus Christ. We all belong to the Communion of Saints. We are one family together with Christ and all the faithful, living and dead.

We Remember

On the Feast of All Souls, we remember all those who have died and who are part of the Communion of Saints. There are many ways we can honor all those who have gone before us. On the lines below, write what you can do to honor the members of the Communion of Saints.





Prayer Service

Leader: *The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all, now and forever.*

All: *Amen.*

Reader: *A reading from the holy Gospel according to John. [John 11:21–27]
The Gospel of the Lord.*

All: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Leader: *Heavenly Father, please accept our prayers of thanks for the things that offer us comfort and hope.
For your promise of eternal life.*

All: *We thank you, Lord.*

Leader: *For uniting us in the Communion of Saints. RĚ.*

Leader: *For sending us your Son, Jesus, who is our source of eternal life. RĚ.*

Leader: *Loving God, source of all holiness, renew our faith and keep us united with your saints in Heaven and with all who have died. We ask this in Jesus' name.*

All: *Amen.*

