



Trinity Topics

November 2021

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***"The only real sadness, the only real failure,
the only great tragedy in life, is not to become a saint."—Leon Bloy***

November opens with the celebration of the Feast of All Saints. Our celebration of the saints' lives is our memory of the wonderful possibilities of God's grace. Other religions have good and heroic people, but only Christians can be saints. All Saints' Day reminds us that those who have died in Christ are actually alive by the grace of God. All Saints' Day is an inevitable consequence of our faith in the resurrection of Jesus. Since the saints are alive, we are certain they continue to watch over us and pray for us who yet struggle to live day to day in this sinful world. Saints are not only in heaven, however: those among us who have Jesus in their hearts are the ones who are alive, and the rest of us are living only a dim reflection of the resurrection life offered by God in Jesus. The good news is that this resurrection life is available to all of us who repent and believe. Sainthood is a possibility for anyone in the here and now.

We are accustomed in this secularized age to thinking of a saint as a merely good person. Perhaps we make the mistake of thinking that becoming a saint ourselves means doing as many good deeds as we can, as if miracles become possible if only we can put enough gold stars next to our names in the Book of Life. What hope of this sainthood does this leave those among us who must hold down full-time jobs, raise families, or live with physical infirmity? I do not think sainthood is a possibility only to those with sufficient leisure to work in soup kitchens or build hospitals in Africa. The Gospel of Jesus is that sainthood is the gift of Jesus to all who have faith in Him, and that holiness is possible for anyone who hungers and thirsts for righteousness. Sainthood is dying to self, not self-righteousness. A single mother who prays to Jesus for strength while working two jobs to feed her children is more a saint than a millionaire that prides himself for his benefaction to worthy causes.

On the other hand, the saints have accomplished many great things in the world and offer to Jesus many good works both miraculous and mundane. I, for one, do believe in the miracles of the saints, and I pity those who do not. Many saints, though, offer to the world little more than generosity, humility, and patience. These saints' works of love and piety point us to the love and mercy of God. The mission of the saints is to show us that this world is passing away, and the Kingdom of God is coming. This is a critical part of the celebration of the saints: to honor them is to honor Jesus. Their lives show us that faith, hope, and love are possible in a world that has become so cynical, ordinary, and skeptical. Their lives show us that God is still with us.

Finally, the celebration of All Saints is a reminder that we share a common life with those in heaven. They pray for us in heaven, they lead us to greater works of faith and hope by their example, and with us they continue to wait for the final day when all of us will have fellowship in the Kingdom of God. What they have is not some unobtainable ideal—it is something already accomplished in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, and Jesus promises that we can have it right now if we believe. When you pray, when you offer charity to another person, when you hear the word of God preached in Church, that is the first and most essential part of sainthood.

Fr. Zach Brooks

A Course in Anglican History: Part XXXIII

King Charles I's difficulties with the English Parliament began in the final years of his father's reign. The political and religious complexities of this relationship played a central role on the formation of Anglican identity. Throughout his reign King James I resisted calls from Puritans for ever more stringent purification of English life, from banning football on Sunday to persecuting Catholics who refused to participate in Protestant church services. James also wisely resisted calls to get involved the spiraling religious conflicts in Europe, which only got louder after his Protestant son-in-law Frederick V (the "Winter King") was exiled from his lands in central Germany after a Spanish invasion. This soured Parliament on James' attempts to strike a Spanish alliance and marriage for Charles to its Catholic princess. This intrusion into his foreign policy and family life infuriated James, who dissolved Parliament to prevent further meddling in his foreign policy and personal life. The precedent of dissolving Parliament to silence its opposition to royal policy would turn out to be a disastrous one for Charles later in his life. After attempts to strike the alliance with Spain collapsed in 1623, James finally, reluctantly, agreed to a half-hearted effort to restore Frederick V's throne. The invasion force was small, poorly funded, and quickly failed. More importantly, reopening Parliament to fund the war only resulted in more conflict with Parliament, which audaciously took the opportunity to impeach one of James' councilors without royal permission. A young Charles watched all this and formed the deep belief that kings should not have to put up with the opposition of Parliament, and that the rabid anti-Catholicism of Puritans was nothing but trouble. Puritans began to perceive that the king and his bishops stood in the way of true Protestant reform.

This column is a monthly series on the history of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church.

Bishop Search Update

The diocese has finalized a slate of three candidate for the next Bishop of Springfield: the Very Rev. Brian Kendall Burgess of the Diocese of New Jersey, the Rev. Mary Ann Hill of the Diocese of Oklahoma, and the Rev. Scott Allen Seefeldt of the Diocese of Milwaukee. I encourage all members of the parish to go to the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield website and read about these candidates. The next step will be the **Walkabout Sessions**. These are opportunities to interact with the candidates and ask them questions, followed by a meal with the candidates. The sessions will be filmed and broadcast for those who are not able to be there in person. The walkabout for our deanery will be **Nov. 11 at 5:30 PM at St. Paul's Cathedral, Springfield**. All are welcome. Please let Fr. Zach know if you plan to attend (brookszy@gmail.com), and/or have a question to submit to the candidates. One of these candidates will be elected on **Dec. 11** at the electing synod, followed by his or her consecration next May.

All Souls/All the Faithful Departed

On November 2, we remember the Faithful Departed. We set out forms for the congregation to submit names to be read at the service. If you are not able to attend services in person, Jo Ann has pulled from her files the forms that were submitted last year so that your loved ones are remembered before the Altar. If you have other names to submit, please contact the Parish Office.

Collect for All Souls' Day

O God, the Maker and Redeemer of all believers: Grant to the faithful departed the unsearchable benefits of the passion of thy son; that on the day of his appearing they may be manifested as they children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

News & Announcements

Outreach

- **Doorbell Dinners:** Trinity Church delivered meals the week of October 4 – 8. K-Lou Ashmore would like to thank those who helped: Kip & K-Lou Ashmore, John Clancy, Chuck Crim, Forrest & Helen Keaton, Jo Ann Nelson, Hilda Radcliffe, Joyce Surbeck, and Don & Alice Tracey.
- **United Thank Offering:** We are pleased to report that we sent in \$607.48 to the Diocesan UTO chairman.
- **Holiday Food Drive:** The Outreach Committee has created this plan - Food pantry items can either be dropped off at the Radcliffe house, 1302 W. State, or committee members can pick up items from individual's porches. If they are interested in having items picked up, they need to contact Abby Radcliffe, abbyrad25@aol.com or 217-320-1811. The Food Pantry has noted that they are most in need of sweet potatoes, egg noodles, stuffing mix and Jello. Their supplies are currently very low for those items. The complete **list of recommended items is on the back of this newsletter.**
- **Operation Christmas Child:** We have received the boxes and information pamphlets for this project again. If you are interested in packing a shoebox for a child, please contact the Parish Office. Jo Ann can deliver you a box to pack. Boxes will need to be filled by November 14, and Jo Ann can pick up your filled box. Each box requires a \$9 shipping fee, so if you would like to help with that, please make a check out to **Samaritan's Purse** and send it to the office.

ECW

ECW will hold a closeout of the Holiday Shoppe / rummage sale on Friday and Saturday, November 5 & 6. Items will begin to be moved from the basement to the parish hall after the October 31st service. Members will work during the week to organize and price items. Hours of the sale will be from noon to 4 on Friday, and from 8 to noon on Saturday. Remaining items can be sold to parishioners on Sunday, November 7. Then whatever is left over will be donated to local agencies.

Members will meet again for a bring your own supper meeting on **November 11, at 5:30 pm.**

Pledge Campaign for 2022

Letters were mailed mid-October. If you did not receive one, but would like one, please let us know.

Death

M-Lou Paullin died on September 29, 2021, in Seattle. M-Lou is the mother of K-Lou Ashmore.

*May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace, and rise in glory.*



****If you have news you wish to share, please contact the Parish Office.***

Sunday, November 7



Bible Study with Fr. Zach is on November 9 & 23.

Please email him for an invitation to the Zoom session.

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, November 16

7:00 pm

Items for Holiday Food Baskets

- Sweet potatoes / Instant potatoes (Regular and large size)
- Pumpkin pie mix
- Gravy mix (package or can)
- Cool whip / Jell-O
- Corn / Green beans
- Butter / Margarine
- Fruit salad (canned fruit)
- Evaporated milk
- Chicken broth
- Mushroom soup
- Macaroni and cheese
- Egg noodles
- Flour / Sugar
- Stuffing mix
- Cereal
- Rolls

SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER 2021

*Sunday at 8 o'clock & 10 o'clock
10 o'clock is live streamed on Facebook.*

November 7:

The 24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 14:

The 25th Sunday after Pentecost

November 21:

**The Last Sunday after Pentecost -
Christ the King**

November 28:

The 1st Sunday of Advent

THANKSGIVING DAY, November 25:

Morning Prayer at 10 o'clock

Wednesdays & HOLY DAYS

*will be celebrated with a 10 o'clock Eucharist
in the Lady Chapel.*

November 1: **All Saints' Day**

November 2: **All Souls /
All the Faithful Departed**

November 3

November 10

November 17

November 24

November 30: **St. Andrew**

2022 Pledge Campaign

Pledge Sunday is
November 7

Have you mailed in
your pledge card?