

OLV Rel. Ed. Newsletter



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November 2022: Goodness



November Dates to Remember

- Nov. 1: Feast of All Saints (Holy Day of Obligation)
- Nov. 2: Feast of All Souls
- Nov. 17: Rel. Ed. Parent Meeting, 6:00 p.m., OLV Parish Hall
- Nov. 22: Feast of St. Cecilia
- Nov. 27: First Sunday of Advent

November brings us many special days to honor God's goodness. Though Thanksgiving may be a "secular" holiday, it reminds us to give thanks to God always, not only on this day, but throughout the year. At every Mass, we offer thanksgiving to God, and in our personal prayers, we can also praise God for the blessings He gives.

God gives out of His great love; because He is good, He wants to bless us. At the beginning of the month, we observe the feasts of All Saints and All Souls, respectively. Remembering the faithful departed, we thank God for the people He has given us, people who witness to His goodness. Praying for souls in Purgatory, as well as to the saints in Heaven, like St. Cecilia, for their intercession, we honor the goodness of God in giving us a Church family that is eternal. God's love is forever, and so, our love continues, too.

Our November monthly challenge is to express our thanks for God's blessings, whether through prayer, writing a thank-you note to someone who has made a positive impact, or keeping a gratitude journal, reflecting on how we see God's goodness in our daily lives. An attitude of gratitude is one that grows greater happiness, which does our hearts good. We can love God more when we are more aware of all He does to show His love for us.

Deo Gratias- thanks be to God!

-Katie Sadakierski

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<https://olveasthampton.org/religious-education/>

Family Thanksgiving Prayer

Thank you, God, for this past year. Thank you, God, for family here. Thank you, God, for this food. Thank you, God, for all that's good. Amen.

Prayer Source: Hallow.com



At the Mass, we express our thanks to God for His goodness. The Mass is a feast in which we are nourished by Christ's Body, the Eucharist, the Bread of Life. As we gather around the table for Thanksgiving, we can thank God for His gifts.

Saint Spotlight: St. Cecilia

A Roman martyr of the third century A.D., St. Cecilia stayed close to God throughout her life, praying frequently. One of the ways in which St. Cecilia prayed was through song. She not only sang with her voice, but with her heart. When St. Cecilia sang in her heart to God, she heard heavenly music from Him in return. St. Cecilia asked for the intercession of the saints and angels, who would give her strength to withstand persecution. Preaching the good news of Christ, St. Cecilia converted hundreds of people, but was punished by non-Christian Roman leaders for doing so, leading to her martyrdom. Devotion to St. Cecilia continues today, especially among musicians, as St. Cecilia of the patron saint of music. Through the example of her faith and good works, St. Cecilia inspires us, too, to lift our voices and hearts up to God, using our talents to do good things for Him. The story of the angels crowning St. Cecilia with lilies and roses is symbolic of how faith and good works are like beautiful flowers that bring joy to God and others. Our good works help us to grow spiritually, like flowers. In this season of harvest, when we thank God for providing for us, we can be like St. Cecilia in planting seeds of goodness through our words and actions, which thrive and bear fruit by the grace of God.

Scripture Spotlight:
"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His mercy endures forever." -Psalm 107:1



Song of the Month: "Te Deum" ("We Praise Thee, O God")

*Bonus: "Litany of the Saints"