

Beyond Baptism

Where the Eucharist Transforms Lives and Hearts.

November 2025

All Saints Day ~ November 1st A Celebration of Eucharistic Love

On November 1st, the Church celebrates All Saints' Day, a feast honoring the countless holy men and women who now share in the glory of heaven. While each saint's path was unique, there is one thread that binds them all together: their deep love and devotion to the Eucharist.

For the saints, the Eucharist was not simply a ritual or a weekly obligation—it was the heart of their lives, the place where they encountered Christ most intimately. Their holiness flowed from this encounter.

Last month we spoke of **St. Francis of Assisi**, he had a burning love for the Eucharist. He urged his followers to show the greatest reverence to Christ's Body and Blood, reminding them that in the Blessed Sacrament we truly see the Son of God. We also spoke of **St. Clare of Assisi**, who found her strength in the Eucharist. During an attack on her convent, she held up the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance, and the invaders fled in fear. For Clare, Christ's presence in the Eucharist was her ultimate protection.

St. Thomas Aquinas, one of the Church's greatest theologians, spent hours in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. His love for the Eucharist inspired hymns and prayers still used in the Church today.

Centuries later, **St. John Paul II** spoke of the Eucharist as “the secret of my day” and made it the center of his papal ministry. Similarly, **St. Teresa of Calcutta** told her sisters that their work with the poor could not be separated from the time they spent before Christ in the Eucharist.

The saints remind us that holiness does not come from extraordinary strength of will, but from allowing ourselves to be transformed by Christ in the Eucharist. By opening our hearts!

It's easy to think the saints had an easier path to holiness, free of the distractions we face today—television, phones, pod casts, business travel, or over scheduled family life. But their lives were not without difficulty. They endured brutal wars, famines, persecution, and illness in a world without modern medicine. What sustained them was not a lack of hardship but their steadfast devotion to Christ present in the Eucharist.

This should encourage us. The same Eucharist that gave the saints courage and peace is the same Eucharist we receive today. Christ has not changed, and He offers Himself to us with the same love.

All Saints' Day reminds us that holiness is not reserved for the few. The saints were ordinary people who allowed God's grace, especially in the Eucharist, to transform them. When we receive Holy Communion with devotion, when we spend even a few minutes in Eucharistic adoration, we walk the same path they did.

All Saints' Day is more than a remembrance—it is an invitation.

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Eucharistic Miracle ~ Vilakkannur, India A Present Day Miracle



On November 15th, 2013, a remarkable phenomenon occurred during the celebration of Mass at Christ The King Church in Vilakkannur, India.

While presiding over the Mass, a human face, believed by witnesses to be that of Jesus Christ, appeared on a consecrated Host. The event was witnessed not only by the presiding priest, Father Thomas Pathickal, but also by the sacristan and members of the congregation, who were present at the time.

Following a thorough 12-year investigation into the authenticity of the occurrence, the phenomenon was officially recognized as supernatural on May 31, 2025. The recognition was formally conveyed by Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, lending ecclesiastical confirmation to what had long been regarded by many as a divine miracle.

Today, the miraculous Host is preserved and displayed for public veneration at attracting pilgrims and faithful from near and far, drawn by the profound spiritual significance of the event.

It stands as a testament to the enduring mystery and presence of the divine in the lives of believers.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Where does the word come from? "Thank" is an English word which means grateful thought. "Giefan" means "to give", combined into the verb "give thanks" which became a noun in the 1530s as the act of expressing gratitude.

Our history teaches us that the first Thanksgiving was celebrated in 1621 after the settlers landed in Massachusetts and had a bountiful harvest. They gathered with native American Indians and gave thanks to God.

Unfortunately the English and the Indian's relationship did not last. Some of the settlers put aside their differences while others ended up in terrible fights with much bloodshed. I wasn't there but I will assume that there was fear, jealousy, lack of communication and most of all lack of forgiveness.

We can not have a relationship without forgiveness. It's impossible. What a beautiful gift of the church is the sacrament of forgiveness. God knows we have faults, we are human. One of the benefits of reconciliation, it teaches us to forgive others.

As we approach Advent, allow ourselves to embrace confession, it might be the best Christmas gift ever!!

**Interested in volunteering contact us at
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