

## Introduction

In recent years national, diocesan, and parish liturgical leadership agree whole-heartedly on at least one thing: the need for continuing liturgical education. This liturgical catechesis must take place not only for the leadership, but for everyone involved with liturgy, including and perhaps especially the members of the assembly. The more we understand the liturgy, the more deeply we are able to enter into the mystery being celebrated.

What we might not agree upon is exactly how to do liturgical catechesis. Often a solid approach which works in one locale falls flat in another. For some liturgical communities bulletin inserts such as those on this CD are well received. Since most parishes or liturgical communities are generally long on need but short on money, I've tried to make the bulletin insert form of liturgical catechesis as easily and inexpensively available as possible. Hence, there is no published book of the contents of the CD.

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In addition to this Introduction file and a Contents file, there are two folders on the CD, one marked "Color PDF files" and the other marked "B&W PDF files." The black and white files are identical to the color files except for some minor layout adjustments. Since almost all computers come with a PDF reader (or one is easily accessible on the Internet), I decided this would be the most user-friendly format. One simply needs to open a file and print it out.

The black and white files are easily reproduced for bulletin inserts. They can be run back-to-back so that the second page of every file with the suggestions for classroom lesson plan, family activity, or material for faith sharing groups is readily available along with the reflection page. This second page might be especially helpful for those who read the reflection page and desire ideas for how to use the materials further. Clearly, the format encourages some kind of group use and sharing.

The color files might best be used on a parish bulletin board or placed in an acrylic page saver and put someplace easily accessible by everyone who might stop to read. The first page with the color photographs look the best when they are printed on high gloss photographic paper. Any color printer will work. The files can also be printed on plain paper, although this sacrifices some sharpness.

It is my desire to produce a second volume of *Spotlight on liturgy* which would include more practical issues such as silence, environment, ministries, etc. Check out the web site of the Institute for Liturgical Ministry ([www.ilmdayton.org](http://www.ilmdayton.org)) to know when this next volume is available.

I am grateful to Rev. Paul F. DeLuca, formerly pastor at St. Helen's parish in Riverside, Ohio, for piloting these files as bulletin inserts and making them available to his elementary school teachers. It was Fr. Paul who asked me to write the second page of practical help for further reflection and activity, which turned out to be an invaluable contribution. I am also grateful to my brother Bob and to Sr. Kathleen Harmon, S.N.D. de N., my colleague in the Institute for Liturgical Ministry, for making helpful suggestions and for proofreading. Any mistakes are entirely my own, however.

# Contents

*(Listed in approximate chronological order, from the beginning of the liturgical year.)*

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2. Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (December 8)
3. Nativity of the Lord (December 25, Christmas)
4. Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
5. The Epiphany of the Lord
6. The Baptism of the Lord & Ordinary Time I
7. Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (February 2)
8. Ash Wednesday
9. The Season of Lent
10. Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary (March 19)
11. Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord (March 25)
12. Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
13. Holy Thursday
14. Good Friday of the Lord's Passion
15. The Easter Vigil
16. The Season of Easter
17. Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord
18. Solemnity of Pentecost
19. The Season of Ordinary Time II
20. Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
21. Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
22. Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
23. Solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist (June 24)
24. Solemnity of SS. Peter and Paul, Apostles (June 29)
25. Independence Day (July 4)
26. Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord (August 6)
27. Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15)
28. Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8)
29. Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14)
30. Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels (September 29)
31. Solemnity of All Saints (November 1)
32. The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (November 2, All Souls)
33. The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome (November 2)
34. Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday of November)
35. Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King



**Solemnity of  
All Saints  
All Saints  
All Saints  
All Saints  
All Saints  
All Saints  
All Saints  
All Saints**

Like flowers that ever bloom, those who die in the Lord never fade and enjoy everlasting glory with the God whom they have loved faithfully to the end of their lives. This solemnity celebrates all those blessed who listened to the beloved Son, were faithful disciples, and witnessed by the holiness of their own lives their close relationship with God. Our deceased relatives and friends are that “great multitude” of which John speaks about in his vision recorded in the Book of Revelation; these are the ones who wear “white robes” and hold “palm branches in their hands” (Rev 7:9) and are before the throne of God giving unceasing praise.

It is, indeed, a great mystery that God loves us so much to desire that we share everlasting life in eternal glory. It is an even greater mystery that while still living here on earth we already share in that same divine life. The promise of Jesus is that all those who live doing the will of God are counted among the blessed whose “reward will be great in heaven” (Matt 5:12). Jesus modeled for us that dying to self always brings us to new life in God. Because we already share in this divine life, we share in the same life and glory as the saints in heaven. Here is the great mystery: our life in Christ assures us that we are already saints now and one day we, too, will share in God’s everlasting life.

The communion of saints is made up of those saints who are in heaven (both the canonized ones and those who are not canonized), the saints in purgatory who have died but still are completing sorrow for their sins, and the saints here on earth (ourselves!) who are striving to remain faithful to God’s commands. If we help ourselves become more aware of this great company of holy ones who give God constant praise and thanks, we are encouraged to say yes to God’s will even when the demand is difficult. We have all the saints (in heaven and on earth) to witness to God’s love and strengthen us in our resolve to do good. May we join with the saints in heaven and give God “Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power” (Rev 7:12). Amen! Amen!



## Solemnity of **All Saints**

### *Lesson plan/activities/faith sharing*

#### SCRIPTURE

Rev 7:2-4, 9-14

Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

1 John 3:1-3

Matt 5:1-12a

#### HISTORICAL NOTES

⇒ From the beginning the Church has honored those who remain faithful in following Christ. The earliest honor was given to the martyrs, who have always had a privileged place in the Church's affection because they followed Christ faithfully even to emulating him in death. In the eighth century Pope Gregory III had a chapel built in St. Peter's to honor the martyrs and all the saints. By the middle of the eighth century there is evidence of a festival honoring all the saints on November 1.

#### ACTIVITY

⇒ We are quite comfortable singing a litany of all saints which includes a list of the canonized saints in heaven. We are less comfortable including in that litany those who are still living because we know that we can still choose to say no to God, to sin. Sin is surely a reality in our lives but it ought not keep us from rejoicing in God's grace that already abides within us. Take some prayer time (in the family, classroom, faith-sharing group) for each to silently sing a litany to all the "saints" still living who have helped the individual to live a better life and come to know God more. Conclude this prayer with the Our Father and prayer below.

#### REFLECTION

⇒ I am most aware of my holiness when ... I am most aware of my sinfulness and alienation from God when ...

⇒ I am grateful for these blessings of God ... I feel most blessed when ...

#### PRAYER

Great and holy God, you bless us with your life and goodness: be with us now and strengthen us to do your will so that one day we may share in everlasting blessedness with all your saints to give you praise and thanksgiving for ever and ever. **Amen.**