

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

O GOD,
BE MERCIFUL TO
ME A SINNER.

— LUKE 18:13 —



St. Elizabeth of Hungary/St. Mark

5700 Bear Creek Boulevard, Bear Creek, Pennsylvania 18602

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | OCTOBER 26, 2025

St. Elizabeth Church (E)
5700 Bear Creek Blvd
Bear Creek, PA 18602

St. Mark Church (M)
1052 Bear Lake Rd
Thornhurst, PA 18424

Mission Statement

Humbly guided by the Holy Spirit, our mission is to help people:

~ Through prayer and worship, discover God's desire to be in a relationship with us ~ Discover and develop the gifts and talents God has bestowed on each person ~ Share our faith in Jesus Christ through a welcoming community, beautiful liturgy and ongoing faith formation ~ Be of service to one another, to the communities in which we live and especially to those in need. ~

SERVED BY

Rev. Rawel Toppo
Administrator
rawelt81@gmail.com

Rev. Anthony M. Urban
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. William J. Karle
Pastor Emeritus

PARISH WEBSITE

Churchofstelizabethstmark.org

FIND US ON FACEBOOK



The Roman Catholic Community
of St Elizabeth of Hungary and
St. Mark



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Monday-Wednesday, Friday 9:00AM
(E)

First Fridays — Adoration after Mass—
12Noon (E)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00PM (M)

Saturday 6:00PM (E)

Sunday 8:30AM (M)

Sunday 10:30AM (E)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Mark's Church—1/2 hr before all
Masses

St. Elizabeth's Church —1/2 hr before
all Masses

~ or anytime by appointment ~

OFFICE STAFF

Amanda Proch
Business Manager
stelizabethbearcreek@
outlook.com

Mer Rish
Office Secretary
Director of Music & Liturgy
stelimar@ptd.net

OFFICE HOURS / PHONE

Tuesday & Wednesday
9AM—3PM

Phone.....570-472-3061

Fax.....570-472-3503

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Emily Bell
Renee Sipple

Directors of Religious Education
saintelizabethccd@gmail.com

DAILY TV MASS

WARMING FAITHFUL HEARTS

Cathedral of St Peter in Scranton, available on
CTV: Catholic Television of the
Diocese of Scranton.

Weekdays 12:10p.m., 3:30p.m. and 7:00p.m.

Weekends, Saturday Vigil Mass 5:30 p.m. and
rebroadcast on Sunday morning at 10:00a.m.

STEWARDSHIP

Oct 19, 2025

Weekly \$2657.00

Online \$939.00

\$3596.00

Diocesan -\$120.00

TOTAL: \$3476.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

The Parish Budget is set at \$5000.

Eucharistic Celebration

Saturday, Oct 25, 2025 — Sunday, Nov 2, 2025

Sat, OCT 25

4:00pm (M) William & Rose Kearns
Joan & Lee Potter

6:00pm (E) Joyce & Joe Collins
Nancy Neale

Sun, OCT 26

8:30am (M) For the Parishioners

10:30am (E) Mary Grouke
St. Elizabeth's Choir

Mon, OCT 27

9:00am (E) NO MASS

Tues, OCT 28

9:00am (E) NO MASS

Wed, OCT 29

9:00am (E) NO MASS

Thurs, OCT 30

9:00am (E) NO MASS

Fri, OCT 31

9:00am (E) NO MASS

Sat, NOV 1

4:00pm (M) Katherine & Patricia A. Kearns
Joan & Lee Potter

6:00pm (E) All Souls Day Intentions

Sun, NOV 2

8:30am (M) All Souls Day Intentions

10:30am (E) Edward Shiner
Dr. Diane Polachek & Family



This week we pray for our sick,
elderly and homebound
parishioners and friends,
especially...



Noreen Catani Amico, Laurie Ayre,
Lea Furlong, Kevin Gardner,
Bernard Hendrzak, Erin Himes, Jake Johnson,
Joseph Kachurak, Patrick Kildea,
Michael Lilienthal, Mollie Litchman,
Carolyn Palencar, Mary Soos, Byran Stanton,
Verna Stavish, John Tucker,
Rev. Anthony Urban, Gary Walker,
Hank Walker, Loretta Washick

**Please notify office when names should be
removed. 570-472-3061**



12 NOON

The Church has traditionally remembered all the faithful departed during the month of November. As part of this celebration, we at St. Elizabeth of Hungary & St. Mark Church will remember in a *special* way all those from our parish community who have died during the past 12 months. When a person dies, not only is the family affected, so also is the parish community. And so, therefore, we desire to celebrate as a community at our Mass of Remembrance.

Our celebration is scheduled for Sunday, November 2nd, All Souls' Day, at 12:00 noon at St. Elizabeth Church. During our Mass, those buried from our parish from November 1, 2024 - October 31, 2025 will be prayed for by name. A special Remembrance Candle will be lit in their memory and then presented to the family.

As a parish family we still remember everyone who has died. We are aware of their families' grief that they are still experiencing, and so, we invite all to light a candle in their loved ones' memory. We hope you will be able to join us.

**Please keep Father Rawel in your prayers as he will
be away on Convocation this coming week.**

**Please remember there will be no weekday Masses
celebrated.**



Never stop saying the
Holy Rosary,
I am always
with you to help you.

Father Rawel's
Corner



HUMILITY OPENS THE DOOR TO GRACE

The First Book of Sirach invites us to live with open eyes and open hearts; to truly see and feel the world around us. It urges us to examine our attitude towards the marginalized, the poor, the downtrodden and the suffering. God is not indifferent, He hears the prayers and responds with compassion, mercy, and justice.

In the second reading, we hear the bold testimony of St. Paul: "I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race." His journey, marked not by comfort but by endurance, reflect the courage of faith sustained even when abandoned by others, because God never leaves our side.

The Gospel challenges us to embrace humility and allow prayer to transform us. Prayer, then, becomes a sacred dialogue - not to alter God's will, but to open ourselves to transformation. This leads to profound self-reflection: Am I allowing prayer to reshape me? Or am I simply seeking to bend outcomes to my desires? Mother Teresa of Kolkata showed that prayer is not just something we say quietly, but something we live. Through their actions, kindness, and courage, they demonstrated a deep care for people who were often ignored or mistreated.

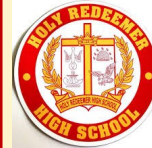
May the Lord, our God open our hearts to compassion, our soul to humility, and our lives to prayer. Transform us into a person who serves, loves, endures, and uplifts others always.

HAVE A WONDERFUL WEEKEND!



The University of Scranton, one of America's premier colleges, will host two Open House events for prospective students and their families on [Sunday](#), Oct. 26, and [Sunday](#), Nov. 9.

For additional information, contact Scranton's Admissions Office at 1-888-SCRANTON or visit Scranton's [Open House webpage](#).



The ROYAL family is opening its doors!
Visit OPEN HOUSE Sunday, November 2,
1:00-3:00 p.m.

Talk to students, faculty, and coaches to learn why you belong in the Holy Redeemer family.

HOLY REDEEMER HIGH SCHOOL

159 South Pennsylvania Blvd., Wilkes-Barre

570-829-2424



Faith and Family Night with the WBS Penguins!!

Join us for a night of thrilling hockey and heartfelt performances at *Faith and Family Night!* [Friday, November 14th](#), 2025, come out with the Diocese of Scranton to cheer on the Penguins as they take on the Islanders, and enjoy an evening filled with music, dance, and family fun! This night is open to people of all ages, so bring your family, friends and neighbors as we come together as a diocesan family. Gates Open at 6:00pm, Puck drops at 7:05pm. To purchase discounted tickets visit: www.dioceseofscranton.org or go to <https://www.gofevo.com/event/Diocesescranton3>.

Prayer for Halloween

God of Laughter and Joy,
We turn to you in the way of our ancient ancestors, grateful for the abundance of food and festivity that surrounds us at this time of year.
Keep all children safe as they embark on their Halloween revels.
Light their way through the dark night and enfold them in love.
May the real treat in their lives be grace that multiplies in depth and breadth as they grow older.
We pray this with all the saints in heaven.
Amen

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DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME 2025

NOV 2nd **CLOCKS FALL BACK SOONER!**



The parish of St Elizabeth/St Mark will be hosting a Family

Style [Thanksgiving](#) Dinner (free of charge / good will offering appreciated) on [Thursday Nov27](#) at 3 PM in the Father Urban Parish Center. All

are invited. To prepare adequate amounts of food, we will need to know how many will be attending. We ask that you please call 570-851-0213 or e-mail to indicate your intention and the number in your party. Please include your name, phone number and the number of people that will be attending.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of October 26, 2025

Sunday:

Sir 35:12-14, 16-18/Ps 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23
(7a)/2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18/Lk 18:9-14

Monday:

Rom 8:12-17/Ps 68:2 and 4, 6-7ab, 20-21/
Lk 13:10-17

Tuesday:

Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 6:12-16

Wednesday:

Rom 8:26-30/Ps 13:4-5, 6/Lk 13:22-30

Thursday:

Rom 8:31b-39/Ps 109:21-22, 26-27, 30-31/
Lk 13:31-35

Friday:

Rom 9:1-5/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/
Lk 14:1-6

Saturday:

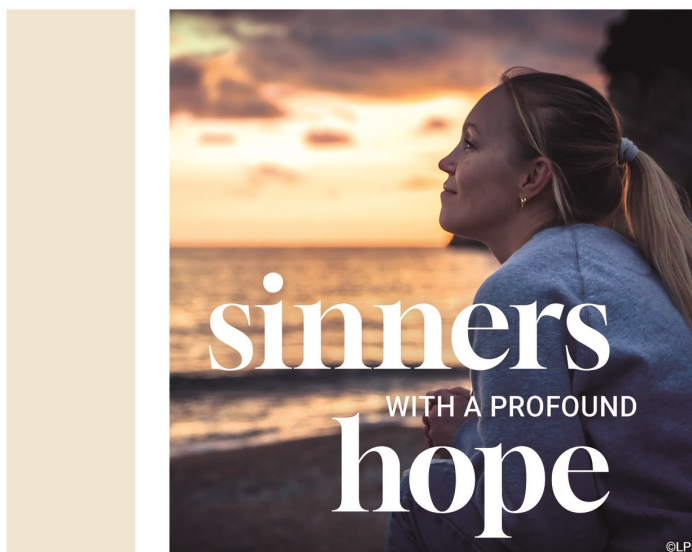
Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/
1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a

Next Sunday:

Wis 3:1-9/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Rom 5:5-11 or Rom 6:3-9/Jn 6:37-40



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The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in
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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Every now and then readers of these reflections write letters in which they object to something. Years ago, this Gospel of Luke 18 prompted such an email. A man wrote to me: "I find it deeply offensive that you suggest we are still sinners once we are God's sons and daughters." His objection stirred in me a profound awareness of the paradox at the heart of our faith. Are we sinners or beloved children of God?

In this Gospel (Luke 18:9-14), a tax collector appears as one who has missed the mark. His sins have isolated him. His breast-beating is not an act of self-flagellation for pride's sake but a heartfelt admission of his failure and unworthiness. Remarkably, Jesus honors the candid humility of the parable's penitent. Why? Because we are always in need of mercy, always. But even more, perhaps because on the cross, Jesus will fully embrace a similar place of humiliation and rejection. He will enter into the most shameful, offensive place of the sinner so that we might "go home justified."

There is a sacred tension in admitting that we are sinners and yet have profound hope. We are beloved sons and daughters of God, growing precisely through our honest acceptance of failure. When we cry, "Have mercy on us," during Mass or when we repeat the "Jesus Prayer" in quiet moments, or in the confessional, we embrace our imperfections as fertile ground for divine grace. In doing so, we follow Christ's example — finding true exaltation in the humble acknowledgment of our human frailty.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The one who serves God willingly is heard;
his petition reaches the heavens. (Sir 35:20)

Psalm:

The Lord hears the cry of the poor. (Ps 34)

Second Reading:

The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat
and will bring me safe to his heavenly kingdom.
To him be glory forever and ever. Amen. (2 Tm 4:18)

Gospel:

"For whoever exalts himself will be humbled,
and the one who humbles himself will be exalted."
(Lk 18:14)

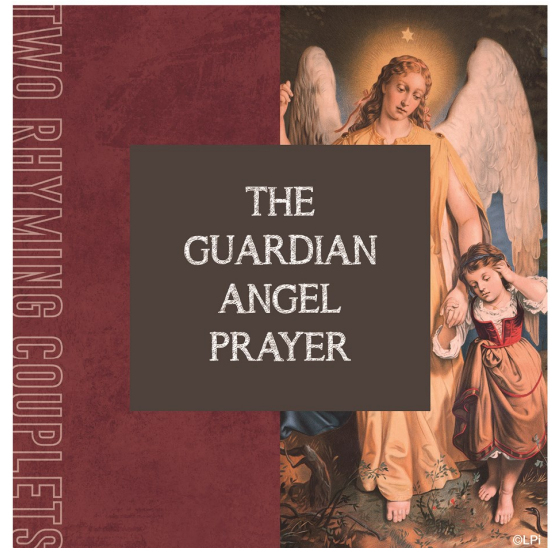
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The Pharisee took such pride in his good deeds that he forgot to ask God for forgiveness; the tax collector acknowledged his many sins, and went home justified. Remember that we are saved not by our own merit, but by the mercy of God.

Observances for the week of October 26, 2025

Sunday:	30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday:	Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles
Friday:	All Hallows' Eve
Saturday:	All Saints
Next Sunday:	The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day); Daylight Saving Time Ends



Devotions, *Explained!*

Often one of the first prayers taught to children, the Guardian Angel Prayer consists of two rhyming couplets invoking the protection of one's guardian angel. Its exact authorship is unknown, but it originated in the medieval period.

Prayer of Praise

Dear God,
As we look to the week ahead,
help us to remember that You will
accompany us at every moment
— You who greet us with mercy
anew every morning, and grace in
abundance each night.
Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: The Pharisee did the right thing sometimes. He fasted. He tithed. But he gazed so long at his own holiness that he became blinded by it. He stood before God, and he could only think of what he had done right.

Tunnel Vision

There are some parents on the playground I really can't stand.

You know them, probably, if you're a parent, or if you're not, you know a different version of them. They'll tell you about how their little Brayden is a bilingual violin prodigy who sleeps through the night and only ever asks to snack on vegetables. But as soon as Brayden starts to chase your screaming kid with a stick, they're conveniently scrolling on their phone, unaware.

You're not irritated that their kid is smarter than yours and likes veggies (well, maybe you are, a little). You're irritated that they have tunnel vision. In striving for perfection, they have become unable to acknowledge imperfections.

If you're reading this, you're probably in church. If you're in church, you're probably someone who is concerned with what is right and what is wrong. I've got news for you: that might just make you (and me) more at risk of being like Brayden's parent than the people who stayed home today.

Unclutch your pearls! It was good of you to come to Mass. Definitely keep doing that. That's the right choice. Just don't forget that in making the right choice, we don't *become righteous*.

Look, I'm not going to lie to you. Sometimes, it's my kids who are doing the chasing with the stick. They're kids, and kids do dumb things, just like everyone else. And maybe it's because they hate vegetables and sleep terribly that I'm less reluctant than Brayden's mom to admit their mistakes. It's a hard fall from the pedestal.

If we're churchgoing followers of Christ, we are hopefully people who earnestly want to do the right thing. Maybe, sometimes, we do exactly that. The Pharisee did the right thing sometimes. He fasted. He tithed. But he gazed so long at his own holiness that he became blinded by it. He stood before God, and he could only think of what he had done right.

We need to stay vigilant, folks. Just when you look away, that's when Brayden grabs the stick.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do we kneel at Mass?

Answer:

Since the beginnings of the Church, kneeling has been a key posture of prayer. We see Sts. Peter and Paul in the Acts of the Apostles kneeling in prayer. Early in the 4th century, the Council of Nicea prohibited kneeling on Sundays and special feasts. Kneeling began more as a posture of penance for our sins, but in the history of the Church, it has become more a posture of reverence and solemn prayer.

You will notice that the times we kneel at Mass are tied to the consecration of the holy Eucharist. We kneel in both anticipation of what will occur and then in awe of what has taken place: Jesus Christ becomes truly present to us under the guise of bread and wine. The profoundness of this event has over time led the Church to mandate in the current General Instruction of the Roman Missal that kneeling is the only posture allowed during this time. The sheer awesomeness of the holy Eucharist leads us to fall to our knees in wonder and thanksgiving.

“But the tax collector stood off at a distance... and prayed, ‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’ I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

- Lk 18:13a, 13c-14

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

Sirach teaches us that God cares deeply about our desire for justice. Can you think of a time when you fought against an unjust situation?

Second Reading:

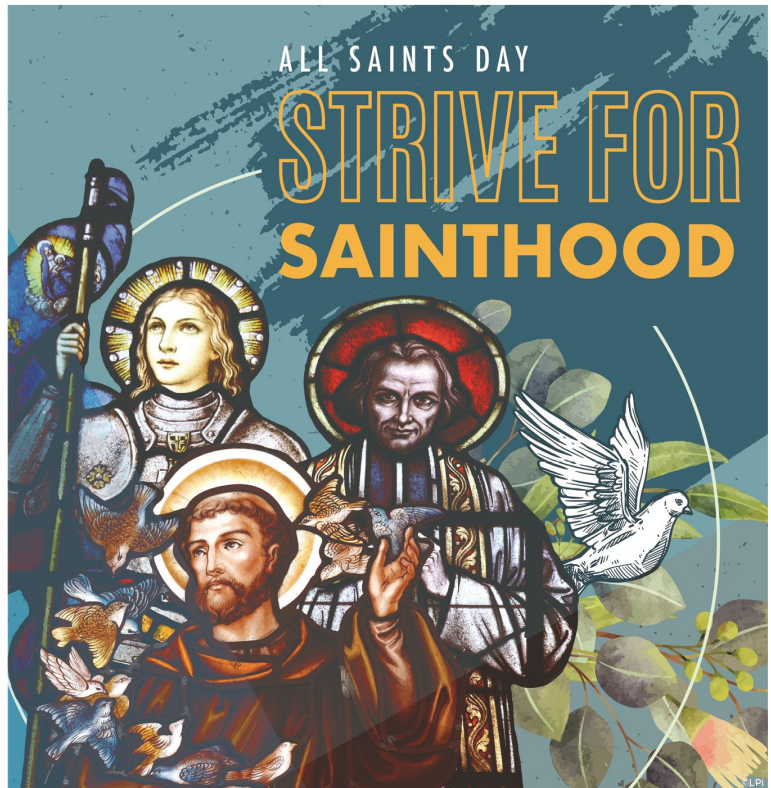
As Paul nears the end of his life, he shares with Timothy how he fought hard for the faith, ever grateful for the Lord's support. As you look back on your life, can you see where God has been present?

Gospel:

Jesus teaches the crowds about the importance of humility. Does humility come to you naturally or do you have to work at it?



Halloween is over, Bub. It's All Saints Day. Beat It!!!



Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles

Feast Day —October 28th

Quote:

In those days he departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. When day came, he called his disciples to himself, and from them he chose Twelve, whom he also named apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called a Zealot, and Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

Reflection: Today, the Church honors Saints Simon and Jude, two of the Twelve Apostles chosen by our Lord. They were two of the first bishops through whom our Lord established His Church and from whom every bishop, priest, and deacon is a spiritual descendant.

Very little is known about these two Apostles, other than what is briefly mentioned about them in the New Testament, and even that is a little confusing. They are both listed among the Twelve whom Jesus names Apostles:

Today's Simon is not Simon Peter, the Prince of the Apostles, but rather "Simon the Cananean" (Matthew and Mark) and "Simon the Zealot" (Luke and Acts). Both names mean the same thing. "Cananean" does not refer to the Land of Canaan but is a translation of an Aramaic word meaning "zealous."

It's interesting to note that Jesus chose a variety of different people as His Apostles. Perhaps the most stark contrast is found between Simon the Zealot and Matthew the tax collector. As a zealot, Simon would have been very committed to his Jewish identity and would have been firmly opposed to Roman oppression and taxation. He would have had an immediate aversion to Matthew, who previously served the Romans by collecting taxes for them from the Jews. The fact that Jesus did not choose like-minded Apostles shows His inclusion of all people. Jesus did not have a favorite type of person. He was not bound by cultural ties, ideologies, or social classes. He was not nationalistic in the sense of being a separatist or isolationist. He was interested in all people, those of every background and experience, and His Apostles reveal that fact. Jesus might have chosen Simon because He wanted to reach out to those who were firmly committed to their Jewish heritage, traditions, and beliefs, and Simon was able to reach those people.

Jude is referred to as "Judas son of James" (Luke and Acts) and "Thaddeus" (Matthew and Mark). The only other reference that is certain about Jude comes from John's Gospel during the Last Supper in which Jude is referred to as "Judas, not the Iscariot..." During the Last Supper, Jesus compassionately instructed His Apostles that He would soon be leaving them, but they should have courage and wait for His Advocate, the Holy Spirit. Jude, expressing a bit of confusion, asked Jesus, "Master, [then] what happened that you will reveal yourself to us and not to the world?" In other words, Jude was asking Jesus why He doesn't just manifest His divinity to everyone, in a clear and convincing way, so that they will all believe in Him. Jesus' answer is mysterious, but He essentially points out that belief in Him must come by the inspired gift of faith, and that obedience to that faith, and to the will of God, will result in divine union.

There is also a reference in two of the Gospels identifying Simon and Jude as Jesus' brothers: "Is he not the carpenter's son? Is not his mother named Mary and his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas?" However, most scholars today believe these two are not the same as the Apostles but are cousins of Jesus. It was custom at that time to refer to one's cousin as brother or sister. It is possible that the Judas identified as Jesus' brother is the author of the Epistle of Jude in the New Testament, rather than the Apostle. However, that point is debated, and even Pope Benedict XVI at a General Audience in 2006 pointed to the tradition that the Epistle of Jude was, indeed, written by the Apostle. If that's the case, then it might be that these two Judes are one and the same.



Regarding their deaths, nothing is known other than unreliable apocryphal sources, such as the *Passion of Simon and Jude*, and other fourth-century and later sources. One of the most common traditions is that Simon and Jude traveled to Persia to preach the Gospel and were both killed there in the year 65. Simon is traditionally believed to have been sawed in half, and Jude is traditionally believed to have been beaten with a club. They often appear in sacred art holding the instruments of their deaths. Other traditions state they ministered in Armenia, Beirut, Lebanon, Roman Britain, Egypt, and/or Samaria and died by arrows, crucifixion, and even a peaceful death.

The Epistle that has been traditionally attributed to Saint Jude the Apostle is a short but passionate letter in which he warns all Christians against immorality and heresy trying to enter the early Church. Some suggest it is for this reason that he is named Patron Saint of Hopeless Causes, because of his passionate plea. Another tradition states that because Jude shared a name with Judas Iscariot, the betrayer, Saint Jude's intercession was rarely sought. However, after the intercession of every other Apostle and saint was sought, people in the early Church would turn to Saint Jude as their last hope. There are many ancient traditions holding that Saint Jude has provided many miracles throughout the centuries.

As we honor these Apostles, what we know for certain is that they were instrumental in the early Church. Being among the first bishops, they bore the sacred responsibility of transmitting the Sacraments and the teachings of Jesus to a nascent Church. One day in Heaven, we will see clearly the effects of their pastoral ministry. Today, we rejoice in what we do not fully know, trusting that their lives gave great glory to God and won the salvation of many souls.

Their Feast Day is observed together as they were said to have suffered martyrdom together.

Prayer: *Saints Simon and Jude, you were both privileged to learn from Jesus Himself. After His Ascension, you were among the first to receive the Holy Spirit and ordination as bishops. God used you to then go forth and fulfill His command to share the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Please pray for me, that I will more fully understand my mission within the Body of Christ and will fulfill my duties with diligence and love. Saints Simon and Jude, pray for me. Jesus, I trust in You.*

.....



All Saints' Day, celebrated on November 1,

honors all saints of the Christian Church, both known and unknown, and is observed with various traditions across different denominations.

Significance and Observance

All Saints' Day, also known as All Hallows' Day or Halloween, is a Christian solemnity dedicated to honor all saints who have attained heaven. It is celebrated on November 1 in Western Christianity, while the Eastern Orthodox Church observe it on the first Sunday after Pentecost.. The day serves as a reminder of the spiritual bond between the living and the saints, emphasizing the belief in the "Church triumphant" (those in heaven) and the "Church militant" (the living believers).

Historical Background

The origins of All Saints' Day can be traced back to the early Christian Church, with various feasts commemorating martyrs held on different dates. The formal establishment of November 1 as All Saints' day is attributed to Pope Gregory III in the 8th century, who dedicated a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica to all saints. The day is part of a three-day observance that begins with Halloween (October 31) and is followed by All Souls' Day (November 2), which honors the faithful departed.

Traditions and Celebrations

- **Mass Attendance:** In the Roman Catholic Church, All Saints' Day is a **Holy Day of Obligation**, meaning that Catholics are required to attend Mass unless they have a valid excuse.
- **Remembrance:** Many Christians use this day to remember and celebrate the lives of saints, including those who have personally influenced their faith.
- **Cultural Practices:** Various cultural practices may accompany the observance, such as lighting candles, visiting graves, and sharing saint stories.