

LITURGICAL LIVING

Series 8: October 15-21

What's the Deal with Halloween?



I don't know if this is the case for you but I have heard people question whether it is appropriate for us as Catholics to celebrate Halloween. Simply, I would argue yes! Halloween is actually a Catholic celebration! Halloween is the precursor to the celebration of All Saints' Day (which we will discuss next week!). Halloween was dedicated to praying for the souls of the Saints and our dearly beloved dead. However, like many other Catholic holidays, culture has diluted and twisted the holiday. Halloween has gone from a celebration of Christ's victory over sin, death and the devil to a celebration of violent, horrific things. The true meaning has been muted and lost. You can learn more about this history from an article on Word on Fire [here](#). Briefly, there has been a lot of misinformation about Halloween that has confused many Christians to the point of doubting if it is okay to celebrate Halloween at all.

Halloween is important for giving us a time to reflect and talk about how we live in a fallen and finite world: there is sin and there is evil. But, in this darkness, Christ is our Light and He is victorious over everything we fear. His Love is stronger than death. Also, it calls to mind the supernatural element to our world. The Communion of Saints reminds us that there is more to this world than we can see. Our souls live on in eternity and those who have died can continue to love us and pray for us and through God's will, make changes. Look at the Catholic tradition of venerating relics, how many miracles have been attributed to praying or touching relics? God works through the Saints. Let's celebrate them!

[How Should Catholics Celebrate Halloween?](#)

Continue to do things like dressing up, trick-or-treating and carving pumpkins. However, just remember to be Catholic. Understand that God knows you and loves you and invites you to celebrate in a way that works for your family. Three guidelines I learned that made sense to me in keeping Halloween Catholic :

1. Celebrate the Saints.
2. Pray for the Dead.
3. Be available to encounter our neighbors and build relationships with us, our church and Jesus.

A tradition I learned was to say a "Hail Mary" with each stop during trick or treating.

I also found these super cute [Catholic Jack-o-Lanterns](#).



Resources

[Word on Fire](#) and [Catholic All Year](#)

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Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist (October 18)



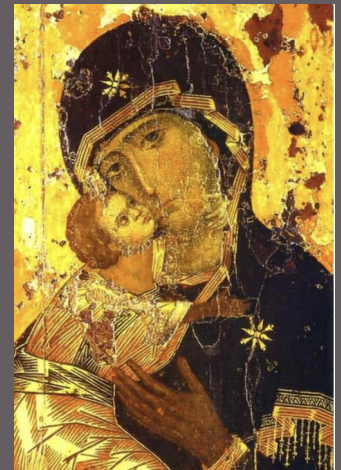
St. Luke was a Greek physician and converted to Christianity shortly after Jesus' death. He wrote the gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles. He is the only Gentile (non-Jewish) author of the Bible! His symbol is a winged ox. An ox because his gospel focuses on the sacrificial aspect of Jesus' ministry and wings because the gospel is meant to be spread everywhere. He is also attributed to making the first ever icon, which was an image of Our Lady!

Celebrate

Read the Gospel of Luke or pray one of the three canticles.

- The Magnificat (Said by Mary at the Visitation to Elizabeth)
- The Benedictus (Said by Zechariah when St. John the Baptist was born)
- Nunc Dimittis (Said by Simeon at Jesus' Presentation in the Temple).

St. Luke is the patron of physicians and surgeons so pray for them today! He is also the patron saint of butchers so grilling out is a great way to celebrate!



Gospel of Luke Hand paint Craft (Catholic Icing)

- Make an ox from 2 handprints.
- Make the head by making a fist and pointing the pinkie side.
- The wing is another handprint.
- Add in touches like eyes with a marker once dry.

Magnificat Coloring Page (Catholic Sprouts)