

# October

The months of August, September, October and November are part of the harvest season, and as Christians we recall God's constant protection over his people and give thanks for the year's harvest.

October falls during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical colour green. The Liturgy does not focus on one particular mystery of Christ, but views the mystery of Christ in all its aspects. We follow the life of Christ through the Gospels, and focus on the teachings and parables of Jesus and what it means for us to be a follower of Christ. During Ordinary Time we can concentrate more on the saints and imitate their holiness as Christ's followers.

October usually is an enjoyable time of the year as the autumn season manifests itself with wonderful autumnal foliage in a variety of colours. The temperatures are cooler, inviting people outdoors for nature walks, apple, berry or pumpkin picking. School routines are more established and football season is in full swing. The celebrations of the Church for the month of October are also wonderful and unique. The feasts of some of the most popular saints of the universal Church are celebrated during this month: St. Therese the Little Flower (France), St. Francis of Assisi (Italy) and St. Teresa of Avila (Spain). These saints come from different countries, and in honouring these saints we can include cultural dishes or activities from each country to make the feastday even more special. We can read more about the lives of these saints and perhaps pick one virtue that each saint practiced well and try to implement it.

The feasts in October also include two of the most popular, time-honored devotions of Catholics, the devotion to the Holy Rosary (October 7th) and the Guardian Angels (October 2nd).

See separate information on the Rosary – October is the Month of the Rosary – and how to pray it on this website.

On October 2nd the Church celebrates the role of the Guardian Angels, as every person has a guardian angel assigned to them. We should show devout gratitude to God for placing these angels at our service. Having a guardian should give us confidence during all of life's difficulties. Every Catholic should know the *Angele Dei* (Angel of God) prayer and pray it often.

October 16th is known as "Pope Day" on which we celebrate the gift of the papacy and our current Pope.

All Hallows' Eve or Halloween (October 31st) heralds the month of November with emphasis on the Communion of Saints, especially the Church Suffering (the Poor Souls in Purgatory) and the second coming of Christ or *parousia*. This last day of October on the secular calendar is second only to Christmas in commercial preparations by some. The secular festivities centre on ghouls, witches and devils, but the Christian counterpart focus on the Communion of Saints. As Christians living a "Catholic Culture", we should try to explore the Christian roots of the Halloween festivities.

This month the main liturgical feasts are:

- St. Therese of Lisieux - the Little Flower (October 1st),
- Guardian Angels (October 2nd)
- St. Francis of Assisi (October 4th)
- St. Faustina (October 5th)
- St. Bruno (October 6th)
- Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7th)
- St. John XXIII (October 11th)
- St. Callistus I (October 14th)
- St. Teresa of Avila - The Child Jesus (October 15th)
- St. Hedwig and St. Margaret Mary (October 16th)
- St. Ignatius of Antioch (October 17th)
- St. Luke (October 18th)
- St. Isaac Jogues, St. John de Brebeuf and Companions (October 19th)
- St. Paul of the Cross (October 20th)
- St. John Paul II (October 22nd)
- St. Anthony Mary Claret (October 24th).
- Sts. Simon and Jude (October 28th)

