

Parish Bulletin Župni Vjesnik

October 27, 2013 - 27. listopada 2013.



St. Jerome Croatian Catholic Parish
Hrvatska katolička župa sv. Jeronima

2823 S. Princeton Ave.
Cardinal Stepinac Way
Chicago, IL 60616

www.stjeromecroatian.org

(this web site has an easy link to our  facebook page)

www.stjermeschool.net

Croatian Franciscan Friars

Fr. Ivica Majstorović, OFM - Fr. Stipe Renić, OFM

YEAR OF FAITH²⁰¹²
2013



GODINA VJERE²⁰¹²
2013

Mass schedule • Raspored misa

Saturday • Subota

5:30 p.m. English

Sunday • Nedjelja

7:30 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. English

11 a.m. Hrvatski

Weekdays • Kroz tjedan

7:30 a.m. English

Posjeta bolesnicima – uvijek

Sick calls – at any time

Krštenja – po dogovoru

Baptisms – by appointment

Ispovijedi – pola sata prije mise

Confessions – before Masses

Vjenčanja – najaviti 6 mjeseci ranije

Weddings – arrange 6 months in
advance

TELEPHONES

Rectory • Ured.....312-842-1871

Fax.....312-842-6427

Sr. Milka Pušić..... 773-285-8526

Parish Council President

Jure Kutleša708-442-7068

School Principal • Ravnatelj škole

Christopher Caban 312-842-7668

Liturgical Coordinator

Matthew Pesce 773-847-6914

CCD Director

Gerard Fratto 312-842-4077

e-mail....stjeromecroatian@gmail.com

Hrvatski Katolički Radio

Glas župe sv. Jeronima

Subotom od 10 do 11 sati (750 AM)

Croatian Catholic Radio

Voice of St. Jerome's

Saturday, 10 to 11 a.m. on 750 AM

Monday, October 28 - *Ponedjeljak, 28. listopada*

Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles
sv. Šimun i Juda Tadej, apostoli

7:30 a.m.

In honor of St. Jude *Rose Ann*
Na čast Gospi brze pomoći *obitelj Zukanović*

Tuesday, October 29 - *Utorak, 29. listopada*

7:30 a.m.

† Vinka Turčinović *Stipe Tokić i obitelj*
Na čast sv. Ante *Željka Gavrić*

Wednesday, October 30 - *Srijeda, 30. listopada*

7:30 a.m.

† Nick LoCoco *wife*
† Lucy Bekavac *Joe and El Grzetich*

Thursday, October 31 - *Četvrtak, 31. listopada*

7:30 a.m.

† Joe and Jeanne Zekich *Perisin family*
Na nakanu *obitelj Pudar*

7 – 9 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration – *Euharistijsko klanjanje*

Friday, November 1 - *Petak, 1. studenoga*

ALL SAINTS – *SVI SVETI*

7:30 a.m.

† fra Ante Grbeš *Diane Krolo*
† Josip Strmečki (20th Anniversary) *Maria*

9 a.m.

PRO POPULO - For all Parishioners – *Za župljane*

7 p.m.

† Sr. Bernardine Čondić *Duško*
† Margaret Loscalzo *Ellen O'Donnell*
† Jure Dugandžić *Anđelko Šušnjara*
†† Toma i Kata Botica *Gen and family*
†† Marko i Ana Barać *obitelj Golub*
†† iz obitelji Šušnjara *Anđelko Šušnjara i obitelj*
†† iz obitelji Lerotić *Anđelko Šušnjara i obitelj*
†† iz obitelji Mišetić i Čuvalo *Ivan i Iva Mišetić*
Na nakanu *Ivanka Šušnjara i obitelj*

Saturday, November 2 - *Subota, 2. studenoga*

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
(All Souls' Day)

Spomendan svih vjernih mrtvih (Dušni dan)

7:30 a.m.

† Angela „Snooky“ Valenti *husband Ross*
† Mary Crosby *Perisin family*
† John Kraslen *Joan Sipich*
†† John and Marge Sobocan *Chris and Matt Pesce*
†† Angelo and Mary Pesce *Chris and Matt Pesce*

5:30 p.m.

† John White *Bob Twombly*
† Mary Ann Gazzi *Gazzi family*
† Theresa Ratchovsky *Charles Oslaković*
† Maria Diacci *Mirjana Šušnjara i obitelj*
† Milan Žolo *obitelj Perić*
† Karmila Knezović *kumovi Čuvalo*
†† Toma i Kata Botica *Michelle and Brian*
†† of Babich and Iozzo families *Terri and Sam Babich*

Sunday, November 3 - *Nedjelja, 3. studenoga*

31TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

31. NEDJELJA KROZ GODINU

7:30 a.m.

† John Ish Botica *Gen*
† Danny Considine *Charles Marino*
† Sara Phillips *Catherine LoCoco*
† Mary Somen *Eleanor Drozd*
†† Evelyn, Sr. Bernardine and Jozo Čondić *Duško*
9:30 a.m.
† Mary Somen *Marion Roti*
† JoAnn Passarelli *Ciaccio and Halloran families*
† Shirley Bills *Cathy Amato*
† Zvonko Čabo *Kay Siani*
†† Ivo and Catris *Rosemarie Sestito*
†† Joe and Frank Barber *family*

11 a.m.

† Marija Galović *suprug Ante*
† Anđelko Šipić *Ante Sipich*
† Robert Jurlina *obitelj Jurlina*
† Madeline Bratich *obitelj*
† Ilija Pavljašević *Ivan i Iva Mišetić i obitelj*
† Ivan Lerotić *Duje Šušnjara i obitelj*
† Zvonko Čabo *obitelj Pudar*
† Ante Čiro Dukić *Anđelka Jukić i obitelj*
†† Ljubo i Dumica Tanfara *djeca*
†† Frank i Maria Cecchini *Bruno i Jasna*
†† Ante i Iva Tokić *Stipe Tokić i obitelj*
†† Mile i Lucija Prša *Kata i Josip Bajzec*
†† Grgo i Milica Bilonić *kći Milenka Lišnić i obitelj*
†† Jakov i Anđa Šipić *Petar Žaper i obitelj*
†† iz obitelji Lončar i Jurilj *Ante i Anica Lončar*
†† iz obitelji Čondić *Duško*
†† iz obitelji Hrkać *Pavao i Kata Hrkać*
†† iz obitelji Zelić *Ante Zelić i obitelj*
†† iz obitelji Brajković *Neva Zelić i obitelj*
Na nakanu *Stipe Tokić i obitelj*
Na nakanu *Bože Guvo*

LECTORS - ČITAČI

5:30 p.m. – Joseph Magyar

7:30 a.m. – Luanne Munizzi

9:30 a.m. – Jan Zekich

11 a.m. – Ivana Jureta, Mario Ivančić, Anđela Bajić

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Many people will be celebrating Halloween this week, often with costumes, parties, and trick-or-treating. This holy evening the night before All Saints' Day is a time to cast out evil and to frighten away the darkness. The light of the jack-o'-lanterns with their scary faces is meant to intimidate the evil that lurks around in the night as we march into the day celebrating the saints triumphant. While some people may get caught up in the exuberance of a holiday, reveling without a thought to the holy day that follows, Halloween is by virtue of its very name, a sacred night. The saints whom we honor are people who threw aside darkness so that they could live as sons and daughters of light, who never pretended to be anything other than children of God.

The parable that Jesus tells in the Gospel this Sunday presents us with two men, a Pharisee and a tax collector. The Pharisee is so convinced of his own righteousness that he doesn't hesitate to tell God how good a man he thinks himself to be. In the meantime, it is the tax collector who is aware of his own need for God's mercy because of his recognition of his own faults before God. Jesus points out that the man who acknowledged his sinfulness was the man who went home justified.

They didn't celebrate Halloween in the days of the Pharisee and the tax collector. But the Pharisee seemed ready to dress himself up in all kinds of virtue in an attempt to show his supposed righteousness. We may dress up on Halloween in some outlandish costume just for fun. But in our lives each day we really need to put on Christ. Like the saints, we wear our dignity as sons and daughters of God, acknowledging our faults, seeking God's help, and abandoning any evil that lures us away from holiness. Then we'll have a real Hallowed Evening!

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION
IZVANREDNI POSLUŽITELJI SV. PRIČESTI

5:30 p.m. – Jan Ferro
7:30 a.m. – Matt Pesce
9:30 a.m. – Rosemary Brcich
11 a.m. – Tomislav Šulentić

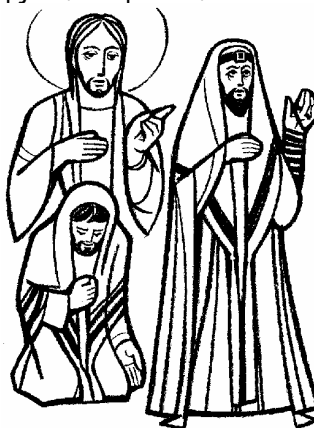
ALTAR SERVERS - MINISTRANTI

5:30 p.m. - Monica Matual, Lucas Mizera, John Zekich
7:30 a.m. – Isabella and Olivia Wroblewski
9:30 a.m. – Michael Passarelli, Natalia Ruich,
Zach Sandoval
11 a.m. – Michael Karačić, Ante Ledić, Lorin
Draženović, Josip Dugandžić, Marija Kraljević

30. NEDJELJA KROZ GODINU

U ovonedjeljnom liturgijskom ulomku iz Knjige Sirahove očituje se slika o Bogu i molitvi obespravljenih, tj. siromaha, sirota, udovica i hendikepiranih. Biblijski vjernik vjeruje u Boga nepristranog, pravednog suca koji nikoga ne prezire već je svima blagonaklon, ali koji uspostavlja pravdu ne gledajući na čovjekovu vanjštinu, društveno-politički položaj ili ekonomsku moć. U drugom dijelu teksta riječ je o odnosu siromaha prema Bogu i njegovu pouzdanju u njega, koje se očituje u njegovim molitvama koje "prodiru kroz oblake" i dopiru do Božjega prijestolja. Poteškoća je jedino u pitanju vremena u kojem će Bog konačno uspostaviti pravdu za svakoga. Nije lako govoriti o Bogu pravde kad su tako očite socijalne nepravde. Unatoč tome istinski vjernik ima pouzdanje u Boga čija su vremena i vjekovi; u Boga koji na kraju uzima pravdu u svoje ruke te je pravedan prema svakome.

Uspjesi čovjeka vesele, donose samopouzdanje i jačaju volju za postignuće novih ciljeva. Neuspjesi, naprotiv, obeshrabruju. Imajući to u vidu



možemo ispravnije razmišljati nad Isusovom prisposodobom o dvojici molitelja njegova vremena: farizeja i carinika. Farizeji su bili isključivi rodoljubi i rigorozni, zapravo doslovni opslužitelji propisa Mojsijeva zakona. Odlazili su dnevno na molitvu u hram. Dva dana u tjednu su postili i davali desetinu od svega

što su imali. Jedan od takvih je kroz svoju molitvu sve to pred Bogom isticao, ali i bezdušno obezvrjeđivao i osuđivao grešnike. Drugi se čovjek u svojoj molitvi nije s nikim uspoređivao i nikoga nije osuđivao, već je ponizno od Boga molio milosrđe i oprostjenje. Isus zaključuje kako je ispravno molio i od Boga bio uslišan takav molitelj, a ne onaj farizej. Zašto? Zato što se je farizej krivo postavio prema Bogu i prema ljudima. Farizej je u svojoj oholosti mislio kako se on nema u čemu popraviti, ni Božjom dobrotom ispuniti. Isus objavljuje Boga bogatog milosrđem i opraštanjem te time daje na znanje kako se ljudi trebaju potvrđivati kroz razumijevanje, dobrohotnu ljubav i opraštanje, a ne umišljenošću, bahatošću i obezvređivanjem drugih.

RESPECT LIFE MONTH - BABY BOTTLE PROJECT

October is Respect Life Month. The Baby Bottle Project benefit The Women's Centers of Greater Chicago. They assist mothers and families experiencing crisis pregnancies by offering emotional, financial, material and spiritual support through counseling and monetary provisions, prayer and other aid. Please, take home a baby bottle and collect any change you may have.

OCTOBER MASS ATTENDANCE COUNT

During October we take a count of the number of people attending each Mass. This is a very important source of information when the Archdiocese plans and makes decisions about the future.

OCTOBER - MONTH OF MARY

The month of October is dedicated to Mary. During this month we offer up to Mary from our hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. We pray rosary before Sunday Masses. Join us!

You are welcome to join the prayer group at our Friary chapel on Drexel Blvd. every Wednesday at 7 p.m.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION MEETING

On Tuesday, October 29, at 7:30 p.m. will be a meeting for all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. To serve at the altar is an important ministry and a great honor. We will have a preparation for new candidates from our parish for this ministry.

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Come to the St. Jerome Halloween Headquarters Dinner and Party on Thursday, October 31, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. The 8th Grade parents will be serving Chili with all the fixin's, Hot Dogs, Tamales, and plenty of treats. Get your discounted tickets in advance by stopping in the office or pay at the door.

ALL SAINTS' DAY AND ALL SOULS' DAY

Masses for All Saints' Day (holy day of obligation) will be on Friday, November 1, at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. The Marian Society will lead us in a prayer of rosary at 6:30 p.m. and assist with special prayers and meditation for our beloved deceased parishioners. Mass for the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day) will be on Saturday, Nov 2, at 7:30 a.m.

VISIT TO THE CEMETERIES

We will be visiting and praying at the graves of our parishioners on All Souls' Day (Saturday, November 2). One priest will come at 10 a.m. to the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery and start prayer at the Croatian Franciscan graves. At 11:30 a.m. we will meet at the Resurrection Cemetery at the Chapel. Another priest will come to the St. Mary's Cemetery at 10 a.m. and meet parishioners at the Office. Please, let us know if you would like us to stop at the grave of your loved one and pray with you.

WEDDING BANNS NAJAVA VJENČANJA

1) Ramon Vega & Christie Ann Bertucci

LET US PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Grace S. Gusich, 80. Wife of the Walter Z. "Wally". Mother of Cynthia (Ronald) Ragazinskas, Mark and Gregory (Maria); grandmother of Theresa, Dana, Juliann, Gino, Mark and Taylor; sister of Hector, +Alfred and Carmen (Fausto) Manzera; aunt of many nieces and nephews. She was buried on Thursday, October 24, at St. Mary Cemetery. May she rest in peace.

HEALTH FAIR

On Sunday, November 3, we will have a Health Fair in our School Hall. After morning Masses (8:30 a.m.- 1 p.m.) Mercy Hospital and Medical Center staff will be providing FREE health screenings including cholesterol, diabetes and blood pressure.

MEDJUGORJE, LOURDES AND FATIMA PILGRIMAGE

Go as a pilgrim to the Marian shrines of Europe (Medjugorje, Lourdes, Fatima) with Fr. Stipe Renić. Trip dates: June 16-27, 2014. Cost: \$3,999.00 (Airfare and All Inclusive). For more information: proximotravel.com.

JOIN US IN OUR WEEKDAY ACTIVITIES

WEIGHTWATCHERS - If you want to get in shape than join Weightwatchers. They come together on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. in the Lower Small Hall.

ZUMBA - If you want to get in shape and have fun - join Zumba every Tuesday and Thursday in the Big Hall from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

CROATIAN SCHOOL FOR ADULTS - If you want to learn Croatian - join Croatian School for Adults every Tuesday and Friday in the Upper Small Hall from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Beginners are welcome! For more informations ask majabandalo@gmail.com or call 312-504-8099.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION - Adoration to the Blessed Sacrament is every Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. This is a beautiful time to pray and reflect with the Lord.

AA - Meetings are held every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Upper Small Hall. This is a wonderful group of people who are following the 12 Step program.

SAVE THE DATE

- Tuesday, October 29
Meeting, studying, training, refreshing for
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
- Thursday, October 31
Halloween party (School Hall - from 5:30-8 p.m.)
- Friday, November 1
All Saints' Day
- Saturday, November 2
All Souls' Day

BOČICE ZA BEBE

Nastavljamo s projektom "Bočice za bebe". Uzimate dječje bočice, napuniti ih novcem te ih vratite u crkvu. Na taj način ćemo pomoći The Women's Centers of Greater Chicagoland. Listopad je mjesec posvećen dostojanstvu života. Pomozimo majke koje su u nevolji da mogu roditi svoju djecu te dobiti potrebnu pomoć.

POHODANJE SV. MISE U MJESECU LISTOPADU

U mesecu listopadu katoličke župa trebaju prebrojiti koliko ljudi dolazi na sv. misu. To je vrlo bitan pokazatelj vitalnosti pojedine župe. U isto vrijeme, ovo je prigoda da porazmislimo o svome sudjelovanju u sakramentima, osobito u sv. misi, te u životu naše hrvatske župe.



LISTOPAD – MJESEC POSVEĆEN MARIJI

Mjesec listopad je posvećen Blaženoj Djevici Mariji i molitvi krunice. U krunici od Marije učimo kako slušati Evanđelje, odnosno Isusa, te želimo da nas ona vodi na putu kroz otajstva Isusova života. Krunicu molimo u 10:30 sati prije podne tj. prije hrvatske sv. mise.

SASTANAK ZA IZVANREDNE POSLUŽITELJE SV. PRIČESTI

U utorak 29. listopada, u 7:30 sati navečer, imat ćemo sastanak sa svim izvanrednim poslužiteljima sv. pričesti. Novi kandidati za tu važnu i časnu službu će se upoznati s liturgijskim normama i pravilima te službe.

SVI SVETI I DUŠNI DAN

Svetkovinu Svih svetih slavimo u petak 1. studenoga a Spomen svih vjernih pokojnih (Dušni dan) u subotu 2. studenoga. Svetkovinom Svih svetih slavimo one koje je Crkva proglasila svetima (da su u nebu), ali i one koji nam nisu poznati a nalaze se u nebu - u zajedništvu s Bogom. Spomendanom svih vjernih pokojnih molimo za one koji su preminuli ali još nisu u nebu nego prolaze kroz čistilište. Svete mise će biti u petak (Svi sveti) u 7:30 i 9 sati ujutro te u 7 sati navečer. Marijino društvo će predvoditi molitvu krunice u 6:30 sati navečer (prije mise). U subotu (Dušni dan) sv. misu slavimo u 7:30 sati ujutro. Sjetimo se svojih pokojnih. Ako ove godine niste dali slaviti sv. misu za njih, učinite to ovih dana.

POHOD GROBLJIMA NA DUŠNI DAN

U subotu 2. studenoga (Dušni dan) pohodit ćemo groblja i moliti za naše pokojne župljane. Jedan od svećenika će u 10 sati prije podne pohoditi groblje Holy Sepulchre i početi molitvu kod grobnice hrvatskih franjevaca. U 11:30 sati okupit ćemo se na groblju Resurrection te započeti molitvu kod kapelice. Drugi svećenik će doći na groblje St. Mary u 10 sati prije podne. Možemo se okupiti kod ureda groblja te početi s molitvom. Javite nam ako želite da pohađamo grob i vaših pokojnih, te se zajedno pomolimo za njih.

ZDRAVSTVENI SAJAM

U nedjelju 3. studenoga imat ćemo našoj Velikoj dvorani osoblje Mercy bolnice koji će mjeriti tlak, kolesterol, dijabetes te biti na raspolaganju za sva vaša pitanja. Nakon sv. misa (od 8:30 sati ujutro do 1 sat poslije podne) dođite u dvoranu i saznajte više o svome zdravlju.

PROSLAVA MARTINJA

KUD Hrvatska baština priređuje proslavu Martinja u subotu 16. studenoga u našoj Školskoj dvorani s početkom u 7 sati navečer. Spomendan sv. Martina (11. studenoga) je vrijeme kada se u Hrvatskoj okupljaju prijatelji da bi kušali novo vino. Tako ćemo i mi imati kušanje novih vina proizvedenih u Chicagu od hrvatskih vinara. Ako i vi pravite vino, donesite par boca za kušanje i ocjenjivanje. Najbolji vinar će dobiti i nagradu. Svi ste dobro došli.

PROSLAVA 40. GODIŠNJICE HRVATSKE ŠKOLE KARDINAL STEPINAC

Hrvatska škola Kardinal Stepinac u subotu 30. studenoga slavi 40. godišnjicu postojanja i uspješnog rada. Proslava će započeti u 6:30 sati navečer. Pozivamo sve učenike i roditelje koji su u zadnjih 40 godina doprinjeli da se hrvatski jezik, kultura, pjesma i plesovi prenose na nove generacije Hrvata grada Chicaga i okolice.

HRVATSKA ŠKOLA I VJERONAUČNI

Nastava u Hrvatskoj školi Kardinal Stepinac se održava subotom od 8:30 sati ujutro do 12:30 sati poslije podne. Poštovani roditelji, molimo dovedite svoju djecu redovito i na vrijeme.

Hrvatska škola za odrasle nastavlja s radom. Ako želite učiti hrvatski jezik a stariji ste od 18 godina pridružite se već osnovanoj grupi svakog utorka i petka u gornjoj maloj dvorani s početkom u 7:30 sati navečer. Za više detalja pošaljite upit na majabandalo@gmail.com ili nazovite 312-504-8099.

Započeli smo i s novom vjeronaučnom godinom. Dragi roditelji, molimo, svoju djecu redovito dovedite na sv. misu i vjeronauk.

MINISTRANTI - POSLUŽITELJI KOD OLTARA

Dragi roditelji, želite li da vaše dijete posluži kod oltara? Javite se u naš župni ured. Sva djeca koja su već primila prvu sv. pričest mogu posluživati kod oltara. Posluživati kod oltara je čast i milost.

For Rent – iznajmljuje se

► Apt. 29th & Shields, 5 rooms, 2 bedrooms, just painted, new carpeting, central heat & a/c, ceiling fans, blinds. Call 312-593-2864.

► Apt. 1st fl. rear, 3 rooms: 1 large bdrm., roomy front rm., 1 medium kitchen, fridge, stove, finished bathroom, closed-in porch. Seniors preferred, no smoking, no pets. Call after 5 p.m. – 773-254-2836.

SHOULD CATHOLICS CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN?

Is Halloween a satanic holiday or merely a secular one? Should Catholic children dress up like ghosts and goblins? Lost in the debate is the history of Halloween, which, far from being a pagan religious event, is actually a Christian celebration that's almost 1,300 years old.

"Halloween" is a contraction of "All Hallows Eve," and it designates the vigil of All Hallows Day - [All Saints Day](#). ("Hallow," as a noun, is an old English word for saint. As a verb, it means to make something holy or to honor it as holy.) All Saints Day, November 1, is a [Holy Day of Obligation](#), and both the feast and the vigil have been celebrated since the early 8th century, when they were instituted by Pope Gregory III in Rome.

Despite concerns in recent years about the "pagan origins" of Halloween, there really are none. The first attempts to show some connection between the vigil of All Saints and the Celtic harvest festival Samhain came over a 1,000 years after All Saints Day became a universal feast, and there's no evidence whatsoever that Gregory III was even aware of Samhain. In Celtic peasant culture, however, elements of the harvest festival survived, even among Christians, just as the Christmas tree owes its origins to pre-Christian Germanic traditions without being a pagan ritual.

The Celtic elements included lighting bonfires, carving turnips (and, in America, pumpkins), and going from house to house, collecting treats, as carolers do at Christmas. But the "occult" aspects of Halloween (ghosts and demons) actually have their roots in Catholic belief. Christians believed that, at certain times of the year (Christmas is another), the veil separating earth from [Purgatory](#), heaven, and even hell becomes more thin, and the souls in Purgatory (ghosts) and demons can be more readily seen. Thus the tradition of Halloween costumes owes as much, if not more, to Christian belief as to Celtic tradition.



The current attacks on Halloween aren't the

first. In post-Reformation England, All Saints Day and its vigil were suppressed, and the Celtic peasant customs associated with Halloween were outlawed. Christmas and the traditions surrounding it were similarly attacked, and the Puritan Parliament banned Christmas outright in 1647. In America, Puritans outlawed the celebration of both Christmas and Halloween, which were revived largely by German and Irish immigrants in the 19th century.

Continued opposition to Halloween was largely an expression of anti-Catholicism (as well as anti-Irish prejudice). But by the early 20th century, Halloween, like Christmas, was becoming highly commercialized. Pre-made costumes, decorations, and special candy all became widely available, and the Christian origins of the holiday were downplayed. The rise of horror films, and especially the slasher films of the late 70's and 80's, contributed to Halloween's bad reputation, as did the claims of putative Satanists and Wiccans, who created a mythology in which Halloween had been their festival, co-opted later by Christians.

A new backlash against Halloween by non-Catholic Christians began in the 1980's, in part because of claims that Halloween was the "Devil's Night"; in part because of urban legends about [poisons in Halloween candy](#). By the late 90's, many Catholic parents, unaware of the anti-Catholic origins of the attack on Halloween, had begun to question Halloween as well, and alternative celebrations became popular.

One of the most popular Christian alternatives is an All Saints Party, usually held on Halloween and featuring costumes (of saints rather than ghouls) and candy. At best, though, this is an attempt to Christianize an already Christian holiday.

In the end, the choice is yours to make as a parent. If you choose to let your children participate in Halloween, simply stress the need for physical safety (including checking over their candy when they return home), and explain the Christian origins of Halloween to your children. Before you send them off trick-or-treating, [recite together](#) the [Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel](#), and explain that, as Catholics, [we believe in the reality of evil](#). Tie the vigil explicitly to the Feast of All Saints, and explain to your children why we celebrate that feast, so that they won't view All Saints Day as "the boring day when we have to go to church before we can eat some more candy."

Let's reclaim Halloween for Christians, by returning to its roots in the Catholic Church!