

## The Beginning of the End

November is the beginning of the end of the church liturgical year. November begins with All Saints' Sunday and ends with Christ the King/The Reign of Christ Sunday. So, as we approach the end of another church calendar year, what is it that we need to know about the winding down of one Christian year in preparation for the new year and the more expectant and festive seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany?

All Saints' Day is part of the season of "Allhallowtide", which includes three days from October 31 through November 2. In the Church, All Saints' (or All Hallows') Day is observed on November 1, which is why October 31 is known as All Hallows' Eve or Halloween and All Soul's Day is observed on November 2. The Christian celebration of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day stems from a belief that there is a powerful spiritual bond between those in heaven and the living here on earth.

Each of the three days of Allhallowtide have a different emphasis but in the longstanding Catholic and Protestant practice since 800 a.d. and in the forty-six year tradition of the Chapel, All Saints' Sunday is the day that we remember with love all those in our faith community who have died in the past year and honor all the saints of our church... past, present, and future. To me it seems so appropriate that we end the liturgical year with an acknowledgement of the church and the saints that have made up the church in the past, those that are the church today, and those who will shepherd our Chapel into the future.

But, All Saints' is only the beginning of the end of the liturgical year. The Christian year is not complete until Christ the King Sunday which is now most commonly called the Reign of Christ Sunday.

Pope Pius XI established Christ the King Sunday in 1925 to counter what he regarded as the destructive forces of the modern world: secularism in the West, the rise of communism in Russia, fascism in Italy and Spain, and the harbingers of Nazism soon to seize Germany. The purpose of Christ the King Sunday was to remind Christians that their allegiance was to their spiritual ruler in heaven as opposed to any earthly government or ideology. The Pope also wanted this new feast to inspire the faithful. He hoped that, in celebrating it, Christian men and women would be reminded that it is to Christ we owe our loyalty and that no earthly power can ever surpass that of Jesus' eternal kingship.

Here at the Chapel we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday on November 6th as we remember all those in our faith community who have died in the past year. We will celebrate Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, November 20th. But, for our church in particular, November 20th calls for another remembrance. This year Christ the King Sunday will also fall on the 46th Anniversary of the founding of our Chapel so we will have even more to celebrate

Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany are just on the horizon, but in November let us not forget to rejoice as we approach the climax of another church year as we remember the saints of this Chapel, acknowledge that Christ rules over heaven and earth, and celebrate the proud Christians who formed this Chapel just forty-six years ago.

Peace,  
Pastor Paul