

Fr Ben's Weekly Reflection

Solemnity of All Saints

Nov 1, 2026

Stranger Things

One of my favorite events with our homeschool group was the All Saints Parties we would have. We kids would dress up as different saints and there are so many fun options. Props were common since most Saints are depicted in art with specific items. Saint Sebastian shot with arrows was a favorite for the boys. One friend's dad was an optometrist, so she came as St. Lucy with two model eyes on a tray since St. Lucy had her eyes gouged out before she was martyred.

All Saints Day follows what was known as All Hallows Eve, the vigil for All Saints Day. You can probably put two and two together and see how Halloween appeared in the secular world. As my stories above show, the Church has never shied away from the "fantastic" in that we are not afraid to portray saint and martyrs in their "glory."

Showing St. Lucy with her eyes or St. Sebastian shot with arrows or St. Paul holding a sword or St. Bartholomew holding his skin (Sistine Chapel…Michelangelo…worth a google) is not out of gore or horror like modern day Halloween. The Saints are always portrayed as the victors that they are. They overcame the trials of life and never denied the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ even to the point of death.

In a way, the Saints are stranger than any werewolf or Frankenstein's monster because they chose the "narrow way" that few find. But that narrow way includes so many walks of life such as: teachers, artists, mothers, fathers, children, hermits, soldiers, nuns, priests, bishops, popes, businessmen, farmers, missionaries, lawyers, and a barber just to name a few. The saints didn't set out to be a canonized saint with a feast day and praise. They set out to live, love, and serve Jesus Christ.

The one thing that really sets saints apart is they don't settle for less than the best. Sometimes we can look around at our life and go "eh…this is good enough. I'm a good enough person." This leads us to be pretty boring, lukewarm Catholics who just fade into obscurity. Saints say, "I'm not good enough!" Saints set out to transform themselves to be like Christ. Saints hear the calling of "be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect" not as a suggestion, but as a rule of life.

We receive that same invitation at our baptism. That desire for God ought to grow in us. If that desire is flat, stale, or missing…we had better do something about that, like, now. Holiness isn't for the perfect. Holiness is for all us imperfect, sinful human beings who are invited to be transformed into saints by our heavenly Father. Let's get to work and maybe someone will be dressing up as us for an All Saints' party a hundred years from now.