



## October Domestic Church At-Home Family Project



Autumn is finally upon us. The leaves are going to turn colors soon, revealing God as a masterful creator and painter in the natural world. We also start to decorate our homes for Halloween and pick out our costumes for Trick-or-Treat. Do we know where these holiday traditions come from? Is there a part of it that leads us to connect Halloween with our faith traditions? There is!

Halloween is a shortened version of the “**Eve of All Hallows**”. The word **hallow** means **holy** – as in the Our Father... “Hallowed be Thy Name”. The Eve of All Hallows – October 31<sup>st</sup> – is the day before we Catholics remember all the holy people who have gone before us and celebrate their examples of faith on the **Solemnity of All Saints** (November 1<sup>st</sup>). This special day of remembrance is a Holy Day of Obligation on which Catholics must attend Mass. Since our theme for Religious Education this year is **#I Am a Saint in the Making**, we should all make an extra effort to be at Mass on this day.

Traditionally, Halloween is also a time to remember those of our family and friends who have gone before us to be with God in Eternal Life. Many of our customs of Halloween come from other cultures. We dress up in costumes like our Mexican brothers and sisters when they celebrate **Días de los Muertos**. We have jack-o-lanterns because of the Irish harvest festival **Samhain**, when people would carve a hole in a pumpkin, squash, or gourd, and insert a lit candle which they would leave outside their front doors to guide the spirits of their ancestors to their homes.



For our **October Domestic Church At-Home Family Project** you can do one of two things (or both if you want!).

1. Do a “**reverse Trick-or-Treat**”: In addition to going door to door on Halloween for candy, donate food to a local food pantry, or candy (bagged, wrapped, and no peanuts) to a program for special needs children or the children’s wing of a hospital.
2. **Send us the names** of family and friends who have gone home to God. Names will be compiled and placed on the altar during the **Parish Mass of Remembrance on Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

**Have a safe, fun, and blessed Halloween!**