**Oh When the Saints**

When in high school at my alma mater we sang about ourselves as the saints who would come marching in victorious. We had contested with our opponent in a sporting event (usually football) and won. The exuberance of youth! On a religious level in the Catholic Tradition there is the ***Communion of Saints***: those in Heaven, those on the way to Heaven (Purgatory), those on earth. We praise and pray to those in heaven, we pray to and support those on the way to Heaven by our prayers and ask both groups to pray for us. Of course we on earth should pray for each other. Though the Saints in Heaven do need our praise, in honoring them, we honor God and our inspired by their example of holiness and virtue. So many saints in Heaven! Not all are known. On November 1st beginning with October 31st, the vigil of “All Hallows”, we honor all the Saints. The day is treated like a Sunday, it is a holy day…the saints in heaven do not need it but we do. It is a day of obligation and Masses at Mother of Sorrows will be at 4:15pm on Tuesday, October 31st and at 8:30am and 7:00pm on Wednesday, November 1st. On Thursday, November 2nd, All Souls Day, we remember and pray for all who have died and are on their way to Heaven. While not a day of obligation, many will choose to come to Mass. Masses on All Souls Day at Mother of Sorrows will be at 8:30am, 12Noon, and 7:00pm. In addition there will be prayer service at Mater Dolorosa Cemetery (Route 303, next Happy Days Visitor Center), following the 8:30am Mass. We will gather there at about 9:15am, pray and bless the graves as is done on Memorial Day. All are welcome and invited to come and pray for those buried there. All are also welcome and invited to attend Mass for All Saints Day and All Souls Day. “***Oh when the saints come marching*** ***in, I want to be in that number, that number. When the saints come marching in.”***

Fr. John Terzano

Mother of Sorrows Parish, Peninsula