

From WILKIPEDIA

## Halloween:



## Not to Be Confused With All Saints' Day!



This is a paper my priest gave us to let us know about Halloween and All Saints' Day (we're Orthodox so we don't necessarily know about it, it's not in this time of the year for us).

The fact that Halloween, with its pumpkins and processions of witches, happens at the same time as All Saints' Day may be confusing for children.

"For us, there is no cult of the dead; there is prayer for the dead, but in no manner is it acceptable to communicate with them. We rather seek a relationship with God, carried by the hope that the deceased are in the Kingdom of God," precises Paul Nougier, the diocesan official.

And Father Frederic Beau concludes: "All Saints' Day is something altogether different from Halloween (...) Called to be saints, let us rejoice for those who already entered the Kingdom and let us also celebrate that which we are called to become. If we seek other reasons to celebrate, it is certainly because our celebration of All Saints' Day is not festive enough."

In the East [in Orthodoxy], all Saints are celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost. This liturgical choice glorifies the Saints as the fruits of the Holy Spirit and the witnesses of His everlasting presence in the history of the Church.

The West rather dedicates the first Sunday after Pentecost to the Divine Trinity. The Trinitarian mystery rules over and illuminates the Sundays following Pentecost.

[In the West,] the feast of all Saints (All Saints' Day) is set, since the 7th century, on the 1st of November.

On the 2nd of November,



this feast is followed by the commemoration of the dead "from Adam to nowadays."

People all over Western Europe go to the cemetery to pray and to leave flowers on the graves. The intention is complementary to the Eastern one. Located at the end of the liturgical year in the perspective of eschatology, of the fulfillment of the times, of the advent of the Kingdom of God which will gather as a massive crowd all the Saints and all the dead, All Saints' Day is a true apocalyptic vision. In fact, the Epistle of the feast is Revelation 7:2-12.

