

MOM TO MOM GROUP

Fall has arrived in earnest



October prepares us for the colder months ahead. It is a month of peace before we start our hec-

tic activities in preparation of the holiday times of Halloween, Thanksgiving and our beautiful winter festivals of Advent and Christmas.

This month we can start to prepare our inner world as well as outer world with festivity preparations. What do we plan to do as a family or with friends during the holidays? Are there parties or performances that have become a family

tradition that we plan to hold or take part in?

Ask yourself, how can we cut down on our personal stress during these busy months. How can we leave space for inner reflection, for being thankful and prepare ourselves for the birthday of our Lord and how can we lead our families into these inner endeavors.

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS:

- ◆ Halloween (All Hallows Eve) 31 October
- ◆ All Saints Day (1 Nov)
- ◆ All Souls Day (2nd Nov)

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October Holidays

As we prepare our costumes and our Trick or Treat walks for *Halloween* and what to do about all those sweets.

We can also look forward to the lesser popular festivities like All Saints Day and All Souls Day, both of which are of great importance to our church.

What all three holidays have in common is that they each contribute

towards the moment in the festival year when our thoughts are turned towards those who have died.

In the days past those later two celebrations were important as we looked towards our Christian martyrs for guidance and the remembrance of our dearly passed on family members. Within family life

All Saints Day could be celebrated by reading a story to our children about a favorite saint and their deeds, St. Christopher or St. Francis comes to mind.

4th of October is the *Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi*

On *All Souls Day* we can create a special moment during the day where we can sit down by candle light and tell stories of our passed on family members, as those will not be forgotten.

To Make a Turnip Lantern...

What is needed for a turnip lantern:

- ◆ Large Turnip
- ◆ Sharp knife
- ◆ Spoon
- ◆ Metal Skewer
- ◆ Nightlight Candle
- ◆ Thin Wire for the handle

1. Slice a lid off the turnip about 2 inches from the top.
2. With your knife and spoon, scoop out the inside of the turnip leaving about 3/4" thickness of wall remaining.
3. Now decorate the turnip by scraping figures and shapes into the skin.

4. Be careful not to cut into the wall.



with a skewer near the candle.

6. Pierce two small holes about 3/4" from the top of the turnip opposite of each other for the wire. Thread the wire through the holes and secure.

5. Place the candle in the bottom of the turnip and pierce an air hole

All Souls Novena

Many Catholics pray this Novena for their dead and for all those in Purgatory. Say it once a day for nine days, starting on the 24th of October through to the Eve of *All Souls Day*

Oh God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant to the souls of thy servants and handmaids departed, the remission of all their sins; that through pious supplications they may obtain the pardon they have always desired
Who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, World without end
Amen

Next Months Topic

Our topic for the month of November will be:
Developing a Religious Life in the Home and Raising Catholic Children



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