

What is an Ofrenda?

Fall is in the air, which brings thoughts of Halloween and all things spooky. However, this time of year has another dimension. Late October also brings the Autumn Triduum, or Allhallowtide. Allhallowtide is the triduum of All Hallows Eve (Halloween), All Saints Day, and All Souls Day. During this time, we remember those who have gone before us, both the saints we admire and those we love but no longer see.

Many cultures have traditions around Allhallowtide, much like we read the necrology at All Saints' services. One of the most beautiful traditions I've encountered during my life is the Latin American tradition of the Ofrenda or altar. An Ofrenda is a space, usually in homes and churches, where people place photos of loved ones who have passed to remember them during Allhallowtide. We may only know it as part of Día de los Muertos, but remembering those who have gone before us connects us across cultures. To learn more about Ofrendas, visit https://artsandculture.google.com/story/_QUBc67IRPvBIQ or <https://libguides.lib.cwu.edu/c.php?g=1351838&p=9987048>. One of our parishioners, Maria Colt, who is of Cuban descent, approached Les and me about the possibility of having an Ofrenda at our All Saints Evensong this year. We wholeheartedly agreed and thought it was a great idea.

In the coming days, you will see social media posts and hear announcements about bringing photos of your loved ones for the Ofrenda, which will be displayed during Evensong. During Evensong, we will also be reading the Necrology, which will be even more powerful with photos on the Ofrenda. After Evensong, you can take your photos home with you. We will set up the Ofrenda after church on Sunday, November 1st, and will take it down the next day. We are also looking for marigolds, which are a beautiful part of the Ofrenda, so if you have any connections where we can get them, please let Maria or me know.

We hope that offering this space to remember will make Allhallowtide special and meaningful for you and your family. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will also be speaking more about Ofrendas and other parts of Allhallowtide in our Adult Formation this Sunday, October 25th at 9:15 AM in the Parish Hall.

Grace and Peace,

Marie+