All Saints' Day (November 1)
November 3, 2024

I. **Introduction**
   A. This is a sermon for something. Yet, by being for something you often are against something else.
   B. Today we will study the history behind All Saints' Day and Halloween.

II. **All Saints' Day**
   A. Historically
      1. It might go back as far as the first century when each Christians\martyr's day of death was celebrated.
      2. Due to so many special days, they were eventually celebrated on one day. This day was called Martyr's Remembrance Day".
      3. According to Ephraem Syrus (306 – 373) there was an annual festival for all martyrs on May 13.
      4. Pope Boniface II (530-532) broadened the festival to include "the blessed many and all saints".
      5. Pope Gregory III (731-741) dedicated a chapel in honor of "All Saints" and moved the day of the celebration from May 13 to November 1.
      6. As All Saints' Day became more widespread, the evening preceding it took on more significance. It was called "Holy Evening", "Hallowed Evening" and finally "Halloween".
   B. Today
      1. October 31 (Halloween) has supplanted the celebration of All Saints' Day.
      2. Our focus today is death, ghosts, fear etc.
      3. All Saints' Day is a celebration of life and victory.
      4. Satan loves to steal our holidays.
         a. Did you know that retail wise Halloween is second only to Christmas in dollars spent.
         b. Did you know that this past week after 98 years Neiman Marcus has renamed its Christmas Catalog a Holiday Catalog.
   C. What can/should we do?
      1. First of all, I am not suggesting that you go on a crusade against Halloween.

2. As I stated at the beginning of the sermon, by being for something you are often automatically against something else.
3. Read Fox's Book of Martyrs
4. Remember, Martin Luther posted his 95 Thesis on the door of the Wittenberg Church on October 31, 1517 w.hich started the Protestant Reformation
5. The death of Stephen, the first Christian martyr – Acts 7
6. A brief account of Polycarp's death
7. The story of St. Augustine's mother