

The Junior Observer

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(CNS photo/Sarah Yaklic, courtesy Archdiocese Los Angeles)

A girl poses during the *Dia de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) celebration at Santa Clara Cemetery Oct. 26, 2019, in Oxnard, Calif. Day of the Dead is a Mexican custom traditionally observed Nov. 1 and 2 to remember family and friends who have died.

Remember and Pray for the Dead

As we near Oct. 31, many people think of pumpkins and candy treats.

But Halloween — or All Hallows Eve — is also the first of three days in Catholic traditions set aside to honor those who have died.

Nov. 1 is All Saints Day, as well “*el Dia de los inocentes*” or the Day of the Children in Mexican and other Central American cultures.

Nov. 2 is All Souls Day and *Dia de los Muertos*, the Day of the Dead.

One of the traditions includes dressing up and painting faces to resemble skulls. Some of the skulls are pretty but others are scary.

Families also make or buy candies shaped like skulls to share during the celebration.

An *ofrenda* is a home altar to honor the dead. The name is from a Spanish word for offering.

The altars are decorated with foods the dead person enjoyed, from tamales and fruits to hot chocolate and the sweet skull candies.

Sometimes they have flowers, especially marigolds, a flower associated with the the Day of the Dead.

They may also have candles and pictures of dead family members.

If you would like to celebrate this Mexican tradition at your house, you can ask your family to help you set up an *ofrenda*.



(CNS photo/Pexels Eón)

Families set up *ofrendas*, or private altars for offerings, to remember and honor their dead relatives.

A Good News Story

Jesus Cures a Crippled Woman on the Sabbath

Catholic News Service

Once, when eating at the home of a Pharisee, Jesus did not observe the prescribed washing before the meal.

When the Pharisee expressed his amazement, Jesus admonished all Pharisees for their hypocrisy, because they always told the people how to follow the laws of God but did not do so themselves.

Jesus even warned His followers: “Beware of the leaven — that is, the hypocrisy — of the Pharisees.”

One day, Jesus was teaching in the synagogue. It was the Sabbath, which the Jewish people observed as a day of rest and a day to worship God.

There was a woman in the synagogue who had been crippled by an evil spirit, and for the past 18 years, she had not been able to stand up straight.

As Jesus was teaching, He looked up and noticed the woman.

“Woman,” Jesus called out to her, “you are set free of your infirmity.”

Jesus walked over to her and laid His hands on her. She immediately stood up straight and began to glorify God.

Just then, the leader of the synagogue came over to Jesus. He was not happy about what Jesus had done. He thought it was a terrible thing for Jesus to heal the crippled woman, because, after all, it was the Sabbath. No work was to be done that day, not even by a person’s animals.

The leader of the synagogue looked at the crowd.



(CNS)

Bible Trivia

Name a time when Jesus became angry at the Temple. (Hint: John 2:13-16)

Answer: When he chased out the money-changers.

“There are six days when work should be done. Come on those days to be cured, not on the Sabbath day,” he announced.

Some people in the crowd agreed.

Jesus looked at the people who were angry at what He had done.

“Hypocrites!” Jesus said to them. “Does not each one of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger and lead it out for watering? This daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound for 18 years now, ought she not to have been set free on the Sabbath day from this bondage?”

The angry people hung their heads and were embarrassed by their actions. The rest of the people who witnessed the miracle Jesus performed rejoiced in what the Lord had done.

Q&A

How was the woman crippled?

Why was the synagogue leader angry with Jesus?

Read more about it in Luke 11, 12 and 13



(Photo provided)

There was a Lamb in School One Day

Father Ryan Browning, pastor at St. Thomas More in Elgin, brought Jesus, the Lamb of God, to St. Thomas More School in the monstrance so that all the students, teachers, and staff would be able to participate in adoration. Father Browning went around to each classroom and taught the students about adoration. He told them stories about saints and led them in prayer.