

**THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN . . . . VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY**

**THE SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS**

**The idea of observing ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, one week after the coming of the Holy Spirit is a striking one, for this day reveals the HARVEST of what happened on Pentecost. From weakness, men, women and children were made strong in faith, Enabling them to endure all things for our Lord.**

**Early Christians, witnessing the suffering and saintly lives of followers of Jesus, felt that their memories should be perpetuated. Their intercession should be called upon for those struggling in the Christian life against temptation. Annual memorials were made with services over the graves of those who suffered and died for Christ. Should anything less than this be done?**

**And so the church began to assign days for the commemoration of saints. With the passing centuries, the calendar became full of saint days, and in fact, more than one saint is commemorated on every day of the year.**

**In additon to these great heroes of the faith, there are countless martyrs and hierarchs, monks and missionaries, who left bold traces of their dedication to Christianity. Let us commemorate others, practically unknown, who lived out their lives in the “Way” of Christ. It is no wonder that the Church in her wisdom, set aside this Sunday for remembrance of All Saints. These are our HEROES for emulation. It was Apostle Paul that bid us to “lay aside every weight and sin that besets us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”**