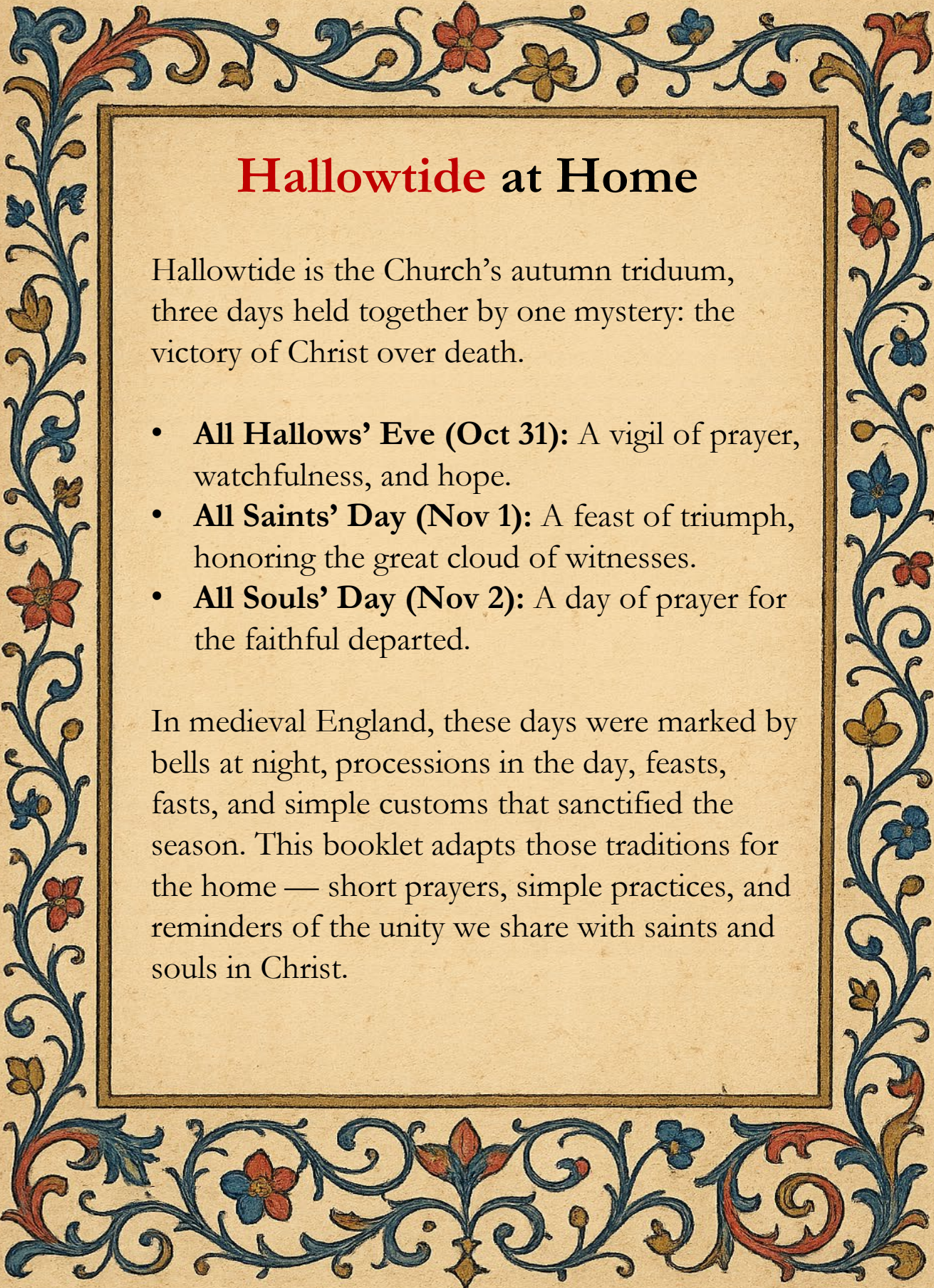


Hallowtide Triduum



VIGIL FIRE PRESS

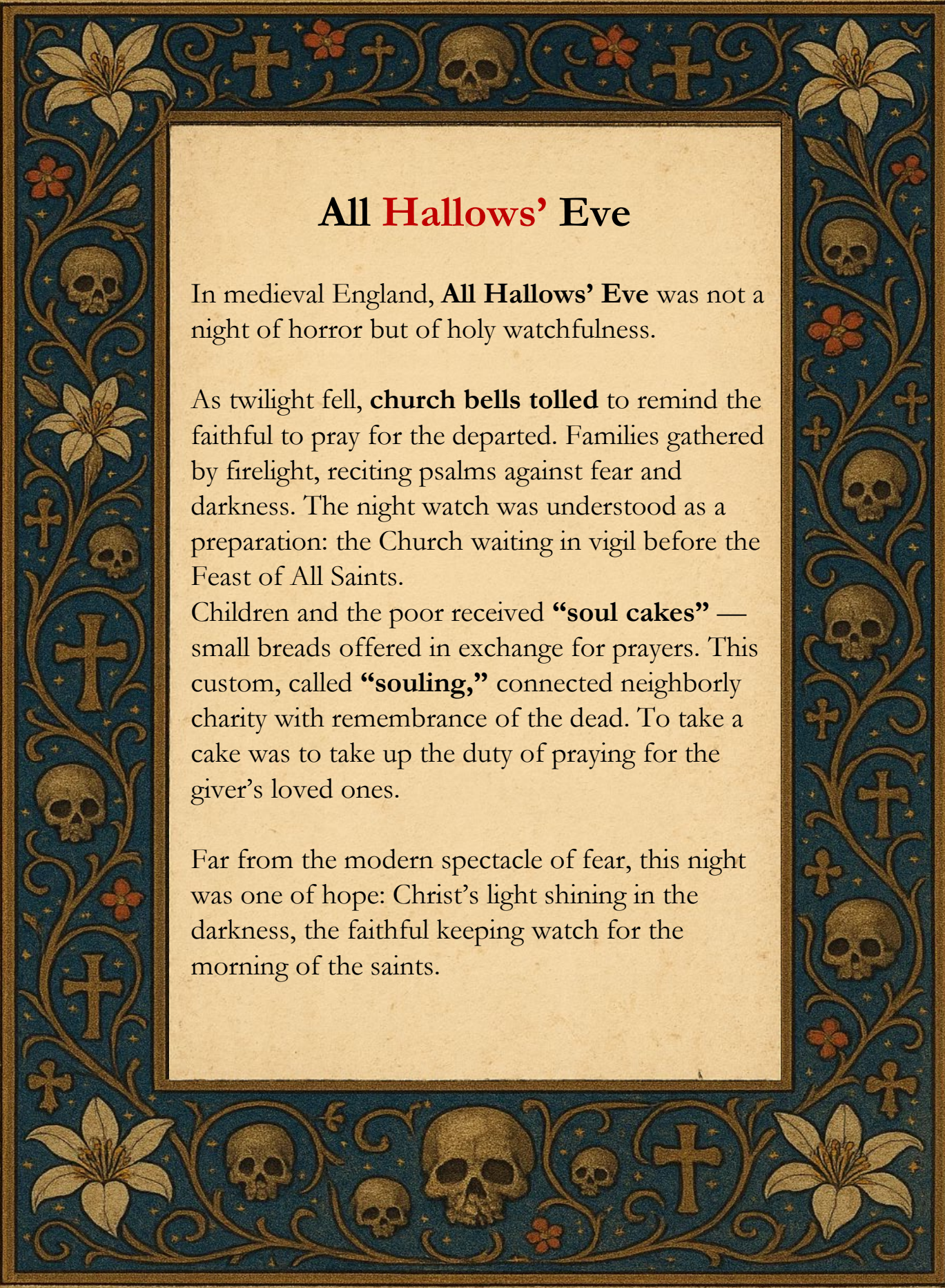


Hallowtide at Home

Hallowtide is the Church's autumn triduum, three days held together by one mystery: the victory of Christ over death.

- **All Hallows' Eve (Oct 31):** A vigil of prayer, watchfulness, and hope.
- **All Saints' Day (Nov 1):** A feast of triumph, honoring the great cloud of witnesses.
- **All Souls' Day (Nov 2):** A day of prayer for the faithful departed.

In medieval England, these days were marked by bells at night, processions in the day, feasts, fasts, and simple customs that sanctified the season. This booklet adapts those traditions for the home — short prayers, simple practices, and reminders of the unity we share with saints and souls in Christ.



All **Hallows'** Eve

In medieval England, **All Hallows' Eve** was not a night of horror but of holy watchfulness.

As twilight fell, **church bells tolled** to remind the faithful to pray for the departed. Families gathered by firelight, reciting psalms against fear and darkness. The night watch was understood as a preparation: the Church waiting in vigil before the Feast of All Saints.

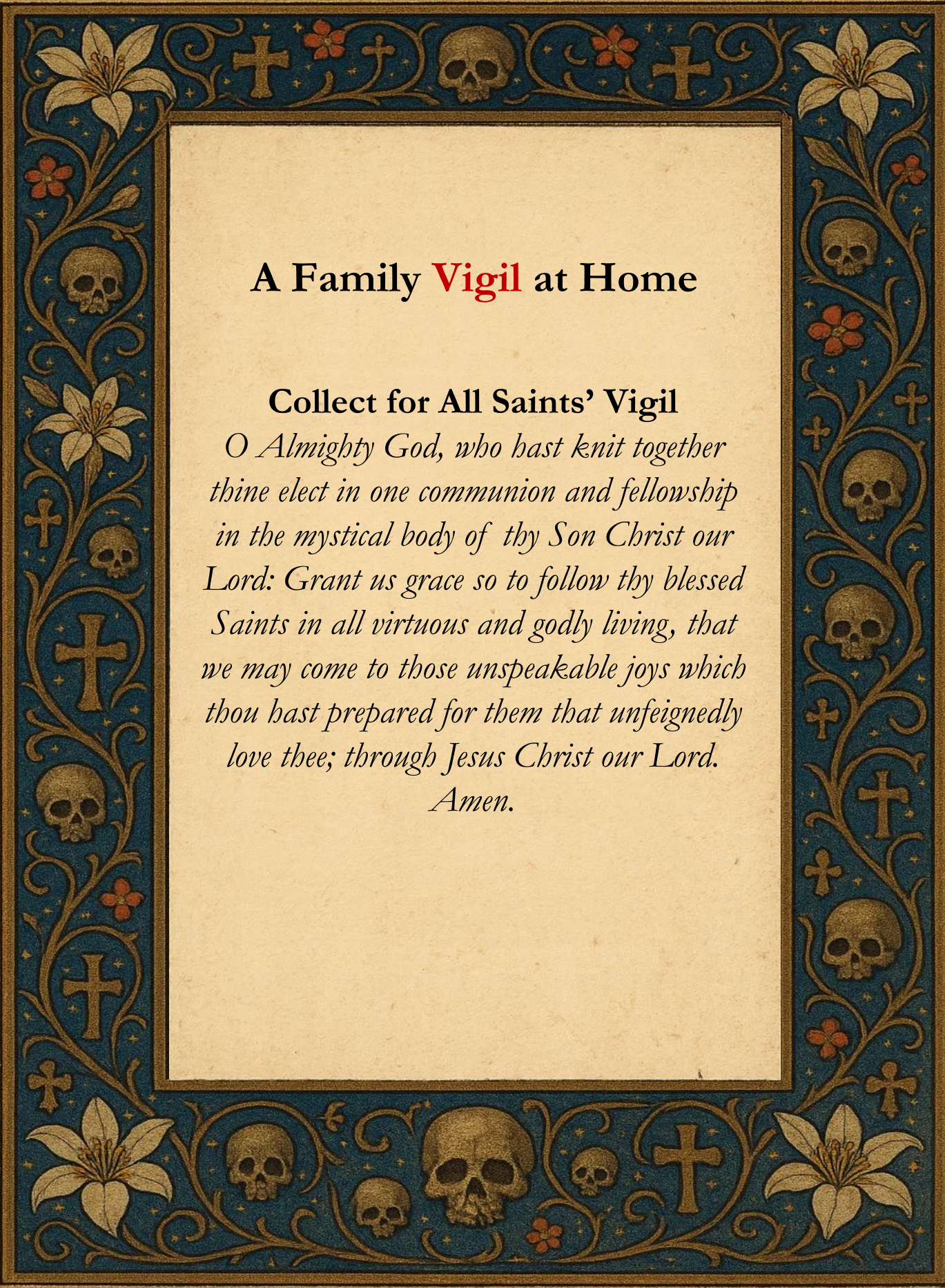
Children and the poor received “**soul cakes**” — small breads offered in exchange for prayers. This custom, called “**souling,**” connected neighborly charity with remembrance of the dead. To take a cake was to take up the duty of praying for the giver's loved ones.

Far from the modern spectacle of fear, this night was one of hope: Christ's light shining in the darkness, the faithful keeping watch for the morning of the saints.



A Family **Vigil** at Home

- **Light a Candle:** At dusk, place a single candle in the center of the table as a sign of watchfulness.
- **Read Psalm 91:** *“Whoso dwelleth under the defence of the most High...”* — a psalm beloved for vigils.
- **Ring a Bell:** Ring a handbell (or set a chime) three times at the beginning and end of prayers, echoing the bells of medieval England.
- **Share a Meal:** Break bread and soup together, remembering the poor and the simplicity of the vigil.
- **Offer a Soul Cake:** Bake or share small cakes, giving thanks for loved ones departed.

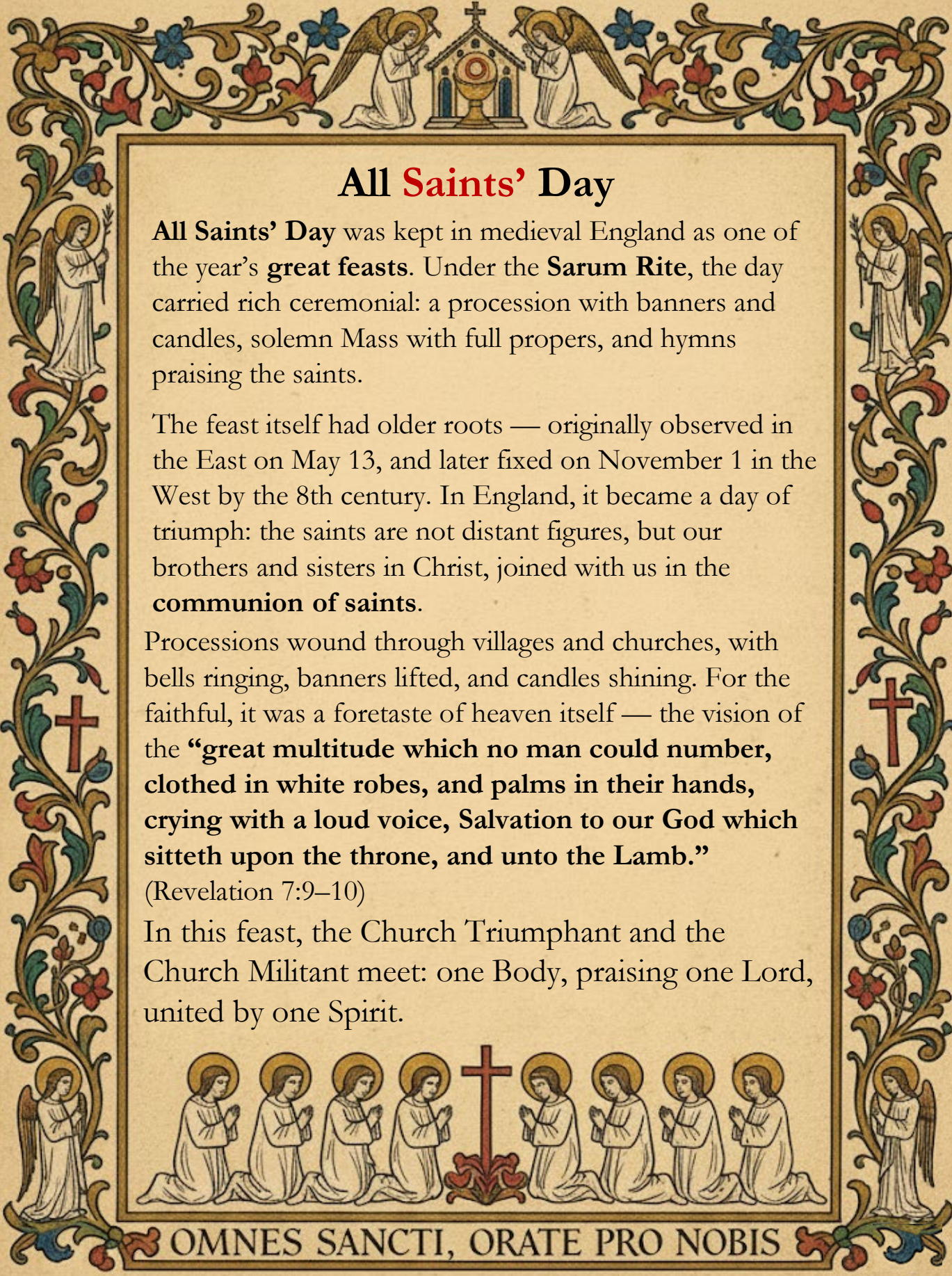


A Family **Vigil** at Home

Collect for All Saints' Vigil

*O Almighty God, who hast knit together
thine elect in one communion and fellowship
in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our
Lord: Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed
Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that
we may come to those unspeakable joys which
thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly
love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

The page is framed by a wide, ornate border. At the top center, two angels kneel in prayer before a small altar with a cross and a chalice. The sides of the border are decorated with scrolling vines, leaves, and flowers in shades of blue, red, and gold. On the left and right sides, there are also illustrations of angels in prayerful poses. The bottom of the border features a row of kneeling angels flanking a central cross.

All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day was kept in medieval England as one of the year's **great feasts**. Under the **Sarum Rite**, the day carried rich ceremonial: a procession with banners and candles, solemn Mass with full propers, and hymns praising the saints.

The feast itself had older roots — originally observed in the East on May 13, and later fixed on November 1 in the West by the 8th century. In England, it became a day of triumph: the saints are not distant figures, but our brothers and sisters in Christ, joined with us in the **communion of saints**.

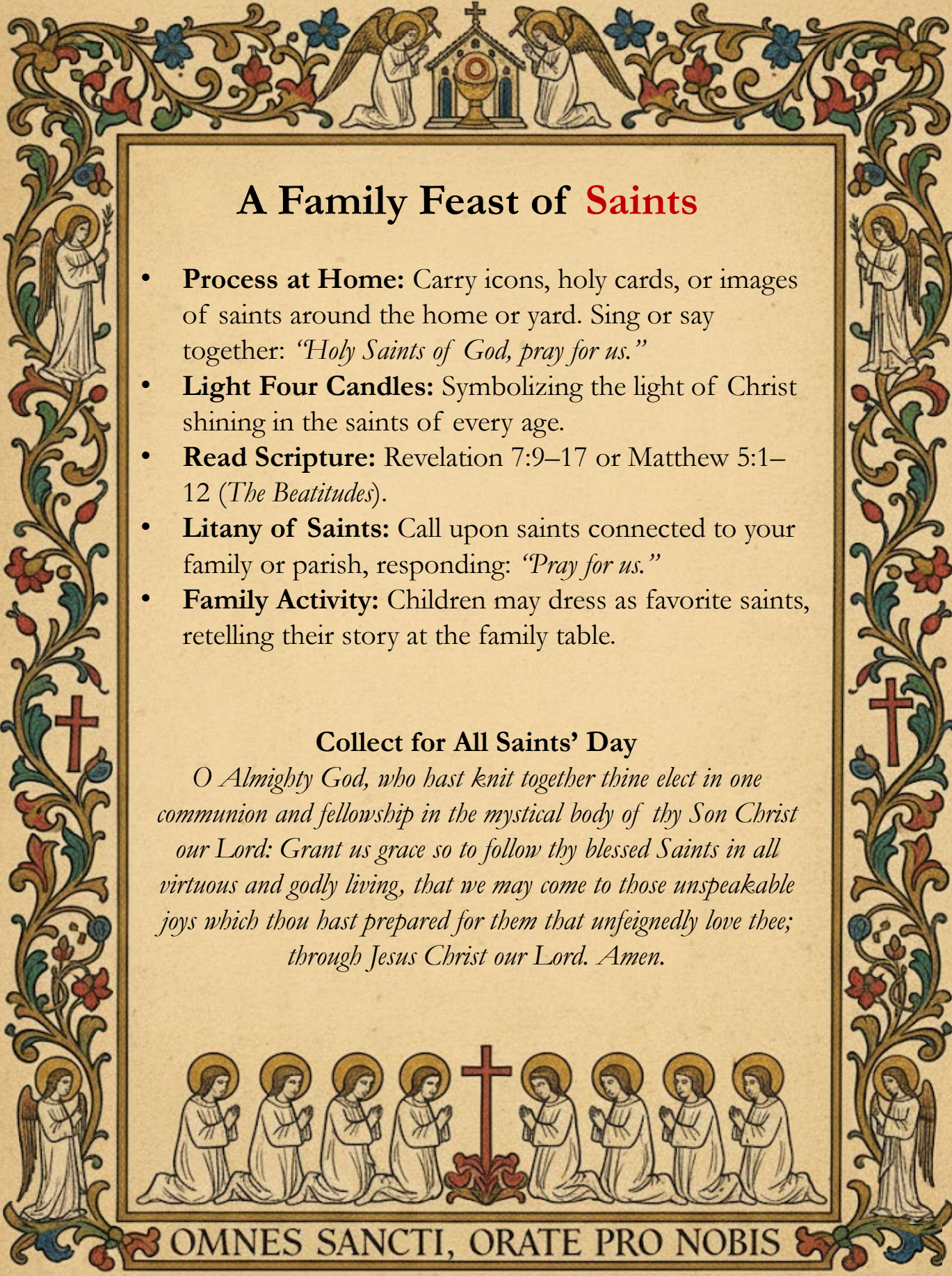
Processions wound through villages and churches, with bells ringing, banners lifted, and candles shining. For the faithful, it was a foretaste of heaven itself — the vision of the “**great multitude which no man could number, clothed in white robes, and palms in their hands, crying with a loud voice, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.**”

(Revelation 7:9–10)

In this feast, the Church Triumphant and the Church Militant meet: one Body, praising one Lord, united by one Spirit.



OMNES SANCTI, ORATE PRO NOBIS



A Family Feast of **Saints**

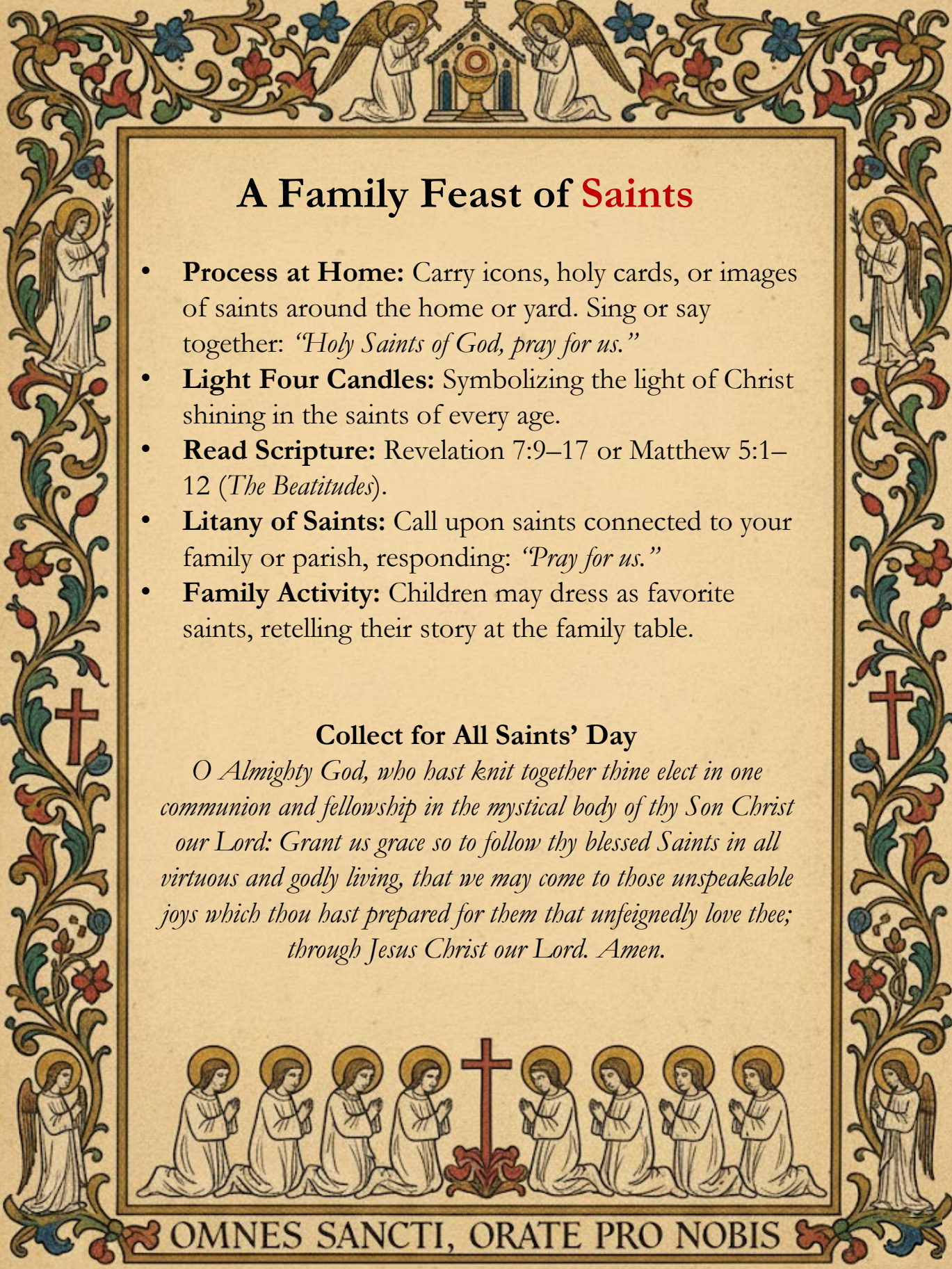
- **Process at Home:** Carry icons, holy cards, or images of saints around the home or yard. Sing or say together: *"Holy Saints of God, pray for us."*
- **Light Four Candles:** Symbolizing the light of Christ shining in the saints of every age.
- **Read Scripture:** Revelation 7:9–17 or Matthew 5:1–12 (*The Beatitudes*).
- **Litany of Saints:** Call upon saints connected to your family or parish, responding: *"Pray for us."*
- **Family Activity:** Children may dress as favorite saints, retelling their story at the family table.

Collect for All Saints' Day

O Almighty God, who hast knit together thine elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of thy Son Christ our Lord: Grant us grace so to follow thy blessed Saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those unspeakable joys which thou hast prepared for them that unfeignedly love thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



OMNES SANCTI, ORATE PRO NOBIS



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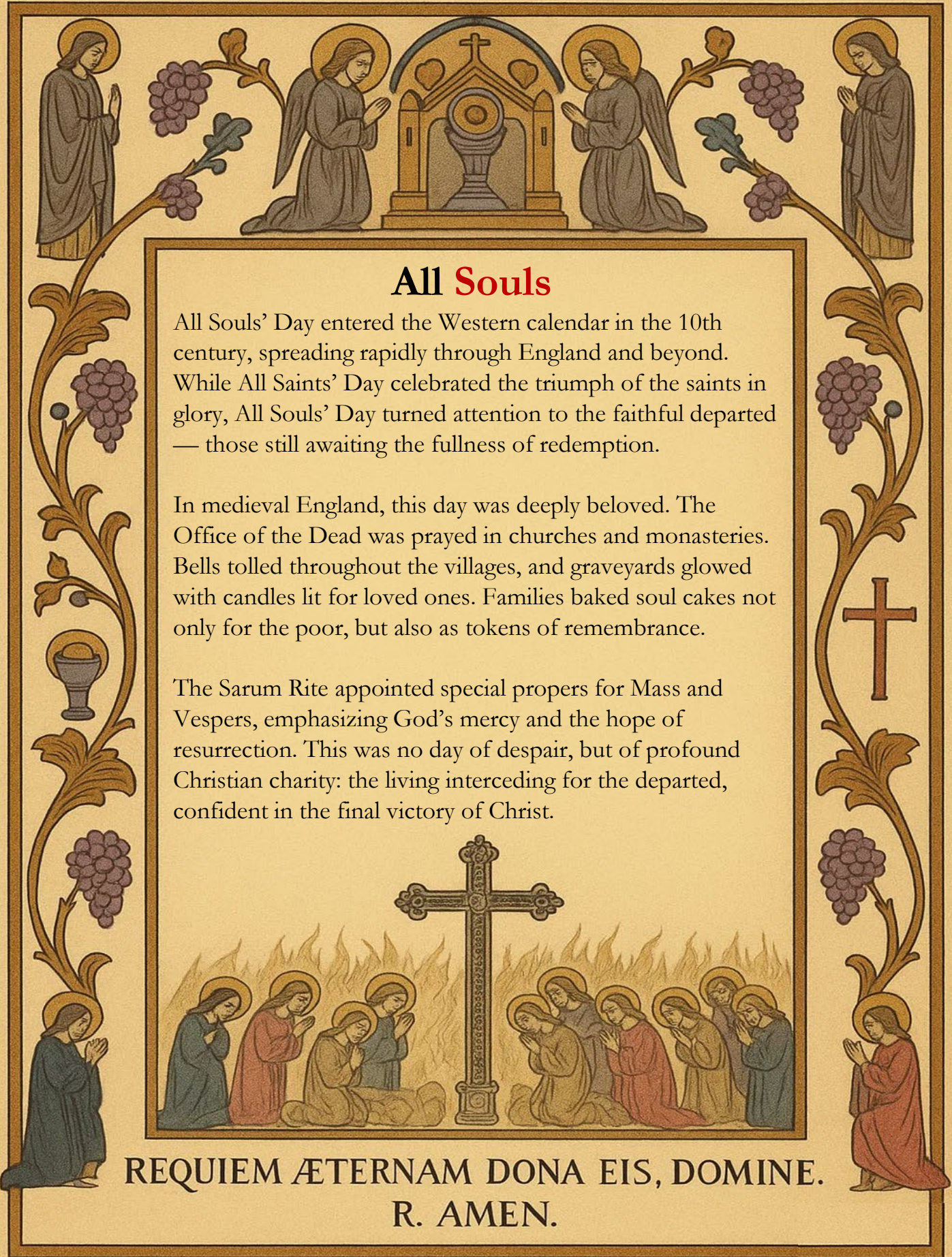
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OMNES SANCTI, ORATE PRO NOBIS

A decorative border surrounds the central text. It features grapevines with clusters of purple grapes. Angels are depicted in various poses: kneeling in prayer at the top, standing in prayer on the sides, and kneeling in prayer at the bottom corners. A large cross is positioned on the right side of the border.

All Souls

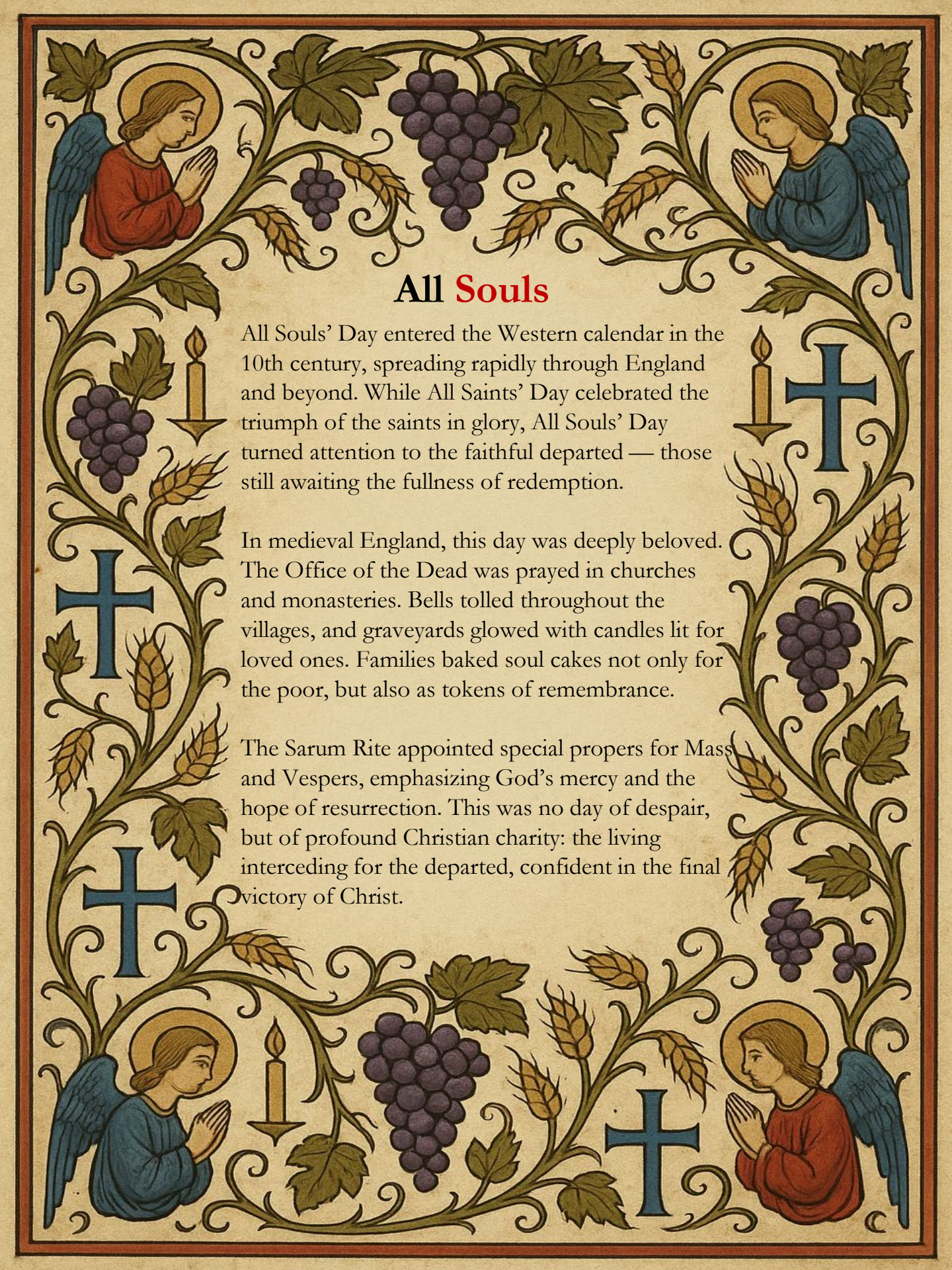
All Souls' Day entered the Western calendar in the 10th century, spreading rapidly through England and beyond. While All Saints' Day celebrated the triumph of the saints in glory, All Souls' Day turned attention to the faithful departed — those still awaiting the fullness of redemption.

In medieval England, this day was deeply beloved. The Office of the Dead was prayed in churches and monasteries. Bells tolled throughout the villages, and graveyards glowed with candles lit for loved ones. Families baked soul cakes not only for the poor, but also as tokens of remembrance.

The Sarum Rite appointed special propers for Mass and Vespers, emphasizing God's mercy and the hope of resurrection. This was no day of despair, but of profound Christian charity: the living interceding for the departed, confident in the final victory of Christ.



REQUIEM ÆTERNAM DONA EIS, DOMINE.
R. AMEN.

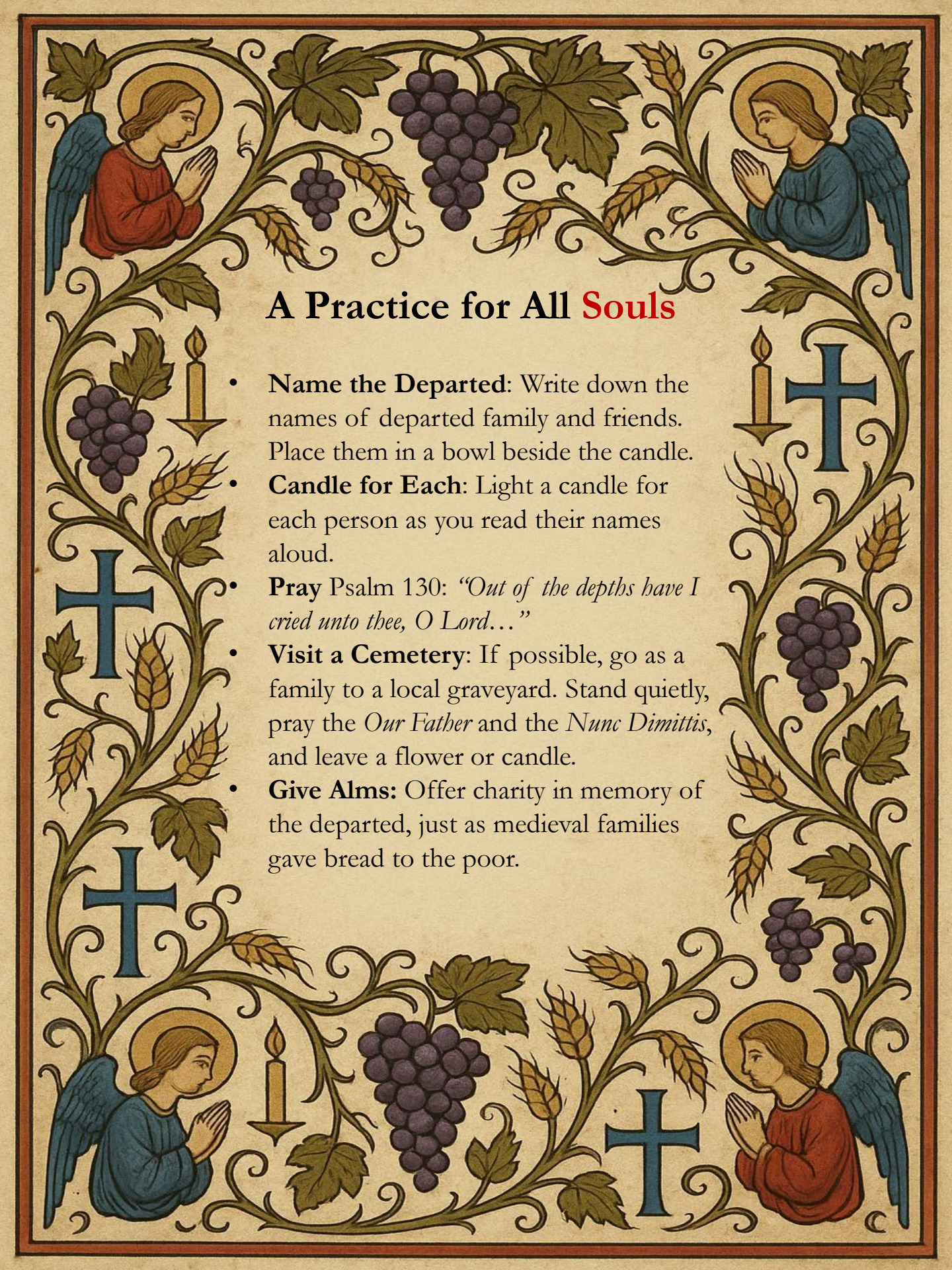


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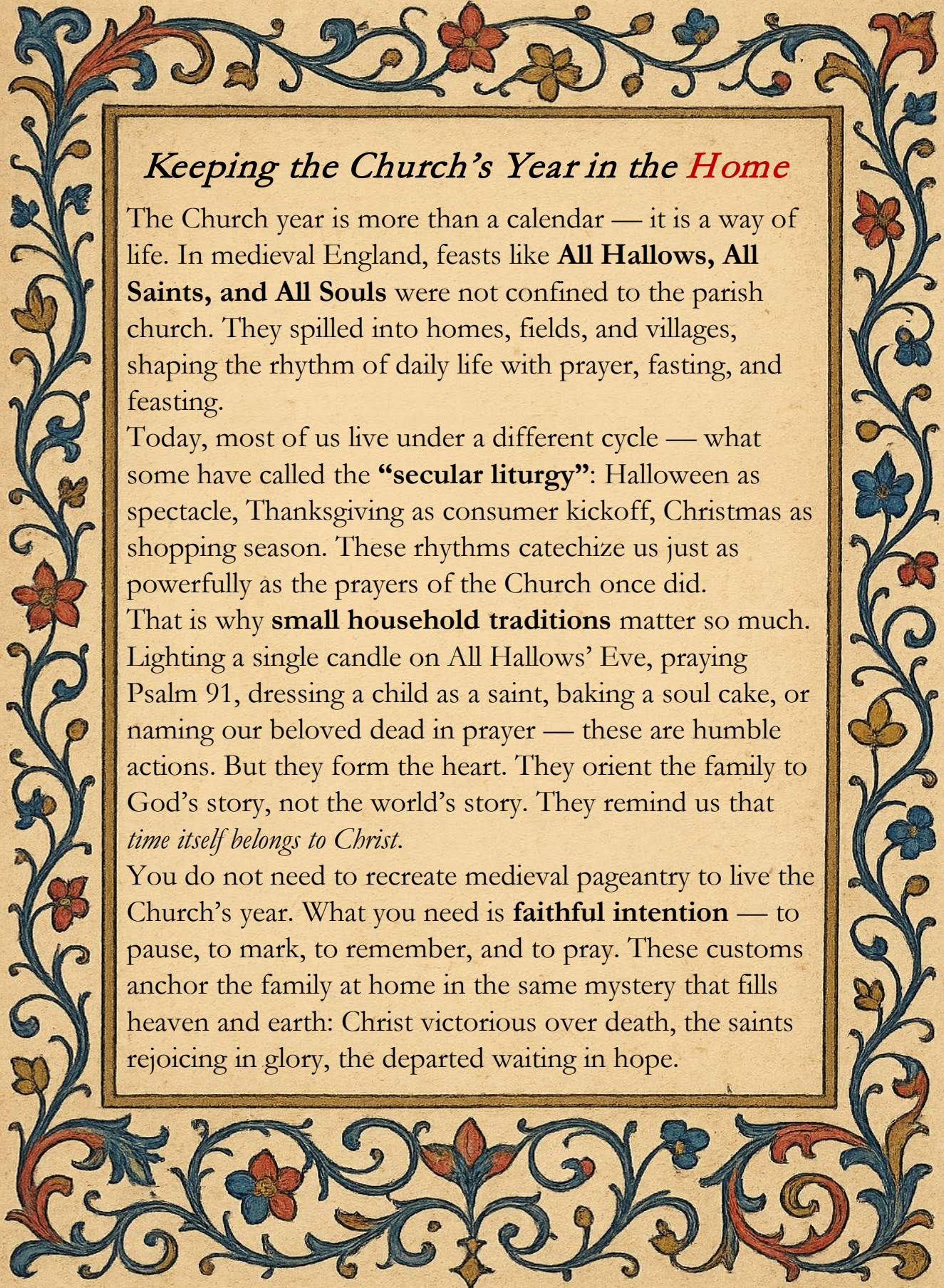
A Practice for All Souls

- **Name the Departed:** Write down the names of departed family and friends. Place them in a bowl beside the candle.
- **Candle for Each:** Light a candle for each person as you read their names aloud.
- **Pray Psalm 130:** "*Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord...*"
- **Visit a Cemetery:** If possible, go as a family to a local graveyard. Stand quietly, pray the *Our Father* and the *Nunc Dimittis*, and leave a flower or candle.
- **Give Alms:** Offer charity in memory of the departed, just as medieval families gave bread to the poor.

Pray For the Dead

Collect for the Faithful Departed

O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful: Grant unto the souls of thy servants and handmaidens the remission of all their sins, that through devout supplications they may obtain the pardon they have always desired. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



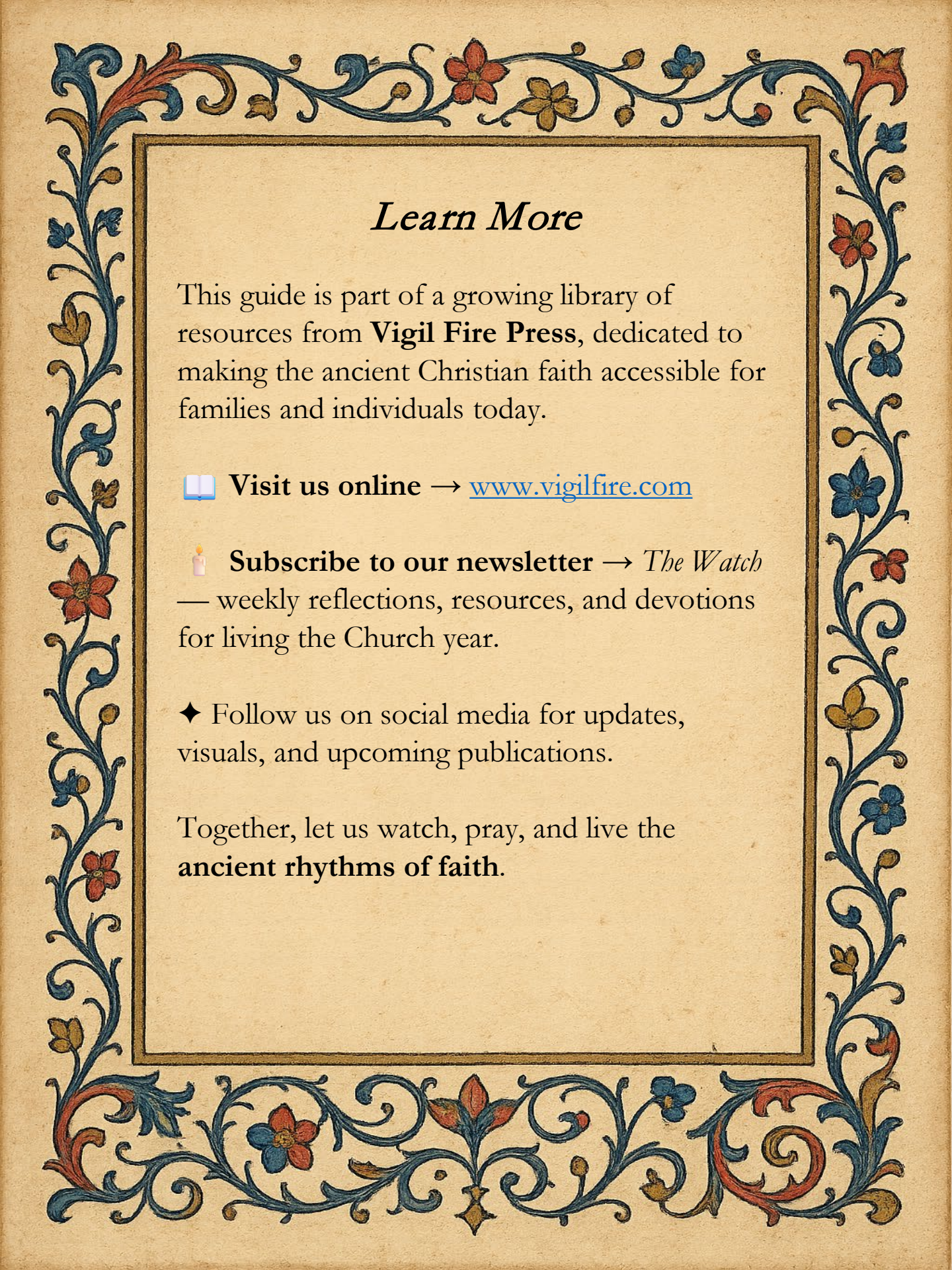
*Keeping the Church's Year in the **Home***

The Church year is more than a calendar — it is a way of life. In medieval England, feasts like **All Hallows, All Saints, and All Souls** were not confined to the parish church. They spilled into homes, fields, and villages, shaping the rhythm of daily life with prayer, fasting, and feasting.

Today, most of us live under a different cycle — what some have called the “**secular liturgy**”: Halloween as spectacle, Thanksgiving as consumer kickoff, Christmas as shopping season. These rhythms catechize us just as powerfully as the prayers of the Church once did.

That is why **small household traditions** matter so much. Lighting a single candle on All Hallows' Eve, praying Psalm 91, dressing a child as a saint, baking a soul cake, or naming our beloved dead in prayer — these are humble actions. But they form the heart. They orient the family to God's story, not the world's story. They remind us that *time itself belongs to Christ*.

You do not need to recreate medieval pageantry to live the Church's year. What you need is **faithful intention** — to pause, to mark, to remember, and to pray. These customs anchor the family at home in the same mystery that fills heaven and earth: Christ victorious over death, the saints rejoicing in glory, the departed waiting in hope.



Learn More

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