**Stuck in the house this All Saints/Halloween Day?**

We are all stuck in the house this All Saints/Halloween Day without the company of friends or family? Yes, All Saints/Halloween this year will be different. But even if your family is not able to celebrate, you can still enjoy the holiday without going to parties or making candy runs throughout the neighborhood. There is plenty to do before and on All Saints/Halloween to get you in the spirit.

Thankfully, you don't need to go out to have fun on Halloween! All Saints/Halloween is a chance for kids (and adults) to let their imaginations run wild. We all need that to look forward to, especially during this pandemic.

The following are just a few suggestions on how to celebrate this holiday at home.

**All Saints’ Day Family Fun**

All Saints’ Day is a Christian holiday dedicated to honor and commemorate the saints. It is also known as All Hallows’ Day or the Feast of All Saints.

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**All Saint’s Day Customs around the World**

* In the United States, the day comes after the night of Halloween. It is not so much a religious tradition as much as it has become a cultural one.
* In Mexico, All Saints’ Day lasts for one week. It falls on the first day of the Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos) celebration.
* Mexicans hold parades and festivals at this time.
* In some Hispanic countries, like Spain, Mexico, and Portugal, the play “Don Juan Tenorio” is traditionally performed.
* In Portugal, children go door to door for candy on All Saints’ Day.
* Throughout Europe, flowers are offered on graves.
* In Eastern Europe, instead of giving flowers, people light candles.
* In the Philippines and France, people restore and repaint the tombs of their loved ones.
* If the holiday doesn’t fall on a Sunday, some countries waive the obligation of Catholics to attend mass.
* On this day, a reading of the Beatitudes is traditionally done.
* Hymns like “For All the Saints” and “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God” are traditionally sung.
* The football team New Orleans Saints got its name from the dominant Catholic population in the state.
* In an All Saints’ Day feast, soul cakes and Irish bread with fruit are commonly served.

**The following are just a few suggestions on how to celebrate All Saint’s Day at home.**

**Dress Up as Saints Costume**

You can dress up for All Saint’s Day even if you aren’t planning on going out! Dressing in [creative saint costumes](https://holidappy.com/costumes/Costumes-From-Your-Closet-and-Clearance-Bins) is fun. Kids will have fun pretending to be their favorite saints and adults will, too. If you are creative with scenery and a camera, you can take some posed pictures of yourself or children in Saint Costumes to show to friends, family or pastor. Below is a list of famous saints to help you get started.

**Famous Saints**

* St. Peter is a fisherman who became the head of the Church.
* St. Paul of Tarsus, formerly named Saul, persecuted Christians before he became a preacher of the Gospel.
* St. Francis of Assisi established the Order of Friars Minor called Franciscans. He was blessed with stigmata, the five wounds of Christ.
* St. Dominic founded the Order of Friars Preachers known as Dominicans. His motto is the Latin word veritas meaning ‘truth’.
* St. Anthony of Padua was called the “Hammer of Heretics” because of his oratory skills. He is the patron saint of lost objects.
* St. Thomas Aquinas is dubbed as the greatest intellectual mind of the Church. He is known for writing the Summa Theologica and composing for Corpus Christi.
* St. Patrick of Ireland successfully converted paganism to Christianity during his time as a bishop in Ireland.
* St. Therese of Lisieux is a Carmelite who entered the monastery at a young age and showed great spiritual maturity.

**All Saint’s Day Countdown**

For kids who’ve already missed so much, from birthday parties to summer trips to the first (normal) day of school, All Saints/Halloween is the next big thing, something exciting to look forward to. Your family can start a countdown on October 1. You could add a small sticker with a Saint Name and a piece of candy every 5 or 10 days, but honestly the countdown is usually fun enough by itself.

**All Saints Craft Party**

There are too many Saint Crafts to list, of course, but the open-ended ones keep kids occupied the longest. One favorite is probably Saint Puppets made from paper lunch bags and whatever odds and ends you have on hand. You can use them after for a puppet show. Here are two links for Saint Crafts:

<https://www.catholicicing.com/all-saints-day-catholic-craft-for-kids/>

<https://equippingcatholicfamilies.com/2016/10/all-saints-day-activities/>

**All Saints Theater**

Kids who like writing may want to create their own Saint skit or play, or they can stage a performance of one of their favorite saint stories. You can incorporate games, puppets, songs, jokes, magic tricks, musical instruments, or dance routines. Depending on your kids’ ages you could also incorporate costumes and makeup.

**All Saint Movie Night**

Another obvious one, but a classic. A fun variant if you do have the space would be an Outdoor Saint Movie Night. There are many great family saint Movies…

“The 13th Day”

“Song of Bernadette”

“Faustina: The Apostle of Divine Mercy”

“Therese”

**Carve a Saint Pumpkin**

It isn’t quite fall until you’ve carved your own pumpkin! You can find pumpkin-carving kits at the store. You can even download pumpkin-carving stencils on your computer for printing!

If you don’t want to carve your pumpkin, you can always use paint on it instead. This is a great option for children who shouldn’t handle carving tools.

Tip: When you scoop the pulp out of your pumpkin before carving, don’t throw out the seeds! Separate them from the pulp so you can bake them in the oven for a tasty, salty treat.

**Host a Saint Parade**

Have the whole family dress up as their favorite saint. Get out some old instruments, or pots, pans and wooden spoons. Parade around the living room and sing “When the Saints Come Marching In.”

**Halloween Family Fun**

**Halloween Game Night**

There are tons of other Halloween games online. Good Housekeeping has a list of 30 games to get you started [here](https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/holidays/halloween-ideas/g2618/halloween-games/), including variations on tic-tac-toe, Pin the Tail on the Donkey, and Twister. If you want to get really fancy, buy a bag of small candies or prizes. Also my kids find Mad Libs hysterical. You can buy an official [Halloween Mad Libs](https://www.madlibs.com/book/haunted-mad-libs-by-roger-price-9780843149067/)book or just make up and print your own ([Teach Mama](https://teachmama.com/halloween-mad-lib-spooky-fill-in-story-for-halloween-fun/) has a free download to get you started).

**Decorate the House**

Decorating the house can be a fun activity! You can use fake spider webs, Jack-o-lanterns and other spooky decorations outdoors if you plan on having visitors, or simply decorate the inside of your home for your own enjoyment. Get your child started on crafty sessions now. Think: Paper chains around the mailbox, lights over the door and construction paper silhouettes in the windows. Decorate as much or as little as you like, as long as it gets you in the spirit!

**Haunted Fort**

A regular old blanket fort with added spooky elements like LED candles, fake cobwebs, “spooky fabric”, and any other Halloween decorations you make or buy. If you can sacrifice the space in your house, set it up a few days or weeks early and your kids can do other Halloween activities inside it. If you do have outdoor space, you could also do a Haunted Tree House, Play House, or Tent.

**Silly Spooky Dinner Party**

You can do this the night of October 30, a dinner where all the elements are tweaked for Halloween. This can be as simple or elaborate as you wish but even in its simplest form kids find it really delightful. You can find hundreds of ideas with a quick online search. You can create mummy hot dogs, Chicken soup with bat-shaped noodles, and cupcakes with candy corns.

**Face Painting Party**

Buy inexpensive Halloween face-painting kit and let the kids go crazy. For maximum, mildly transgressive fun, also have them do the face of the parents any way they want.

**Not-A-Pumpkin Carving Party**

You could try carving other things. Historically, jack-o-lanterns were carved into turnips, rutabagas, and beets, but you could also try apples, potatoes, yams, or any number of other foods. These foods are all much smaller and easier to carry around than a pumpkin, so after you’re done you could do a Jack O’ Lantern Parade around the neighborhood.

**Halloween Cookie Baking**

Much like the gingerbread house, this is a Christmas staple reworked for Halloween, but kids love it. And if you don’t have the time and energy for baking this year, it works just as well with rolls of pre-made dough from the grocery store.

**Backyard Story Campfire**

The name here pretty much says it all. If you don’t have an outdoor area but do have an indoor fireplace, that would work, too.

**All Things Apples**

All things apple is a day of eating apple pie, caramel or candied apples, or drinking apple cider. If you’re feeling more ambitious, you could try bobbing for apples.

**An All-Pumpkin Breakfast**

As with apples, you can make an entire meal involving pumpkins (this pairs nicely with pumpkin carving). Make pumpkin pancakes, pumpkin muffins, pumpkin jam and pumpkin butter!

**Create a Quarantine-O-Ween scavenger hunt**

Remember, Halloween was a fall holiday long before it was a scary one. You can get back to the holiday’s roots with a whole afternoon of fall-themed nature activities. One kid favorite is a scavenger hunt. <https://www.kcedventures.com/blog/18-fall-autumn-scavenger-hunts>

While you’re outside, have your kids collect leaves, acorns, pinecones, or twigs for nature crafts back at home. There are thousands of fall nature crafts to be found online. Pinterest is almost entirely fall nature crafts.

**Learn a Halloween dance**

This could be the big finale for your home video or play – or just a great way to get some exercise and laugh together as a family. Search YouTube for “monster mash dance,” “monster shuffle” – or choreograph your own, featuring your child’s best moves! Practice then perform, preferably in costume. Create a playlist of Halloween-appropriate songs like “The Monster Mash,” “Thriller,” “This Is Halloween,” and the Ghostbusters theme.

**Have a Halloween-themed reading hour**

Check your library for book suggestions! Many offer curbside pick-up during COVID-19.

**Camp out under the blue moon**

In case you hadn’t heard, there will be a full moon on Oct. 31, 2020 – something that happens just once every 18 or 19 years. It’s also a “blue moon,” aka the second full moon of the month. So set up a tent, and enjoy the show. Howl if you want to.

**Host a video chat costume party**

Use a video chat app like Zoom, FaceTime, Google Hangouts or Skype to host a virtual event. Invite your child’s friends to participate in a spooky singalong, dance party or group chat. Want more ideas? Add a Halloween twist to these?

**Join a virtual pumpkin-carving or -painting contest**

Host your own with family and friends, or try searching your online community for virtual events open to the public.

**Have your child “art direct” a Halloween family photo shoot**

Make planning part of the event. Invite your child to brainstorm several locations to take photos, and make a list of any props you’ll need to have on hand. Then let them “art direct” the photo session – setting up family members in different funny or scary scenes based on their costumes.

**Create a Halloween home gallery**

Have fun going through old photos of your child and other family members in costume over the years. Display your favorites in a corner of your home with description cards – the year, age and costume inspiration, for example – and have your child to draw or paint original Halloween-themed artwork to add to the collection.

**Host a parish drive-by trick-or-treat or reverse trick-or-treat**

If you have a yard and the weather allows, talk to your neighbors about scheduling a car parade on your block: Kids (with adult supervision) stay in their own yards while neighbors drive past slowly and gently toss treats out car windows, parade-style. Or have family and friends drop off treats for your child at your doorstep – a contactless twist on the trick-or-treating tradition.

**Search for neighborhood/parish drive-through Halloween activities**

Do something special while keeping your family safely inside the car: Check local listings for contactless, drive-through haunted houses, drive-in movie theaters playing Halloween movies, or “haunted roads” – neighborhoods lit up and decorated to the nines.

When the coronavirus pandemic ends, you and your child can return to the trick-or-treating, haunted houses and other Halloween celebrations you love. But until then, have fun trying out new traditions – you may find some to bring back next year.

**Resources Used for All Saints/Halloween/Pandemic**

**Halloween**

[www.connecticutchildrens.org](http://www.connecticutchildrens.org) coronavirus ways to celebrate Halloween during covid-19 even in quarantine

[www.delish.com](http://www.delish.com) holiday-recipes Halloween how to celebrate Halloween at home

[www.townandcountrymag.com](http://www.townandcountrymag.com) quarantine Halloween ideas

[www.medium.com](http://www.medium.com) 23 ways to celebrate Halloween at home this year

**All Saints Day**

[kidskonnect.com Holidays seasons all-saints day](https://kidskonnect.com/holidays-seasons/all-saints-day/)

[www.equippingcatholicfamilies.com](http://www.equippingcatholicfamilies.com) all saints day activities

www.catholicicing.com All saints day catholic craft for kids