Wellspring
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November 1, 2026

Brothers and Sisters,

Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints. Every day, we remember one or more saints. On All Saints Day, on November 1 every year, we remember all who live in God's presence forever. Saints were ordinary people who, just like us, had to figure out who they were in the eyes of God and then struggle to live out that vision. Saints of God come in every age, in all sizes, shapes and color. Some are known by name, and many are unknown to us. Abraham was 175 years old when he died; Moses died at the age of 120; Jesus was 30 when he was crucified; Agnes and Maria Goretti were only 12 when they were martyred; Antony of the desert was 105 when he died.

All Saints Day is a celebration of the communion of saints, and we are part of this communion! We are all called to be saints, and we can all become saints! All we have to do is to dedicate our lives to God, love and serve Him! Known or unknown, honored or forgotten, they have one thing in common: during their lives they helped proclaim the presence and love of God. Bernard of Clairvaux said, "calling to mind the saints arouses in us, above all else, a longing to enjoy their company." Their communion is our longing and that's what we celebrate.

All Saint's day is truly a harvest festival. As we come to the close of the agricultural year, we celebrate God's great harvest of all people throughout history, who have shown love, joy and service, who have proclaimed good news, who have made God's presence real and have surrendered to God in faithfulness and love. And that's why flowers, fruits and vegetables; apple-bobbing and pumpkin carving and other harvest games; trick-or-treating and funny faces and all because it's festival! It's all saints! It's great harvest! It's God's harvest! Remember the words of Jesus: Look there is a rich harvest, but no one to gather it in..... So, we remember, and we celebrate, and we pray, "Gather us in.....and hold us forever."

It's celebration! It's more than just remembrance of good and holy people. We rejoice in the communion of saints. We are part of this communion! All creation is united and is in harmony in the spirit! We connect and commune with all people of every time and place. We look forward to the day when all creation will be transformed and brought into communion, into holiness, into perfection. Our celebration is part of this great process!

The Gospel reading for the Mass on All Saints Day is the Beatitudes (Mathew 5:3-12). Jesus articulated for his followers certain attitudes which they must cultivate if they are to live as

kingdom people…. certain disposition toward themselves and the world around them. We have come to know them and love them as the "Beatitudes". We are called to cultivate these attitudes…..they are to shape our character…. the quality of our presence must become "Be-Attitudes". Noble people must have noble attitudes…. God's people must have godly attitudes!

The Beatitudes are for people who have their hearts set on the reign of God, the kingdom of God……They are not doctrines…..not policies of a Church…..not rules legislated by an authority……..they are for those who want to live nobles lives, for those who want their lives to be a blessing for themselves and for the world around them……they are for kingdom people and we are a kingdom people!

The Beatitudes tell us that the Reign of God is already in our midst when we bless the world with living lives transformed with the beatitudes! People of the kingdom, noble people, virtuous people, kingdom people have "God's Reign" in their hearts, and their hearts can not rest until the whole world is striving to be just, compassionate, single-hearted, peace-filled, and harmonious. They call us to live transformed lives…..they urge us to be Christ in the world!

Saints are people whose lives have been transformed by the beatitudes. We remember them and draw inspiration, courage and wisdom from their lives of holiness. Jesus tells us that the final judgment is not about how you kept the rules and how many prayers you have said. It is about how you treated those in need and why you treated them the way you did (Mathew 25:31-46). The good that is done for others is not because others needed your "good" or because there was a reward for doing good but because you couldn't help but do the good. Being good and doing good, being generous and doing the generous thing, being kind and doing kindly deeds, being compassionate and doing the compassionate thing...etc. is your nature, your character, your quality as a disciple of Jesus. Living virtuous life defines who you are!

There can be no holiness without concern for others, especially the needy, the poor, the less privileged and the marginalized. We cannot love God without loving others in truth. Loving in truth is to love as God loves, to reflect God's love. This means that we must love those who cannot love in return and those who cannot love the way we have learned to love. To be holy is to love - this love is unconditional, non-judgmental and accepting. Jesus says love is beyond piety and good deeds. Our love must cross boundaries and break barriers.

We minister to the Lord when we minister to each other and to all in need, without even realizing that we are ministering to the Lord. I encourage you to take a few moments each day of this week to be still and reflect on how your day has been and how you are striving to live a life of honor and virtue, a godly life, a life governed by the beatitudes that Jesus proclaimed.

God bless you and your family.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs

Scroll down to read the reflections on the Scripture readings of todays' mass….

All Saints

November 1, 2026

"You are fellow citizens of the saints and members of the household of God, being built to become a dwelling place for God in the spirit"
(Ephesians 2:19-22)

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
by whose gift we venerate in one celebration
the merits of all the Saints,
bestow on us, we pray,
through the prayers of so many intercessors,
an abundance of the reconciliation with you
for which we earnestly long.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever

Liturgy of the Word

Prayerfully read the first reading and then read my reflections below and spend a few moments of personal reflection. Do the same with Responsorial Psalm and other readings.

Serenity comes from saying "Yes" to the Lord and his call and "No" to that of the messy world.

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

The Author of this book tries to encourage the Christians who suffered persecution. He says, before the great tribulation happens, the faithful are to be marked with the seal of the "living God". The angel has the seal of the living God, as distinct from the "dead gods" of the pagans. Only in the living God can one find fulfillment.

Psalm 24

Psalm 24, probably about 3000 years old, focuses on the significance of worship and raises many questions about worship and answers them as well. It has taught people the importance of worship in their lives down through the ages. The Jews recited it on the first day of the week as their first prayer. Many Christian denominations sing it on Ascension Day and many sings it before communion, especially verses 7-10. In our Catholic tradition, this is one of the invitatory psalms of the morning prayer of the Church and often it is sung during the Mass.

It was, probably, sung as a processional song when priests carried the Ark of the Covenant into the sanctuary during festivals. The Ark signified God's presence among his people. The Ark was also the symbol of God's special, unique relationship in love, loyalty, fidelity to Israel and her kings. So, the psalm actually sings a song of loyalty to God, who is King.

The Psalm raises the question about who may worship the Creator of all things, not a local god, but the creator of all; who may go up to the Holy City to worship the God who ruled the world from there? It is important to recognize that the qualifications for worship are not keeping the law or performance of required rituals. It has all to do with the "heart" of persons who gather for worship - "clean hands and pure heart" - such people are welcome to the holy place for worship.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

1 John 3:1-3

The author of this letter tells us that we are God's very dear and beloved children. It also tells how excited and amazed we should be about our status as God's beloved children who are not recognized by the world. The world, that does not recognize Jesus, does not recognize God's children either.

Rejoice! Be happy! You are God's very dear and beloved children! And be grateful and be faithful to this calling!

Mathew 5:1-12

In the Beatitudes, we have the essence of Christ's message. Mathew says that Jesus "opened his mouth" and began to teach. This simply means that he opened his heart and poured out his spirit. This means that it is intimate, personal teaching without barriers.

"Blessed" is a special word in Greek. It describes the joy that has its secret within itself, the

joy/bliss, which is serene, self-contained - the joy which shines through pain, sorrow, disappointment, loss, etc. This is inherent, pure joy.

Jesus articulated for his followers certain attitudes they must cultivate if they are to live as a kingdom people…. certain disposition toward themselves and the world around them. We have come to know them and love them as the "Beatitudes". We are called to cultivate these attitudes…..they are to shape our character…. the quality of our presence must become "Be-Attitudes" ……

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They call us to live transformed lives…..they urge us to be Christ in the world!

Remember, they came straight from the heart of Christ……Jesus sat down, opened his mouth and spoke: Blessed are you when poor, merciful, gentle, thirsting for justice, single-hearted, peacemaking, blessing the enemies……they reflect the quality of the heart of the Christ…….

Take a moment…. prayerfully reflect on which of the beatitudes you can identify with and what they mean to you personally. Which of them is most inspiring, challenging and calling forth response from you? And how do you respond?

Saint of the Day, November 1 – All Saints Day

From the first centuries after Jesus, Christians who died a martyr's death were considered saints, who live in God's presence forever. Every year, on the anniversary of the martyrs' deaths, Christians would visit their tombs and celebrate the Eucharist. This practice grew throughout the centuries to include remembering other outstanding Christians on the days they died. Pope Gregory IV designated November 1 as the day to remember all the saints living in God's presence.

When we learn about the saints, we must remember that they were ordinary people just like us. Like us, the saints had to figure out who they were in the eyes of God and then live out that vision. They give us outstanding examples of living dedicated lives. Learning from them, we can

figure out how to dedicate our lives to God, each in our own way. We can use each saint's life as a model for living as God wants us to live.

Saints of God come in every age, in all size, shape, color and age. Some are remembered by name, and many are unknown to us. Known or unknown, honored or forgotten, they have one thing in common: during their lives they helped proclaim the presence and love of God, the kingdom of God. Bernard of Clairvaux said, "calling to mind the saints arouses in us, above all else, a longing to enjoy their company." Their communion is our longing and that's what we celebrate.

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There are the saints of every day, the "hidden saints,"
a sort of "middle class of holiness" …to which we can all belong.
(Pope Francis)

