Solemnity of All Saints – Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026

"See what love the Father has bestowed on us…"

On this special day in the Catholic liturgical year we remember and live in hope for all those who allowed themselves to be emptied in order to be filled with Christ and show that face of Christ to all around them. In the Beatitudes, Jesus Christ presents a path to sainthood firmly rooted in all of the Gospel values.

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 24:6)

Leader: Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.
All: Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors!
That the King of glory may come in.
Leader: Who is the King of glory?
All: The Lord strong and mighty,
The Lord mighty in battle.
Leader: Lift up your heads, O gates!
And be lifted up, O ancient doors!

FIRST READING - Revelation 7:2-9, 9-14

The scene set in this portion of the Book of Revelation is that of heavenly worship that reflects the joy of God's people as they anticipate a life in heaven. The seal that God places on His people is a claim that they belong to the God. This tradition dates back to Exodus when the doors of God's people were marked with the blood of a slain lamb.

1. How has God marked you and how have you been called to be as a result of this seal?
2. Describe the first image that comes to mind when "heaven" is mentioned?
3. Do we sufficiently glorify God through worship? And if not, what is holding us back?

SECOND READING - 1 John 3:1-3

In this epistle from the First Letter of John, the writer makes it clear that each of us are called to be children of God, even if the world does not see us in that light. Those who do not view their neighbours as children of God do not know God. This letter moves us from the first reading, where a beautiful image of heaven is presented, to a challenge of what it may be like to meet God face-to-face.

1. Picture meeting God face-to-face, what does this bring to mind for you?
2. Whom in our society do people often overlook as children of God?
3. Is there a call of evangelization rooted in this passage?

GOSPEL READING - Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes could be described as one of Jesus' greatest teaching moments. In the Gospel of Matthew there is also a beautiful set of guidelines known as the "antitheses" found in chapter 5:21-48 which expand upon the Beatitudes and deepen Christ's call to live them out.

1. Pick one Beatitude that challenges you.
2. Is there a common link/theme that underlines the teachings of all the Beatitudes?
3. Is there a project your local parish could take on using one of the Beatitudes as a theme?
4. In light of the celebration of All Saints Day this Sunday, is there one particular saint who inspires you to live the Beatitudes? Share what they mean to you.

LIVING THE WORD

How does God's Word challenge me/us this coming week?

PRAYING THE WORD

Intercession: We pray for all of us that we may grow in our understanding of Christ's teachings, that we may live in a culture of the Beatitudes where earthly power falls and God's redeeming love triumphs.

(Invite personal intentions, ending with "Our Father …")

Closing Prayer:

Leader: Lord Jesus, give us a sincere, expanding love.

All: **Lord Jesus, give us the love that surpasses all knowledge.**

Leader: Lord Jesus, give us a love that springs from a pure heart.

All: **Words cannot measure the boundaries of love for those born to new life in You, Christ Jesus. Raise us beyond the limits this world imposes, that we may be free to love as You teach and find our joy in your glory. Amen.**

Leader: Let us share with one another the peace of the risen Christ,
a peace the world cannot give.