

All Saints 2026
Rev. 7.2-4, 9-14, 1 Jn. 3.1-3, Mt. 5.1-12

November 1st is All Saints Day within the Church. All Saints' Day celebrates every saint—known and unknown—and reminds us that God calls each of us to holiness, as reflected in the Beatitudes (Mt 5:1-12) and the Church's teaching that all the baptized are "called to be saints." This solemnity of All Saints is a reminder and promise that through our baptism we share in the glory of the saints whom we honor. All Saints' Day honors all holy men and women who rejoice in heaven.

I would ask you to meditate on this question, how do you define Saint and how do I become one? Let me offer some definitions to help you; a saint is a member of the Church in Heaven or what we refer to as the Church Triumphant, those who have died and are eternally in the presence of God; A member of the Church on earth who are living a virtuous life.

St. Paul tells us in Romans 1.7, "To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints." St. Paul throughout his letters references saints, "give my regards to all the saints," and Greet the saints, I'm happy to talk to you, the saints" (Phil. 4.21, Heb. 13.24) to list a few. In today's readings St John tells us that we are "children of God...what we shall be has not yet been revealed." St Paul and St John are telling us here living on earth that we are to be Saints. The journey is not an easy one.

In today's Gospel from the Sermon on The Mount Jesus gives us a roadmap to holiness. We call this roadmap to holiness the Beatitudes. First, we must note Jesus goes UP the mountain. This is symbolic that Jesus is going closer to God the Father. The beatitudes are a challenge to live a certain way a virtuous way.

For example, Jesus explains, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven." Jesus identifies the behavior, "poor in spirit" or those who receive the Word of God with humility, shall be rewarded-in this case the kingdom of heaven. Those who mourn are those who suffer out of love of others afflicted by sin-those alienated from God. The meek are those who seek to imitate Jesus Christ by loving their neighbor, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness are those who live the Gospel and spread the Word to others.

St. Thomas Aquinas further explains, “blessed are the poor, namely those who have little of the spirit of pride.” Throughout the beatitudes Jesus challenges us to live with humility, mercy, purity of heart, and perseverance in righteousness. To persevere in righteousness are those who have a sense of urgency both to live the Gospel and to spread it to others.

We are all called or strive to become Saints. I can speak for myself when I say I have a lot of work to do. But I look at some of our great Saints and realize that they were NOT created or born as Saints, they also had to work very hard. For example, St. Augustine during his early life enjoyed partying and carousing. St. Augustine had a child while unmarried. St. Augustine’s mother prayed for him every day until her death. One day St. Augustine heard a story from a man about a person who gave up everything to follow Jesus Christ (St. Anthony). St. Augustine had a strong conversion to Catholicism. At the Easter Vigil in 387, St. Augustine at age 33 received the Sacrament of Baptism from St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan and became a Father and Doctor of the Church.

Karen and I recently completed a pilgrimage with 22 others. Our pilgrimage concluded in Medjugorje. This is an apparition site where Mother Mary continues to appear. Through the visionaries Mary revealed what is called the “Five Stones” or “Five Weapons” of Medjugorje. Mary will always direct us to her son our Lord Jesus Christ. The five stones are likened to the five stones David used to defeat Goliath (1 Samuel 17). These 5 stones are guides for us to become saints on earth as we journey to sainthood in heaven.

The first is Pray with the heart: Rosary
The Eucharist
Read the Holy Bible
Fasting
Monthly confession

All Saints’ Day is a joyful reminder that holiness is possible for each and every one of us. The saints, famous or unknown, show us that ordinary lives lived with extraordinary love lead to eternal joy. My friends let us live the beatitudes using the virtues and gifts from Jesus Christ to be saints on earth. Let us use the five stones given to us by Mary to strengthen our relationship with one another and God. Let us put our love into action and ask the Saints of heaven to intercede for us.