

All Souls Day 2025

Wis. 3.1-9, Romans 5.5-11, Mt. 5.

This weekend as we gather for our Eucharistic celebration we gather in joy, seeking mercy, sorrow, prayer, but mostly Hope. Nov. 1, we celebrate All Saints Day. We celebrate those who have made it to eternal glory, to heaven. We acknowledge the Saints recognized by the Church and those in heaven whom we may or may not know their names but seeing they are in heaven they are Saints as well.

Did you know we have two people in our Diocese who are going through the process to be recognized as a Saint by the Church. First, we have Bishop Baraga who only needs one more confirmed miracle recognized by the Church to become a Saint. The other person was from Escanaba, Irving “Francis” Houle. His cause is moving forward as he is presently recognized as Blessed Servant of God.

It is through our Baptism in which we become sons/daughters of God. In such we also become heirs, heirs of eternal life with God in heaven. Through following our faith and living a righteous humble life we too can achieve sainthood one day.

We gather in sorrow as we remember our deceased love ones. We gather in prayer today to help, guide and speed our loved ones to heaven. For most people, after death they begin their journey home in purgatory. The Bible gives various evidence for purgatory, including 1 Cor. 3.10-15, Luke 12. 41-48, 57-59 and Mt. 12.32. Purgatory is a state of purification for those souls who have died in the grace of God but require cleansing from imperfections before they can enter Heaven.

This leads us to God’s mercy and Hope. Through God’s mercy He sent His only begotten Son to defeat satan and wipe away our sins. Through the establishment of the Church and her most Holy Sacraments we are able to obtain the graces needed to obtain Sainthood. We must choose to receive these sacraments and the graces attached to them. Our Hope is to achieve heaven. Our mission is to get each other there.

Especially today we should visit the cemetery and offer a prayer, perhaps the Divine Mercy for our loved ones. Let us not forget the greatest prayer, Mass. We

can and should offer Masses for our loved ones. My friends let us not forget as we enter the Church to pay attention to the candles burning. These candles represent somebody asking you and me to pray for their special intention.

This weekend the Church is calling upon all the Churches to join together. All Saints Day is the remembrance of the Church Triumphant, those in heaven. The Church Suffering, our brothers and sisters in Purgatory who are going through purification prior to their entry into heaven. Lastly the Church Militant, us here on earth. We along with the saints are called to pray for those suffering in Purgatory and those suffering on earth. The Poor Souls in purgatory cannot pray for themselves, but they can pray for us and once they are in heaven they will not forget us.

In today's first reading from the Wisdom of Solomon he explains the nature of the afterlife for both the righteous and sinful. The destiny of the just are in the hand of God, they will share in God's kingdom. While St. Paul tells the Romans that "Hope does not disappoint because of the Love of God." God loved us so much He sent His only Son to earth for us.

Jesus in the beatitudes defines how we should live. In fact, Jesus also tells us of our reward or blessing. The Beatitudes are considered states of utmost blessing or happiness. Remember religion is a way of life. A way defined by God through the Sacred Scriptures and Sacred tradition.

The practice of praying for the dead has biblical roots. In 2 Maccabees 12:46, Judas Maccabeus prays for the fallen soldiers who had died with sin. These souls of the dead benefit from our prayers. In addition, in 2 Timothy 1:16-18, Paul prays for the soul of Onesiphorus, which also affirms that the dead can profit from our prayerful intercessions. Thus, the Church encourages this commemoration as a practice consistent with biblical faith.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church recommends prayer for the dead in conjunction with the offering of the Eucharistic Sacrifice, and encourages "almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead" (CCC 1032). Let us not forget to pray for our dear departed, have Masses offered for them, visit their graves, and make daily sacrifices for them.