

# All Saints Day

When I was a child, my parents helped me celebrate all of the holidays. I really enjoyed Halloween but I really did not quite get the All Saints Day celebration. Now many, many years later, I look back and see that as my belief in God and my faith as a Christian matures, I then began to understand the wonderful celebration of All Saints. As a child, All Saints was a holy day of obligation. As a mature adult, All Saints Day is a special day when we remember all people who have served God faithfully. The Gospel for the day is the beatitudes. The Gospel for “a saint’s day” is:

*“...Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’*

*“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or need clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go visit you?’*

*“The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’”*

Need I say more? Well, maybe. When I was a child, I thought that this would be easy. It has not been easy. To do good is not as easy as it seems. But I can say this. I watched as my mother grew older and matured and grew in grace. She grew in love and compassion as she aged. I think there is hope for you and me if only we hold to the course.

We must be able to change and grow. We must be able to listen to God first and people second. People are sometimes wrong.

On this November 1, think of those whom you have known. Think of those who were close to God. Think of those who served God and have passed to the next life.

Say a prayer for them and yourself. Or maybe go to an All Saints Day service. You will find them in the Lutheran, Episcopal and Catholic Churches. Some Methodist churches also celebrate All Saints. Go to a Church that celebrates with Holy Communion. That will make it very special. Remember, it is believed by the faithful that when you go to the communion rail, you join with all the saints and souls of the dear departed in praise and worship of God. At that moment, you kneel with all departed faithful members of your family.

**WHAT A CELEBRATION!!**