

## The Work of the People

### *The Solemnity of All Saints*

This year the Solemnity of All Saints happens to fall on a Sunday. The month of November is traditionally the time at which we remember the Communion of Saints: the faithful on earth, the blessed in heaven, and the souls of all the departed. Today we remember all the saints known and unknown to us who enjoy the glory of heaven. In today's Gospel account we hear the Beatitudes, which are guidelines for true joy and the attainment of sanctity in our Christian lives. We hear how we are to live lives of holiness so that we may attain happiness in this life, but even more happiness in the next life as we strive to likewise be numbered among all the saints in heaven.

The concept of the Communion of Saints has grabbed my imagination recently especially since we have been caught in a vortex of tribulation brought on by the pandemic and the deepening divisions in our country, our world, and our Church. I believe that I need to turn more to the "great cloud of witnesses" as scripture calls them to find my way through this time. Look to your patron saint, look to the patron of our parish, look to the saints of our times for guidance.

The readings for this solemnity are the same for each liturgical year. We first hear from the Book of Revelation. John recounts a vision of those who will be delivered in the end times. The group is described as a great multitude representing every people and nation on the earth. In response to the question of who these people are, the answer is the cryptic "they have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb." Because these robes are symbolic of who one is, the author wants us to know that while sharing in the sufferings of Christ, these are the ones who remained faithful, even to the shedding of their own blood. They now rejoice in the presence of God.

We then hear from the First Letter of Saint John. This passage opens with an exclamation: "See what love . . ." The greatness of God's love is not just an esoteric idea. It becomes palpable in its effects. It actually makes us children of God. Those who believe in Jesus's name are children begotten by God, reborn from above. This is more than simply being God's creatures, or even a Chosen People. According to John, this is the most profound relation to God possible in this life.

In the Gospel of Matthew, we hear the beginning of Jesus's Sermon on the Mount. The people who are the objects of divine favor, the blessed, are those who recognize that they have nothing to bring to God but are dependent on grace for everything. Injustice causes them to mourn, while their desire for right is as strong as hunger and thirst. Hearts fully devoted to God lead them to act with mercy and to sow peace. Their way of living, like that of Jesus himself, will be an affront to powers of domination and thus, like the Master, they,

too, will suffer. But even as they have grown in his image, they cannot imagine what awaits them in the end.

The reflection for this Sunday is from *Selected Writings* of Elisabeth Leseur (1866-1914) who was a devoted Catholic who offered her life for the conversion of her husband, a determined atheist. After her death, he went on to become a Dominican priest.

This is a lovely feast, the feast of those who already live in God, those whom we have loved and who have attained happiness and light; it is the feast of eternity. And what a fine idea to make the feast of the dead follow so soon! During these two days a vast stream of prayer and love flows through the three worlds: between the church in heaven, the church on earth, and the church in which souls wait and atone. The communion of saints seems twice as close and fruitful. We feel that the dead and all those we love are close to us in God; and this living doctrine, by God's grace, gives life to many on earth and in purgatory. Not one of our tears, not one of our prayers is lost; they have a power that many people never suspect. I want to spend this month in prayer, remembrance, thoughts of heaven, as well as in charity and peaceful, courageous activity.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Wis. 3:1-9/Rom. 5:5-11/Jn. 6:37-40

Tuesday: Phil. 2:5-11/Lk. 14:15-24

Wednesday: Phil. 2:12-18/Lk. 14:25-33

Thursday: Phil. 3:3-8a/Lk. 15:1-10

Friday: Phil. 3:17; 4:1/Lk. 16:1-8

Saturday: Phil. 4:10-10/Lk. 16:9-15

Sunday: Wis. 6:12-16/1 Thes. 4:13-18 or 4:13-14/Mt. 25:1-13

### NOVEMBER 1

***Solemnity of All Saints is a principal feast of the Church that honors all the saints both publicly celebrated in the Church's history as well as the multitude of saints whose names are known only to God. In order to honor the memory to these unnamed saints, and to recall their example, the Church dedicates this special feast day so that all living Christians would celebrate the lives and witness of those "who have died and gone before us into the presence of the Lord."***

***"Lord, bring all those who have died in friendship with you into heavenly joy!"***

## WORSHIP

Monday, November 2  
 8:00 am + John E. Auer  
 Tuesday, November 3  
 8:00 am + Alice Undereiner (Betty Bisbee)  
 Wednesday, November 4  
 8:00 am + NO MASS  
 Thursday, November 5  
 8:00 am + Mary Yusavage (Family)  
 Friday, November 6 - FIRST FRIDAY  
 8:00 am + For Our Priests (Joyce Lyons)  
 Saturday, November 7  
 4:30 pm + Jerry Peters (Peters Family)  
 Sunday, November 8  
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Richard Baker (Jim & Fran Peters)  
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 Living & Deceased Parishioners

## PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 3  
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena  
 Saturday, November 7  
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession  
 Sunday, November 8  
 Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

### SECOND HARVEST

The Social Justice & Life Office of the Diocese of Erie encourages those in need of nutrition assistance to contact Second Harvest Food Bank of Erie for free help in applying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Gabriela Kellogg, SNAP outreach coordinator, will assist with the pre-screening and application process, either over the phone or online at <https://nwpafoodbank.org/> The goal is to reach low-income individuals, including those who are unemployed, underemployed, seniors or disabled. For assistance, call 814 459-3663, ext. 118 or email [gkellogg@nwpafoodbank.org](mailto:gkellogg@nwpafoodbank.org).

### CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

November is National Homeless Youth Awareness Month; We consider our homes to be safe places for our children, but up to 2.5 million US youth experience homelessness every year. 50,000 youth sleep on the streets for six months or more each year. One of the main causes of youth homelessness is family instability, which includes child abuse and/or neglect, domestic violence, parental substance abuse and family conflict. The website of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network ([www.nctsn.org](http://www.nctsn.org)) offers information on a range of child safety topics. Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/> for additional resources on recognizing and reporting suspected child abuse.

### MARRIAGE MOMENT

On November 2 the Catholic Church remembers "All Souls" who have died. Of course, you and your beloved are still very much alive, but you will not always be. Write down one special trait for your spouse that you cherish. Share it today while you can still read and hear it in person.

### A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Anyone can be "saint" in front of strangers but the daily acts of patience, acceptance, forgiveness, listening, and dying to oneself within the family are religious acts. Family life is the turf of sanctity.

*"Lord,  
 teach me to be a cheerful and unselfish giver."*

### ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$475.00
Candles	26.00
World Mission	50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$551.00</b>

Catholic Services Appeal  
 Pledged: \$5,848    Paid: \$5,485

### ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$739.00
Maintenance	232.00
Candles	24.00
All Souls	65.00
All Saints	10.00
World Mission	90.00
CSA	40.00
Latin Mass	317.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,517.00</b>

Catholic Services Appeal  
 Pledged: \$26,587    Paid: \$25,067

**CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA**

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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