

**For The Bulletin Of
November 1, 2015**

THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

From Father Robert

Mountains are majestic. They awe us. They inspire us. They draw us. Mountains are ever changing in our beholding – sunrise and sunset bathe them in different lights and colors; winter and summer clothe them in different array; storms and wind wrap them in tremor. No wonder in biblical imagery mountaintops are places of “theophany” – places where God reveals the divine Self to human beings. The sublime majesty of mountains draws us to the ineffable majesty of the God Who creates, Who blesses, Who draws to Self those who are drawn to seek the One Who is good beyond all measure, is holy beyond all reckoning, is caring beyond all imagining.

It is no accident that the Gospel of Matthew has Jesus go “up the mountain,” traditionally a place associated with divine encounter, to teach the Beatitudes to His disciples. The Beatitudes reveal the very Being of God, God’s care for God’s beloved people, God’s intent for faithful ones. The Beatitudes reveal the mind and heart of God. Those who have encountered God and lived the Beatitudes have the same mind and heart. We call them “saints.” There is a countless multitude of saints in heaven, “wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands,” endlessly singing God’s praises. There is a countless multitude of saints here among us who “are God’s children now,” who have embraced the beatific,

Godlike way of living. While this feast day primarily honors the saints who have gone before us, we cannot forget ourselves this day. They have gone where we hope to go.

There are many ways to be blessed. One of the attractions of honoring saints is that they offer a great deal of variety and richness of life for us to emulate. No matter what situation in life we find ourselves or what difficulty we face, some Saint offers us a model for perseverance in our blessedness and the assurance of care. This solemnity reminds us that our life of blessedness rests on an intimate relationship with God and each other expressed through enduring bonds of mutual care, mercy, humility, and self-giving.

Living The Paschal Mystery

We often think of the saints as out-of-this-world holy people who are far beyond our own experience or sense of our own goodness. When we pray the Litany of Saints (as we did today at the very beginning of each liturgy), we ask the intercessions of very many saints who lived centuries ago in a very different time and culture. They seem far away. This solemnity reminds us that at one time they were ordinary people just like us, living ordinary lives in faithfulness to Gospel values.

This festival is one of encouragement – God doesn’t judge us only on our weaknesses but on our persevering in a willingness to live as God’s blessed children. The simple, everyday things we do well wash us in the blood of the Lamb. Our smile is a saintly one. Our gesture of kindness is an expression of blessedness. Our humility is Godlike. Others’ holy gestures toward us are

reminders that there is glory awaiting us. To each of us who embraces our blessedness: ours “is the kingdom of heaven.”

What new understanding have you taken away from our worship today? How has the Word of God touched your heart and life?

- I encounter God and learn the divine mind and heart when...
- The most challenging Beatitude for me is...The most encouraging Beatitude for me is...
- Persons who inspire me to saintly living are...

About Liturgy: The Origin of the Feast of All Saints

The earliest cult of the saints focused on the martyrs, those who courageously gave their lives out of commitment to Christ. From at least the fourth century the Eastern Church had a festival honoring all the saints who had died; in Rome in the fifth century the pagan Pantheon was consecrated as a church honoring Mary and the martyrs. By the eighth century the cult of the saints was extended beyond the martyrs to honor others who lived selfless, faithful Christian lives. At this time there is the first indication that the festival was fixed on November 1st in the West.

This feast is not primarily about remembering the faithful departed (we do that tomorrow, November 1st). It is about honoring those who have been faithful disciples of Jesus, those who model for us Gospel living, those who inspire us to be likewise faithful.

The Communion of Saints

There are numerous references in the New Testament of addressing the early

Christians as “saints.” Most of Paul’s salutations at the beginning of his letters address “God’s beloved...who are called to be saints.” In the Apostles’ Creed we profess belief in “the Communion of saints.” This article of our faith comes immediately after our profession of belief in the Holy Spirit, and before our professions of belief in the resurrection of the body and everlasting life. The communion of saints cannot be doctrinally separated from the Holy Spirit’s work of binding us into a church, whereby we are members of the Body of Christ, nor from Christ’s promise and our hope that we will receive a share in His risen Life. Our union with one another in Christ through the Spirit is one of intimacy with our triune God and with one another – one another both living and dead. We saints on earth are united with the saints in heaven in Christ’s one Body, forever giving God glory and praise.

The Floral Arrangement at the Foot of the Cross is placed to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Lino Macedo by Mena Macedo.

All Souls Day – The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed

Tomorrow, Monday, November 2nd, we observe All Souls Day, The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed.

This feast day reminds us that God is faithful to God’s promise to save and that the victory of salvation is possible for all. We begin our lives by belonging to the Father Who wills that not one of us be lost. God’s will that we gain everlasting Life is so strong that God sent the only-begotten Son to unite with us in our weak humanity so that we can

be raised to a share in divine Life. But temptations abound; we make choices selfishly to serve ourselves rather than gracefully serve others and do the will of God. Truly, there is a choice to be made in face of God's will for our salvation.

This festival honoring all the faithful departed also reminds us that victory is possible. On November 1st we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints. This November 2nd commemoration of all the faithful departed is not a totally different feast. The souls in purgatory are like all of us weak human creatures; they have sinned. But they also have already won the victory; they have believed in the Son and are not lost. All that remains is the satisfaction for their weak moments and righting their relationships with God and others in the Body of Christ. The souls in purgatory are not lost; they have won their victory. We pray for them as sisters and brothers in Christ, in the communion of saints.

We will celebrate our usual Daily Morning Eucharist at 8:00 a.m. and then in the evening, at 7:30 p.m., we will have our annual Remembrance Liturgy in the form of Sung Evening Prayer. A special part of this liturgy is the reading of the names of those who died since last All Souls Day and whose funeral liturgies were celebrated in our church. Memorial Candles, which will be given to surviving family members, will be lighted. A reception follows in the parish hall after the liturgy. I hope you will be able to join us.

Antioch Neighborhood Cleanup

This coming Saturday, November 7th, is our next Antioch Neighborhood Cleanup. The site for this month's efforts is Jacobsen Park. Please see the

flyer and map in today's bulletin for details. Last month, we had a great group of parishioners who joined me and I hope many will come out this month as well.

Commitment Weekend

Next weekend, November 7th and 8th, is our annual Commitment Weekend. God has blessed each one of us with gifts, talents, abilities, and resources to support our parish community. We ask you to reflect on how God has blessed you with Time, Talent, and Treasure and then be prepared to fill out the Commitment Form and bring it forward in a great procession at the Preparation Rite to indicate how you will use your gifts in support of the parish in 2016. Please see my letter in today's bulletin.

Veterans Blessing

In honor of Veterans Day, we will be honoring all the Veterans in our parish with a special blessing at the conclusion of each liturgy next weekend, November 7th and 8th. Please plan to be with us and to come forward to be acknowledged for your service to our country in the Marines, Navy, Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Beginning last Sunday, the list of items to put into a Thanksgiving Basket was placed in our bulletin. Thanksgiving Baskets for needy families may be brought to the church on the weekend of November 21st and 22nd. The baskets will then be distributed to the families by our St. Vincent de Paul Society members on Monday, November 23rd, from our parish hall. We have 150 families who have signed up to receive a basket.

This is a wonderful way to teach your children a lesson about gratitude, thankfulness, and generosity. Take them shopping with you and let them select the items on the shopping list. Talk to them about caring for others who are less fortunate than we. Instill a sense of giving in their hearts that will last them a lifetime. Have them decorate the basket/box appropriately with Thanksgiving artwork.

Thank you for what you will do to be the heart and hands of Jesus, extended to our sisters and brothers who would not be able to celebrate Thanksgiving Dinner without our help.

CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence

The next CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence takes place on Friday evening, November 13th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The walk will once again begin from Antioch Church Family, 55 E. 18th Street, with prayer and orientation and then walking to the intersection of E. 18th and Cavallo Road. The witnesses lasts for one hour and then we return to the church for evaluation and Closing prayer.

Brass and Organ Concert

Our next major Fall Concert takes place on Friday evening, November 13th, at 8:00 p.m. when members of the San Francisco Symphony join our very own **Don Pearson, Director of Music/Organist/Artist-in-Residence**, along with timpani in a concert of “Heroic Music for Organ and Brass.” You will not want to miss this major musical event, not just for our parish but for all of East County. This concert is a personal Gift of **Don Pearson** who is fully sponsoring the cost of the Brass players and Timpanist.

A reception will follow the concert in our parish hall. Invite your family members, friends, and neighbors to this thrilling musical event. If it weren't for our magnificent pipe organ and Don Pearson, a concert of this magnitude would not be possible and it is, in fact, the first time that such a concert has been performed in East County.

Plan to be with us for this exciting and inspiring evening of heroic music for Brass and Organ.

St. Cecilia Sing

On Sunday, November 22nd, we will honor St. Cecilia, the Patron Saint of Church Music with Sung Evening Prayer at 3:00 p.m. We, along with hundreds of other parishes across the United States whose musicians are members of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians will be offering concerts featuring their parish musicians, organists, instrumentalists, soloists, hand bell choirs, and choral ensembles. Our Parish Choir has prepared a magnificent choral anthem for the liturgy in addition to the singing of the psalms and canticles of the day. A reception will follow in the parish hall. I hope you will plan to join us for this beautiful evening liturgy and giving thanks for the great gift that our musicians are to our parish and community.

Thanksgiving

Please mark your calendar for Thursday, November 26th, 9:00 a.m., to be with us for our annual Thanksgiving Liturgy. The reflection this year will be given by **Kelly and Kristi Ouimet, the parents of Molly, Patrick, and Matthew**. You are also invited to bring your bread/rolls and wine/sparkling beverage to be

blessed at the conclusion of the Eucharist.

Environment Help

You are invited to join us to change the environment from Fall/Harvest/Thanksgiving to Advent and the beginning of the new Liturgical Year. We will meet on Friday morning, November 27th at 9:00 a.m. There will be coffee and breakfast pastries. Depending upon the number of people who help, we usually are finished by Noon with the removal of the Fall environment and the installation of the Advent environment. This is a great way to see how our seasonal environments are changed, to be a part of making it happen, and to meet fellow parishioners. I hope you will join us.

St. Nicholas Festival Dinner

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, December 5th, to join us for the annual St. Nicholas Festival Dinner. This is one of the most beloved evenings during the year in our parish. Parishioners sponsor tables which they decorate in the spirit of the evening. Our appetizers and dinner will once again be provided by **Dave Costanza and His Famous Kitchen Crew**. There will be a raffle and both silent and live auctions. The highlight of the evening is the appearance of St. Nicholas himself. Dinner tickets go on sale soon so watch the bulletin and listen for the announcements as this is always a sold out event.

This Week's Thank You's

...to **Rich Confetti and Don Benson** who worked each day last week with the pipe organ technician to remove all the out-of-date analog equipment and to install the new digital equipment that

will service our pipe/digital organ for many years to come. The work was guided by **Robert Knight of Knight Organ Company** who is the foremost knowledgeable technician in the United States for the installation of "hybrid" instruments (pipes and digital voices). For the first time, ALL of the pipes in the organ are now playing and it has made a significant difference. He was so impressed by Rich and Don that he offered them a job helping him install future organs in California! They respectfully declined!!! This work could not have been done without them. ...to our faithful volunteer parishioners who rise early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church for the weekend and the coming week: **Jun Bajet, Reno Benasfre, Stacey Wetzel, Kelly Wetzel, Mency Osborne, Rose Salamanca, Alfred Madoshi, and Steve Rojek**.

...to our equally faithful volunteer parishioners who also rise early on Saturday morning to clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Harlan Young, and Armando Gino Ramos**.

...to our faithful volunteer parishioner receptionists who answer the phones and assist with other office and clerical work Monday through Friday: **Mary Ng, Harlan Young, Karen Oliver, Barbara Jackson, and Rowena Cayaban**.

...to our faithful volunteer parishioners who provide parking lot security each week: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek, and Robert Goncalves**.

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such a wonderful job of laundering, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens each week.

