

The Sunday of All Saints Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life. But many that are first shall be last; and the last shall be first. (KJV)

Seriously following the Lord Jesus Christ entails a complete commitment. Christians are to demonstrate love of Jesus Christ in thoughts, words and actions. The whole person is dedicated to Jesus Christ at Holy Baptism.

The whole person is to be involved in following Christ from the time of Baptism until departure from this life. Hardships, trials and tribulations in life are to be addressed in ways pleasing to Christ and by following Christ's example.

Jesus voluntarily went to the Cross. Followers of Christ can expect crosses in personal life. Attentive believers learn from the way Jesus faced adversity and went to the Cross.

Christ's teachings heard and proclaimed in the Church during the course of the years fortify the believer for times of adversity in life. Church teachings fortify and strengthen the believer for hardships that arise unexpectedly.

The Sunday immediately following Pentecost puts the focus on the saints of the Church. The lives of the saints and martyrs are rich examples. They serve as lessons on the ways to face adversity and remain pleasing to Christ.

Patience is importance in facing adversity. Wisdom exists in looking to the Lord for guidance and direction. Love from God is revealed in times of adversity. Comfort from God comes in ways totally unexpected.

Believers are never too old to learn and grasp lessons from God. While the mind functions well, attention can be directed to God. The heart, conscience and soul have places in sound decision-making.

Contemporary society puts up barriers to following Jesus Christ. Today's society offers paths that go far from the Kingdom of God. Vigilance is necessary to avoid the perils of today's world.

Hunger in the soul seeks authenticity. God's Holy Church offers necessary nourishment for the heart, mind and soul. God's Holy Church provides examples of believers through the centuries who remained faithful to Christ.

The Descent of the Holy Spirit was celebrated greatly in the past week. The Holy Spirit serves to guide the attentive believer throughout life. Obstacles in personal life can be overcome with help from the Holy Spirit.

The Resurrected Christ defeated death. No obstacle in life is too great to bring dismay to a fervent believer. Lives of the saints describe followers of Christ rejoicing in the most difficult of times.

Christ offers joy in life. The Church teaches believers ways to experience lasting joy. Believers find in the saints vivid lessons of strong faith and repentance that bring beneficial changes to human lives.

The life in Christ involves growth from the time of Baptism until departure from this life. Stagnancy has no place in the Christian life. Prayer, fasting and repentance lead to growth in Christ.

The Church offers nourishment in the Divine services. The content of the services and the celebration of the services nourish believers. New pathways in life are opened as a believer immerses the self in the services of the Church.

The Holy Scriptures serve as an inexhaustible reservoir of learning. We come to know God better when we study the Scriptures. The heart, mind and soul change when fully open to the Scriptures.

This particular Sunday is firmly placed on the Church calendar every year following Pentecost. The Church values the lives of the saints. The saints live on in God. They are examples and intercessors before God in prayers.

Miracles are attributed to the saints. These miracles have occurred through the centuries and in all parts of the globe. Believers with eyes to see will understand the miracles that have taken place and are still taking place.

The Sunday of All Saints is a Sunday of hope. The saints have demonstrated the far-reaching possibilities of life. The saints prove the miracles and changes that can be achieved when complete dedication to God exists.

The life experiences known in the saints are astounding. Each person benefits by reading the lives of the saints and learning of the various examples of faith through the centuries.

Hunger in the soul is satisfied in God's Holy Church. Saints thrive on the nourishment in the Church. Saints are part of the nourishment in the Church. The heart, mind and soul are enriched by the lives of the saints.

Today let us thank God for the Sunday of All Saints. Be thankful to the Church for providing this Sunday each year. May we be renewed through prayers and examples of the saints today and every day.

The Sunday of All Saints. Holy Prophet Elisha, St. Methodius, Patriarch of Constantinople. June 14/27, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

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