

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)

The Lord God is needed every minute of everyday of life. The Lord is the Creator, Giver and Sustainer of life. Believers learn best how to live an earthly life by seeking and being united with the Lord God.

The current Gospel expresses the value of confessing the Lord Jesus Christ in daily life. The person's words, thoughts and actions will reveal the depth of belief in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Turning to the Lord God for strength and direction in daily life is the way to confess and profess belief. Being repentant of sins and abiding in God's Holy Church reflects belief in the Lord.

The saints and martyrs of the Church are examples and intercessors of unwavering faith in the Lord. Today the Church celebrates all the saints and recognizes their lasting importance through the centuries.

Believers have opportunities throughout life to learn from the saints and martyrs and turn to them for intercessory prayer. The Church's liturgical calendar is rich in identifying saints and martyrs daily throughout the year.

The saints and martyrs offer attentive believers the ways to address the hunger of the soul in circumstances arising during earthly life. The saints and martyrs enlighten believers on the paths to follow for eternal life.

Adversity arises in life at various points and times. Families face challenges unexpectedly. Parents have great responsibilities requiring great wisdom in the raising of sons and daughters.

Wars and rumors of wars, violence, and evil temptations have existed in every century. The saints and martyrs show how to deal with the great struggles of life including the most severe illnesses and accidents.

Reading and studying the lives of the saints and martyrs is the way to strengthen personal faith. Celebrating the saints and martyrs on feast days in the Church is a way to express gratitude.

Believers in God's Holy Church always benefit from the saints and martyrs. The prayers and actions of the saints and martyrs through the centuries have contributed to the well-being of believers in ways not known to the human mind.

God knows the work and beliefs of the saints and martyrs. Saints and martyrs known only to God have contributed to the betterment of the world. Today is a day to be grateful to all saints and martyrs, known and unknown.

Joy is found in studying the lives of the saints and martyrs. Some saints and martyrs have been faithful to the Lord from the time of Holy Baptism until departure from this life.

Certain saints and martyrs were extreme and open sinners who radically changed their lives and repented. Repentance from some saints and martyrs came at the last moments of life and made a lasting difference.

Today is an important day in the Church and in each person's life. Today is a gift from God. Each day is a gift from God. Tomorrow is not promised to any person.

The time of life comes only once. The time of life is not repeated. Saints and martyrs have chosen to use the time of life in ways beneficial for life eternal. The Church celebrates the Sunday of All Saints to educate believers.

The Church desires for all believers to fully experience the life in Christ. The Church seeks for all to experience salvation of the soul and eternal life. Today is the day to avail the self of the nourishment found in God's saints and martyrs.

Today is the day to open the heart, mind and soul to the life-saving lessons found in the lives of the Church's saints and martyrs. The Church teaches about the lessons of the saints and martyrs throughout the year.

The iconography, liturgical hymns and writings of the Church about the saints and martyrs provides great instruction for nourishing the soul. Prayers of the Church reach out to the saints and martyrs.

Fervent believers know of the value of the saints and martyrs. Fervent believers turn to the saints and martyrs with regularity for nourishment, seeking inspiration and for intercession.

The first Sunday after Pentecost always commemorates all the saints. Thank God for the saints and martyrs known and unknown. Thank God for the opportunities to learn from and pray to the saints and martyrs.

Glory to God for the saints and martyrs. Glory to God for all things, May today's celebration of the Sunday of All Saints be of great benefit to believers everywhere.

May 29/June 11, 2023. Sunday of All Saints. Holy Virgin Martyr Theodosia.
Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic