

# HOMILY ~ ALL SAINTS

## NOVEMBER 1, 2024

When we think of Saints, we frequently just think of those Saints that have been canonized by the Church. Because of the long canonization process that is followed by the Church, these Saints generally did something very extraordinary in their lives which brought them to the attention of many. Sometimes I find it difficult to identify with these Saints. For example, I believe that Mother Theresa did an extraordinary ministry in her lifetime, but I am no Mother Theresa. The Church has named a small percentage of the Saints. The vast majority of Saints in heaven today lived extraordinary lives in an ordinary way.

In the Gospel Reading, we heard the Beatitudes. These are really a roadmap for Sainthood. We are all called to holiness, and many of us will live holy lives that do not come to the attention of many people. As I was praying with the Beatitudes this week, I was thinking about people that I know who have lived extraordinary lives in an ordinary way. *"Blessed are the poor in spirit,"* ... I remember my father. He was a milkman in the days when we had home delivery, he got up every morning at 4:30 AM and he worked hard and made a modest living. He did without himself to provide for his family. How many parents are sacrificing for their children today? *"Blessed are they who mourn,"* ... I think of those who have lost loved ones, worked through their own grief and are now helping others work through their grief. *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,"* ... I think of people who have a friend or family member who is part of the LGBTQ community and have loved them, accepted them, not judged them and have helped others to do the same. *"Blessed are the merciful,"* ... I think of a boss who forgave my mistakes, and he encouraged and mentored me. He saw something in me that I did not see in myself. *"Blessed are the peacemakers,"* ... I think of my mother who kept peace in our family by teaching us that we can disagree, but we do not do the silent treatment. We continued to talk, which forced us to work out our differences.

Today I invite you to review the Beatitudes and think of the people you know who have lived extraordinary lives in an ordinary way. They are great role models.

Love and Peace,

Fr. Jim