



Bringing Home the Word

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)
November 2, 2025

Saints with a Small "S"

Mary Katharine Deeley

I had a wonderful mentor in my early adulthood who taught me about the beauty of the Liturgy of the Hours and the importance of theological reflection. He passed away years ago, and several times a year I remember him and offer thanks to God for his presence in my life.

On the Solemnity of All Saints (November 1), we celebrate people whom the Church as a whole knows and recognizes as holy men and women who led lives of obedience to God and openness to grace. Today, we celebrate

the countless others, known only to families and friends or in certain villages and countries, who lived and died as people of faith, striving to be disciples of Christ and certainly being examples for all who knew them.

In several of his epistles, St. Paul exhorts all of his listeners to be saints with a small "s"—women and men who cooperate with grace and allow God to work through them. That same exhortation applies to us today. Holiness is not solely for people in the past or for priests and religious. It's the goal for all of us. And we have known many of them—grandparents, uncles and aunts, parents, mentors, and other people important to us. They've been role models and guides. They've not just talked faith. They've lived faith. They won't be known by the entire Church, but today is their feast day because they showed us what is possible when we allow God to lead us. †

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Sunday Readings

Wisdom 3:1-9

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them.

Romans 6:3-9

If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.

John 6:37-40

For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life.

Or any readings from no. 668 or from the Masses for the Dead

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

In a world wounded by violence and conflict... I am convinced that if we are...free from ideological and political conditioning, we can be effective in saying "no" to war and "yes" to peace, "no" to the arms race and "yes" to disarmament, "no" to an economy that impoverishes peoples and the earth and "yes" to integral development.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 19, 2025



REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Who are the "saints" who have inspired me in my faith?
- Am I inspiring others by how I live my life?



The Glasses of Faith

Mark O'Keefe, OSB

Christian faith gives us a way of viewing ourselves in relation to others and to the world. We can speak of the “eyes of faith,” a Christian “vision,” or a Christian “lens.” Christian faith is meant to enable and require us to see the world and other people and what is important in life in a particular way. The Christian vision, for example, reveals that the poor are blessed by God, that we should love our enemies, that we should forgive those who have harmed us, that we should reach out to the stranger, that suffering can be redemptive, that dying is a gateway to real life...and so many other realities that a worldly vision views as naïve. Be that as it may, to be a Christian means that who we are, how we act, and how we relate to the people around us are formed and guided by this Christian vision.

The problem is that we want to be able to wear different pairs of glasses. We understand ourselves to be followers of Jesus, and we believe that he tells us and shows us the truth about human living. But, at the same time, we want to go on viewing life as getting ahead, having more, being liked and valued, having our way, and the rest.

Sadly, there are Christians who seem to have just one set of glasses—their “worldly” glasses—and they assess the Church and their participation in it according to the reality that “the world” reveals to them. To the discerning Christian, though, so much of the worldly vision is either false or blindness—just as Christian truth appears unreal to the vision of the world. Christian conversion involves seeing the world anew. As we sing in the Christian hymn “Amazing Grace,” “I was blind but now I see.” †

From *Deciding to be Christian: A Daily Commitment* by Mark O'Keefe, OSB, Liguori Publications (© 2012).

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Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “Preparing for Our Final Journey: Life is Changed, Not Ended”

Some people live as though they are never going to die, even though evidence to the contrary is all around. The same fate awaits everyone: the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, the good and the bad. Saint Bernard asks, “Why do you count on the future as if God has given you power over time?” There is nothing more precious than time, yet is there anything less prized or more disregarded? Some spend their days doing little and say they are “just killing time.” How very sad. There is a moment when there is no more time. It is a treasure that we cannot stockpile. Use time well or not—either way, we lose it.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.



For those who have gone before us into eternal life, and for the comfort of all who mourn, we pray. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

November 3–8

Monday, Weekday:

Rom 11:29–36 / Lk 14:12–14

Tuesday, St. Charles Borromeo:

Rom 12:5–16b / Lk 14:15–24

Wednesday, Weekday:

Rom 13:8–10 / Lk 14:25–33

Thursday, Weekday:


Rom 14:7–12 / Lk 15:1–10

Friday, Weekday:

Rom 15:14–21 / Lk 16:1–8

Saturday, Weekday:

Rom 16:3–9, 16, 22–27 / Lk 16:9–15

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