Homily
All Saints' Day – A

Rev. Peter G. Jankowski
October 31 – November 1, 2026

Rev 7: 2-4, 9-14
Ps 24: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6
1 Jn 3: 1-3
Mt 5: 1-12



Pictured is my "Mini-Monstrance," which I place inside my private chapel over at St. Anne's Rectory, when I want to get away from the world, and I want to pray. Way back when, when I first came to this particular Church (the first shrine of the United States), we had an extra bedroom in the house where I live. As such, we decided to do was convert the bedroom into a chapel, where I could have private prayer.

When we started offering these Online Masses way back when in 2020, we installed a camera in this chapel so we could record the Masses for your benefit. I also needed a place where I could be separated from the world. I needed to spend my time with God and ask God to be with this sinner who is trying to just do what is right for the people in these periphery churches, in these Border Town communities, in these places

where people feel lonely and outcast, and often rejected by the mothership of in Joliet.

So, in this chapel, I celebrate these Online Masses, I take my time for prayer. Towards that end, I utilize this "Mini-Monstrance" that I place on the altar of my chapel so that I have time in private prayer to give thanks to God for the life I have been given and what I need to do for all of you to help save souls, starting with my own.



Here in the larger churches where we pray, we utilize a larger monstrance for adoration. This is essentially a monstrance, which looks like the "rays of the moon" shining out. The association is with the moon, which is connected to Easter Sunday. Essentially, Easter Sunday takes place on the first Sunday *after* the first full moon *after* the first day of spring. Inside the monstrance, you place what is called a "Luna." Inside the Luna you place a consecrated host. When the Luna with the consecrated host is placed inside the monstrance, the faithful are able to adore the Blessed Sacrament that is exposed from this monstrance.

Here at St. Anne's during the month of October, we have been exposing the Blessed Sacrament after the Wednesday 5:00 p.m. Mass until 7:00 p.m. Over at St. Patrick's, we expose the Blessed Sacrament every liturgy in the morning, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, after the 9:15 a.m. Mass until 11:00 a.m., after which we offer the Liturgy of Benediction.

Here at St. Anne's Church, I was encouraged to offer adoration of the Blessed Sacrament by a parishioner named Trevor Runyon, who works over at Clancy Gurnon Funeral Home; Trevor happens to be one of our church organists. Trevor was just recently married, and he was very dedicated to the faith so much that he asked me to offer benediction at St. Anne's as we do at St. Patrick's.

Over at St. Patrick's. I was encouraged to offer Eucharistic adoration for a certain group of faithful women who attend daily Mass, specifically a group of Hispanic ladies who attend Mass every time the sacrifice is offered (sometimes they attend twice a day!) and pray with us. The Anglo community encourage me to offer the daily Mass

bilingually, since many who speak English respond in English, and the people who speak Spanish respond in Spanish.

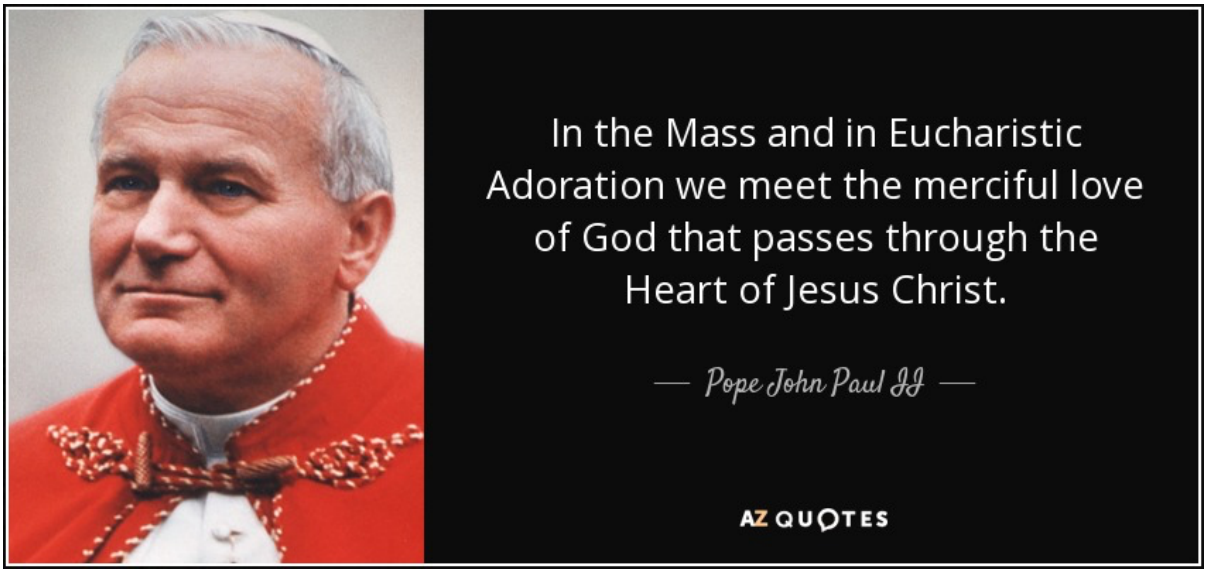


I am humbled and amazed that those of both cultures get along with each other so well. At these Masses, our multi-cultural friends prior to the Masses are hugging each other and talking to each other as if they are good friends, brothers and sisters… which they are! I have a photo clipped on the door of my refrigerator of our Hispanic ladies with Marcia Tedford, one of our daily Mass adorers who very much loved each other. Marcia passed away earlier this year – our adorers at Mass still ask me to pray for Marcia.

With this one photo, this picture really affects me because it means we truly are One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. With that image, I am reminded that we pray together, and we speak the same love. of language. The language of love.

So when I expose the Blessed Sacrament every day, and when I offer benediction at 11:00 a.m. with the Blessed Sacrament, there are about

three or four ladies, sometimes more, that remain inside the church to pray after the daily Mass. Obviously, this is not a whole lot of people in church; only three or four people stay after Mass to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament.



St. Pope John Paul II, St. John Paul "the Great," often encouraged Eucharistic Adoration so we can build a relationship with the one who created us, and the one who will take us home. Like any relationship, the more you spend time with the one you love, the more you have an opportunity to grow in that relationship and, in the case of God, show God that we accept the Lord's invitation to enter into the kingdom of heaven and spend the rest of your existence with him.

These ladies, every single day in adoration, pray for the sick, pray for the dead, pray for the needy and pray for the people in the world, especially those most in need of God's love. During my reflection for this homily, I thought about these ladies and the gift of Benediction and Adoration because all the institutions that seek out God's love, from the El Centro Vilaseca Daycare Center over in Joliet, IL (who care for the low income and underprivileged children six months old until five years old or at Good Shepherd Manor, with the residents, with the staff, who are desperately trying to figure out how to find their place in the world, these ladies… and all of us who pray… offer a great service on behalf of those in need.

When I think about those ladies in adoration, I think about who come to me and say, "Father, no one listens to my prayers; no one is with me and I feel alone and dejected." When the suffering cry out to me, I think about those ladies praying in Church to realize that the suffering are not alone; we are not alone. To realize that every time we celebrate liturgy like this, every time those prayer warriors adore that Blessed Sacrament, we are taught in the catechism that they are we are joined in spirit by

what is called "The Church Militant," "The Church Suffering," and "The Church Triumphant," – the faithful praying on earth (Church Militant) the faithful who are trying to get purified in purgatory (Church Suffering), and the faithful who gaze at our Lord's presence in the kingdom of heaven (Church Triumphant).

When we are celebrating this Mass, even when I celebrate these Online Masses alone in Church, we are joined spiritually with the "Communion of Saints" (the Church Militant, Suffering and Triumphant). When we pray for those individuals who are inscribed in these "Books of the Dead" within our respective churches from St. Anne and St. Patrick's, the faithful departed are being remembered by all of us, in solidarity with the Communion of Saints.

The more we pray for these individuals, the more we show God that we are willing to sacrifice ourselves for our beloved deceased for the sake of one another, we pray that God listens to prayers, supports us during our suffering on earth and will welcome us. I know that when my time is through on Earth and subsequently will welcome us into the kingdom of heaven.

For me, I need to pray as well; I have to answer for those things that I have done wrong in this world and ask the Lord to give me strength in taking care of all of you. I am hoping that I can spend some significant time in purgatory to cleanse myself of some of the things that I need to address, but I also have the hope that if we are doing what we are doing right now, if we are praying together with the Communion of Saints in heaven, purgatory and earth, if we are praying with those canonized saints that we have recognized, then we *all* are on the journey together and, hopefully together, we can remember people like you at home, those who watch these online videos, those who come to church, so they and you know that your prayers and their prayers have not been forgotten.

To end this homily, we are going to pray what is called "The Litany of Saints" for those who inscribed in the Book of the Dead, for our deceased priests and religious who have served at our parishes and for those former parishioners that have made our prayer today possible. We also pray for those who have died who offered public service in our country, the for the deceased inscribed in our hearts and those

specifically on a prayer list I have created on behalf of those who have been listed in a special way so that they are remembered at the Masses I specifically celebrate.

There are a lot of struggles in this world. There are a lot of struggles in this country. At least if we lift up in prayer those in need of our Lord's mercy, if we take advantage of this opportunity here to pray for the living of the dead, then we allow God to enter our lives so we can pray for these individuals, with The Church Triumphant, The Church Suffering, The Church Militant, for all of us here in heaven, purgatory, and earth, the Communion of Saints, who continually offer us this grace.

LITANY OF THE SAINTS FOR ALL SOULS' DAY

Lord, have mercy	**Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy	**Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy	**Lord, have mercy.**
Holy Mary, Mother of God	**pray for them.**
Saint Michael	**pray for them.**
Holy Angels of God	**pray for them.**
Saint John the Baptist	**pray for them.**
Saint Joseph	**pray for them.**
Saint Peter and Saint Paul	**pray for them.**
Saint Andrew	**pray for them.**
Saint John	**pray for them.**

Saint Mary Magdalene	**pray for them.**
Saint Stephen	**pray for them.**
Saint Ignatius	**pray for them.**
Saint Lawrence	**pray for them.**
Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity	**pray for them.**
Saint Agnes	**pray for them.**
Saint Gregory	**pray for them.**
Saint Augustine	**pray for them.**
Saint Athanasius	**pray for them.**
Saint Basil	**pray for them.**
Saint Martin	**pray for them.**
Saint Benedict	**pray for them.**
Saint Francis and Saint Dominic	**pray for them.**
Saint Francis Xavier	**pray for them.**
Saint John Vianney	**pray for them.**
Saint Catherine	**pray for them.**
Saint Teresa	**pray for them.**
All holy men and women	**pray for them.**

Lord, be merciful	**Lord, save your people.**
From all evil	**Lord, save your people.**
From every sin	**Lord, save your people.**
From everlasting death	**Lord, save your people.**
From Satan's power	**Lord, save your people.**
At the moment of death	**Lord, save your people.**
From everlasting judgment	**Lord, save your people.**
By your coming as man	**Lord, save your people.**
By your suffering and cross	**Lord, save your people.**
By your death and rising to new life	**Lord, save your people.**
By your return in glory to the Father	**Lord, save your people.**
By your gift of the Holy Spirit	**Lord, save your people.**
By your coming again in glory	**Lord, save your people.**

Be merciful to us sinners	**Lord, hear our prayer.**.
Bring our beloved deceased to eternal life, first promised to them at baptism	**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Raise them on the last day,
for they have eaten the bread of life **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Let them share in your glory
for they have shared in your suffering and death **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Jesus, Son of the living God **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Christ, hear us **Christ, hear us**
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer **Lord Jesus, hear our prayer**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
R . And let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.
R . Amen.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
R . Amen.

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God,
hear our prayers for our beloved deceased
whom you have called from this life to yourself.

Grant them light, happiness, and peace.
Let them pass in safety through the gates of death
and live forever with all your saints
in the light your promised Abraham
and to all his descendants in faith.

Guard them from all harm
and on that great day of resurrection and reward
raise them up with all your saints.
Pardon their sins
and give them eternal life in your kingdom.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen. **R . Amen.**

LETANÍA DE LOS SANTOS PARA EL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Señor, ten piedad	**Señor, ten piedad.**
Cristo, ten piedad	**Cristo, ten piedad.**
Señor, ten piedad	**Señor, ten piedad.**
Santa María, Madre de Dios,	**ruega por ellos.**
San Miguel	**ruega por ellos.**
Santos Ángeles de Dios	**ruega por ellos.**
San Juan Bautista	**ruega por ellos.**
San José	**ruega por ellos.**
San Pedro y San Pablo	**ruega por ellos.**
San Andrés	**ruega por ellos.**
San Juan	**ruega por ellos.**
Santa María Magdalena	**ruega por ellos.**
San Esteban	**ruega por ellos.**
San Ignacio	**ruega por ellos.**
San Lorenzo	**ruega por ellos.**
Santa Perpetua y Santa Felicidad	**ruega por ellos.**
Santa Inés	**ruega por ellos.**
San Gregorio	**ruega por ellos.**
San Agustín	**ruega por ellos.**
San Atanasio	**ruega por ellos.**
San Basilio	**ruega por ellos.**
Saint Martin	**ruega por ellos.**
San Benito	**ruega por ellos.**
San Francisco y Santo Domingo	**ruega por ellos.**
San Francisco Javier	**ruega por ellos.**
San Juan María Vianney	**ruega por ellos.**
Santa Catalina	**ruega por ellos.**
Santa Teresa	**ruega por ellos.**
Todos los hombres y mujeres santos	**ruega por ellos.**
Señor, ten piedad	**líbralos, Señor.**
De todo mal	**líbralos, Señor.**

De todo pecado **líbralos, Señor.**
Del poder de Satanás **líbralos, Señor.**
En el momento de su muerte **líbralos, Señor.**
De la muerte eterna **líbralos, Señor.**
En el día de juicio **líbralos, Señor.**
Por tu encarnación **líbralos, Señor.**
Por tus sufrimientos y tu cruz **líbralos, Señor.**
Por tu muerte y resurrección **líbralos, Señor.**
Por tu retorno glorioso al Padre **líbralos, Señor.**
Por el don del Espíritu Santo **líbralos, Señor.**
Por tu nueva venida gloriosa **líbralos, Señor.**

Nosotros, que somos pecadores **te rogamos, óyenos.**
Conduce a los fieles difuntos
a la vida eterna,
que les prometiste en el bautismo **te rogamos, óyenos.**
Resucítalos en el último día,
pues ellos comieron el pan de la vida **te rogamos, óyenos.**
Haz que los fieles difuntos
compartan tu gloria
pues han compartido
tus sufrimientos y su muerte **te rogamos, óyenos.**
Jesús, Hijo de Dios vivo **te rogamos, óyenos.**

Cristo, óyenos **Cristo, óyenos**
Señor Jesús, escucha nuestra oración
Señor Jesús, escucha nuestra oración

Concédeles, Señor, el descanso eterno.
R . y brille para ellos la luz perpetua.
Descansen en paz.
R . Así sea.
Las almas de los fieles difuntos y las almas de todos los fieles difuntos, por la misericordia de Dios, descansen en paz.
R . Así sea.

Oremos.

Dios todopoderoso y eterno,
escucha nuestras oraciones en favor de tu hijos,
a quien han llamados de esta vida a tu presencia.

Concédeles gozar de la luz, la felicidad y la paz.
Hazlos pasar con seguridad las puertas de la muerte
y vivir para siempre con todos tus santos,
iluminados por la luz que prometiste a Abraham
y a todos sus descendientes en la fe.

Líbralos de todo mal
y en el gran día de la resurrección y la recompensa,
resucítalo junto con todos tus santos.
Perdónale sus pecados
y concédele la vida eterna en tu Reino.

Te lo pedimos por Cristo, nuestro Señor. **R . Amén.**

This is our prayer.