

All Saints Day/ Twenty-Third Sunday

After Pentecost

Proper of 26. Year A.

November 5, 2023,

Saint's John Episcopal Church

Lessons:

Revelation 7:9-17

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

1 John 3, 1-3

Matthew 5, 1-12.

Holiness

By. FR. Bro. William Font Sanchez, O.P.

“Then he began to speak, and taught them saying...”

In the Name of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- A. Today's feast's name is All Saints. The feast has a long way in the history of the Church—even the words used in the New Testament are equivalent to those that belong to a Christian community.
- Paul, for example, used many times in the opening of some of his letters.
 1. Paul to the Corinthians 1, 2
 2. Ephesians 1, 1-2
 3. Revelation 7,13-17

In other words, from the beginning of the history of the Church, there have been people who have been considered saints. A Saints was somebody that followed Christ.

However,...

- B. In the Medieval time, the model of holiness and sanctity changed.
- The first idea of what is a saint and holiness turned into the model that we still have today.

- Saint is somebody who avoids social interaction, is quiet, and, most importantly, stays away from earthly desires and ways of living.
- Of course, we apply the idea of holiness to people that we were (and still consider fitting with this model), those that dedicate their lives “radically” to God. (In the Roman traditions, Nuns, priests, monks, or lay people, but singles

However, this way feels different from the fundamental idea of holiness. This idea of holiness does not fit the idea of holiness in the New Testament. Then, what is holiness? What is a Saints?

C. What characterizes a Holy person?

- Like the first communities, holiness and saints should be fit with Jesus.
- However, what idea of Jesus?
- In my opinion, the most authentic idea of Jesus as a holy person and Holiness is the Gospel’s Jesus.
- The Jesus that brooks all the stereotypes about holiness.

D. What is a Saint? Jesus defines very clearly what Saint is and what Hollinenes looks like. Holiness is equal to the Beatitudes.

- I would say that all these characters together represent all the fights and commitments we must make daily.
- How can we be meek, righteous, and pure in the heart, a peacemaker in this world that promotes the opposite?

In other words, a saint (or a holy person) is one who follows the gospel, even when is hard and difficult. Holiness is the challenge to follow Christ, even when we believe that following Christ is difficult and painful. Holiness is raising your eyes to God, asking and demanding him to give you clarity and be compassionate to you.

E. Altar.

- Turning to the altar, it is turning to the most holy action of Jesus.
- Sanctification is the movement to be Jesus-like: living and walking through what is our way in every step of the way and presented here as a living sacrifice.
- That was what Jesus did: this is our journey to be holy and be a Saint.

AMEN.

