

November 1, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

OH, WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN

By Julie Mussche

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.*

*Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.*

*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.*

*Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*

*Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.*

*Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.*

*Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.*

*Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven.*

MATTHEW 5:3-12

Reflection

Today celebrates the Solemnity of All Saints. It is no surprise that the Gospel reading today is the Beatitudes; it sort of offers a roadmap to sanctity. When I consider the panoply of saintly representation, it does seem the Beatitudes are an appropriate barometer: humility; suffering; contemplative and quiet; righteous; conciliatory and bridge-building; patient and forgiving, and loving, all qualities one might associate with the saints. Not that every saint possessed all of them; even saints had spiritual growing edges.

I am particularly fond of saints who struggled with being saintly. Going back to the very beginnings, Peter was a bit of a hot-head, Thomas a doubter, and Matthew was considered a sinner by virtue of his profession. Mary Magdalene was supposed to have been possessed by seven demons. Some, like St. Augustine and St. Francis of Assisi, lived the wild life as young men. St. Francis De Sales struggled with darkness. St. Ignatius of Loyola was rather violent as a young man and would probably be described today as rakish.

The good news: there's hope for all of us. Today is a celebration of all of the saints, the ones we are familiar with and those that are lesser known or not known at all. When we recite the Apostles' Creed, we acknowledge the Communion of Saints. Broken and imperfect, we celebrate this sacred solidarity. Happy Feast Day!



Orthodox church interior with icons
Photo by Valentina Maros

For Pondering

- Who is your favorite saint, known or unknown?
 - How do you celebrate them today?
-

For Prayer

All Saints' Day Prayer

*Dear holy saints of God,
we join our prayers of praise to yours this day.*

*With you, we sing of God's goodness,
rejoice in God's mercy,
and celebrate God's incredible love.*

*Teach us to live as you lived –
always thinking of others,
always recognizing your weaknesses,
always rejoicing in God's gifts,
always following Jesus.*

*Blessed are you, happy are you,
all holy saints of God.
Pray for us that we, too,
may someday be among God's holy ones.*

Amen.

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