MATTHEW 5: 1-12

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

Today's gospel speaks of 'Blessedness' or 'Happiness', and we learn that this state of being comes about when we allow God into our lives. 'Blessed are the poor in spirit', those who recognize their need for God, who live their lives acknowledging the Lord. Once we allow God into our lives, this will lead to purity of heart, a seeking of God's ways, seeking truth & goodness & from this will flow peace, gentleness, mercy, a longing for justice, a concern for our neighbour. We will be making God's kingdom present, living as saints of God.

Prayer over the Offerings

May these offerings we bring in honour of all the Saints be pleasing to you, O Lord, and grant that, just as we believe the Saints to be already assured of immortality, so we may experience their concern for our salvation.

Communion Antiphon

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

ALL SAINTS

Year A

1st November 2026

Today, The feast of All Saints invites us to celebrate and take pride in all those who have gone before us and in those who grace our community today. We rejoice in the saints we have known and know. We bless God for those who attend to the hungry, the orphans, the lonely, the sick, the outcasts, and the overlooked. We thank God for those who out smiled the jibes and taunts of oppressors, for those whose whispered prayers have enriched the holiness of us all, for those who struggle honestly against ending up selfish and unloving. We express our gratitude for those whose lives are welcomed as good news by the poor, for those who confront religious pretense, for those who keep on forgiving with an energy that is worthy of God. For all these people, among us still, we give thanks. (Denis McBride C.SS.R)

Entrance Antiphon

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, by whose gift we venerate in one celebration the merits of all the Saints, bestow on us, we pray, through the prayers of so many intercessors, an abundance of the reconciliation with you for which we earnestly long.

REVELATION 7: 2-4, 9-14

I, John, saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea,saying, 'Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.' And I

heard the number of the sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel.
After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying, 'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'
Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?' I said to him, 'Sir, you know.' And he said to me, 'These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.'

THE WORD OF THE LORD

The book of the Apocalypse or Revelation uses symbolic imagery to paint a picture of heaven. First, the saints are the ones "marked with the seal", just as we are marked with the sign of the cross. Second, John saw, "a great multitude, which no one could count." This is the universal nature of the Church. Heaven is not exclusive to any one group of people, rather, there will be people there "from every nation, race, people, and tongue." This gives us hope that there are many, many saints (more than anyone can count). Third, we learn that the saints endured "great distress" on earth and have been "washed…in the Blood of the Lamb." This teaches us that it is not easy to become a saint, it is a process of purification, which involves going against the grain of the world. and involves us joining ourselves to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross through self-giving love.

PSALM: 24(23):1-6

Response: *Such are the people who seek your face, O Lord.*

The LORD'S is the earth and its fullness, the world, and those who dwell in it. It is he who set it on the seas; on the rivers he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD? Who shall stand in his holy place?The clean of hands and pure of heart, whose soul is not set on vain things.

Blessings from the LORD shall he receive, and right reward from the God who saves him. Such are the people who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

1 JOHN 3: 1-3

Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

John speaks lovingly here of fellow baptized Christians and teaches us about our identity. As baptized Christians, we are saints in the making. In baptism, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit and become children of God. Therefore, we belong to God and are called to live accordingly. Being a child of God means living contrary to the ways of this world. In Scripture, the "world" represents everything contrary to God. It refers to the sinfulness and disfunction found all around us. We are called to be holy. This journey of sanctification begins at baptism when we are cleansed of original sin and join God's family. But that is just the beginning. The whole Christian life is about continually turning away from that which separates us from God and giving ourselves completely over to Him, no matter how difficult and challenging that may be.

Alleluia, Alleluia! Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest, says the Lord Alleluia!