

Solemnity of All Saints



At the beginning of this liturgical year, we heard Jesus speak the Beatitudes, foreshadowing the kingdom he has come to proclaim. As we now head toward the close of the year before Advent, we celebrate All Saints' Day this Sunday. It is a day to fondly remember those who have passed before us after living lives rooted in the Beatitudes.

We might easily announce some of our favorite Catholic saints related to addiction recovery: Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Saint Monica, Saint Augustine, and Saint Rita, to name a few. What about the less-known saints among us and before us? In recovery, we get a chance to meet many along our journey who pass down experience, strength, and hope to future generations.

Like many Christian spiritual principles, there are several layers of overlap found between the Twelve Steps and the Beatitudes. Memories of dead loved ones and others who put an imprint on us can bring peace when paired with the assuring words of Jesus:

*“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.”*

Jesus points us toward a long-term view of God's kingdom which is contrary to old patterns of control and self-obsession. On All Saints' Day, we give glory to God and those who lead us to Him.

The family disease of addiction has the tendency to blur our true identity as beloved daughters and sons of God. Shame, isolation, and fear made finding a reasonable solution nearly impossible. Unfortunately, too many of God's children and their loved ones never make their way out of the death cycle of addiction. We can remain humbly hopeful that they, too, will inherit God's kingdom.

Much like the early, unnamed apostles who spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, many have gone before us who found the courage to attend their first recovery meeting, admit their powerlessness, experience the fruits of new freedom and new life, and have shared what they found with others. The life cycle of recovery will continue to be passed along to future generations as we honor those who have passed. It is our job to remain in God's grip by carrying the message with those still suffering.

Whether counting hours or decades of recovery, we each play an integral role in this ecosystem of healing. On challenging days, we need the support of our fellows in meetings. Good days provide a chance to carry a message of hope to those who need to hear it. Tomorrow is not promised, and we can only remain in God's presence today. Therefore, we keep our attention fixed on these 24 hours, which makes anything possible.

- Who among the dead have made a significant imprint on your recovery and faith life?
- Of the 8 Beatitudes, which one seems to be most relatable to where you are along your spiritual journey?
- How do you contrast the death cycle of addiction with the life cycle of recovery?

Adoration for Our Nation

*Catholic in Recovery is partnering with
Unite Our Nation to bring Eucharistic Adoration to
parishes everywhere on Election Day*

- Enroll your parish and community to join others across the country on Tuesday, November 3
- All resources, including a planning guide, sign-up sheets, and flyers are available online
- For more information, visit uniteournation.net/adore-november-3/

Sunday Mass Readings this Week

1st Reading: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a