

(November 1st, Solemnity)

The Solemnity of All Saints

1. Commemorates: all the *unknown saints* presently in heaven.

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14—The Innumerable Multitude

1. Seal: “servants of God” are “sealed” upon their “foreheads” (Rev 7:4)

³ Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherubim on which it rested to the threshold of the house; and he called to the man clothed in linen, who had the writing case at his side. ⁴ And the Lord said to him, “Go through the city, through Jerusalem, and *put a mark* (Hebrew “t,” shaped like +) *upon the foreheads of the men* who sigh and groan over all the abominations that are committed in it.” (Ezekiel 9:3-4)

2. Israelites: 144,000 remnant of Israel (12 X 12 X 1000 = 144,000) (Rev 7:4-8)
3. Gentiles: innumerable multitude “from every nation” (Rev 7:9)
4. Great Tribulation: time of suffering that precedes the final judgment (Dan 12:1-3)

Psalm 24—This is the People that Longs to See Your Face

1. Jerusalem Temple: ascend the “hill of the LORD” and stand in “holy place” (v. 3)
2. Vision of God: who “seek the *face* of the God of Jacob” (v. 6)

Matthew 5:1-12—The Beatitudes

1. Beatitudes: “Blessed,” literally “Happy” (Greek *makarios*; Latin *beatus*) (5:3)
2. Poor in Spirit: those who are humble (Gk. *ptōchos*, “dependent,” “needy”)
3. Mourners: those who lament sin, suffering, and death
4. Meek: (Gk. *praus*, “gentle”); those who yield to insults; conquer evil with good
5. Hunger/Thirst for Righteousness: those who are ‘starving’ for righteousness
6. Merciful: those who forgive the faults of others
7. Pure in Heart: (Gk. *katharos*, “clean,” “pure”); those who act with integrity
8. Peacemakers: those who reconcile with others and foster reconciliation
9. Persecuted: those who are slandered, falsely accused, reviled for Jesus’ sake

The Living Tradition

Catechism: *The Beatitudes depict the countenance of Jesus Christ and portray his charity. They express the vocation of the faithful associated with the glory of his Passion and Resurrection; they shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life; they are the paradoxical promises that sustain hope in the midst of tribulations; they proclaim the blessings and rewards already secured, however dimly, for Christ’s disciples; they have begun in the lives of the Virgin Mary and all the saints.* (CCC 1717)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (All Saints Day, November 1st)

1. Why is the vision of the 144,000 and the innumerable multitude in Revelation 7 chosen for the feast of all saints?

2. How do the Beatitudes of Jesus give the secret of sanctity?
