

**ALL SOULS' DAY 2017**  
**HOMILY – SAINT JOSEPH PARISH**  
**FATHER CRAIG LOONEY**  
***1 THESS. 4.13-18 St. JOHN 14.1-6***

✠

We are here tonight because we are people of hope...we know the truth about our family and friends who have died...as our friend Saint Paul tells us...not like those who have no hope and despair at what happens after death.

Jesus tells us we should not be worried or upset about those who have died believing in him...he has gone to make room for them...and for us...in heaven. He promised he will one day return to take us there.

We look forward to being in the place Saint John describes...where there will be no hunger or thirst...where there will be no scorching heat...because Jesus the Lamb of God will guide us to springs of life-giving water...and God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.

It is entirely appropriate we remember our family and friends...and all the Saints of God known and unknown to us...who have died. They helped make us who we are...and as Saint Paul reminds us...their love for us survives even death.

In the Prayer for the Church at every Mass we bless the Name of Jesus for all of those who have died believing in him. We ask God that they may continue to grow in his love and service...that he will give us grace to follow their good examples...and together with them enjoy life in heaven.

Our family and friends who have died remain in God's care...together with them...we and all of the other Saints of God who are still alive form a wonderful and mystical fellowship...the Communion of Saints...death does not break that communion.

All Souls' Day is the natural extension of All Saints' Day. Tonight we personalize the Liturgy and our prayers by remembering and thanking God for the lives of our parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, family, friends and many others we have known who have loved us and whom we have loved...it is our hope to be reunited with them in heaven...

...Mary, Florence, Robert, Jean Ella, Lily, Heinz, Sarah Lou, R.L. and Esther, Jerry, Marie, Ernie, Muriel, Ray, Betty, Darren, Mac, Al, Syd, John Bishop, John Edvard Priest, Charlotte, Mac, Virginia, John, Emma, Miriam, Herb, Bill, Enid, Derrick, Hardyn, Betty, Cherie, Walter, Zachary, Fred, Ollie, Malou, George, Ozzie, Arnold, Esther, Wally, Ed, Christina, Matt, Marie, Ricardo Priest, Anthony Priest

*May the Angels lead them into Paradise; and the Martyrs receive them at your coming and bring them into the holy city Jerusalem. May the choirs of Angels receive them, and may they, with Lazarus once poor, have eternal rest.*

We know the truth about those who have died...let us encourage each other with these words...we are people of hope!

✠