

ALL SOULS' DAY 2018
HOMILY – SAINT JOSEPH PARISH
FATHER CRAIG LOONEY

1 THESS. 4.13-18 St. JOHN 14.1-6

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We are people of hope and expectation of things to come...we know the truth about those who have died...Saint Paul reminds us...and so we do not despair when our friends or relatives die.

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 where he is...Jesus always keeps his promises.

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.

All Souls' Day is the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed in Christ...known and unknown to us. Together with the Saints of God alive today...we are the Communion of Saints...bound together by God in a mystical union.

Tonight All Souls' Day becomes a deeply personal experience for each of us...as we thank God for the life and work of our friends and relatives who loved us and who we love still...it is that love Saint Paul tells us survives even death.

We are people of hope...Saint Paul tells us we should strengthen and

support each other when someone dies. That is what brings us here tonight.

And because we know the truth about those who have died...we look forward to the day we will be reunited with them in that place of unspeakable joy the Collect for All Saint's Day so eloquently describes.

It is the place of Saint John's vision...where there will be no more hunger, or thirst, or scorching heat, and Jesus who is the Lamb of God will sit on his throne...he will be our shepherd who will guide us to springs of life-giving water. And God will wipe away all tears from our eyes.

Tonight we remember all those whose love is strong still in our hearts. We remember...

...Christina, Huther, Marie, John Edvard *Priest*, John, Emma, Charlotte, Mac, Edna, Virginia, Elaine, Enid, John, Darren, Al, Syd, Cherie and Walter, Connie and Jess, Willine, Ken and Snookie, George, Zachary, Jerry, Sarah, Doc, Ruth, R.L., Esther, Marion, Ernie, Jack, Muriel, Marie, Marty, Ellen, Ted, Thelma, Matt, Anthony, John Thayer *Archbishop*, Yvonne, Christopher, Mario, George, Miriam, Herb, Catherine, Wally, Alice, and those who died from alcohol and drug abuse.

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.

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