

## Solemnity of All Saints

### The Saints in Heaven

#### INTRODUCTION

Today we remember all the saints who have dedicated their lives to Jesus. Their love for Jesus was so great that they were ready to die for his sake.

#### SIGN OF THE CROSS

#### LIGHT THE CANDLES

Say together:

May our hearts be filled with the light of God's love.

#### SORRY

Lord, forgive us our impatience,  
or when we've not been true,  
for when we did not listen,  
or turned away from you.  
Give us lots of courage  
to make a fresh new start.  
Help us to be sorry,  
we ask this from the heart.

#### GLORIA

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 3.

#### GOSPEL (MATTHEW 5:1-12)

Seeing Jesus on a hillside, a crowd of people soon gathered and Jesus began to speak to them:

"Happy are people who are forgiving,  
they shall know forgiveness.

Happy are the poor,  
for they will have riches in heaven.

Happy are those who do what God wants,  
for he will answer their prayers.

Happy are the people who share their love  
and friendship, because it will be returned.

Be happy if people are unkind to you because  
of me, for you will be rewarded in heaven."

#### DISCUSSION

Today we celebrate the feast of All Saints. Why do we call some people saints? A saint is someone who has lived a life of outstanding goodness and

is already with God in heaven.

Many Christians are named after saints. In some countries, the feast day of the saint a child is named after is more important than the child's birthday.

Some well known saints include:

—Saint Francis of Assisi, who gave up all his wealth for a life of poverty, caring for the poor and the sick. He loved all of God's creatures and treated them as his brothers and sisters.

—Saint Therese, who became a nun at the age of fifteen. She lived an ordinary and very simple life, helping with the chores at the convent or praying to God. She offered everything she did, however small, as an act of love for God.

Do ordinary people become saints? St. Paul wrote: "I live an ordinary life, and yet I feel that I am not living it but that Jesus is living it through me. I live by trusting in Jesus, the Son of God." (Galatians 2:20)

Saints are people who allow God's spirit to work through them, and to fill them with love so that they can do ordinary things extraordinarily well. Do you think St. Francis and St. Therese knew of the happiness that Jesus talked about? Because they did everything out of love for Jesus, they were filled with the joy and true happiness which comes from being close to him.

#### ACTIVITY

Think of three ordinary things which you could do as an act of love for God, and draw a picture of yourself doing them. Here are some examples:

Helping at home with dinner cleanup.

Visiting an old person who needs company.

Praying for someone less fortunate than you.

Having a smile on your face.

Sharing your toys with someone else.

Being kind to a pet animal.

Pin the resulting pictures on a board and have the class discuss them together.

#### CREED

#### CLOSING PRAYER

We ask the saints to pray for us today.

Give us warm and loving hearts

and help us to do

what Jesus wants us to do.

# 'Acts of Love for God'

