

Intro – Today is All Saints Day –

A holy day recalling all the men and women who have gone before us living such holy lives we know they're in heaven.

Yesterday was Halloween – but Halloween is rooted in All Saints Day

- There used to be a pagan belief that on the last night of OCT, the dead would walk the earth looking to drag mortals to the realm of the dead. People would dress up as ghosts and zombies on that night so if they met the dead they'd be left alone.
- When Christianity rose up, our understanding of the afterlife brought new understanding of life after death. The lives of Saints were honored on Nov 1 and OCT 31 was known as HALLOWED EVE (eve of the holy) “Halloween”.
- Custom of dressing up as spooky ghosts came from this (Waltham dress as saints)

Now with that said let's talk about Saints:

We call men and women who have lived such holy lives that we know they're in heaven saints BUT although my grandfather hasn't been canonized as a saint, I know he's in heaven Today – we rejoice in ALL SAINTS – canonized or not (So YOU can pray to Grandma).

St. John wrote REV - 1st reading – and he describes his vision of heaven:

“I saw a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands, crying out “Salvation comes from our God who is seated on the throne and from the Lamb”

ELDER ASKS WHO THEY ARE

They are the ones that have washed their robes in the blood of the lamb.

How do we get to heaven

Because of the blood of the Lamb – JC is the Lamb of God

SO REJOICE – the victory has been won – JOY!

Our Joy comes from the fact that WE SHARE IN THE SAINT'S VICTORY

- They are our brothers and sisters, and so their victory **belongs to us too**.
- If your brother wins the Olympic **gold medal**, you would be filled with **joy**.
- The saints have won much **more** than that, and they are our **siblings**.

God has given **us** the **three tools** we need to **follow in the saints' footsteps** - to win the gold medal **ourselves** and make it to **heaven**.

1. Knowing Our Destination (linked to First Reading)
2. Second Tool: Knowing Who We Are (linked to Second Reading)
3. Knowing how to get there (gospel)

Knowing our destination -

We know where we are going in life! We know what comes after death!

Heaven is our destiny (MT 25)

Knowing Who We Are -

Image and likeness of God – therefore, like God, its our nature to love.

The **Second Reading** reminds us of who are:

- "See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are."
- **Children of God**. Members of God's **family**. **KNOW THAT!**

GETTING LOST IN A MALL

Imagine entering a huge mall you've never been to before.

- You walk up to the little map near the entrance and you find "**You are here.**"
- It's useless to know our **destination** if we don't know where we are **starting** from, **KNOW who you are.**

Knowing How to Reach the Destination (linked to Gospel)

But it is not **enough** just to know **who we are** and **where** we are supposed to be **going**.

We also need to know **how to get there**.

- Today's Gospel passage are the **Beatitudes**
 - **The basic attitudes of Christ that help us live as Christians.**
- The Cmdmnts are about **exterior actions**: "Thou shalt" and "thou shalt not."
- The Beatitudes are about **inner attitude of the heart** that **produces** action:
 - "Blessed **are** the meek, the merciful, the peacemakers."
 - What we **do** flows out from what we **are**.

Since we are children of God, we should **act like Christ**.

- Christ is the **way** to our destination.
- Christ **loved the Father by fulfilling his will**
- He **loved his neighbor by giving His life**.
- **Loving God and neighbor** - an **attitude of the heart** that **focuses** more on **God** and **others** than on **self**.

We know who we are

We know our destination

We know how to get there

SAINTS OF GOD – enjoy the journey