

All Souls Mass

November 2, 2016

Wisdom 3: 1-9 Romans 6:3-9 John 6: 37- 40

Yesterday, in the feast of All Saints, we, the saints who are still struggling on earth, each and every one of us, celebrated fellowship with the saints who have already arrived in heavenly glory. This evening we celebrate our fellowship with the saints in purgatory, a state of temporary suffering for departed souls who are waiting for full fellowship with God in the glory of heaven. We celebrate their journey to the ultimate, heaven, where there will be full communion with God. ***As Arlene and I traveled with Fr. Jozwiak to Italy last week, as we celebrated Mass each day at holy sites or passed through the Holy Doors of the basilicas, we prayed for each of those who died this past year.***

In the first reading we are reminded that the souls of the just are in the hand of God. Our salvation depends upon the love, goodness and mercy of our God. On the day of our baptism we were made the promise of eternal life. So tonight, as we still grieve, we remember that mercy is with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect. Regarding our elect, the 25 on our banner represent a total of 1,914 years, an average age of 76 ½ years.

- The youngest was 49 and 3 lived to within a few months of a century.
- They were born in Iowa, Bay City, Beaverton, Detroit, Lincoln, Saginaw and Alabama.
- They were cherished sons, daughters, husbands, wives or favorite aunts.
- They worked in the automotive industry, were homemakers and good cooks and passionate farmers. One started a chain of restaurants, one trained dogs worldwide, one was a life-long teacher, one a nurse, one was in construction, one owned a Cheese Shop, one was a pharmacist, some worked for Pinconning Schools as a custodian, bus driver or executive secretary. One at one time delivered milk door to door.
- Many fished and hunted, one with friends and family on safaris to Africa. One had a huge collection of fishing reels and rods. One grew and judged roses with her husband.
- Some served our country with distinction in the armed forces, one during World War II.
- Many were grandmothers with names like mimi or grandfathers with names like Jaja. Can you believe that some spoiled their grandchildren?

- One was a school board member who gave diplomas to his grandchildren. One was a long time coach and one was a local hall of famer in baseball.
- Some died slowly of lingering illnesses, one couple died tragically one month after their marriage was blessed in this church. Some died at home, others in nursing homes.
- Some traveled extensively on pilgrimages and one visited all 50 states. Some were known and recognized for a life of service.
- Many gave us visible signs that eternal life is certain through their love of God, their generosity and their ministry to church. Some were life members of the church and some were converts. They worshiped at St. Agnes, St. Mary or St. Michael Church. Some had homes that could be described as shrines. Five were members of the Knights of Columbus and four were members of the St. Anne Altar Society and three were members of St. Mary Rosary Society.

Each had a purpose known to God and we know this evening that God, as we did in the beginning tonight, again calls each of them by name.

In the second reading from Paul we are reminded that, if, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. Death no longer has power over our loved ones. Although we miss them we know that they are with the Lord where there is no more sorrow, no weeping nor pain.

Finally in the Gospel, Jesus is speaking to his disciples telling them that he will not reject anyone who comes to him. “For this is the will of my Father that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him or her on the last day.” Although we will live a much better, happier, healthier life if we live for God all of our days, til the end of our days, O Lord, even those who make a decision in the last moments will be given an opportunity for eternal life. We take consolation in believing that all of our loved ones made that decision for God, no matter how young or old. In a few minutes during the presentation of gifts family members will bring forth roses that will symbolize the beauty and fragrance of those being remembered. ***We pray that everyone being remembered, those on our banner, those remembered by candles, those in our book of remembrance, each called by name, each now focused on the thoughts of God, each remembered by us who experienced their life with us on earth, will receive the mercy and forgiveness of our God.***

Average age 76 ½ years

5 Knights of Columbus

4 St. Anne Altar Society

Youngest 49, 3 were 99

Total age of 25 on the banner 1914 years

1 in 40's, 3 in 50's, 6 in 60's, 5 in 70's, 4 in 80's and 6 in 90's

Born in Iowa, Bay City, Beaverton, Detroit, Saginaw and Alabama

Some traveled extensively overseas for pilgrimages, one traveled to all 50 states

One hunted on safaris with family and friends in Africa

Many died from lingering illnesses, a husband and wife died together in a tragic accident

Grandmothers mimi and grandfathers jaja, some spoiled their grandchildren

One delivered milk door to door

One was a coach

Worked in industry like Steering Gear or Chrysler , homemakers and good cooks, and passionate farmers, one started a chain of restaurants, one trained dogs worldwide, construction, Wilson's Cheese Shop, one a pharmacist, some worked for Pinconning Schools

One was a school board member who gave diplomas to his own children

One was in the hall of fame in baseball

Some served our country in the armed services, one during World War II

One Judged roses

Some were known and recognized for their service

Reading 1 **WIS 3:1-9**

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
For if before men, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;
chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of himself.
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;
they shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the LORD shall be their King forever.
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:
because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.

Responsorial Psalm PS 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6

R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

or:

R. Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are with me.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose;

beside restful waters he leads me;

he refreshes my soul.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

or:

R. Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are with me.

He guides me in right paths

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk in the dark valley

I fear no evil; for you are at my side

with your rod and your staff

that give me courage.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

or:

R. Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are with me.

You spread the table before me

in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

or:

R. Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are with me.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

or:

R. Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are with me.

Reading 2 **ROM 5:5-11**

Brothers and sisters:
Hope does not disappoint,
because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
For Christ, while we were still helpless,
died at the appointed time for the ungodly.
Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,
though perhaps for a good person
one might even find courage to die.
But God proves his love for us
in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.
How much more then, since we are now justified by his Blood,
will we be saved through him from the wrath.
Indeed, if, while we were enemies,
we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,
how much more, once reconciled,
will we be saved by his life.
Not only that,
but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Or **ROM 6:3-9**

Brothers and sisters:
Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?
We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his,
we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.
We know that our old self was crucified with him,
so that our sinful body might be done away with,
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.
For a dead person has been absolved from sin.
If, then, we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with him.
We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;
death no longer has power over him.

Alleluia **MT 25:34**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, you who are blessed by my Father;
inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel **JN 6:37-40**

Jesus said to the crowds:

“Everything that the Father gives me will come to me,
and I will not reject anyone who comes to me,
because I came down from heaven not to do my own will
but the will of the one who sent me.
And this is the will of the one who sent me,
that I should not lose anything of what he gave me,
but that I should raise it on the last day.
For this is the will of my Father,
that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him
may have eternal life,
and I shall raise him on the last day.”