

All Souls Day, November 2nd, 2025:

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today we celebrate the Commemoration of All the Faithful departed. The catechism of the catholic Church teaches that, “all who die in God’s grace and friendship, but imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death, they undergo purification, so to achieve the necessary holiness to enter the Joy of heaven” (CCC 1030).

On this day, the Church remembers and prays for all the souls of the faithful departed, especially for those still undergoing purification in purgatory, as they await their heavenly rewards. The readings of today fill us with hope, assuring us that God’s love is stronger than death, and that those who belong to Him are safe in His eternal embrace.

The Book of Wisdom addresses the question about what happens after death, offering hope in face of suffering and loss. This book was written when the people of Israel were under persecution, and were tempted to abandon their faith. The message of this book was meant to comfort and encourage the righteous who were facing trials, assuring them that God’s justice exceeds human understanding. All Souls Day, celebrated on November 2nd, is connected to this hope. It reminds the faithful to remember their loved ones with Prayer and Gratitude, trusting that death is not the end, but a passage into God’s peace.

This passage answers the deep question:” Where are our loved ones now?” the Book of Wisdom offers three truths: 1. the souls of the righteous are in God’s hands, 2. they are safe, and 3. they are at peace.

In a society where death was often seen as curse or punishment, the Book of Wisdom challenges that mindset, saying that our loving God purifies His people, like gold tested by fire, and that those purified will “shine forth”, and run like sparks through stubble”. This light-filled imagery suggests a glorious resurrection and eternal happiness, echoing Christian belief in new life and the final restoration of creation.

All Souls Day brings together grief and hope: it is natural to mourn, but Christians do not grieve as those without hope. The Book of Wisdom assures that our loved ones LOST are with God, experiencing peace beyond earthly pain.

Our faith calls us to trust that suffering is never wasted: God transforms it and promises reunion and everlasting joy. On this day, we are invited to pray with hope, trusting that one day, we too, will share in the same eternal love and joy with God.

The second reading speaks about the incredible love of God revealed through Jesus Christ. Paul emphasizes that our hope is not wishful thinking: it is rooted in the certainty that God’s love is real, active and present within us.

The Holy Spirit fills us with that love especially in the moments of weakness and suffering. Paul then reminds us of something deeply humbling:” while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly”. In other words, Jesus did not wait for us to become

perfect and holy before saving us. He loved us at our worst, when we were still sinners. Human love often depends on worthiness or reciprocity, but God's love is unconditional.

Paul even says that it is rare for someone to die for a good person, but Jesus died for sinners, enemies of God. This is what makes His Sacrifice so astonishing: it is pure, self-giving love. Through the death and Resurrection of Christ, we are now "justified by His blood", which means that we are no longer condemned, but reconciled with God.

Paul emphasizes that if Christ died for us when we were still enemies, how much more can we trust that He will continue to care for us now that we are His friends! This passage invites us to live with gratitude and confidence. Sometimes we may doubt whether God truly loves us, especially when life feels hard or when we feel unworthy. But Paul reminds that "our hope never disappoints" (Rm 5:5). God has already proven His love on the Cross. Take a moment to think how much God values us, even in our weakest moments, he loves us deeply, and desires reconciliation. Let that truth shape our attitude toward ourselves and others.

When you feel unworthy, remember: you are loved not because you are perfect, but because the heart of God is perfect. That love gives us hope, peace, and strength to love others in the same way, with their imperfections. If you wait for people to become perfect so that you can love them, you will die without loving anyone.

A young boy once asked his grandmother why she kept a picture of her late husband on her bedside table. The grandmother responded with a smile and said, "I cannot see him anymore, but I can still remember his love every day." Even though he was gone, his presence remained in her heart. This simple story shows what we celebrate today. Those we love may have passed away from this life, but God keeps them in His care, and their love continues to inspire and guide us.

In the Gospel today, Jesus says, "everything that God gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me." These are the words of deep comfort and hope. Jesus assures us that those who belong to Him will never be rejected. The father's will is that Jesus should lose none of those entrusted to Him, but raise them up on the last day.

This is the very heart of this day. We remember our departed brothers and sisters, parents, friends, loved ones, who have gone before us. We pray for them, not as those lost in the darkness, but as those still journeying into the fulness of God's light. Death in the eyes of Jesus is not the end, but a passage into His embrace. When Jesus says that He will "raise them up on the last day", He is speaking of the great promise of resurrection. The same Jesus who conquered death, will also raise those who believe in Him.

Our Prayers today express our faith that even when earthly life ends, God's love continues the work of salvation. This day is not only about remembering our loved ones who have gone before us: it is also about renewing our hope. The souls that we remember today are not gone; they are with the Lord who promised, "I will not reject anyone who comes to me." Even when we feel unworthy or far from God, Jesus seeks us, holds us, and promises to raise us up.

As we pray for our departed ones, let us also open our hearts in forgiveness and love. May our Prayers help them find peace, and may they, in turn inspire us to live in hope of eternal life. May the Lord, who never rejects those who come to Him welcome our loved ones into His eternal peace, and one day, welcome us too into His Glorious Kingdom, into His everlasting Peace.

May God bless us all!