

**Fr. Nick Dant's Homily, Saint Matthew Catholic Church, Indianapolis
Commemoration of All Souls, Nov. 2, 2020, Cycle A**

Yesterday, with the great Solemnity of All Saints, we celebrated triumphantly the victory Christ has won for us in his Resurrection from the dead.

We celebrated with joy that God has invited all of us to feast forever at the eternal banquet in His heavenly Kingdom. With delight we remembered all the saints who now enjoy the eternal life of the Father's house.

Celebrating the great harvest of all the Saints into God's Kingdom we wore our festive white vestments, symbol of our new Life in the Resurrected Lord. Today we gather with a more somber tone, and put aside our white vestments for the more sober blacks.

This day we remember that sin and death are still quite real and have real tragic effects in our lives. Sadly, we remember that if any vestige of sin and death remains within us, we cannot immediately join our fellow Saints in the glory of Jesus' Resurrected life with the Father.

So, we gather this day to remember all those people who are in need of our prayers to help them throw off the last vestiges of sin and death - so that they might enter the fullness of God's glory.

Traditionally, we call this final lap between death and eternal life- Purgatory – to purge or purify ourselves of any lack of love in ourselves – anything that keeps us from being totally united with Christ in unconditional love and sharing fully His new life.

Nonetheless, while stoic realism dominates All Souls Day, it is still a day full of hope.

Those in Purgatory, and we, look forward with hope, because the promise of All Saints Day is ours.

Through faith we know that though death is a time to weep and mourn, death is also a time to laugh and dance – The Book of Ecclesiastes tells us! Our first reading from the Old Testament Book of Wisdom reminds us that only in the view of the foolish, do those who have died seemed to be dead; their passing away an affliction. No, we must renew our faith that our beloved dead are really in peace, for their hope is full of immortality. The faithful shall abide with God in love! God's care is with his elect. There is a new heaven and a new earth – where God dwells with us – where every tear is wiped away and death and mourning will be no more.

We have hope because the Gospel of John tells us "Everything the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me..." 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.

In baptism, we were given to Jesus, and as long as we strive to walk faithfully in the footsteps of Jesus – fellow Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, He does not let go of us, but holds onto us tightly until we arrive safely in God's Kingdom.

Thanks be to God, who has given us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.