



## Solemnity of All Saints



Rev 7:2-4, 9-14  
Ps 24:1bc-6  
1 John 3:1-3  
Matt 5:1-12a

**Monday Nov. 2**  
**All Souls Day**  
Wisdom 3:1-9  
Ps 23:1-6  
Romans 5:5-11  
John 6:37-40

**Tuesday Nov. 3**  
Romans 12:5-16  
Ps 131:1-3  
Luke 14:15-24

**Wednesday Nov. 4**  
Romans 13:8-10  
Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9  
Luke 14:25-33

**Thursday Nov. 5**  
Romans 14:7-12  
Ps 27:1bcde, 4, 13-14  
Luke 15:1-10

**Friday Nov. 6**  
Romans 15:14-21  
Ps 98:1-4  
Luke 16:1-8

**Saturday Nov. 7**  
Romans 16:3-9, 16, 22-27  
Ps 145:2-5, 10-11  
Luke 16:9-15

Did you hear the story of the overweight man who couldn't mount his horse? While struggling, he prayed, "All you saints of heaven, help me!" He then leaped up on the horse, threw the saddle and jumped down the opposite side. "All right," he said, "only half of you help me next time!"

How much help do you get from the Saints? Do you know why the Catholic Church makes such a big deal out of declaring that some dead people are Saints and that we should honor them, have statues of them, and pray to them. Actually, theologically, we don't pray "to" any Saint (not even to the Blessed Mother of Jesus), but we do ask them to pray *with us* and *for us* (as in the Hail Mary: "pray for us sinners...").

Do you ask your friends here on earth to pray for you? And with you? How much better it

is to have friends in heaven!

The canonization of a Saint is the Church's official assurance that here is a person who has arrived in the full glory of unity with God in heaven. The canonization process reaches this conclusion after extremely careful scrutiny and investigation and undeniable proof that the Saint's prayers have produced miracles.

Rev. 7:2-14 depicts the communion of saints. All friends of Jesus share in this communion. Any friend of

Jesus is your friend, especially the ones who live in perfect unity with God in heaven. "Those who love you for his sake ... will never desert you," said Saint Teresa of Avila (*The Way of Perfection*, Chap. IX 3).

However, to feel their friendship and become aware of their love and their caring support, we must first develop an intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit, for it is in God's Spirit that our relationships with the Saints exist.

Which Saints are your friends? Develop (or improve) your connection to them. Read about them. Read their own words in books or search for information about them on the internet. Ask Jesus to introduce them to you. Through the Holy Spirit, tell them what's going on in your life and what extra help you need in your spiritual growth.

Even when we're not aware of what the Saints are doing for us, they *are* doing something, especially if it will help us grow in holiness.

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. Which Saints are your special friends?
2. What are you doing to improve those relationships?
3. How has a Saint influenced your life?
4. Share the story of a time when you asked for help from a Saint. What happened?