

FR RUDY'S REFLECTION
Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
All Souls
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025

Resting in the Promise of Eternal Life



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MCCJ, pastor

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

Several years ago, I attended the funeral of a young mother who had fought a long battle with cancer. The grief in the church was palpable as her husband, children, and friends felt the weight of loss in every pew. And yet, amid the tears, there was something more. The choir sang softly, "I am the Bread of Life," and when the words rang out, "and I will raise you up on the last day," I watched her family lift their heads. The sorrow did not vanish, but hope broke through. They clung to the promise that death does not have the final word and that in Christ she would rise again.

This is the heart of today's Gospel (John 6:37-40), so fitting for the Commemoration of All Souls. Jesus declares that all who are given to him by the Father will not be rejected and that his mission is to do the will of the Father, "that I should not lose anything of what he gave me, but that I should raise it on the last day." These words bring us both consolation and confidence.



This Gospel reminds us that salvation begins with God. It is the Father who draws us to his Son, and Jesus, in turn, receives us and promises eternal life. We do not earn this gift on our own; it is God's love that takes the first step. St. Augustine expressed this truth so beautifully: "You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you." Every longing in our hearts, every restless search for meaning, finds fulfillment only in Christ, who receives us with mercy and promises to raise us up.

While God's initiative is the foundation, our belief matters. Faith is our response to God's call. To believe in Jesus is to entrust our lives to him and to walk in hope. Pope Francis once said: **"If today we are remembering these brothers and sisters of ours who lived before us and are now in heaven, they are there because they were washed in the Blood of Christ, that is our hope and this hope does not disappoint. If we live our lives with the Lord, he will never disappoint us."**

This is why we pray for the faithful departed. Some, though saved by Christ, still undergo purification before entering into the fullness of God's presence. Our prayers, sacrifices, and the offering of the Eucharist help them on this journey. We express not only our love for them but also our faith in God's mercy and the hope of the resurrection.

All Souls Day invites us to look at death not as an end but as a passage into eternal life. Just as that grieving family at the funeral clung to the words of Christ, so we too hold fast to his promise: "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."

In that promise rests our peace, our hope, and our joy, both for ourselves and for all whom we remember today.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Rudy

OUR LADY
OF GUADALUPE
FAMILY OF PARISHES



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
ST. BONIFACE CHURCH
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
ST. LEO THE GREAT
CHURCH
ST. THÉRÈSE LITTLE
FLOWER CHURCH