

Sermon for All Saints Day
Sunday, November 6, 2022
“May we never be forgotten”

Texts: Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 44:1-14

I speak to you in the name of the one true God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us now sing the praises of famous men, our ancestors in their generations.

Well, here we are! We have come to the high point of our 125th Anniversary Celebration. Today is the Solemnity of All Saints, our Feast Day of Title, the parish's birthday, and what a glorious day it is. We're glad you're here to celebrate it with us. We have been celebrating this milestone in our life together all week and we have celebrated it in grand style.

This past Wednesday, we celebrated the Commemoration of All Souls with a glorious Requiem Mass; Bishop Provenzano was our guest preacher and his sermon was on point. On Thursday, we gathered for a service of the Sung Rosary & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament with Bishop Bill Franklin as our guest officiant; afterward, he inspired us with a talk on the value of Marian devotion and Benediction. On Friday, we ate and danced at our Gala Dinner; you all were dressed to the nines and we partied like it was 1999. And yesterday, several of our youth got together for fun and activities; you'll be able to see some of their artwork later today in the parish hall.

So, today marks the end of our celebration. It is the Solemnity of All Saints, our Feast Day of Title. The purpose of this solemnity is to honor the named saints, people who led exemplary lives that the Church has chosen to lift up so that their memory will never die. The saints are examples of people whose lives we are not to forget.

In his sermon on Wednesday, Bishop Provenzano spoke about three deaths; when we die, we experience three deaths: the first is our biological or physical death when our bodies cease to function; the second death happens when we are buried; and, the third death occurs when the last person who remembers us dies. The holy days of All Saints and All Souls are holy days when we remember those who have lived and died in the past.

The saints are the Church's celebrities. All of the saints, every one of them, were people just like you and me. They had real lives, they had real temptations, they had real shortcomings, they had real doubts. They were ordinary humans who did or said extraordinary things. They are examples to us, because they remind us that no matter who we are, what we've done, where we come from, and no matter what else is going on in our lives, we can still do God's work. In honoring the saints, we understand a prayerful and spiritual connection between those who have gone before and those who are still living. That is why we ask the saints to pray to God for us and with us. They have no power within themselves, but pray along with us; St. James said in his epistle: “Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” We honor the saints on All Saints, so that they never experience that third death, so that we always remember.

All Saints Day and the Commemoration of All Souls are about remembering. All of the events, all of the activities that we have been doing this week and the holy days that we have been celebrating are meant to focus our attention on remembering. We are here today because we remember. We remember, so that we may we never forget. We must not forget who and what All Saints is and why we are here.

While today we celebrate the end of 125 years today is also the beginning of the next 125 years and beyond. And while we are celebrating the great things we have done in the past, it is now time to look to the future. It is now time for us to turn our attention to creating a legacy here at All Saints Church which will endure for many generations to come, because most of us sitting here today will not be here in fifty years. Some of us here won’t be here even twenty-five years from now. So, we must now focus on securing this sacred family and its ability to minister to God’s people who come here and live out in the community. We have already begun the great effort at making sure that we are not forgotten. We have begun efforts to restore the bells, to purchase new vestment sets, to repair and paint the church doors. There are other things we can do so that we are not forgotten, such as more outreach into the community and more involvement in activities in the neighborhood around us and the wider church. And so that this place remains a vibrant place to worship and thrive, we must focus maximum efforts at our ministry to our youth and the young people in the community, so that there are future generations of faithful people. Our task going forward is to establish our legacy by taking care of the physical and spiritual needs of this place and its people, so that future generations will not forget.

Not forgetting isn’t just a dream or a desire; not forgetting is at the core of who we are as Christians, because not forgetting is part of every celebration of the Holy Eucharist. “Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death; his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.” We call this the *anamnesis*, which literally means that which is not forgotten. The anamnesis occurs when we recall the death, resurrection, and ascension of Christ, and with that one word, Jesus says to us, “Do this to make me present.”

Today, we honor the saints who have died. Today, we honor ourselves as the community of All Saints who keep the memory of the saints alive by proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord by our participation in the Eucharist, our fellowship in oneness and diversity, by respect for each other, and through outreach into the community. And, today, we commit ourselves to further building the legacy that will be All Saints Episcopal Church for many generations to come, long after we are all gone, so that our

having been part of this place will not die when the last person who knows us dies, so that All Saints will be remembered and never be forgotten.

Let us now sing the praises of famous women and men, our ancestors in their generations. Let us go forth in leaving our legacy, so that future generations will sing our praises, our descendants in their generations. Amen.

Resource

<https://covenant.livingchurch.org/2019/06/24/anamnesis-in-christs-eucharistic-presence/>

Sermón para el Día de Todos los Santos
Domingo, 6 de noviembre, 2022
“Que no se nos olvide nunca”

Texto: Eclesiástico (Sirach) 44:1-14

Les hablo en el nombre del único Dios verdadera: Padre, Hijo, y Espíritu Santo.
Amen.

Voy a hacer el elogio de los hombres buenos, nuestros antepasados de épocas diversas.

¡Aquí estamos! Hemos venido al punto álgido de nuestra Celebración del Aniversario de 125 Años. Hoy es la Solemnidad de Todos los Santos, nuestra Fiesta Titular, el cumpleaños de la parroquia, y ¡cual día glorioso es! Estamos felices que están aquí para celebrarla con nosotros. Hemos celebrado este hito de nuestra vida juntos toda la semana, y lo hemos celebrado en gran estilo.

El miércoles pasado, celebramos la Conmemoración de Todas Almas con un glorioso Misa de Réquiem; El Obispo Provenzano fue nuestro predicador invitado y su sermón estuvo en punto. El jueves, nos reunimos para un servicio del Rosario Cantado y Bendición del Santísimo Sacramento con el Obispo Bill Franklin como oficiante invitado; después, él nos animó con una charla del valor de la devoción Mariana y Bendición. El viernes, comimos y bailamos a la Cena Gala; ustedes estuvieron vestidos de punta en blanco y festejamos como fuera 1999. Y ayer, varios jóvenes se reunieron para actividades; podrán ver sus obras más tarde en el Salón Parroquial.

Hoy marca el fin de nuestra celebración. Es la Solemnidad de Todos los Santos, nuestra Fiesta Titular. El objetivo de esta solemnidad es para honrar los santos nombrados, personas quienes vivían vidas ejemplares que la Iglesia a escogido alzar, para que su memoria nunca morirá. Los santos son ejemplos de gente cuya vidas no deberemos olvidar.

En su sermón el miércoles pasado, el Obispo Provenzano habló de tres muertes; cuando morimos, experimentamos tres muertes: la primera es la biológica cuando el cuerpo cesa funcionar; la segunda se pasa cuando se nos entierra; y la tercera se ocurre cuando la última persona quien nos conoce muere. Los santos días de Todos los Santos y Todas las Almas son santos días cuando nos recordamos ellos que han vivido y muerto en el pasado.

Los santos son las celebridades de la Iglesia. Todos de los santos, cada uno de ellos, eran gente como ustedes y yo. Vivían vidas verdaderas con tentaciones verdaderas, faltas verdaderas, dudas verdaderas. Humanos ordinarios que hicieron cosas extra-ordinarias. Son ejemplos a nosotros porque nos recuerdan que no importa quienes fuéramos, o cualquiera que hubiéramos hecho, o de donde viniéramos, o lo que se pasara en nuestras vidas, todavía Podemos hacer la obra de Dios. (James 5:16) En honrar los santos, entendemos una conexión espiritual entre ellos que han ido antes y ellos que viven todavía. Este es porque pedimos a los santos orar por nosotros. No

tienen poder dentro de si mismo, sino oran con nosotros. En su epístola, Santiago escribió: “Confiesen sus pecados a cada uno y oren para cada uno para que sean curados. La oración de los justos es poderoso y eficaz. Honramos los santos en Todos los Santos para que no experimentarán nunca aquella tercer muerte, para que siempre nos recordaremos.

Los días de Todos los Santos y la Conmemoración de Todas las Almas so días de recordar. Todos los eventos y actividades enfocan nuestra atención en recordarnos. Nos recordamos para que nunca olvidemos. Nunca deberemos quienes somos y porque estamos aquí. Tan como celebramos la fin de 125 años, es también el inicio de los próximos 125 años y más adelante. Es tiempo para nosotros a crear un legado aquí porque ningunos de nosotros estaremos vivos en 50 años. Hay cosas que Podemos hacer para que no estaremos olvidados, como mas alcance a la comunidad y en la Iglesia afuera. Y necesitamos dirigir nuestra atención a la formación de nuestros Jovenes. Debemos establecer nuestro legado por cuidar las necesidades físicas y espirituales de este lugar y su pueblo, para que las generaciones venideras no olvidarán.

No olvidar es al centro de quienes somos como cristianos, porque es parte de cada celebración de la eucaristía. “Por tanto, Señor y Padre celestial, nosotros, tu pueblo, celebramos y te presentamos estas ofrendas, el memorial que el Salvador nos mandó hacer; recordando así su bendita pasión y preciosa muerte, su poderosa resurrección y gloriosa ascensión; y esperando el día de su regreso en poder y gran gloria.” Lo llamamos el *anamnesis* cuando recordamos la Muerte, resurrección y ascensión de Cristo.

Hoy, honramos los santos quienes han muerto. Hoy nos honramos como la comunidad de All Saints que mantenemos vivos la memoria de los santos por proclamar Jesucristo como El Señor por nuestra participación en la Eucaristía, nuestro compañerismo en unidad y diversidad, por respeto para cada uno, y por alcance en la comunidad. Y hoy nos cometemos a construir el legado que será All Saints Episcopal Church para muchas generaciones a venir, para que nuestra presencia no morirá cuando la última persona quien nos conoce muere.

Voy a hacer el elogio de los hombres buenos, nuestros antepasados de épocas diversas. Vamos adelante en dejar nuestro legado para que las generaciones del future cantarán nuestras alabanzas hacia las épocas diversas. Amén.