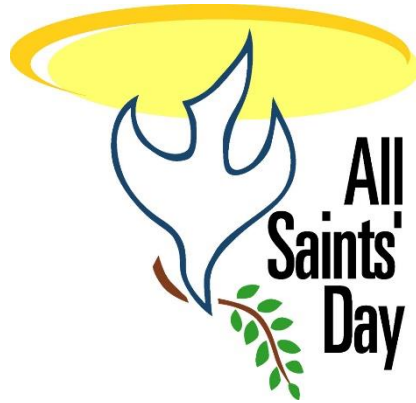


All Saints Day
November 1st 2020



Opening

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also, with you.

Sentence

They are before the throne of God, and he who sits upon the throne will shelter them with his presence.
Revelation 7.15

Collect

Almighty God, whose people are knit together in one holy Church, the mystical Body of your Son, grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Readings

Revelation 7.9–17

Psalm 34.1–10, 22

1 John 3.1–3

Matthew 5.1–12

Reflection

Today we celebrate The Feast of All Saints. Let me begin this reflection by asking who “The Saints” are? I’ll start by looking at the beginnings of some of Paul’s letters:

Romans: “To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:” (Rm 1:7),

1 Corinthians: “To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints....”

2 Corinthians: To the church of God that is in Corinth, including all the saints throughout Achaia.

Ephesians: “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in

Ephesus....” **Phillipians:** “Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi....”

Colossians: “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, to the Saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae....”

So, who are these ‘saints’? You might be tempted to say “those who are **called** to be saints.... (e.g. Romans, 1 Corinthians). No problem, we’re all “called to be saints”. But it’s pretty clear Paul is speaking to everybody who is a member of the community to whom he is writing.

Maybe it’s the community as a whole being called to be saints and not so much the individuals. But once you start reading 1 Corinthians you see that Paul is challenging some people because of their behaviour which is hardly ‘saintly’.

I’d like to suggest that, yes Paul is writing to a community – not a collection of individuals but a community committed to following their founder Jesus. Is everyone in the community committed to following Jesus? I would say ‘yes’. Does everyone in the community see that commitment in the same way? Probably not – just look at some of the communion practices Paul criticizes in 1st Corinthians. (The ‘well off’ sat and ate well, ignoring the poor and the hungry.)

But the community heard Paul’s challenge to their practices and, as a community, they agreed to make the necessary changes to be more visibly the community committed to the path, the Spirit, of Jesus. That’s what makes them ‘Saints’ - a community committed to working together to make the presence, the spirit of Jesus, more visible, more accessible.

I think marriage is another relationship that functions like the ‘saints’. In marriage we share life with someone with whom we share similar values. Sometimes differing values can clash or we discover values in our partner we didn’t see earlier in our relationship. Then, like the Corinthian community, we need to see if we can work on our shared behaviour for the sake of a greater good – the marriage relationship.

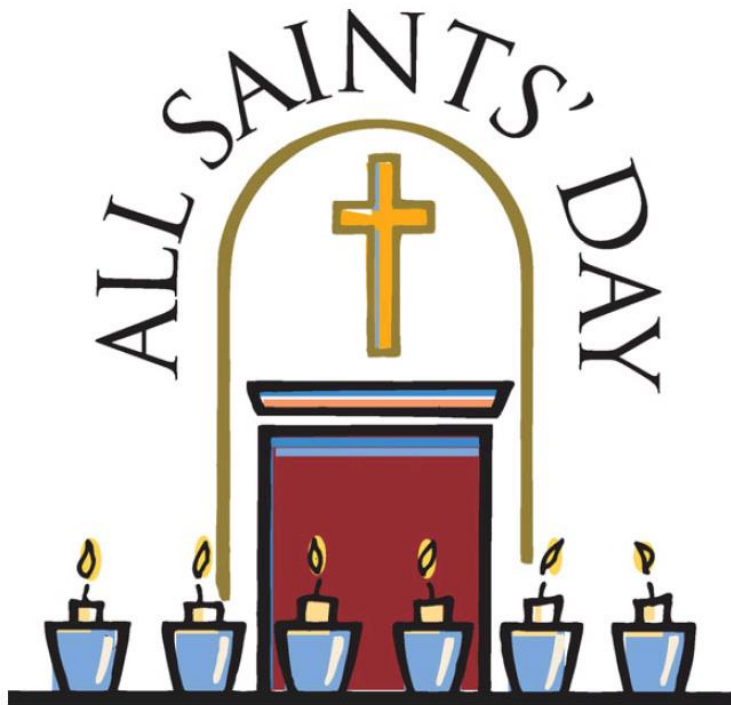
The bottom line here is that “the saints” were/are real, living, breathing people – just like you and me. You don’t have to be dead to be a saint! As a matter of fact, if you’re not a saint while you’re living, you’re not one when you’re dead.

After 78 years of negotiating a variety of relationships - most of them in some way or another connected with my faith journey, you’d think it would get easier.

After 78 years at this what does get better - for me at least – is recognizing what really does matter, what really does make a significant difference and what doesn't.

And, as an aside, I can definitely tell you, Covid does not make being a saint any easier!

Reflection from Jack Cox - revjackcox@gmail.com



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Today we celebrate *All Saints' Day*, but who were they besides names on calendars and churches? What do Saints have to do with my everyday life?

The word "saint" comes from the Greek word *hagios*, which means "consecrated to God, holy, sacred, pious." The people we think of as "saints" or who have been given the official title of saint, all seem to be all of that definition and more. Special people who are set apart for a special purpose and given all they need to accomplish God's purpose, those are saints. Well, except that God has called all of us to be saints, to be sanctified (made holy) in Christ, to build up the Body of Christ, and to seek and serve Christ in all persons. Too bad we can't just leave the work to those who are *beatified* or *canonized* by an official Church process. The Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12 give us a comprehensive list of those who will be blessed by God. It also gives us a clear direction on what attributes to adopt in our own lives to draw on all of our God-given gifts and self-developed flaws, to be a part of the total Creation, and to seek to be accepted into the great reward that is heaven.

We pray for those who are in need of our prayers at this time, especially:

Rick our interim Rector, Todd our Bishop, Anne our Metropolitan, Linda our Primate, Mark National Indigenous Archbishop, and Martinez Bishop of Amazonia. We pray also for the people of the Parish of Long Point Bay and all lay and clergy.

We pray also for Rev. Rev. Kendall Reimer-Johnston and the people of Brant Regional Ministry.

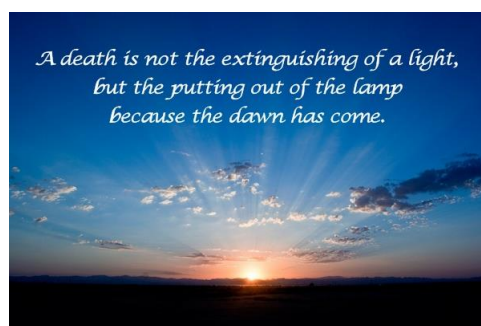
We pray especially today for our new minister, Enrique Martinez. We happily welcome him, his wife and their two children as they join our community.

As well we pray for the ones who have asked for Your healing touch upon their lives:

Betty F., Don G. Franz and Elaine Z., Steven K., Rebecca M., Trista P., Kathleen C-S., Bill MC., Dwayne M. and Andrea B., Susan A., Olivia H., Karen M., Delores B., Dale F, Rose G. and anyone known at this time.

We pray for our shut-ins at home, hospital and in local nursing homes. We especially remember: June, Shirley, Iris, Julie, David, John, Anna.

At this time, we remember our friends and fellow parishioners who have recently passed, by dedicating this week's service to Everett Lampton, Jerry Milne and Ron Judd.



It is important that we keep the prayer list and shut-in list up to date. If you know of any changes to these lists can you please email Anne at lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com or AD Rick at rickplus@gmail.com

If you know of anyone that has asked you to pray for them during this pandemic, we will put on the prayer list for a month.



Prayer of Confession

Search us O God and know our hearts today
Try us and know our anxious thoughts,
see if there are any hurtful ways in us
and lead us in your loving and life-giving Way

Words of Assurance

God knows our secret fears, ignorance & selfish ways.
God forgives, forgive yourself, forgive others
Amen

Closing Prayer

God our strength and salvation, receive all we offer you today, and grant that we who have confessed your name, and received new life in baptism, may live in the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ the Lord, Amen

Doxology

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Indoor Services continue in a limited fashion.

We are currently in the AMBER stage of this programme. Details can be found at the Diocesan website. This means that we can host indoor services and events like weddings and funerals. We have very strict protocols for indoor services that include, screening, masks and strict seating and social distancing rules. This has resulted in drastically reducing the numbers of people that can safely meet inside the church. Unfortunately, we are not permitted to sing in the church but we can have communion in a creative way without needing to move from our seats.

Note that not every church will be holding a service every week as in the past. It will be as it was before, with Holy Communion every second week but the Morning Prayer services in between have been cancelled. This allows us to safely monitor the health of our congregations over two-week periods. Not all parishes or congregations are required to offer indoor services but it has become an option that we are exploring carefully. Your safety is our paramount concern, we know this pandemic is not over.

Services:

There will be an indoor Eucharist service:

Today November 1st Pt Ryerse at 9:30 and Woodhouse 11am

Then there will be a Eucharist service:

St John's Port Rowan November 8th at 9:30 am

Click on link below to see A Message of Hope from the Primate - The Anglican Church of Canada

<https://www.anglican.ca/primate/a-message-of-hope-from-the-primate/>

**Your Long Point Bay Regular Service can be found here:
Please click on the link to watch this week's video**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spPEO4Zf7s4&feature=youtu.be>

CONTACT INFORMATION:

At this extraordinary time if you wish a telephone visit please call the Rector. If you have any other announcements or news contact Anne Halls at the contacts below.

Archdeacon Rick Jones can be contacted by email rickplus@gmail.com or by phone @ 905 537 0324

Our parish assistant Anne Halls can be contacted by email at lpbparishsecretary@gmail.com or by phone @ 519-586-7034

Please visit our website parishoflongpointbay.com and Facebook page