SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS- NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Father Anthony's Reflection and Prayer

CALLED TO BE SAINTS

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS, YEAR A REVELATION 7:2–4, 9–14; PSALM 23; 1 JOHN 3:1–3; MATTHEW 5:1–12

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints. We give thanks for the men and women who have lived faithfully with God and now share in the joy of heaven. Some are well known to us; many are known only to God. Their lives remind us that holiness is possible, and that we are all called to become saints.

In the first reading, St John sees a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, race, people and language. They stand before the throne of God, dressed in white. This vision tells us that heaven is not reserved for one people or one kind of person. God calls people from every background to himself. The saints were different in their lives and circumstances, but they were united in their love for God and their faithfulness to Christ.

The saints were not people who never struggled or made mistakes. They were people who allowed God to work in them. They learned to turn back to him, to trust his mercy and to keep walking with him. Their holiness grew through the ordinary choices of life: forgiving someone, caring for the vulnerable, speaking truthfully, praying faithfully, and choosing what is right even when it is difficult.

In the second reading, St John reminds us: "Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children." This is where holiness begins. We do not become saints by trying to earn God's love. We are already loved and called to be his children. The more deeply we receive that love, the more our lives can be changed to reflect it.

In today's Gospel, Jesus shows us the way of holiness through the Beatitudes. The world often calls people blessed when they are rich, powerful, successful or admired. Jesus turns that thinking upside down. He calls the poor in spirit, the gentle, those who mourn, those who hunger and thirst for what is right, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers and those who suffer for doing what is right, "blessed."

The Beatitudes are not merely words of comfort. They show us how to live as citizens of God's Kingdom. To be poor in spirit is to know that we depend on God. To be merciful is to treat others with compassion. To be a peacemaker is to work for reconciliation rather than deepen division. To hunger for what is right is to desire justice and goodness, even when doing so costs us something.

We may sometimes think that becoming a saint is beyond us. But the saints began where we are. They responded to God's grace in the circumstances of their own lives. We too can become holy in our homes, at work, in our relationships and in our parish. Holiness is found in choosing love, patience, honesty, mercy and faithfulness, day after day.

Today, let us thank God for all the saints who have gone before us, and ask for their prayers. Let us also ask for the grace to follow their example. The path of holiness is open to us. We are God's beloved children, and he is leading us towards the joy of his Kingdom.

May we one day join that great multitude, praising God and standing in his presence for ever. Amen .🙏

Fr. Anthony Onoko, Pastor

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Loving Father,

We commend to your care all our parishioners.

Be close to all who are facing health challenges, especially heart disease, cancer and diabetes. Give them strength, comfort and hope. Guide their doctors, nurses and caregivers, and bless all who support them.

Open doors of opportunity for those seeking employment. Grant them confidence and perseverance, and provide for their needs.

Comfort all who are grieving the loss of loved ones. As we remember the faithful departed during this month of November, may the hope of the resurrection bring consolation and peace.

Be near to all who are struggling with mental health challenges. Surround them with understanding and compassionate support, and give them courage to seek the help they need.

Bless our parish communities. May your love unite and sustain everyone, and may all who are suffering find hope in your presence. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, we make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.🙏