

## Sunday, November 1 Solemnity of All Saints

I hope you all enjoyed Halloween (responsibly). As we enter November, like every year, we begin with the feast day of All Saints.

~Jen Delvaux

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### **Gospel**

[Mt 5:1-12a](#)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:  
“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the land.  
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.  
Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.  
Blessed are the clean of heart,  
for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.  
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you  
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.  
Rejoice and be glad,  
for your reward will be great in heaven.”

### **Reflection**

I am guessing most of us are familiar with this passage. The Beatitudes from Matthew or Luke have likely decorated just about every classroom or religious education space since time immemorial. They serve as a source of comfort, hope, and consolation. When we feel insecure, persecuted, in need, or are in mourning we look to the Beatitudes to be told it will be better. And that is well and good.

What we choose to overlook much of the time is that the Beatitudes are a call to arms. They are a prescription for how to live our lives. On this day that honors the saints, those who exemplify the call of Christ to live lives of love, we are offered a simple way to follow in their footsteps.

Not all will be called to martyrdom or mission work in the far reaches of the world, as some saints have done. Most of us are called to be, well, average. We are to go about our jobs, our friendships, and our families on a daily basis. The Beatitudes challenge us to do those average, every day things, with extraordinary faith and love. We are not only to be the peacemakers, clean of heart, merciful, and poor in spirit. We are to also offer the peace of God to others, affirm others as children of God, and comfort the mourning.

*We have to become saints.  
We have to become like Christ.  
Anything less is simply not enough.  
Anne Rice*