Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily
Sunday, November 1, 2026
All Saints Day
Cycle A

On this Solemnity of All Saints the Church invites us to celebrate not only the canonized saints whose names fill our calendars. We also honor, as Revelation 7:9 puts it, “great multitude which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue.” They are the ordinary people who lived extraordinary love in the simple moments of everyday life.

In the first reading, John sees a great crowd in white robes standing before God’s throne, not only apostles or martyrs, but ordinary people made holy by love and faithfulness. In the second reading, it reminds us, “See what love the Father has bestowed on us, that we may be called children of God. Holiness begins here, not with miracles, but with knowing we are God’s beloved children. Then, in the Gospel, Jesus gives us the *Beatitudes;* a portrait of true holiness. “Blessed are the poor in spirit... the merciful...the clean of heart... the peacemakers.” None of this sounds glamorous. They are not qualities that make headlines or earn applause. Yet they are the attitudes that make saints.

Saints are not perfect people; they are people who kept saying “yes” to God in the ordinary moments of life. As Pope Francis beautifully said, “We are all called to be saints by living with love and offering our own witness in our daily occupations.”

So, what does this mean for us today?

First, holiness is possible – right where you are. You do not have to enter a monastery, travel to mission lands, or perform miracles. You can become a saint while changing diapers, preparing meals, teaching classes, managing a business, or facing illness. Every task, done with love, becomes a prayer.

Second, holiness grows in small acts of love. St. Mother Teresa used to say, *“Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.”*

A kind word to someone lonely, forgiving a hurt, being patient with someone difficult, praying even when tired –these are seeds of sanctity.

Third, holiness means fidelity. Many saints simply stayed faithful when it was hard. St. Joseph lived quietly, providing for Mary and Jesus. St. Thérèse of Lisieux lived a hidden life of prayer, calling it her “little way.” God does not ask us to be famous. He asks us to be faithful.

Fourth, holiness brings joy. The Beatitudes may sound like sacrifices, but they are really a roadmap to happiness. When we choose humility over pride, mercy over resentment, peace over revenge – we taste the joy of heaven here on earth.

Holiness is not a burden. It is the best version of ourselves that God dreams for us.

So today, as we honor the Saints in heaven, let us not forget the saints next door: the people who quietly live their faith every day.

And let us remember, each of us is called to be a saint. Be holy where you are. Be faithful in what you do. Be loving in how you live.