SPECIAL REFLECTION

Monday, November 2, 2026 • The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)

READINGS

Reading I

Wisdom 3:1-9

The souls of the just are in the hand of God,
and no torment shall touch them.
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;
and their passing away was thought an affliction
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.
But they are in peace.
For if before men, indeed, they be punished,
yet is their hope full of immortality;
chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,
because God tried them
and found them worthy of himself.
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;
they shall judge nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord shall be their King forever.
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:
because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,
and his care is with his elect.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

or: R. Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are with me.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

or: R. Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are with me.

He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
I fear no evil; for you are at my side
with your rod and your staff
that give me courage.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

or: R. Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are with me.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

or: R. Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are with me.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

or: R. Though I walk in the valley of darkness, I fear no evil, for you are with me.

Reading II

Romans 5:5-11

Brothers and sisters:
Hope does not disappoint,
because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.
For Christ, while we were still helpless,
died at the appointed time for the ungodly.
Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person,
though perhaps for a good person
one might even find courage to die.
But God proves his love for us
in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us.
How much more then, since we are now justified by his Blood,
will we be saved through him from the wrath.
Indeed, if, while we were enemies,
we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son,
how much more, once reconciled,
will we be saved by his life.
Not only that,
but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Or:

Romans 6:3-9

Brothers and sisters:
Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?
We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.
For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his,
we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.
We know that our old self was crucified with him,
so that our sinful body might be done away with,
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.
For a dead person has been absolved from sin.
If, then, we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with him.
We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;
death no longer has power over him.

Alleluia

Matthew 25:34

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, you who are blessed by my Father;
inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

John 6:37-40

Jesus said to the crowds:
“Everything that the Father gives me will come to me,
and I will not reject anyone who comes to me,
because I came down from heaven not to do my own will
but the will of the one who sent me.
And this is the will of the one who sent me,
that I should not lose anything of what he gave me,
but that I should raise it on the last day.
For this is the will of my Father,
that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him
may have eternal life,
and I shall raise him on the last day.”

Fr. Matthew’s Special Reflection

Today, we pause in prayerful remembrance of all the faithful departed.

We come carrying memories of parents and grandparents, spouses and friends, and loved ones whose absence we still feel.

We gather not only to remember them but also to renew our hope in God's promise of eternal life.

The first reading from the Book of Wisdom: "The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them."

To human eyes, death often appears as loss, separation, and sorrow. Yet God sees something deeper.

Psalm 23 reinforces this hope.

The Lord is the Good Shepherd who walks with His people even through the darkest valley.

The Shepherd who guided us through life continues to lead our loved ones into the Father's house.

Saint Paul says: This "Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts."

The proof of that love is Jesus Christ, who died for us while we were still sinners.

Jesus’ promise stands at the heart of All Souls' Day: "I shall raise him on the last day."

The Father's will is that none of those entrusted to His Son should be lost.

Death does not have the final word. Christ does.

Today, we lovingly remember those who have gone before us,

and we pray for them because our love does not end at the grave.

We entrust our departed loved ones to the mercy of God.

Let’s also reflect on our own journey.

One day others will gather to pray for us.

The question is not whether we will die,

but whether we are living each day in friendship with Christ.

The best way to honor the dead is to live faithfully, love generously, forgive readily, and keep our eyes fixed on the eternal kingdom.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Reflection Questions

1. Who are the departed loved ones I wish to remember and entrust to God’s mercy today?

2. How does the promise of the resurrection strengthen my hope when I experience grief or loss?

3. Am I living each day in friendship with Christ, preparing for the eternal life He promises?

4. How can I honor those who have gone before me by living faithfully, loving generously, and forgiving readily?