

# HEAVENLY REWARDS

## Sunday Reflection With Fr. Rafal

Dear St. Joseph Parishioners,

Jesus tells us today: "Blessed are the poor...blessed are they who hunger and thirst...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."

Jesus teaches us the way to beatitude, to perfect joy: Not in everyone admiring us and treating us well, but in seeing ourselves as God sees us. It may not lead to immediate comfort, but it will lead us to what matters: "Your reward will be great in heaven."

We sometimes say those words casually. We even joke about a "heavenly reward." But when you think about it, life offers only one tragedy: to not become a saint. A saint is someone who achieves perfect joy here on earth by putting God ahead of any comfort, honor or satisfaction - and thus opens his soul to the endless joy with God forever.

November begins with two celebrations of solidarity: All Saints Day (November 1) and All Souls Day (November 2). These celebrations show that in God we have solidarity not only with believers here on earth, but also with saints in heaven and with our faithful departed loved ones.

St. Teresa Of Avila speaks about our union with the saints in heaven. She explains it this way: In praying the Our Father we say, "thy kingdom come." A king, she says, does not come alone. He has his knights, ladies and court with him. Just so, when God comes he brings his heavenly court with him.

In God we have solidarity with the saints - those united with him here on earth as well as those already in heaven. They pray for us. In the All Saints Day reading John describes that enormous throng. We have solidarity with them and also with those who died in his grace, but are still on the way to complete union. We pray for them.

I would like to conclude with a prayer by St. Teresa. They call it her "bookmark." She wrote it on a scrap of paper and read it every day. She used it to mark her place in whatever book she was reading. I invite you to say this prayer every day this week:



Let nothing disturb you.  
Let nothing frighten you.  
All things are passing,  
but God does not change.  
Patience obtains all.  
Those who have God lack nothing.  
God alone is enough. Amen.

Have a Blessed Week.

*Fr. Rafal Ligenza*

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