

Gospel Reflection

Why do we mourn our dead, when we know they are in peace and light for eternity with the Lord? The book of Wisdom says, "They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead" (Wisdom 3:2)—so why do we continue foolishly to mourn our dead? Because we're human, that's why. Because we're made in the image of the God who mourns loss, and who, in Christ, has given us the ultimate witness that death and loss do not have the last "word" in all of this, but that life and resurrection do. This is something that Martha, even in the midst of her mourning at her brother's tomb, could say in confidence to Jesus when he came to share her grief and give her comfort. Today we join her in this confident expression of faith in the ultimate conquest of life over death, a victory willed by God and made present in Christ.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul asks if they are unaware that baptism into Christ's death also means baptism into resurrection. Harsh as that opening might be, Paul doesn't tell the Romans to stop mourning their dead, he doesn't say that their grief and tears are signs that their faith is weak or non-existent. Paul knows that he is dealing with a profound topic for the lives in his community. So he writes a profound litany of the comfort, glory, and triumph over the grave won by God in Christ. He reminds them of their own intimate connection to this triumph, the way Christ joined their humanity in his death, and the way they were grafted onto his eternal life through their baptism. As we celebrate our Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, it is natural for us to remember, perhaps to mourn or weep a bit; but it is also natural and wise for us to rejoice and celebrate in the life that our faithful departed now share.

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

John 6:37-40

B D E H I I W R E B X H Z
X G A L M H H M L I E I P
M L I R Z L T T R A L X V
Y F F V O N R H V X D Z V
G L I F E J O E K W Z S D
F E J S N S N F J I C R H
S E O D L E B A I E K E U
U L N W S L A M P P C H R
S L U O S L L A N R E T E
E V E R Y T H I N G M A R
J L H C N N G U W F F F D
Q L K G K W A F U Z V J F
E B P X G R M R B J K W V

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

LOSE	ANYONE	CROWDS
JESUS	EVERYTHING	FATHER
GIVES	HEAVEN	ETERNAL
LIFE	ALL SOULS	ONE
REJECT	SENT ME	WILL

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Feast of All Souls
11/2/2008*

*John 6:37-40
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.
Claremont, CA
www.olaclaremont.org

Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *John 6:37-40*

The Gospel according to Matthew

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**, 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 up on **the last day.**"

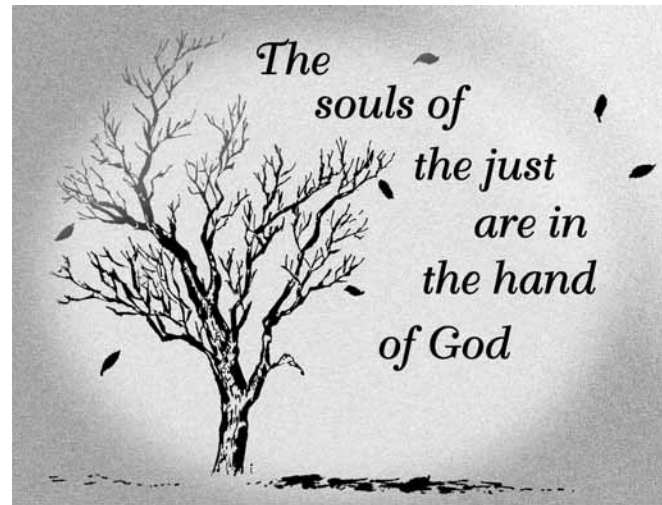
The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Glossary

the one who sent me: God

anything of what he gave me: presumably refers to those who have shown devotion to Christ

the last day: This likely refers to the Second Coming of Christ, at which time believers will be raised from the dead.



"All Souls Day"
by William-Adolphe Bouguereau

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- How do I remember and honor my deceased relatives and friends on this day?
- How does the promise of Jesus that he will not lose anything of what the Father gave me comfort me?
- What helps me in times of sorrow move from grief to a greater hope in God?

Closing Prayer

Merciful Father,

*hear our prayers and console us.
As we renew our faith in your Son,
whom you raised from the dead,
strengthen our hope that all our
departed brothers and sisters will
share in his resurrection.*

*We ask this through Christ our
Lord,*

Amen.

Feast of All Souls