

that takes over the very center of their life.

Trusting Jesus to lead us to a deeper relationship with God is the foundation of our faith. Faith that God loves us and will provide us with what we need to be of service in his kingdom allows us to experience a greater purpose in life. Thank God for this great opportunity through Christ!

### **Thursday, November 5**

Read Ephesians 1:11-23. The first quality is faith and the second is love; these are present in a person who has been chosen by God and set apart to do his work in the world. In the first days of the church, the saints were part of a community of love and concern, one in which love was demonstrated by acts of practical service. One of the first things the early Christians did was to organize an order of servants to make certain that widows and the needy got some relief (Acts 6:1-7).

There is no love in the church unless it finds its expression in practical service that makes a difference in the lives of other. Love is a verb!

### **Friday, November 6**

Read Ephesians 1:11-23. The third element of being an earthly saint is a spirit of wisdom and revelation. Once we have faith and love, the gift of wisdom and revelation allows us to focus that faith and love into practical acts of service. This is a process of discernment discovering God's will for our lives. It represents a combination of matching our abilities with the needs of others as well as demonstrating the courage to act for the benefit of another with the blessing and guidance of God.

Pray that God will guide you in your ministry so that the faith and love Christ inspires in you will find fruition in your ministry!

## ***Message Notes – November 1, 2020***

# ***For All the Saints!\****

- I. When Pope John Paul II died in 2005, about \_\_\_\_\_ flooded into Rome to attend his funeral or to watch the service on giant video screens placed across the city.
  - A. A cry began to spread through the crowd, “*Santo subito ... santo subito.*” *Santo subito* is translated “\_\_\_\_\_ immediately.”
  - B. Pope Benedict XVI was convinced that John Paul is now communing with the saints in heaven, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the church from his new location.
  
- II. All this being said, we ask the question, “Why is it that people tend to focus on saints in \_\_\_\_\_?”
  - A. If we take a look at the Bible, we will see that the emphasis is on the saints who are living right here on \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. Whenever Paul speaks of saints, he is talking about members of the \_\_\_\_\_ — an *ekklesia*, a group of people who’ve been chosen by God and set apart to do his work in the world.
  - C. Saints are \_\_\_\_\_ people, according to Paul, but their \_\_\_\_\_ doesn’t come from achieving some kind of moral perfection.
  - D. The Greek word we translate as holy, *hagios*, means “separated” or “\_\_\_\_\_.”
  - E. One of the keys to our Christian \_\_\_\_\_ is that we are holy people, serving a holy Lord.

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\* Ephesians 1:1-23

F. The question for us today is what does holy \_\_\_\_\_ look like?

III. There are three elements of \_\_\_\_\_ living that I believe provide the foundation for sainthood in the afterlife.

A. First is \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord Jesus.

B. Second is \_\_\_\_\_ toward all the saints.

C. The third quality of sainthood is a spirit of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

IV. The \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ is we can have faith and love and wisdom in this world – *santo subito*.

A. After all we are \_\_\_\_\_ to be saints today - faithful and loving, seeking wisdom and revelation.

B. And when the church truly seeks to be saints, that may be the best \_\_\_\_\_ of all!

## ***Daily Meditations and Study Guide***

The following is a daily meditation and study guide meant to enhance your understanding of the message and grow as a Christian.

It is offered for your personal reflection or to share with others.

### **Monday, November 2**

Read Ephesians 1:1-23. John Paul II was on the fast track to sainthood — the fastest in history. The fans of John Paul II wanted the Vatican to cut through its normal red tape and pronounce him a saint right away. Although there was a great desire to see John Paul II declared a saint, there are many steps

that must still be accomplished. This inspires the question what is the purpose of officially recognizing saints?

Pope Benedict XVI was convinced that John Paul is now communing with the saints in heaven, inspiring and guiding the church from his new location. Many people believe the saints intercede on our behalf. Certainly they are part of the great cloud of witnesses that cheers us on in our daily living. (Hebrews 12:1) Pray that God will bless us through the support of those who have gone before us!

### **Tuesday, November 3**

Read Ephesians 1:1-23. From the protestant perspective it would be natural to ask the question, “Why is it that people tend to focus on saints *in heaven*?” If we take a look at the Bible, we will see that the emphasis is on *the saints who are living right here on earth*. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul writes, “I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints” (1:15). Whenever Paul speaks of saints, he is talking about members of the church — an *ekklesia*, a group of people who’ve been chosen by God and set apart to do his work in the world.

Saints are holy people, according to Paul, but their holiness doesn’t come from achieving some kind of moral perfection. The Greek word we translate as holy, *hagios*, means “separated” or “set apart.” For what purpose are you set apart or separated for service? For what service are you called to be a saint? Ask God for insight and direction in discovering your “service as a saint?”

### **Wednesday, November 4**

Read Ephesians 1:1-23. There are three elements of saintly living that provide the foundation for sainthood in the afterlife. First is faith in the Lord Jesus. This means trusting that Jesus is the way to God, but at the same time taking seriously that this way to God is a lifetime journey. The goal of the church should be to help people come into a living relationship with Jesus