ALL SOULS DAY

Today, we stand between heaven and earth. Yesterday, we celebrated the saints—those radiant souls who already see God face to face. But today, the Church's gaze turns toward those still journeying home—our beloved dead, our family members, our friends … the souls still being made ready to see God face to face.

This is a day of **holy remembrance**. We remember faces that once smiled across our tables, voices that once filled our homes, hands that once guided us, and hearts that once loved us deeply. And in this remembering, we proclaim something the world forgets: death does not have the final word. **Christ does.** AND because He does, **love does not die.** Love endures beyond the grave. It crosses that mysterious threshold between this life and the next, keeping us forever connected to those who have gone before us. All Souls Day is not about sorrow without hope. It is a day of love **that refuses to let go.**

We call this place of mercy, of love, purgatory—but it is not a place of punishment or fear. It is the fire of love—where God tenderly purifies the hearts of His children **so they can rest in His embrace.** Imagine a soul standing before the radiance of God—so pure, so holy, so radiant—that all pride, all selfishness, all stain of sin trembles and melts away. That is purgatory - **it is the burning away of all that is not love.** It is the mercy of God that says, **"I love you too much, to leave you unfinished."**

And the beautiful truth is this: we can help those in purgatory. Our prayers, our sacrifices, our Masses offered in their memory become bridges of grace. **They reach beyond time and space.** When we pray, **"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,"** we are not reciting an old prayer—we are letting the **fire of our love**, join the **fire of God's mercy**, hastening their journey home.

There may be souls who have no one left to pray for them. But the Church never forgets her children. Every name whispered today, every tear shed in love, is gathered into the hands of Christ, who conquered death and promises that, none who belong to Him, will be lost.

But this day also invites us to look at our own hearts. One day, we too will pass beyond this life. We too will stand before God and that same radiant Love. And so, we should ask: what do I need to let go of **now**? What part of me needs to be purified—**not someday**, but today? What needs to be healed, forgiven, or surrendered?

If we show mercy now, we will encounter the mercy of God then. If we learn to love now, we will be embraced by that same love of God forever.

So let us pray for the faithful departed. Let us love them with our prayers, honor them with our lives, and walk in hope—for the same God who welcomes them is preparing a place for us, too.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.