

I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count,  
from every nation, race, people, and tongue.  
They stood before the throne and before the Lamb.

REVELATION 7:9

SOLEMNITY OF ALL  
SAINTS

NOVEMBER 1, 2020

## Saint Martin de Porres (1579-1639)

### November 3

An old illustration pictures Martin de Porres, finger to his lips—“Shhhh!”—as several mice peek out of sacristy vestment drawers, preparing to join a rodent “procession” following him out of church! Martin’s rescue of these unwelcome guests, and statues depicting him, broom in hand, feeding a dog, cat, bird, and mouse from the same dish symbolize his life and sanctity. Initially denied entrance by the Dominicans because of his mixed race (Spanish father, Panamanian mother), Martin cherished society’s marginalized. For him, menial tasks, lovingly done, were sacred. Great and lowly alike feasted on his charity. Enemies were reconciled by this “poor mulatto” (his self-description), kind even to those whose racism demeaned him. Apprenticed to a surgeon-barber in his youth—thus patron saint of hair stylists and public health providers—Martin dispensed healing and dignity to Lima’s poorest, serving in them the Christ he adored for hours in the Blessed Sacrament. By the time he died, all Peru called him Martin the Charitable, a title even those of us who will never be called “saint” might still aspire to.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



## Readings for the Week

- Monday:** Wis 3:1-9; Ps 23:1-6; Rom 5:5-11 or 6:3-9; Jn 6:37-40, or any readings from no. 668 or from Masses for the Dead, nos. 1011-1016
- Tuesday:** Phil 2:5-11; Ps 22:26b-32; Lk 14:15-24
- Wednesday:** Phil 2:12-18; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Lk 14:25-33
- Thursday:** Phil 3:3-8a; Ps 105:2-7; Lk 15:1-10
- Friday:** Phil 3:17 — 4:1; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 16:1-8
- Saturday:** Phil 4:10-19; Ps 112:1b-2, 5-6, 8a, 9; Lk 16:9-15
- Sunday:** Wis 6:12-16; Ps 63:2-8; 1 Thes 4:13-18 [13-14]; Mt 25:1-13

There was a great multitude standing before the throne



## Our Hope and God’s Promise

The Church uses these waning November days and darker skies as the season to remind us of the last things. Today’s feast, the Solemnity of All Saints, is the centerpiece of three days that point to doctrines we proclaim each time we say the Apostles’ Creed: “We believe in the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.” And while the days and our hearts may be dark, the readings today are bright with the light of faith. John’s vision in the book of Revelation reveals dazzling angels and white-robed saints gathered in triumph around the throne of God. In the responsorial psalm we sing our longing to see God’s face, and in the second reading John writes that we are God’s children and will, in fact, see God “as he is” (1 John 3:2). This is our hope. This is God’s promise. Today we celebrate the triumph of those who already gaze on the face of God. Tomorrow we cry out for mercy with those in purgatory, who, like us on earth, still long to see God’s face.

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## Saints and Special Observances

- Sunday:** All Saints; Daylight Saving Time ends; National Vocation Awareness Week
- Monday:** Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls’ Day)
- Tuesday:** Thirty-first Week in Ordinary Time; St. Martin de Porres; Election Day
- Wednesday:** St. Charles Borromeo
- Friday:** First Friday
- Saturday:** Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday

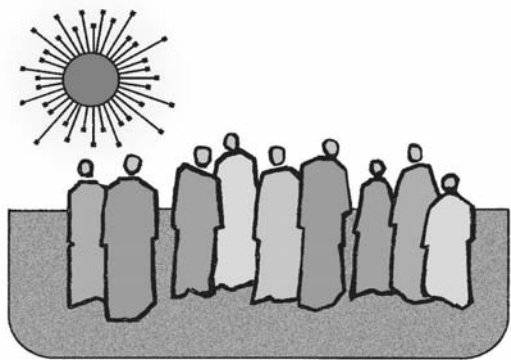
saint snippets

Let us follow the command of Jesus Christ: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

**Bl. Bernhard Lichtenberg**  
German priest and who spoke out against the concentration camps during World War II. He died in 1943 while being transported to the Dachau concentration camp.

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November 5



## The Solemnity of All Saints November 1, 2020

*See what love the Father has bestowed on us  
that we may be called the children of God.*

— 1 John 3:1

### *Treasures from Our Tradition*

“What is the Church if not the assembly of all the saints?” wrote the fifth-century bishop Niceta. Each Sunday, in the Profession of Faith, we express our belief in the communion of saints, the one body—with Christ as its head—made up of “those who are pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified and the blessed in heaven.” We are not alone! The preface for All Saints begins, “For today by your gift we celebrate the festival of your city, the heavenly Jerusalem, our mother.” What astounding words! All Saints Day (like every solemnity) is nothing less than the festival of the fullness of the paschal mystery, our dying and rising in Christ. Of course, now in autumn the mystery comes “clothed” in glorious autumnal garb, and so we celebrate our Easter faith with signs of the harvest, signs of nature’s dying, signs of the “homecoming” that happens naturally when the weather gets cold and families find themselves together more often. While the dying can point to our own mortality, the homecoming reminds us of the mystery of our own resurrection with Christ.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**T**oday we celebrate a glorious family reunion, the solemn feast that gives us a glimpse of all our brothers and sisters in Christ who have gone home to God before us. When we quiet ourselves to hear the Word of God today, we recall the mystery of our salvation. We praise the Lord who saves our loved ones who have died and who promises to have mercy on us as well. The reading from Revelation amazes us with its sweeping images of countless souls basking in God’s glory. The Responsorial Psalm echoes our own longing to join those saints and look on the face of God. Saint John’s letter affirms our deep desire to be with God, providing robust advice about how we may realize our hope: by living purely. The familiar words of Matthew’s Beatitudes show the way to purity—and to genuine happiness, now and forever.

#### **THE MISSION**

Successful organizations live by strong mission statements. All Saints’ Day reminds the Church of her mission: to know the love of God on earth in order to experience the fullness of God’s happiness forever in heaven. The Church herself—and each one of us, her members—can use this celebration to give thanks and to renew our commitment to evangelization. If the heart of Jesus desires to unite all souls in heaven, then we must spend time every day active-

ly praying for and serving God’s people. In our words and actions, we can pour Christ’s love into the world. We can be the light of the world, reminding everyone that this life is a foretaste of what is to come.

#### **THE REWARD**

God’s enemy, Satan, does not want us to think of heaven, prepare for heaven, or long for heaven’s peace. Satan wants us to forget about our connection to the Lord and live only for the glory we can find here and now. We feel that hellish



pull whenever we grow tired of doing good, especially when no one appreciates or thanks us. We know the temptation to despair when we hear skeptics ridicule believers, especially if we can’t point to convincing evidence that God provides for us that there is a life after this one. These shaky, uncomfortable experiences may come to

us once in a while, or they may take root in our hearts and burden us for years. This is precisely why we must celebrate All Saints’ Day with hearty gladness, because every single blessed soul in heaven is praying for us. The Communion of Saints is real, and the strength that Jesus sends to us through their prayers makes an actual difference in our lives. Just as we pray for one another here on earth, our big brothers and sisters in Christ continue to pray for us, inviting us to know and share the love of God.