

## All Saints' Day - Work and Prayer Retreat 2024

	Morning 7:15 am	noon 11:30 am	Evening 7 pm
Tuesday			Psalm 116 Lesson: Hebrews 12:1-13
Wednesday	Psalm 4, 5 Lesson: Ephesians 2:11-22	Psalm 105 Lesson: Matthew 16:24-17:8	Psalm 106 Lesson: 1 Thess 4:11-4:18
Thursday	Psalm 15,16 Lesson: Daniel 12:1-13	Psalm 107 Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17	Celebration Dinner 5 pm

### Quotes from the Early Church

(The Saints) have inspired aged men to accomplish with much love a long course, and constrained them to support their failing steps by the staff of the word; and they have stimulated women to finish their course like the young men, and have brought to this, too, those of tender years, yea, even creeping children. In this wise have the martyrs shown their power, leaping with joy in the presence of death, laughing at the sword, making sport of the wrath of princes, grasping at death as the producer of deathlessness, making victory their own by their fall, through the body taking their leap to heaven, suffering their members to be scattered abroad in order that they might hold their souls, and, bursting the bars of life, that they might open the gates of heaven. And if any one believes not that death is abolished, that Hades is trodden under foot, that the chains thereof are broken, that the tyrant is bound, let him look on the martyrs disporting themselves in the presence of death, and taking up the jubilant strain of the victory of Christ. O the marvel! Since the hour when Christ despoiled Hades, men have danced in triumph over death. "O death, where is your sting! O grave, where is your victory?" (1 Corinthians 15:55) *Gregory Thaumaturges*

In this way is the true Christian always pure for prayer. He also prays in the society of angels, as being already angelic of rank, and he is never out of their holy keeping; and though he pray alone, he has the choir of Saints standing with him.  
*Clement of Alexandria*

Let us too, brethren, give honour to God's saints. But how should we honour them? By imitating them and purifying ourselves "from all defilement of flesh and spirit" (2 Cor. 7:1), and hastening towards holiness through abstaining from all evils. *Gregory Palmas*

**Prayers adapted from *the Book of Common Prayer***

Almighty God, you have knit together your chosen people in one communion and fellowship in the body of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your Saints in virtuous and godly living in such a way that we may come to the joy which you have prepared for those that genuinely love you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Most merciful Father, in love you have taken our departed brothers and sisters into your presence. Grant to us who are still on our way to walk by faith so that having served you faithfully in this world, we may be joined to the company of your Saints in glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit: one God, forever and ever. Amen.

**Benediction**

May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. *1 Thessalonians 4:11-13*