

Feast of All Saints
St. Athanasius and St. Francis Parishes
October 31 and November 1, 2015

Well, tonight is (last night was) HALLOWEEN. It is a night of goblins, and ghosts, zombies, witches and wizards. It is the night when all kinds of scary things can happen, like skeletons hanging on trees and barns that are haunted with ghosts.

But think about this
HALLOWEEN
Our Father, who art in heaven, HALLOWED be thy name

Look at those words they look quite a bit alike.
How can the word used for a 'scary night' also be used for praying to God?

But it all makes some sense if we realize that HALLOWEEN is really
ALL HALLOWS EVE the night before ALL SAINTS DAY

The scary night leads into the blessed and holy day of ALL SAINTS.
Dark to Light
Scary to Holy
Devils to Saints

And that is what we are all supposed to do with our lives. Each one of us is to try to become holy, like a saint. The gospel tells us how to do this with the teaching about the Beatitudes. Poor in Spirit – recognize your need for God
Mournful - be concerned with the pain and suffering of others
meek and gentle - not pushy,
desire justice and what is right - respect others and do not prejudge them
clean of heart - be honest and truthful
peacemakers - instill a sense of calm, rather than causing drama
willing to suffer for Jesus - be a servant like Jesus

These kinds of attitudes, qualities will allow you to see the things of God and even to see God in those around you.

Now I would like to have you think about one more thing today's First Scripture tells us about a vision that St. John had. He saw a large large throng of people ... more than anyone could count ... from every nation and part of the world; so many that they did not even speak the same language. But they were all dressed in white (have children look out at the people in white)

Some one asked ... “Who are these people, and where did they come from?” The answer came ... “These are the ones who have struggled and persevered ... they have

lived good lives and have come through the struggle their robes have been washed white.” These are the holy people of God ... these are God's saints.

One final story about three little pumpkins

“The first pumpkin said “I want to remain just as I am. I never want to change.”

The second little pumpkin said: “I would like to be a jack-o-lantern, but I don't want to give up anything. I don't want anyone to carve my eyes, nose and mouth out of me. So, maybe I'll just 'PRETEND' to be a jack-o-lantern.

The third little pumpkin said, “I want to shine like the sun. I will give up part of myself to let the light shine out of me. I am willing to change. Open me up and let me give my light away. Let my light shine out of my eyes, my nose, and even my mouth.”

Now after a while the first pumpkin rotted away and disappeared into the ground.

And the same thing happened to the pumpkin who just PRETENDED to be a jack-o-lantern ... the one who didn't want to change, who would not give up anything of its nose, and eyes and mouth.

And now the third little pumpkin ... it also shriveled and turned into the soil. But somehow its light lasted in the hearts of many little children. They remembered the way it shared its light, and how its light had brightened up the night.

If you do this, my friends, you will one day be dressed in white around the throne of God and be known as one of the Saints. I think that is a pretty good idea and a pretty fine goal to seek.

POSTERS USED IN HOMILY:

HALLOWEEN

Our Father, who are in heaven

HALLOWED

be thy name

All Hallows Eve ...

the night before

All Saints Day HALLOWS (HOLY)

Dark to Light

Scary to Holy

Devils to Saints

Poor in Spirit (need for God) Mournful Gentle (meek, not pushy)

Honest Peaceful Willing to suffer (serve)