

Homily for All Saints Year A 2020

Being blessed can be misunderstood. The Beatitudes in the Gospel indicate different ways in which we are blessed. But blessings are not something to be stored away but lived and shared with others just as Jesus suggests. The Saints present us with public and concrete examples of how the beatitudes have been lived and shared; in many cases heroically. Saints have always been inspirational. **In sharing our blessings**, like the saints, we will make the world a better place, if not immediately, certainly in the future. The best place to start living our blessings is with our families. All parents are gifted with a special blessing for their children, so bless them often. Like love and all God's gifts, which are many, the more we give them away the stronger they become. The Saints inspire and encourage us to do this. They remind us of the importance of blessing which has the power to change people's lives in a way that makes God's presence more visible and more effective. What better way to give praise and glory to God!

Please don't lynch me, but the suffering caused by the pandemic is also a blessing. We are very aware of the selfish few who refuse to follow social distancing rules or wear a mask in designated places, causing the number of infections and deaths to rise unnecessarily. Being completely selfish and ignoring the safety of others, they cause the whole of society to suffer. Whether you have faith or none, the lesson is clear. We need to care for and protect those around us to ensure a future in which all will feel blessed if only because they have survived the pandemic when it is over. The pandemic has shown us, in no uncertain terms, how much we are socially interdependent on each other and also that together we can help change people's lives for the benefit of everyone.

The man whispered "God, speak to me"
and a meadowlark sang.
But the man did not hear.

So, the man yelled "God speak to me!"
and the thunder rolled across the sky.
But the man did not listen.

The man looked around and said "God let me see you"
and a star shone brightly.
But the man did not notice.

And the man shouted "God show me a miracle"
and a life was born.
But the man did not know.

So, the man cried out in despair.
"Touch me God and let me know that you are here!"
Whereupon God reached down and touched the man.
But the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on.

Please don't miss out on a blessing because it isn't packaged the way you expect.

A priest and a rabbi both prayed for me.

It was a mixed blessing!!!!

Jacob never needed to set up that complicated plan to steal the blessing from Esau.
He could have just sneezed and let Isaac say "Bless you, Jacob."