

Peace is ...Resting in God's Eternal Embrace

2Maccabees 7:9 " ...but the King of the world will raise us up to live again forever."

Psalms 17:15 "Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full."

2Thes 3:5 "May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ."

Luke 20:38 "...he is not a God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."

Reflection:

This past week we have celebrated the feasts of All Saints and All Souls. We, the faithful on earth, along with the holy souls in Purgatory, and the souls in heaven belong to the Communion of Saints. *"In this Communion, the merciful love of God and his saints is always attentive to our prayers for one another here and for the souls of the faithful departed."*¹ Particularly at every Mass and throughout the course of each day, God's merciful love connects us with the angels and saints who surround us, even though we may be unaware of how close they are to us, or of their intercession for us. Jesus has promised to be with us forever and though we may not think about it, we are already in God's embrace.

Gratefully, let us keep our focus on Christ, and on His Way, His Truth, and His Life, that we will live in a way that brings His Love and Mercy to others. When we accept and embrace His Love and His Mercy in this life, we can anticipate eternal life with joy. There is no fear, because we look forward to being immersed in the fullness of His Love and Mercy forever.

Purgatory

Purgatory is the name the Church gives to the process of purification that souls undergo in order to attain the holiness needed to be in God's presence in heaven. It is important for us to pray for the souls in Purgatory, so "that they might be delivered from their sin."...*"The Church also commends almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead."*² Mass offered for those who have died is an excellent way to help them to enter heaven. It is reassuring to us that we can make small sacrifices to console our loved ones who have gone before us.

As for our own purification process, we can start now! If we were called to account for our lives today, would we have any regrets? Have we put off reconciling with someone who is waiting for our forgiveness? Are there people in our lives whom we have neglected? Are there people with whom we need to seek forgiveness? Do we live as though we are all children of God, created equal in His sight?

Action:

- *Reflect on our belief in the Resurrection, and the great blessing of hope it brings us. Thank God!*
- *Look at the banner of names we remember this month. Let us pray for those who have died this past year, as well as our loved ones who have gone before us.*
- *Think of those people in our lives who have helped us on our faith journey, and give thanks. Let us consider how people will remember us. Let us strive to act in ways that will help others on their faith journey.*

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them forever."

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<http://www.sjbcatholicparish.org/peace-justice.php>

¹ U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults, USCCB, Washington, D.C., 2006, pp.160-161.

² *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 19947, pp. 268,269; #1031,1032.