

November 3-4, 2007
Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 11:22-12:2 Second Thessalonians 1:11-2:2 Luke 19:1-10

Zacchaeus got off easy. To encounter Jesus up close and personal all he had to do was climb a tree...and because of his zeal Jesus invited himself to his (Zacchaeus') home for an overnight visit. A story that brings a smile to our faces as we think of the height-challenged Zacchaeus clinging to a branch so as to see Jesus, nonetheless, the imagery rings true: to what lengths will we each go so as to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus? This weekend we continue honoring the Saints and Souls who have gone before us in death, who are remembered by us as the conveyors of the faith we cherish. These are the people who kept their eyes fixed on Jesus...and while some may have climbed trees, most of them lived ordinary lives. Some of the Saints are cloaked with the elaborate mystery of faith, Mary and Joseph come to mind, and thus we do not know much of their real-world daily lives. Other Saints however are contemporary figures, people who lived within the last century, who died in prison camps, who managed orphanages and health-care facilities for the impoverished. The Saints are those who, as a Universal Church, we can acknowledge as having heroically opened their lives to Jesus Christ. In acknowledging the Saints we do NOT worship them, we reverence them, in much the same way as we reverence George Washington, Abraham Lincoln or Florence Nightingale. Trusting that these individuals now reside in heaven and have their eyes continually fixed in God, we ask them to join their prayers with ours as we communally enter into conversation with God. While the Saints may be the Super Stars, the SOULS have titles that ring very personally in our hearts: they go by daddy, mom, sister, brother, friend, mentor, buddy, classmate, roommate, wife or husband. In these early weeks of November we tenderly call to mind our OWN litany of Saints, those people who, at least in our individual worlds, made a huge difference for US. Is there a Grandmother who taught you to pray the Our Father? Is there a Grandfather who walked you to Church on Sunday? Is there a deceased older brother or sister who kept you out of trouble or knocked the cigarette out of your mouth or broke the booze bottle before you could drink it? Who are YOUR saints that helped you to become who you are today? What's their story, how did they keep their eyes on Jesus? Did any of them ever climb a tree or go out on a limb to help you become who you are? All Saints and All Souls...pray for us (and with us!)

Thank you for being part of our Corpus Christi family as we enter into November. Enrollment envelopes for you to add your own beloved dead to our special Masses are still available on the Concierge Shelves. Please accept a Bulletin on your way home because there are lots of things coming up...FAST! Next weekend we will host our Autumn Merchant Fair so come prepared to linger and shop, perhaps for that perfect hostess gift in anticipation of Thanksgiving. Then, our BIG Parish Thanksgiving Dinner is Monday, November 19th...a mere two weeks away. Clipboards are available outside for you to sign up for the side dishes and/or to adopt a turkey to cook and bring back (we provide the turkeys, all 50 of them, but we need extra cooks.) Lots more info in the Bulletin so please accept one on your way home. As you tenderly recall your beloved Saints and Souls, remember, you are loved. FKB