All Saints Sunday A - Comments/questions on the lessons for November 1, 2026

I want to begin with some words I wrote about All Saints Day a few years ago:

We all have been touched by the same grace of God as the saints who have gone before us. We partake in the great cloud of witnesses even now. As the saints have shaped our faith, so we too are called to be role models and examples for our children and for those who follow after us. We too are saints.

Does this mean that we are perfect? By no means! Rather, we see ourselves as Martin Luther described us: "always at the same time both saint and sinner." But knowing the forgiveness and love of God, we rise again and walk on this journey of faith, striving each day to come closer to the way and faith that Jesus showed us. And if takes some encouragement from those who have gone before us, we will take that support as it comes.

Consider for the moment the following saints who have died over this past year:



Horace Sullivan



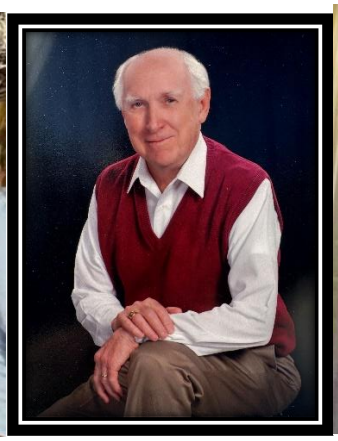
George Ramsay



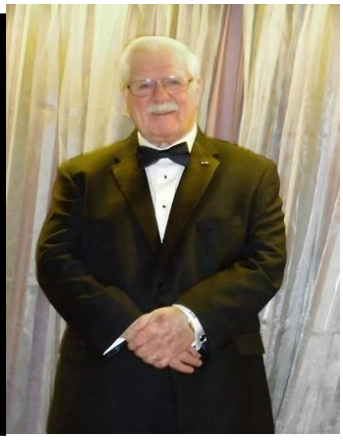
Arline Chapman



Charlotte Hall



Don Holcomb



Bob Hickly

Albert Fraser





Vizma Lazdans

Consider for a moment someone you know who has died over this past year.

- **How was your life touched by theirs? What quality or character trait of theirs encouraged your growth in faith or your understanding of God?**
- **What about you encourages other people's faith? What do you want said about you when you die?**

Revelation 7:9-17

- What does it mean that "these are they who have come out of the great ordeal"? What ordeal have they come through? When you think of the saints who have gone before us, whether from Epiphany or from your own experience, what ordeals did they go through? How did it show their strength and faith?
- What comfort do these verses give to you? What encouragement do these verses give to you?

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

- The psalm proclaims a complete trust in God, while at the same time appeals to those "saints of the Lord" who have shown that trust. How have the ones who have died this past year shown how to "taste and see that the Lord is good"? How do you show that to others?

1 John 3:1-3

- These short verses focus on the two questions that are at the foundation of our faith: Who are we? And Who are we called to be? The answers are: We are children of God, and We do not yet know but we trust. How are you doing with those questions in your life? How do we strive to know what God is going to reveal in and through us?

Matthew 5:1-12

- As we read the words of the Beatitudes, we are reading the qualities and virtues that God values. How do they differ from what the world values?
- As you consider the ones who have died this past year, which of these Beatitudes did they exemplify? Which ones do you exemplify?