



74th Year

June 7, 2026

Pamphlet #23 (3810)

**THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (Matt. 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30)
All Saints as guides for our journey**

The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

ALL SAINTS, THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

With poetic vividness, Saint John Chrysostom tells us that just as the seasons of the year follow one another, so too in the Church one feast follows another. We celebrated the Cross and the Resurrection of Christ, the Ascension and Pentecost. And today, the first Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate All Saints,

who are the sweet fruit of the descent of the Holy Spirit into the world and of the manifestation of the Church in history as a communion of deification and sanctification. The Church exists to create Saints, who are the friends of God and our friends, the source of inspiration for a consistent evangelical life for every believer.

Who are the Saints?

The Saints are the Martyrs of Christ, who shed even their blood so as not to deny God, the Father of lights, and all those who struggled in the spiritual arena of the Church and bore with patience the Cross of Christ, bearing witness through the martyrdom of conscience. Saints are also the Confessors, who confessed the good confession about the Incarnation, the Death, and the Resurrection of the Lord before those who opposed Him. They are the Fathers and Teachers of the Church who lovingly shepherded Christ's flock and established it on the correct faith; the Holy ones and Ascetics who crucified themselves, their passions and desires for the sake of Christ, who was crucified for our salvation; the people who walked on the earth of temptations and trials with trust and devotion to God, having the holy Gospel of Christ as the supreme criterion of their conscience.

Together with them, Saints are also the Prophets, the Righteous, and the Forefathers of the Old Testament, who lived in expectation of the promise, the fulfillment of God's pledge for the Incarnation of His Son. And before all of these, Saints are the Apostles of Christ and the God-proclaiming teachers of the whole world. Finally, above all in holiness is the Most Holy of the holy, the All holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, the Mother of the Incarnate Word. All the Saints were sanctified because the Holy Spirit of God dwelt within their being, making them temples of the living God (2 Corinthians 6:16), granting them to experience the communion of Christ's love, His unsurpassable power, and the grace of His miracle-working. And all this became possible because they entrusted themselves to the Lord of Glory with faith, repentance, prayer, participation in the life of the Church, and self-sacrificing love. For this reason, the Saints are the most

perfected Christians, who have been sanctified to the highest possible degree, and thus became bearers of God, bearers of Christ, and bearers of the Spirit. They responded with faith to the call of God: "Be holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).

Confession or Denial

The Gospel reading for the feast of All Saints refers to the way of the Cross, because to confess before others that you belong to Christ, to disregard their mocking remarks, and not to be influenced by the unpleasant consequences of this confession is not something easily achieved. Let us not forget that Christianity is the only religion that is persecuted even to the shedding of blood, even in our own days, when man boasts that he can exist without God. Furthermore, confession is a cross, because the way of life of the believer, his moral character, must correspond to his faith; that is, there must be consistency between words and deeds in our daily life. Likewise, taking up the cross upon one's shoulders and detaching oneself from earthly bonds are signs that characterize All Saints and reveal that in Christianity there is no room for compromise or adaptation. An external and unconscious confession of faith reveals superficiality and contradiction toward the unshakable truth that we truly belong to Christ.

Love spreads throughout the body of the Church

The Lord asks from those who want to follow Him an unlimited love for Him, without this meaning aversion or indifference toward one's fellow human being, since how can you truly love God when you do not love man? (1 John 4:20–21). All Saints sincerely loved the Crucified and Risen Christ, who embodied God's love for the world, and thus they truly loved everyone, even their enemies. What, then, does this way of life say to us today?

Archimandrite N. K.

June 7, 2026: 1st Sunday of Matthew

ALL SAINTS

Hieromartyr Theodotus of Ancyra; Venerable Sebastiana;
Priest Panagis (Basiás, †1883).

Pl. 4th Tone – Eothinon: 1 – Epistle: Hebrews: 11:33-12:2
– Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30

NEXT SUNDAY: June 14, 2nd Sunday of Matthew
Epistle: Romans 2:10-16 – Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

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