



■ † Sunday of All Saints

**By the Grace of the Holy Spirit
are we sanctified ***

The Holy Church commemorates Saints every day. Since, however, there have been God-pleasers who struggled in obscurity and were not revealed, the Church established a day on which we venerate all those who have been pleasing to God throughout the ages, so that there will not be anyone who is not glorified by her.

The Church set this commemoration immediately after the Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, because it is by the Grace of the Holy Spirit that so many people were sanctified and continue to be sanctified.

The Grace of the Holy Spirit engenders repentance and brings about the remission of sins; it guides us in the struggle against our passions and sinful desires, and crowns this endeavor with purity and dispassion. Thus a new creature arises, fit for a new heaven and a new earth. Let us be zealous to follow the Saints of God.

Today's Gospel passage teaches us how to achieve this: it demands fearless confession of faith in the Lord, exceeding love for Him, and bearing the cross of self-denial. Let us make a beginning according to these instructions.



(*) St. Theophan the Recluse, *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God.*