

peace be with you

# weekly devotional

from the desk of Rev. Marta Wheeler

SAINT PAUL BENSON

## Saints of the Church

As November appears on the calendar  
patron saints of the ages come to mind.  
Some say they intercede for us in prayer  
just as a friend would pray for you now.

I'm reassured thinking of Saint Anthony of  
Portugal finding lost people and wedding rings  
Santa Lucia carrying light in darkness  
And Saint Paul inspiring missionaries.

It's not as though patron saints of the ages  
lived entire lives of perfection, always  
appearing religiously pious  
while they prance joyfully down the lane.

The same goes for our beloved living saints.  
Ones who miraculously turn flour,  
sugar, and eggs into a thing of beauty  
and tastiness that never ceases to amaze.

Do you also recall the innumerable  
living saints who wondrously turn a piece  
of wood or metal into something  
unbelievably meaningful and true?

Come to think of it, we see you using  
your gifts for God's glory and dedicate  
your life in joy. I imagine you might  
be a saint, too. We give thanks for your devotion.

**November 3, 2021**

### ***1 John 3:1-3. (The Message)***

3 What marvelous love the  
Father has extended to us! Just  
look at it—we're called children  
of God! That's who we really are.  
But that's also why the world  
doesn't recognize us or take us  
seriously, because it has no idea  
who he is or what he's up to.

But friends, that's exactly who  
we are: children of God. And  
that's only the beginning.

Who knows how we'll end up!  
What we know is that when  
Christ is openly revealed, we'll  
see him—and in seeing him,  
become like him. All of us who  
look forward to his Coming stay  
ready, with the glistening purity  
of Jesus' life as a model for our  
own.

*Continued*

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November 3, 2021

## Saints of this Day

This week we celebrate All Saints Day along with Christians from around the world. On this day, we offer up our gratitude to the great “cloud of witnesses.” These saints may look ordinary to others but were used by God to inspire us on our journeys through the relationship we had with them.

Recently I’ve had good reason to consider that the saints also include church ladies who cook and bake. I’m impressed by the people, both male and female, who volunteer to cook for others even when they don’t have to do so. Hospitality by these saints of the kitchen far exceeds ham and cheese sandwiches, chips, and potato salad with excessive amounts of mayo added. Sainly people put out their finest home-canned beets and pickles, perfectly dressed salads in big bowls, and desserts that cause one to breathe in the goodness! Even the table is adorned with beauty. ☺

This autumn I am reminded of our Creator who has adorned the earth with red, yellow, orange, pink, and green. Such grand hospitality is basic in providing for our needs and our desire to be in relationship to God. Similar to the ways we are filled with gratitude to God, so we are thankful to the Methodist church ladies that put out a spread that fills the bellies of hungry people.

Of course, there’s no need to occupy our days aspiring to be a saint. We only need to use our God-given gifts and love one another as magnificently as we can muster.

*God’s joy, peace, and hope dwell within your spirit,*

*Marta*

Rev. Marta Wheeler