

Whenever I think about All Saints Day, I always think that it's meant to be a time of sorrow. I always think that it's supposed to be remembering everyone who has gone before us, and that we're supposed to be sad. When I was doing a service this week I realized in the middle of it, I don't know when, but at some point I stopped saying today is a day of sorrow. And when I start a funeral service, a memorial service, a celebration of life, I generally say, today is a day of sorrow. But somewhere I switched. And when we do the internment, I say today is a joyful day. And it's a joyful day for us. It hurts thinking about the people who are gone. It hurts remembering, but they're not here. But we should be joyful because we know that they're with God. We know that the suffering is over for all of them. We know that the pain is gone as well. And we get to do days like today, because we see that they're still here. We see what they created. We're fortunate enough this building has been here for a very long time. Other memories all throughout the church. The people that built it, of the people that built this group. In confirmation today, we talked about the difference between church and church. And they looked at me the exact same way most of you are.

I asked, what's the difference between church and church? What's the difference between faith and denomination? Because we use those words, I know the words are the same, but we use those four words interchangeably.

The church is us. It is the people that were here before us. It is the people that will be here after us. It is the people that make Saint Paul's who we are. They will never leave. He will never leave this building. You'll never leave our hearts. They'll never leave our memories, and they will never leave the memories of others. It's a joy that should be celebrated because we've won. We fought evil. Evil faces us every day in this world, and we find great ways to beat it.

If you came in through the basement, you saw all kinds of food on those tables because we're going to be bagging for Feeding the Kids. We are now helping over 45 kids in this community with food. When we started, we were helping seven.

That is a lesson that has been handed down in this church forever. We've always supported feeding people. We've always supported taking care of the hungry. It's a legacy that, even though people aren't physically here, we still carry on that mission. It's a wonderful thing that we do. It's a great way that we honor what has happened, and it's something that will carry on past this.

I was talking with one of my friends this week, and I saw the post that we were doing Revelation today, and the guy said " You're nuts. Our pastor never talks about Revelation. Revelation's too scary." Well, why is it scary? Today's verse wasn't scary. It was talking about victory. They're wearing white robes and carrying branches showing there are people everywhere surrounding Jesus, the land, people. It doesn't matter what race they are, what gender they are, or what their sexual orientation is.

John says, you know who we are. We know who they are. It is everyone. God speaks to us how we can hear that, and it says it right there. We all come together. In

the end, we have done God's bidding. We've learned from those before us, and we get to celebrate with all of them again. The countless numbers, the countless people that get to celebrate in God's love. So, it is a time of joy because we know we are guaranteed that we will see them again. And even though it hurts now, one day the pain will be gone. The suffering will be gone as it is for all of them. Let us pray.