

Cycle A B C

The Feast of All Saints

Lectionary #667

Reading I: Revelations 7:2-4, 9-14

This particular passage is addressed to a people who are anticipating persecution and possible martyrdom. Although highly symbolic in its language, this passage seeks to offer encouragement and **hope**. The **hope** that it offers is of future vindication. This is a fitting reading for the Feast of All Saints because it speaks to all who are in the midst of struggle. This is a feast that celebrates the saints who have arrived and persevered through their struggles and the saints (that's us) presently in the midst of struggles. It is indeed a feast for all, including those living now and those who have gone forth to everlasting life.

Reading 2: 1 John 3:1-3

Saint John's letter is indeed a letter that sends a message of **hope** as it reminds us of God's ever-present and everlasting love for us. God's love for us is made abundantly clear in our identification as God's children. As we live now, we cannot understand the true magnitude of God's love for us.

Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12a

This section of Saint Matthew's gospel is referred to most often as *The Beatitudes*. This passage is very important for those who wish to be followers of Jesus Christ. *The Beatitudes*, along with the 10 Commandments, comprise guidelines for *Kingdom* living that outlines the virtues of a disciple. This passage speaks of the **hope** that will be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God. The same **hope** that encouraged the saints before us continues to encourage us today.



build. plant. grow.
the word this week



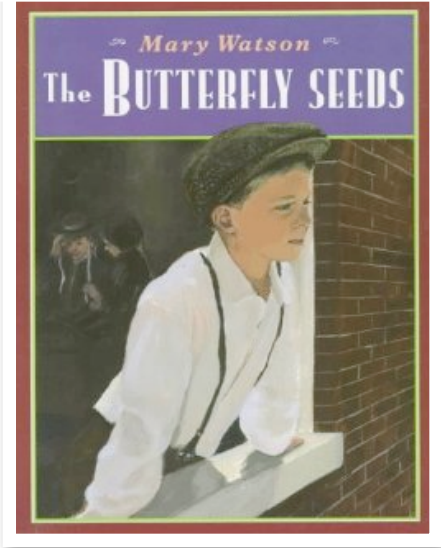
ordinary
time



lectionary
reading



children's
story



The Butterfly Seeds

Written by Mary Watson

Illustrated by Mary Watson

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character
education
activity

Hope is the recognition of things that are unclear and unknown. For the Christian hope is rooted in the very person of Jesus Christ.

The Butterfly Seeds

This is a story of great excitement coupled with sadness of being separated from someone you love. Jake is excited about the adventure of going to a new country (America) but is torn by the fact that his grandfather, whom he loves deeply, will not be traveling to America with him. His grandfather promises him some “magic seeds” that will draw all kinds of beautiful butterflies, Jake’s favorite creatures, to his new home in America. The story is very appropriate for the celebration of All Saint and All Souls, as we recall those who love us from above. *The Butterfly Seeds* is an exquisite story to use for the Feast of All Saints since the butterfly is also a symbol of resurrected life and **hope**.

Saintly Butterflies

Step One: Using a search engine such as Google, find “butterfly cutout free.” Choose a cut out large enough so students can paste pictures of saints on the wings (The pictures of the saints can also be found with the use of a search engine (images)).

Step Two: The students will do the search for various pictures of some of the saints and will choose the image of the saints they wish to paste to their butterfly’s wings.

Step Three: Have each student present their butterfly and the saints that adorn their butterfly’s wings to the class.

Step Four: Use a section of the classroom wall or a large bulletin board to construct a barren tree with brown construction paper. The students can then decorate with their “saintly” butterflies.

Christian hope is our belief that what God has promised will come about according to God's time and not according to our personal timeline, thus hope is intertwined with faith.



case study

**Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.**

What could you do today?

Speak with your family about the different saints you chose for your butterfly project. Talk about the things that you like so much about those saints and how you would strive to be like them in your own unique way. For example if you chose Saint Francis of Assisi because of his great love of nature you might want to care for the yard around your house by keeping it clean and raking up any leaves. You could also make a greater effort to care for any pets that are part of your family. You could also make a commitment to be very careful with use of water and encourage your family do so as well. By taking these measures you can bring **hope** to the part of the world that you have been given to care for.

Look Feel Know Act

If you look around at nature and the four seasons, you will see notice the different cycles to life. Think about spring which brings new birth and life. With summer comes growth and development. As autumn approaches you will notice a maturation of life and eventually with winter you will see what looks like death, yet in fact this is a stage that brings about spring once more. As you notice these changes and come to an understanding about how nature functions, you can apply the cycles of life in nature to what happens in the lives of human beings. You will come to know and believe that life has the ultimate victory over what looks to be death. Therein lies our **hope**, that God will see that we have a life that is everlasting.

The Butterfly Seeds offers a great opportunity to speak about the butterfly as a symbol of **hope**, new life and the resurrection. The Feast of All Saints celebrates the new life of holy women and men of faith who have gone before us and share in the everlasting life of heaven. Just as a caterpillar enters into a cocoon, where it seemingly looks lifeless, it is really in the midst of transformation. *The Butterfly Seeds* presents **hope** and new life for Jake as he enters into the uncertainty of life in a new place without his grandfather. The parallel with the Feast of All saints and the **hope** that this celebration offers can provide a great opportunity for the students to enter into the mystery of resurrected life, which is a key article of the creed of the Catholic Church.



**closing
tool**

Pray that you will turn to the Holy Spirit of God that dwells within when you are faced with any difficulty so that you may be hopeful in whatever situation you find yourself in life. Amen.



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