

# OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH

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*From the desk of Fr. Hubert*

## **Sermon on the Mount Superheroes: (Matthew 5:1-12)**

According to the National Retail Federation, 3.7 million children donned a superhero costume to go trick-or-treating this Halloween, not counting the 2.9 million who claimed their candy in the guise of Batman. Another 2.9 were princesses and a couple more million went as an animal. Of the 48% of adults who dressed for Halloween, a witch costume was the favorite choice.

Halloween, or All Hallow's Eve, is the night before All Saints Day, that holy day in the church calendar when we honor the saints, living and dead, who have transformed the Church with the faithful acts of their lives. When we look at the last day of October and the first day of November, we're challenged to see a modern connection between a night of sheer fun and sugar highs with a solemn day of recognition.

In Matthew 5, Jesus is outlining the Rules of Engagement for Christian Superheroes, also known as the Beatitudes. Blessed are the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek, the righteous, the persecuted, the pure in heart, the insulted, the seekers of righteousness. When Jesus delivered his famous Sermon on the Mount, he wasn't handing out Reese's peanut butter cups or M&Ms. He wasn't handing out tricks, either. But he was delivering treats in the form of God's promise that the good that we do is not ignored, no matter how poor and downtrodden and unsuccessful we seem to be to the world.

Mohandas Gandhi, the Mahatma, the man who brought independence to India through the practice of civil disobedience, once said, "I like your Christ . . . Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." It's true that when we look at ourselves, we are more familiar with the way we appear in our costumes. Dressed as the ambitious business owner or the aggressive attorney or the hard-driving, hard-working family breadwinner who puts food on the table, we don't see ourselves as a Beatitude. They wouldn't make very popular Halloween costumes, that's for sure. But on All Saints' Day, we see as God sees when he beholds his saints. We spend so much of our lives playing a part, living a role, dressing up in a costume to look like something we think we want to be. But what our spirits long for and our hearts hunger for is the peace of Christ. The saints found that peace.

Maybe Grandma couldn't leap tall buildings in a single bound, and maybe she never had enough money to go on a cruise or drive a fancy car, but she was the strongest person in the world when the family burdens needed to be carried. Honor the saints; they are the superheroes of the Church.

*Fr. Hubert*

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