ALL SAINTS

November 1, 2026

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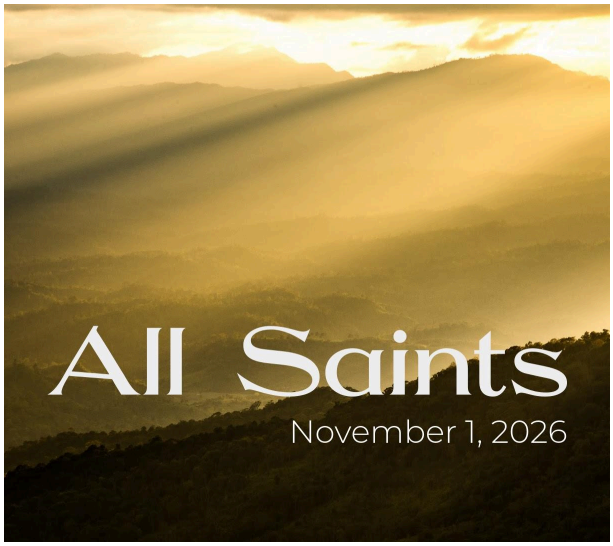

Romans 16:1-16

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a
deacon of the church at Cenchreae, [2]so
that you may welcome her in the Lord
as is fitting for the saints, and help her in
whatever she may require from you, for
she has been a benefactor of many and
of myself as well.

3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, who work
with me in Christ Jesus, [4]and who risked
their necks for my life, to whom not only
I give thanks, but also all the churches of
the Gentiles. [5]Greet also the church in
their house. Greet my beloved
Epaenetus, who was the first convert* in
Asia for Christ. [6]Greet Mary, who has
worked very hard among you. [7]Greet
Andronicus and Junia, my relatives who
were in prison with me; they are
prominent among the apostles, and
they were in Christ before I was. [8]Greet
Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord.
[9]Greet Urbanus, our co-worker in Christ,
and my beloved Stachys. [10]Greet Apelles,
who is approved in Christ. Greet those
who belong to the family of Aristobulus.
[11]Greet my relative Herodion. Greet those
in the Lord who belong to the family of
Narcissus. [12]Greet those workers in the
Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the
beloved Persis, who has worked hard in
the Lord. [13]Greet Rufus, chosen in the
Lord; and greet his mother—a mother to
me also. [14]Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon,
Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the
brothers and sisters who are with them.
[15]Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his
sister, and Olympas, and all the saints
who are with them. [16]Greet one another
with a holy kiss. All the churches of
Christ greet you.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage(s) slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase, or image stands out to you?
2. Paul ends his letter with personal greetings, acknowledging important people to him and to the church. When you think back on churches, schools, or communities you have been a part of, what list of names comes to mind in those contexts?

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3. You may not greet your acquaintances, or even your friends and family, with a kiss. What “greeting rituals” are more familiar to you? Have you ever participated in more elaborate or silly ones (like the 2 minute long pre-orchestrated handshake with 17 motions)? Who did you create these greeting rituals with?
4. Phoebe is the one carrying the letter Paul has written to the church at Rome. She is the only person in scripture named as a deacon and benefactor, and Paul lists her credentials to help the community receive her well. While women were later downplayed for their role in the early church, Phoebe is one (among many) who are shining examples of women leading in intrepid and important ways. Why is it so important to have examples of leaders like Phoebe?
5. Who would you list as your “saints” - the people who have shaped, inspired, and transformed your faith and leadership? Reflect on one of these people and share what lessons or impact you still carry with you.
6. Consider writing a letter or note to one of your saints, thanking them for what they mean to you.