

Nov. 1, 2015 - All Saints' Day — *"When Can We Expect 'Eternal Life'?"*

Gospel lesson on the raising of Lazarus begins with a sense of urgency

- Mary and Martha were 'losing' Lazarus, and so turned to Jesus, their dear friend
- Jesus was by the Jordan River (about 17 miles) in fear of his life
- Jesus remained 2 full days before making his way to Bethany. Lazarus had died.
- Martha expressed faith, but not for a miracle. Believed in 'resurrection' but only as an 'afterlife'
- Jesus: "I am the resurrection and the life . . . whoever believes in me shall never die
- Lazarus was brought from death to life

Message of our Church is to believe! This miracle proved to be a watershed in the life of Jesus.

- Challenge to authorities
- Also, a challenge to us. It says we are born to eternal life. We are called from our tombs of sin to call others to new life. Not even the gates of hell shall prevail against those who believe!

All Saints Day is about us – how we respond to Jesus' power to raise Lazarus, and how we respond to God's power to raise Jesus, and us.

- What do we say about people who live life out as Christians. Have they been 'resurrected'?
- We raise up those of our members who have died this past year. Have they been 'resurrected'?
- We will honor a couple of our 'saints' today. Do we believe they will be 'resurrected'? And, how about us?