

**Subject:** New From St. Francis

**From:** St. Francis Episcopal Church <vicar@stfrancisva.org>

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**To:** Larry <lckiddjr@gmail.com>

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October 31, 2013

## ***Blessed?***

*Blessed are the poor in spirit  
for theirs is the kingdom of God  
Luke 6:20*

### ***Blessed***

So tomorrow is All Saints' Day (making today halloween- I hope your costume is more fun than it ever has been). The question comes up, "what is a saint?" I like to take a simple answer for that one. I like the idea of "blessed" in the verse above to help with the answer. "Blessed" in the way Jesus uses it here when he describes the poor in spirit has to do with the state of being already blessed. You are blessed because you know you have been loved and chosen by God. As a result your life is continually filled with the love and mercy of God and you want to do things to extend that kingdom of mercy. By the way, if you are loved by God you are a saint already in the sense that every Christian is a saint.

### ***The Challenge***

There is a challenge in all of this, among others: What do saints do to show they have been loved and chosen by God already? The basic answer is by doing good works. That raises a deeper question. When you do good are you giving back or giving to Jesus? When you are giving back (which is a very good thing to do) you are giving what you decide to give out of your own means. When you give to Jesus you are giving what He asks you to give because you are following Him. When you give back you give out of a sense of accomplishment and gratitude. These are excellent things. When you give to Jesus you are giving to extend the kingdom of God and listening to Him for what, where, when and how to give. You are giving out of a sense of being blessed. Saints tend to give to Jesus out of a sense of being blessed with the confidence that His kingdom of mercy will be extended.

## **Coming Attractions**

***Sunday November 3*** 10:00am worship. Book study at the coffee hour

### ***Centerville Circle of Prayer***

For Centerville Imports and Auto Repair that the customer base would grow, and that all vehicles would safely operate on the road.  
That you would provide transportation for all people in our region.

### ***Praying for Metropolitan Richmond***

For all in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond: For the unemployed and underemployed, for suitable work, living waters, and fair benefits for all workers in this metropolitan area,; and for sufficient employment to make healthy family life possible.  
That all would have work, dignity, and provision

### ***Diocesan Cycle of Prayer***

For the Congregations and clergy of All Saints-Sharon Chapel, Alexandria; St. Aidan's Alexandria; Church of the Spirit, Kingstowne; and St. James', Mt. Vernon.  
That Your church would be continually filled with your Spirit

Grace and Peace,  
John Maher

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