**July 16 – All Saints Brunch Idea**

Today we are thankful for all the saints in our lives. The people who have or still do inspire and encourage us. We remember too that we are an encouragement to others. God’s way is definitely that we are a channels of his love to each other.

As it says in **1 Corinthians 12:4-11 The Message (MSG)**

**4-11**God’s various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people!

**Opening prayer Idea -** <https://re-worship.blogspot.com.au/2011/10/responsive-call-to-worship-all-saints.html>

**Story – The house that Jane built.**

I thought we would begin our time together with a story. A true story of how a young woman changed her neighbourhood. <http://www.storylineonline.net/house-that-jane-built/>

**Activity – Name stickers** Every saint is a work in progress. But God has promised to bring that work to completion one day as we work with him and he works in us. This is why we need to be kind to each other and understanding, as well as stand in awe of each other - individually we are each his workmanship! To remind us of this, let us give each other a new name label today and, using this, pray for each other.

Arrange for a set of white sticky labels to be available for each row, table or area within the church. People turn to the person beside them and each write or draw a label for the other that says:

**Saint...** (name of the person)

As each person sticks the label on to the other person, invite them to say a simple sentence prayer of blessing for that person either aloud or silently.

Conclude by all saying: We are the Saints of God... (name of church)... God is at work in us.

Pray God's blessing on the saints at work in your church and their work beyond the church.

**Toasts**

**Hand around cups of juice.**

It has been interesting and encouraging over this past month to hear the stories of a soccer player, a doctor, a teacher and soldier turned health worker. I invite you to think of someone who you are thankful for today. Someone who was or is an encouragement to you in your life.

**Play song**

I invite you now to raise your glasses and go around your table and just in a sentence share the person you would like to raise a glass to today and why.

**Leader makes a toast to all of the saints.**

**Optional extra game:**

**Name bingo**

We are going to play a little saint bingo game now.

Write the first 8 letters in your full name.

Cross them off as we pull the letters out of a hat!

**Benediction Idea**

Go on your way rejoicing;

Surrounded as you are by such a great cloud of witnesses,

take courage as you face each new challenge,

and comfort when you pick yourself from a fall,

In whatever good you choose to do,

precede it with hope,

accompany it with prayer,

and follow it with thanksgiving.

The blessing of God Most Wonderful,

whom the saints have trusted as

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

will be with you

now and ever more.

Amen!

 By Bruce Prewer

**Brunch**