

Today we have gathered in this place to remember Alice Marie Andrews. But more than honoring her for a life well-lived, we come to accompany her with our prayers on this final leg of her eternal journey.

In the Gospel, we hear the familiar words of the Beatitudes. “*Blessed are those ...*” repeated eight times, and the fruits of those blessings ... “*comfort ... fullness ... mercy ...*” but even more than these things, we hear the eternal blessings ... to be a child of God, to see God, and to inherit the Kingdom of God ... for all these blessings, we are to “*rejoice and be glad*”.

And yet, death doesn't often bring us to that point. And so we turn to Sacred Scripture in reflection ... and we turn to God in prayer. We pray for comfort, fulfillment, and mercy ... for ourselves and those we love. And we pray for Alice as she goes forth into her eternal inheritance.

St. John in the Book of Revelation tells us that he saw “*a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away*” and that God is “*making all things new.*”

Like the Beatitudes, we also hear in Revelation that “*[t]hose who conquer will inherit these things ... they will be [God's] children.*”

Let us pray for Alice and those who have gone before us ... especially her husband Clarence. And we pray for ourselves as we mourn. May we know ... and may Alice and Clarence know ... God's comfort, fulfillment, and mercy.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. *And let perpetual light shine upon them.*

May they rest in peace. *Amen.*

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen.*