

November is the Month of the Holy Souls, a Month of Prayer for our Beloved Dead

All Souls Day

November 2nd is All Souls Day. From All Souls Day until the First Sunday of Advent the Catholic practice of visiting cemeteries and praying for our deceased is practiced. We have traditionally called November 2nd le Jour des Morts, the Day of the Dead.

Visiting Cemeteries and Praying for the Dead

In visiting the graves of our loved ones and in visiting the cemetery, we do it in reverence, respect, love and care. Their bodies were temples of the Holy Spirit. While their souls live on in God's care, their remains sleep in the cemetery waiting for the General Resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

We can say a simple prayer:

Eternal rest grant unto him/her/them, O Lord.

R. And let perpetual light shine upon him/her/them.

May his/her/their soul(s) and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R. Amen.

Follow with one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be.

Another prayer we may want to do is the following:

Nine Days of Prayer for the Departed

[Begin this novena on any day of the week and continue through the seven days of the week, repeating the two days you began the week until you have accomplished nine consecutive days.]

SUNDAY

O Lord God, by the Precious Blood which Your divine son, Jesus, shed in the Garden, deliver the souls in Purgatory, especially those souls who are the most forsaken of all. Bring them into Your glory where they may praise and bless you forever. Amen.

Our Father., Hail, Mary.,

Eternal rest give to them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

MONDAY

O Lord God, by the Precious Blood which Your divine Son, Jesus, shed in His cruel scourging, deliver the souls in Purgatory, and among them those souls who are nearest to sharing Your glory, that they may fully praise and bless You forever. Amen.

Our Father., Hail, Mary.,

Eternal rest give to them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

TUESDAY

O Lord God, by the Precious Blood of Your divine Son, Jesus, which was shed in His bitter crowning with thorns, deliver the souls in Purgatory, and among them those souls who are in greatest need of our prayers, in order that they

may not long be delayed in praising you fully in Your glory and blessing you forever. Amen.

Our Father., Hail, Mary.,

Eternal rest give to them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

WEDNESDAY

O Lord God, by the Precious Blood of Your divine Son, Jesus, which was shed in the streets of Jerusalem while He carried the Cross, deliver the souls in Purgatory, especially those who are richest in merits in Your sight, so that when they have attained the high place to which they are destined, they may praise You triumphantly and bless You forever. Amen

Our Father., Hail, Mary.,

Eternal rest give to them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

THURSDAY

O Lord God, by the Precious Body and Blood of Your divine Son, Jesus, which on the night before his passion He gave to His beloved Apostles and willed to His holy Church as a perpetual Sacrifice and spiritual nourishment, deliver the souls in Purgatory. Most of all, deliver those who were devoted to the mystery of the Eucharist, that they may praise You together with Your divine Son and the Holy Spirit in Your glory forever. Amen.

Our Father., Hail, Mary.,

Eternal rest give to them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

FRIDAY

O Lord God, by the Precious Blood which Jesus, Your divine Son, shed upon the Cross this day, deliver the souls in Purgatory, particularly those souls nearest to me and for whom I should pray, that they may come quickly into Your glory to praise and bless You forever. Amen.

Our Father., Hail, Mary.,

Eternal rest give to them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

SATURDAY

O Lord God, by the Precious Blood which came forth from the sacred side of Your divine Son, Jesus, in the presence and to the great sorrow of His holy Mother, deliver the souls in Purgatory, especially those souls most devoted to this noble Lady, that they may come quickly into Your glory, to praise You with her throughout all ages. Amen.

Our Father., Hail, Mary.,

Eternal rest give to them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

EVERY DAY OF THE NOVENA

O Lord, hear my prayer.

And let my cry come to You.

O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful; grant to the souls of your servants and handmaids the remission of all their sins: that through our sincere prayers they may obtain the pardon they have always desired. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE
Guidelines from the Office of Worship

CREMATION
And the Burial of Cremated Remains

Disposition of the bodies of deceased Catholics by means of cremation is a fairly recent development. At one time the Roman Catholic code of canon law forbade the practice of cremation. In 1963 the instruction *Piam et Constanter* issued by the Holy Office (now the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith) stated that “the practice of burying the bodies of the faithful is by all means to be kept,” but that allowance could be made for cremation in cases of necessity as long as it was not chosen as a sign of denial of the Christian teaching of the resurrection of the dead and the immortality of the soul. This 1963 concession is provided for in the 1969 *Ordo Exsequiarum*, the Latin edition of the revised Catholic funeral ritual. It was later incorporated into the 1983 Code of Canon Law in canon 1176:

“The Church earnestly recommends that the pious custom of burying the bodies of the dead be observed; it does not, however, forbid cremation unless it has been chosen for reasons which are contrary to Christian teaching.”

The current *Order of Christian Funerals* for Roman Catholic Churches in the United States was published in 1989. In 1997 the National Conference of Catholic Bishops requested and received from the Apostolic See an indult to permit the diocesan bishop to allow the presence of the cremated remains of a body at the Funeral Liturgy in the dioceses of the United States. The texts and adaptations for the celebration of the funeral rites were published as an appendix to the Order of Christian Funerals. This *Appendix on Cremation* is to be used in funeral rites in the presence of the cremated remains of a body.

The *Appendix on Cremation* addresses the issue of the burial of the cremated remains of a body in section 417:

“The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they come. This includes the use of a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement and transport, and the final disposition. *The cremated remains should be buried in a grave or entombed in a mausoleum or columbarium. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires.* Whenever possible, appropriate means for recording with dignity the memory of the deceased should be adopted, such as a plaque or stone which records the name of the deceased” [italics added].

Excerpted from the USCCB *Reflections on the Body, Cremation, and Catholic Funeral Rites and the Appendix on Cremation* from the Roman Ritual Order of Christian Funerals. For additional information, please contact the Office of Worship at 337-261-5554.