

All Souls Day—November 2

On **All Souls Day** each year, we remember all of those who have died. Having celebrated the victory of all the saints the day before, we especially commemorate and pray for those who are in **Purgatory**. Our union with all of those who have been saved by Christ is not severed even by death. We are still one in Christ, and we can intercede for those who are being cleansed of any attachments that keep them from loving God purely and with their whole being.

God wants us to be one in Him. He wants us to be one family in Christ. He does not only want us to have a relationship with Him (which He definitely does want). He also wants us to love and care

for one another. All those in heaven, in Purgatory, and on earth who are united to Christ through Baptism are part of the **Communion of Saints**. By praying for those in Purgatory, we are caring for our family, both our relatives who are in Purgatory and our brothers and sisters in Christ who are in Purgatory. To celebrate All Souls Day is to care for those who have gone before us.

All Souls Day is a reminder of an obligation that we have all year long—to pray for the dead. The Church has even

always called praying for the dead one of the **Spiritual Works of Mercy**.



Collect Prayer for All Souls Day

Merciful Father, hear our prayers and console us. As we renew our faith in your Son, whom you raised from the dead, strengthen our hope that all our departed brothers and sisters will share in his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Requirements for Obtaining a Plenary Indulgence on All Souls Day (2 Nov)

- Visit a church and pray for souls in Purgatory
- Say one “Our Father” and the “Apostles Creed” in the visit to the church
- Say one “Our Father” and one “Hail Mary” for the Holy Father’s intentions (that is, the intentions designated by the Holy Father each month)
- Worthily receive Holy Communion (ideally on the same day if you can get to Mass)
- Make a sacramental confession within 20 days of All Souls Day
- For a plenary indulgence be free from all attachment to sin, even venial sin (otherwise, the indulgence is partial, not plenary, “full”).

You can acquire one plenary indulgence a day.

A partial indulgence can be obtained by visiting a cemetery and praying for the departed. You can gain a plenary indulgence **each day you visit a cemetery between 1 November and 8 November**. These indulgences are applicable only to the Souls in Purgatory.

A plenary indulgence, applicable only the Souls in Purgatory, is also granted when you **visit a church or a public oratory on 2 November**. While visiting the church or oratory say one Our Father and the Apostles Creed.