

All Souls Day: November 2

What is it about?

This is a day to honor the memory of loved ones and to find hope in the promise of eternal life. It is a time to express love and remembrance, and to connect with one's spiritual life.



How do Catholics observe this day?

- Visiting cemeteries
- Celebrating Mass
- Praying
- Lighting candles
- Reflecting



"Church tradition has always urged prayer for the dead, in particular by offering the celebration of the Eucharist for them: it is the best spiritual help that we can give to their souls, particularly to the most abandoned ones."
– Pope Francis

Remember that visiting a cemetery is a personal act of love and remembrance; use this pamphlet as a guide to express your own unique feelings and prayers for the departed.

*St. Mary/
St. Stephen Cemeteries*
1314 Greenwood Ave., Hamilton, Oh 45011
www.StMaryStStephenCemeteries.com
(513) 737-1600

This pamphlet can't possibly cover all the options that are available for praying for the departed. Please see these additional resources for guiding you on your prayer journey:

www.dynamiccatholic.com
www.thedivinemercy.org
www.catholic.org
www.hallow.com
www.usccb.org
www.divinewordmissionaries.com

Remembering the Departed:

A Guide to Praying at the Cemetery

Introduction

- Visiting a cemetery is a way to connect with loved ones who have passed and to offer prayers for their souls.
- This pamphlet provides a framework for prayerful reflection at a gravesite, allowing you to express your love, gratitude, and hope for the departed.
- Praying for the living and the dead is a spiritual work of mercy.
- Praying for the dead can fulfill an indulgence in the Catholic faith.

Before Entering the Cemetery

- **Opening prayer:** "Heavenly Father, as we enter this sacred space, we ask for your grace to guide our hearts and minds as we pray for those resting here."
- **Moment of Silence:** Take a moment to center yourself and reflect on the purpose of your visit.

At the Grave Site:

- **Greeting:** "Dear (Name of deceased), we come before you today with love and remembrance."
- **Share Memories:** Recall cherished moments, stories, and qualities of the departed that brought joy to your life.
- **Prayer of Gratitude:** "Thank you, Lord, for the gift of (Name of deceased)'s life and the love they shared with us."

Prayers for the Departed:

- **Traditional Prayer:** "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace."
- **Prayer for Comfort:** "We pray for comfort and peace for their loved ones left behind, knowing that they are now in your loving embrace."

Closing the Visit:

- **Final Blessing:** "May the Lord bless and keep (name of deceased) in His eternal peace."
- **Leave a token:** Consider placing a flower or small memento on the grave as a symbol of your love and remembrance.

Optional Prayers:

- "O God, by whose mercy the faithful departed find rest, bless this grave, and send your holy angel to watch over it."
- "Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death."
- Pray the Rosary
- Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Pray a novena of your choice
- Having a Mass said for someone is a powerful way to intercede for someone. This is called a Mass intention or request. You can contact a Church, religious order, or shrine to request a Mass.

Personal Prayer:

- Share your own heartfelt words and requests for the deceased, expressing your love and longing for them. You can ask for their prayers.

Important Considerations:

- **Respectful Attire:** Dress appropriately for the solemnity of the cemetery.
- **Be mindful of others:** Maintain quiet reverence during your visit.

How to obtain an indulgence for the dead

Visit a cemetery and pray for the dead

anytime between
November 1 - 8

Visit a church or oratory on All Souls' Day (November 2)

Pray an Our Father and
the Creed

Confession

Confess your sins to a priest

Holy Communion

Attend Mass and receive
with this intention in your
heart

Pray for the Pope

Pray for the intention of the
Pope

