

*The Church dedicates the month of November to the faithful departed: those who need our prayers as God prepares them for complete and total union with Him and all the angels and saints.*

*Christ entrusts to the Church the “treasury of merit,” all the Graces He has won for mankind through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection, and with that all the Graces His people have participated from the Blessed Virgin Mary on down to us. Since God united Himself intimately to human nature in the Incarnation, the bonds of our humanity take on a strength they would not otherwise have. We help each other out here, and hereafter!*

*Pope Francis has extended for the entire month of November a plenary indulgence (full remission of the temporal punishment due to sin) for those who visit the graves of their loved ones and pray for the repose of their souls. Indulgences are not things to rack up for ourselves but to apply to those God knows needs them. We trust others are doing this and have done it with us in mind as well. This indulgenced prayer can take place on site or remotely from wherever we are. There is no set formula for this prayer, but the standard Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be are a good example. The texts included here speak to our union with the deceased in life and in death, and are worth adopting.*

*This is the text of “Prayers that may be said at the grave of the person deceased” from the 1962 Parish Ritual, adapted for modern usage (simply by modernizing the pronouns).*

O God! the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, hear our supplications and through Your infinite love and mercy graciously grant to the soul of Your servant departed the remission of all his/her sins, by which he/she may have deserved the severity of Your justice and punishments in the world to come. Grant to him/her grace and mercy before Your tribunal and let him/her attain to everlasting rest and happiness through the infinite merits of Jesus Christ. Amen.

FOR THOSE PRESENT AT THE BURIAL

O God! great and omnipotent Judge of the living and the dead! Before Whom we are all to appear after this short life to render an account of our works. Let our hearts, we pray, be deeply moved at this sight of death, and while we consign the body of the deceased to the earth, let us be mindful of our own frailty and mortality, that walking always in Your fear and in

the ways of Your commandments, we may after our departure from this world experience a merciful judgment and rejoice in everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, we beseech Thee, that while we lament the departure of our brother/sister, Your servant, out of this life, we may bear in mind that we are most certainly to follow him/her. Give us grace to make ready for that last hour by a devout and holy life and protect us against a sudden and unprovided death. Teach us how to watch and pray that when Thy summons comes, we may go forth to meet the Bridegroom and enter with Him into life everlasting. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty and most merciful Father, Who know the weakness of our nature, bow down Your ear in pity unto Your servants, upon whom You have laid the heavy burden of sorrow. Take away out of their hearts the spirit of rebellion and teach them to see the good and gracious purpose working in all the trials, which You send upon them. Grant that they may not languish in fruitless and unavailing grief, nor sorrow as those who have no hope, but through their tears look meekly up to You, the God of all consolation. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

*We don't pay for indulgences, but we do sacrifice for them. The Church requires the following conditions: recitation of the appropriate prayers, or performance of the appropriate acts of charity; within a reasonable time, reception of the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Reconciliation, and prayer for the Holy Father, the Pope, whom Jesus entrusted with the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 16).*