

World Mission Sunday: Today is World Mission Sunday! Today, every parish across the globe joins together for the only worldwide collection mandated by Canon Law-World Mission Sunday. Your generosity today supports the Pope's missions in more than 1,124 territories where the Church is young or struggling. This year's theme-**"Missionaries of Hope Among the Peoples"**-is a call to embody the love of God, poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (cf. Rom 5:5). Your offering today provides hope where despair too often dominates through the building of churches, formation of seminarians and religious sisters, healthcare clinics, and Catholic schools. Thank you for responding with faith, love, and generosity. As Pope Francis told us, "Each of us is a mission on this earth" (Evangelii Gaudium, 273). Together, we share in that mission by ensuring that no one is excluded from the invitation to encounter Christ.

1. What is All Souls' Day?: All Souls' Day, celebrated on November 2, is the day the Church dedicates to prayer for all the faithful departed—those who have died but are still being purified in Purgatory before entering heaven. It complements All Saints' Day (Nov 1), which honors those already in heaven. **Scriptural Roots:** 2 Maccabees 12:45 — "It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins." This is the biblical foundation for praying for the souls in Purgatory. 1 Corinthians 3:15 — "If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire." Theologians interpret this as purification after death. **Magisterium:** The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1030–1032) teaches that: "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." **2. The Importance of All Souls' Day:** It expresses our faith in the Communion of Saints — the living, the departed, and the saints in heaven are united in Christ. It's an act of charity toward the dead, since they cannot pray for themselves. It strengthens hope in eternal life and reminds the living of the need for conversion. **Saintly Insights:** St. John Chrysostom said: "Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them." St. Catherine of Genoa, who wrote on Purgatory, noted that souls there are filled with peace and joy, knowing they are moving toward God. St. Augustine prayed for his mother, St. Monica, who said: "Remember me at the altar of the Lord wherever you may be." **3. How to Celebrate All Souls' Day:**
a. Attend Mass: The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the most powerful prayer for the souls in Purgatory. The Church even allows priests to celebrate three Masses on this day (by decree of Pope Benedict XV). **b. Visit Cemeteries:** The faithful are encouraged to visit cemeteries, pray for the dead, and gain indulgences (see below). **c. Offer Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet :** The Rosary offers Our Lady's intercession. The Divine Mercy Chaplet emphasizes Christ's mercy on all souls. **d. Acts of Penance:** Offer sacrifices, fasting, or works of mercy for the souls of the departed. **4. What is an Indulgence?:** According to CCC 1471 and Canon Law (CIC 992): "An indulgence is the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven." In other words, after sin is forgiven, its effects (temporal punishment) may remain. Indulgences remove or lessen this punishment through the Church's authority. **5. Types of Indulgences:** There are two types: 1. Plenary indulgence — removes all temporal punishment. 2. Partial indulgence — removes part of it. **6. Indulgences on All Souls' Day:** The Apostolic Penitentiary grants special indulgences from November 1–8: A. Plenary Indulgence: Gained by visiting a cemetery each day and praying for the dead, under the usual conditions: 1. Sacramental confession (within about 20 days). 2. Reception of Holy Communion. 3. Prayer for the intentions of the Pope. 4. Detachment from all sin (even venial). B. Partial Indulgence: Can be obtained by devoutly praying for the dead on other days or circumstances. The indulgence can be applied only to souls in Purgatory, not to the living. **7. Prayers During Cemetery Visit:** You can pray in your own words or use traditional ones, such as: **a. The Eternal Rest Prayer:** Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen. **b. Psalm 130 (De Profundis):** "Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord..." **c. Rosary for the Dead:** **d. Litany for the Faithful Departed:** Lord, have mercy on the souls of the faithful departed... **8. Teachings of Saints and Theologians:** St. Thomas Aquinas (Summa Theologica, Supp. Q.71): Teaches that prayers and Masses for the dead benefit them because of the communion of charity among all members of the Church. **St. Padre Pio:** "We must empty Purgatory with our prayers." **St. Gertrude the Great:** Received a revelation that her prayer can release many souls: "Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with all the Masses said throughout the world today..." **9. Canon Law and Magisterial Authority:** **Canon 994:** "The faithful can gain indulgences for themselves or apply them to the dead by way of suffrage." **Enchiridion Indulgentiarum** (Manual of Indulgences, 1999): Lists all approved indulgences and conditions. **Pope Francis** (Apostolic Penitentiary, 2020–2024): Continues the Church's encouragement for indulgences during November for the faithful departed. **10. Lessons for Christian Life:** 1. Hope in Eternal Life: Death is not the end, but a passage. 2. Charity Beyond the Grave: Love continues in prayer for the departed. 3. Daily Conversion: Remembering death ("memento mori") helps us live holier lives. 4. Gratitude for Mercy: Indulgences remind us that salvation is a gift, not earned. **Final Reflection:** All Souls' Day is a tender bridge between earth and eternity — between our prayers and their purification. As **St. Ambrose wrote:** **"We have loved them in life; let us not forget them in death."** *By offering Masses, prayers, indulgences, and acts of love, we become the consoling hands of Christ for those awaiting heaven.*

Announcements: Help Support St. Leonard's CCD Program!! Catholic United Financial St. Ambrose Council #399 invites parishioners and friends to a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, October 25 in St. Leonard's church hall. We will be serving spaghetti with toppings, garlic bread, salad and dessert. All money raised will be donated to our religious education program. Serving time will be from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. This event is eligible for a matching grant from Catholic United Financial of up to \$1000. Carry outs available. Call Paul at 715-674-3923 by October 23 to request a carry out. Prices are adults \$8, children 6-11 \$4, children under 5 free. Special thanks to Pete Beairl for volunteering to be the catechist for the 6th Grade students. Your volunteer services are very much appreciated. Thank You.

Christian mother's corporate communion is Sunday, Oct. 26 at 9 am. Rosary will be prayed at 8:30 am. And there will be a short meeting after the mass.

There will be a lighted Candle Rosary as we conclude the Holy Rosary Month on Friday, October 31 at 4.00 pm in front of the Church.