

# PRAYERS IN THE PEW™ MONTHLY

## FAITH IN ACTION CALENDAR / HIGHLIGHTS

SUNDAY NOV 10	St. Leo the Great, Pope
SATURDAY NOV 23	Blessed Miguel Augustin Pro, Priest & Martyr
SUNDAY NOV 24	SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

*Faith Formation Companion to Prayers in the Pew™*

### → MONTHLY SYNOPSIS ←

*November 2024 – Catholics believe in the reality of purification after death, which we call Purgatory. We take it as a serious obligation to pray for the deceased who have gone before us. This is the Church's liturgical focus in November. We live with confident hope that those who die in Christ will one day experience the grace of the Resurrection, which is our hope too!*

## PRAYER FOR THE DECEASED

Following the feast of All Saints on November 1st each year, we celebrate All Souls Day on November 2nd, where we pray for those whom the Church calls the “holy souls”. In this, we recognize that the souls of the deceased have already been saved. They are “holy souls” in the sense that they belong to Christ and are assured of the promise of Heaven.

The Catholic belief in Purgatory is an ancient doctrine that has its roots in the Jewish Haggadah, the mourning prayers for the dead. Based on the Second Book of Maccabees (Chapter 12), the Jews believe that it is possible to atone for sin after death, and that the faithful can assist the deceased with their prayers. Catholics too believe this scriptural teaching.

Since the Middle Ages, All Souls Day has been a universal feast of the Church and is the only day on which a priest may celebrate three Masses without need for special permission. On All Souls Day, priests offer Masses for all the souls in Purgatory. In many traditionally Catholic societies, the faithful also make visits to cemeteries to visit the graves of their deceased loved ones on this day.

Prayers for our dearly departed are not reserved to the Mass, though. We may – and should – pray regularly for all souls who have died and are still undergoing purification in Purgatory. For this reason, the Church has

given us a beautiful prayer to remember the souls in Purgatory and to assist them in obtaining the light of Heaven. This prayer is often prayed in conjunction with the prayer before meals, although it can be prayed at any time by the faithful:

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon them.  
May the souls of the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

As we pray this prayer, it would be good to remember that someday we too will meet our final end, and we will want our loved ones and the whole Church praying for us!

### BIBLE BASICS



**2 Maccabees 12:43-46** “[Judas Maccabeus] then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice.

In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection in mind; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead... Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be absolved from their sin.”

## SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

Our challenge in November is to pray for all of our deceased loved ones and their ultimate reunion with God in heaven. Let us also remember those who have died in tragedies and natural disasters around the world. An even greater challenge than these is to pray for the souls of those who were our enemies.

THE SCHOOL OF SAINTS



"If only you knew with what great longing these holy souls yearn for relief from their suffering. Ingratitude has never entered Heaven." ~ St. Margaret Mary Alcoque

FAITH FUNDAMENTALS



The Doctrine of Purgatory

One of the most misunderstood teachings of the Church – even among Catholics – is the doctrine of Purgatory. But let's be sure not to complicate matters which the Church explains very simply. There are only three short paragraphs in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (nn. 1030-1032, 1472) needed to explain the core teaching of the Church on this subject. They can be summarized in three brief points:

1. That most souls, except the holiest, must undergo some form of spiritual purification after death;
2. That this purification is painful but also full of the hope of Heaven; and
3. That the prayers, sacrifices and supplications of the living assist those who are being purified in Purgatory.

This is the whole of the teaching, which reminds us how important it is to pray for those who have gone before us.

Back to Basics Featured Prayer

Prayer for Final Perseverance

Oh Jesus, my Savior, my God, by Your Sacred Heart, by the most pure Heart of the virgin Mother, by whatever is pleasing to you in heaven and on earth, I beg and entreat you, grant me holy perseverance, grant me patience. Give me grace and courage that I may efficaciously employ the means which you have given for the salvation of my soul. Amen.

(This prayer is taken from the Prayers in the Pew Church Edition Prayer Card. Please refer to our website SitStandKneel.com for the online version of this newsletter and all our prayer cards.)



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Helping Catholics to Learn, Live, and Love their Faith.



CALENDAR OF FAITH | November

NOV 1 Fri	SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS
NOV 2 Sat	All Souls Day
NOV 3 Sun	St. Martin de Porres, Religious
NOV 4 Mon	St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop
NOV 9 Sat	Dedication of St. John Lateran Church
NOV 10 Sun	St. Leo the Great, Pope
NOV 11 Mon	St. Martin of Tours, Bishop
NOV 12 Tue	St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr
NOV 13 Wed	St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, Virgin
NOV 15 Fri	St. Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor
NOV 16 Sat	St. Margaret of Scotland
NOV 17 Sun	St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious
NOV 18 Mon	St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin
NOV 21 Thu	Presentation of Mary
NOV 22 Fri	St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr
NOV 23 Sat	Blessed Miguel Augustin Pro, Priest and Martyr
NOV 24 Sun	Sts. Andrew Dung-Lac and companions, the Vietnamese Martyrs
NOV 24 Sun	SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING
NOV 25 Mon	St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr
NOV 30 Sat	St. Andrew, Apostle