

Special Graces for Praying for the Departed

Traditionally, November is a privileged time to pray for the departed, those who are in Purgatory preparing for the eternal joy and peace of Heaven. Two opportunities for a Plenary Indulgence are available for the faithful in the first days of the Month of November. Given our two Churches and cemeteries on the Church Grounds, we are easily able to participate in these unique and powerful occasions of grace.



First, a plenary indulgence, applicable only to the souls in purgatory, is granted each and every day from November 1st to Nov 8th, who devoutly visit a cemetery and there pray - if only mentally - for the departed. The indulgence is plenary each day from the 1st to the 8th of November; on other days of the year it is partial. The traditional prayer for the faithfully departed is suggested for this pious act: *“Eternal rest grant them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.”*

Additionally, a plenary indulgence is granted the faithful who, on All Souls’ Day – November 2 – devoutly visits a church or an oratory and recites an Our Father and the Creed.

A Plenary Indulgence removes all the temporal punishment due to sin that has already been forgiven in the Sacrament of Confession – this can be applied for oneself or for a deceased person. To receive this special grace, the faithful must complete the specified devotion, with an ardent desire to be more fully conformed to Christ, seeking to free oneself from all attachment due to sin and fulfill these conditions: (1) Receive Sacramental confession within 20 days of the act (several plenary indulgences may be earned per reception), (2) The worthy reception of the Most Holy Eucharist, (3) Prayer for the intention of the Pope (*Our Father* and *Hail Mary*, or other appropriate prayer, is sufficient), and (4) do the pious act in a state of grace with no attachment to sin or vice. The good work must be done while in a state of grace and with the general intention of earning an indulgence.

“The devotion to the memory of the dead is one of the most beautiful expressions of the Catholic spirit.”
Pope Saint John XXIII