

NOVEMBER 2, 2019  
The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed/All Soul's Day  
Matthew 5: 1-12a

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

What happen to us after our life here on earth? What happen to us when we die? After judgment, there are three choices that await us: hell, purgatory or heaven. Heaven are for those who die as saints, those who are ready to see God face to face; hell are for those who have rejected God, don't follow the will of God here on earth and decided that they don't need God that's why, their lives are not in line with the commandments of God, they lived according to their own; and purgatory for everybody who needs purification, those who can be in heaven but not yet. This is what we are celebrating today, the commemoration of all the faithful departed, the all soul's day.

According to St. John Paul II: "Sacred Scripture teaches us that we must be purified if we are to enter into perfect and complete union with God. Jesus Christ, who became the perfect expiation for our sins and took upon himself the punishment that was our due, brings us God's mercy and love. But before we enter into God's Kingdom every trace of sin within us must be eliminated, every imperfection in our soul must be corrected. This is exactly what takes place in Purgatory." John Paul II, General Audience, 4 August 1999 Libreria Editrice Vaticana

The reasons why we celebrate mass for the holy souls today is because they rely on us to aid them in their purification by our prayers. They cannot offer anything for the expiation of their sins that's why they need our prayers. So, when our loved ones die let us help them by our prayers and sacrifices, let us not abandon them. So, we can help them by:

1. Offering masses for our departed loved ones, the greatest help we can give them because the mass is the highest and greatest form of prayer

2. Praying for them, just one Hail Mary, Our Father or Glory be everyday
3. Offer our fasting, almsgiving, pilgrimages for the glory of God, in atonement for their sins

We can also gain indulgences for the souls in Purgatory this week. "An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints. An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin. The faithful can gain indulgences for themselves or apply them to the dead." #1471 Catechism of the Catholic Church 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops Publications

We can gain indulgences by visiting a church, cemetery, or oratory and praying there the Creed and one Our Father, praying for the Pope's intentions, receiving Holy Communion within a week before or afterwards, receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation within a week before or afterwards, being in a state of grace i.e. not having any attachment or desire for sin of any kind.

So, my brothers and sisters, let us pray for the holy souls in purgatory. Let us also pray for our own selves that we may fulfill God's will everyday so that after this life we can be with Him in heaven.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.  
Amen.