

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord...

November 2 is reserved on the Church's calendar as the Commemoration for All the Faithful Departed, also called All Souls Day; when we pray for all souls whose earthly journey has ended.

Listen to our audio guide
Journey of Hope to A Cemetery
about praying for the dead.



- There is no greater prayer or act of reparation for the Holy Souls in Purgatory that we can offer than the **Holy Mass**, Jesus' own sacrifice.
- Pray this simple prayer anytime: ***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.***
- The **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** is a powerful prayer for the living, dying, and the deceased.
- **Indulgences** are another way the Church encourages us to pray and hope for eternal life.

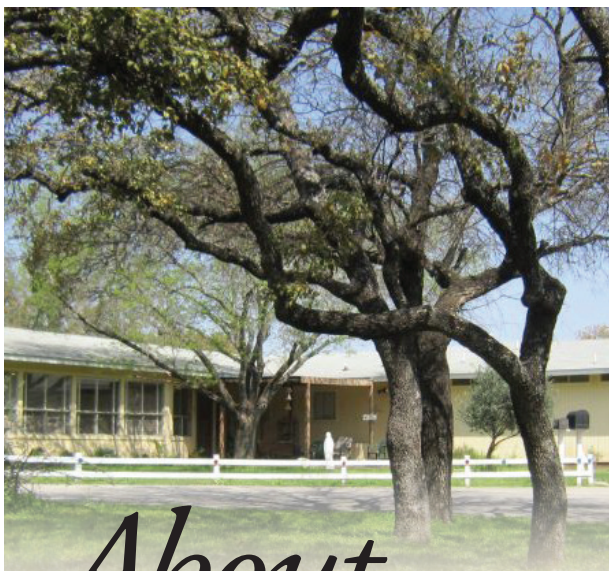
Learn more about Purgatory
and how we can help the
Holy Souls in our interview
with author Susan Tassone.



Did you know? Because early Christian tradition holds that St. Joseph died with Jesus and Mary close to him, he is considered the patron saint of a happy, holy death.

St. Joseph, pray for us!

For answers to questions
on Catholic burial practices,
listen to our Journeys of Hope
discussion with Dr. Paul Vance.



About

7680 Joe Newton, San Antonio, TX 78251

Monday-Friday (8:30am-5:30pm)

All are welcome!

Seven peaceful acres include:

- Gethsemane Chapel
- Reliquary
- Sacred art & iconography
- "Who Is the Man of the Shroud?" museum exhibition (*special hours*)
- Photographs of the Holy Land
- Outdoor Stations of the Cross
- Galilee Boat Prayer Garden

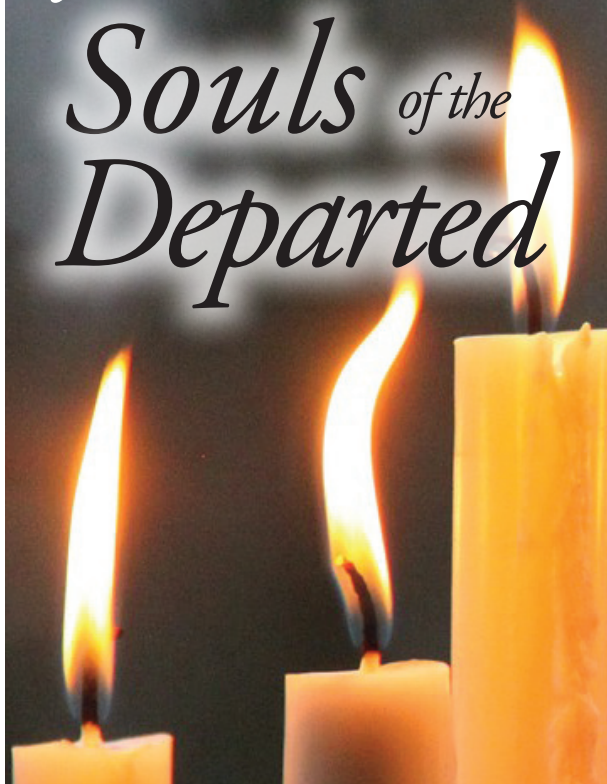
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Praying for the Souls of the Departed



Why pray for the dead? What is Purgatory?
How can I help my departed loved ones?



PILGRIM
Center of Hope

Guiding people to Christ

Death

has been seen as the doorway to a hidden, mysterious

journey by human beings for millennia. Early Christians' writings reveal to us that they continued the Jewish belief in final purification; **they prayed for their departed loved ones and community members**, hoping that these souls would have eternal rest.

Why would they have prayed and made acts of reparation for the dead, if they believed in Jesus as the One who saves people from sin?



Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection made our union with God possible... This is Good News! We can see all around us, however, that we are not exempted from sin's effects. Sin is a rupture of our relationship with God, with ourselves, with our neighbor, and with God's Creation. Such a serious reality has consequences.

What did Jesus say about this? He included in 'the Sermon on the Mount' a teaching about the effects of sin. Notice what he says about what happens when we do not reconcile while we are still on our journey...

*If you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. **Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court with him.** Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.*

– Matthew 5:23-26

In the parable, Jesus implies that the listener is on a journey toward judgement. We know from the apostles that Jesus was appointed as final judge:

He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.

– Acts of the Apostles 10:42

Jesus asserts that if we do not settle the debts of our sins before we arrive at judgement, we can have the opportunity to pay these to 'the last penny' and 'be released.' This is our understanding of **Purgatory**; a state of purification for those who are on their way to Heaven but, due to the effects of sin, need more preparation. Purgatory is a gift of God's mercy; that we may be healed and at peace, even if our earthly journey didn't fully prepare us for Heaven.



Eternal Life

Holy Souls / Poor Souls - Common terms for persons who have died in friendship with God but still need *purification (Purgatory)* before entrance into eternal union with God. These souls can pray for others, and benefit from our prayers for them.

Heaven - Eternal life with God; communion of life and love with the Holy Trinity and all the saints. The state of supreme and definitive happiness, the goal of our deepest longings.

Hell - The state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed, reserved for those who refuse by their own free choice to believe and be converted from sin, even to the end of their lives.

Discover more:

Listen to our [Journeys of Hope](#) podcast episode, *Journey to Eternal Life*



I do not think that apart from the felicity of Heaven, there can be a joy comparable to that experienced by the souls in Purgatory. An incessant communication from God renders their joy more vivid from day to day: and this communication becomes more and more intimate, to the extent that it consumes the obstacles still existing in the soul... On the other hand, they endure pain so intense, that no tongue is able to describe it.

– Saint Catherine of Siena