

Praying for the Dead in November

The Church encourages the faithful to pray for the deceased, especially during All Souls Week and throughout November. By praying for the dead and asking God to grant rest to the souls in purgatory, the faithful are performing a spiritual work of mercy.

Visits to a Cemetery

Devoutly visit and pray for the departed. Plenary indulgences which apply to the Souls in Purgatory can be obtained from November 1-8.

Visits to a Church

A plenary indulgence can be gained for the souls in Purgatory by visiting a church and praying one Our Father and the Creed on All Souls Day (Nov. 2), provided the usual conditions for a plenary indulgence are met.



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1 COLUMBUS PLAZA NEW HAVEN, CT 06510-3326
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Knights of Columbus
Remembering Our
Faithful Departed



Faith in Action

Family

Remembering Our Faithful Departed

The Remembering Our Faithful Departed program calls upon councils to honor and pray for the deceased members of their families and parish community. Councils and parishes can participate in the following ways:

- Set up an “ofrenda” (an altar) to remember, honor, and pray for deceased council members, parishioners, and family members. If the altar cannot be set up in the parish, families are encouraged to build their own ofrenda and pray for their deceased family members at home.
- Organize a visit to a cemetery to pray for the faithful departed and/or to clean and decorate graves.
- Offer a memorial rosary, the One Hundred Requiem prayer, or other prayers for the deceased.



Suggested Dates to Host your Event

- All Hallow's Eve – Oct. 31st
- All Saints Day – Nov. 1st
- All Souls Day – Nov. 2nd
- Events during the week prior to these dates may also be used to honor the dead.
- Devotions may also be prayed in November or any time following the death of a loved one.

Ofrenda for the Faithful Departed

Ofrendas and altars for the departed are a Catholic tradition that invites us to remember the faithful departed and pray for their eternal rest. Ofrendas are typically erected in parishes and homes on October 30th or 31st and taken down on November 3rd, after the Feast of All Souls. In homes, altars can remain throughout the month for family devotions.

Creating an Ofrenda

Ofrendas can be composed in various ways. Here is a suggestion for a simple altar to pray for the departed:

- Include 3 levels – the bottom level represents the Church Militant, the middle, the Church Suffering, and the top, the Church Triumphant.
 - The bottom level can include candles, symbolizing faith and hope, and flowers, symbolizing virtue and prayer which help guide souls to heaven.
 - The middle level can include photos of the faithful departed to honor their memory.
 - The top level can include a crucifix and/or an image of Our Lady to symbolize the arrival to heaven.
- A decorated arch above the altar can also be included as a symbol of the entrance to heaven.