

All Souls Day Indulgence

What is an indulgence?

Sin hurts the people around us, hurts ourselves, hurts the Church, and ultimately separates us from life in Christ. Jesus Christ became man and died for our sins to restore us to the love of God, and we can receive forgiveness of our sins and be reconciled to God and the Church in the Sacrament of Confession. However, justice requires that we atone for those sins or in some way make up for them. If we don't do it here on earth, then we will have to do it in purgatory. Some of the punishment for our sins is done in penance, but not all of it. An indulgence is an action, usually a prayer or sacrifice, that makes up for the punishment for our sins, so we don't have to spend time in purgatory. In addition, the Holy Church adds to our actions the merits gained by Our Lord, our Blessed Mother, and the saints.

Plenary and Partial Indulgences:

A plenary indulgence is a complete indulgence; it makes up for all of the punishment that is due to us because of our sins. A partial indulgence only makes up for part of it.

Prayer for the souls in purgatory:

An indulgence, just like any prayer, can also be offered for someone else. For example, the All Souls Day indulgence can only be offered for the souls in purgatory, not for oneself. We can offer them for the souls in purgatory because we are all united in baptism; we are one body in Christ.

Requirements for the All Souls Day Indulgence:

Anyone who visits a cemetery on any day from November 1 – November 8 and prays for the departed can gain a plenary indulgence for the souls in purgatory. On November 2, the indulgence can also be gained by visiting a church. Praying at a cemetery on other days of the year is a partial indulgence.

You can only gain one plenary indulgence per day, or multiple partial indulgences.

At the time that you do the indulgenced work, you must:

1. Intend to gain the Indulgence,
2. Pray an Our Father and a Hail Mary for the intentions of the Pope,
3. Be detached from all sin, even venial sins, perhaps by asking God to give you a hatred for all sin, and a firm desire to flee from it.

Within 20 days before or after the visit, you must also:

1. Receive Holy Communion
2. Go to Confession

Prayers for Visiting a Cemetery

Reading: 1 John 3:1-2

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Psalm 25: R/. To you, O Lord, I life my soul.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
and your kindness are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD. **R/.**

Relieve the troubles of my heart;
And bring me out of my distress.
Put an end to my affliction and my suffering;
and take away all my sins. **R/.**

Preserve my life and rescue me;
let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.
Let integrity and uprightness preserve me,
Because I wait for you, O LORD. **R/.**

Litany of the Saints

Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.	Pope St. John Paul II,	...
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.	Pope St. Gregory the Great,	...
Lord, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.	Pope St. Leo the Great,	...
		St. Teresa of Calcutta,	...
Holy Mary, Mother of God,	Pray for them.	St. Therese of Lisieux,	...
St. Michael,	Pray for them.	St. Joan of Arc,	...
St. John the Baptist,	Pray for them.	Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos,	...
St. Joseph,	...	Venerable Henriette DeLille,	...
St. Peter,	...	St. Michael the Archangel,	...
St. Paul,	...	St. Gabriel the Archangel,	...
St. John,	...	St. Raphael the Archangel,	...
St. James,	...	All holy men and women,	...
St. Andrew,	...		
St. Stephen,	...	Christ, pardon all their	
St. Ann,	...	faults.	Lord, hear our prayer.
St. Teresa,	...	Christ, remember the	
St. Catherine,	...	good they have done.	Lord, hear our prayer.
St. Frances Cabrini,	...	Christ, receive them into	
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,	...	eternal life.	Lord, hear our prayer.
St. Benedict,	...	Christ, comfort all those	
St. Francis,	...	who mourn.	Lord, hear our prayer.
St. Thomas Aquinas,	...		
St. Augustine,	...	Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
St. John Vianney,	...	Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
St. Robert Bellarmine,	...	Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.

Our Father...

Eternal rest grant unto them , O Lord. R./ And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May their rest in peace. R./ Amen.

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