

# November Family Catechesis

## Month of the Holy Souls

Nov 2023

### November Faith Focus

#### All Saints Day

- 1- St. Lawrence Mass 5:00 pm
- 1- Holy Cross Mass 6:30 pm
- 1- First Reconciliation Check-In @both Confirmation Check-In @Holy Cross
- 4/5- Blessed Candle for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders

### December Faith Focus

#### Advent-Gifts of Love

- 3-St. Lawrence 9:00 am
- 3-SL First Reconciliation 11:00 am
- 6-Holy Cross 6:30 pm
- 6-Confirmation /First Reconciliation Check-In @ Holy Cross
- 7- HC First Reconciliation 6:00 pm

### November Saints

- Nov 1, All Saints' Day
- Nov 2, All Souls' Day
- Nov 3, St. Martin de Porres
- Nov 11, St. Martin of Tours
- Nov 17, St. Elizabeth of Hungary
- Nov 21, Christ the King
- Nov 22, St. Cecilia
- Nov 27, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
- Nov 28, First Sunday of Advent
- Nov 30, St. Andrew (Novena begins)

### Family Altar

Add your loved one's photo, memorable, flowers, and a special candle to your Family Altar.

### Prayer for the Holy Souls

*V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.*

*R. And let the perpetual light shine upon them.*

*And may the souls of all the faithfully departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*



# Catholic Faith Focus November

## WHAT IS PURGATORY?

Purgatory is simply the place where already saved souls are cleansed of the temporal effects of sin before they are allowed to see the holy face of Almighty God. Revelation 21:27 tells us that “...nothing unclean will enter [Heaven].”

Purgatory is God’s way of ensuring that Revelation 21:27 is true and that nothing unclean will enter Heaven. It is only through Christ’s sacrifice that we are shown this mercy! It is Christ and Christ alone Who allows us access to the Father. Many people ask, “Where is the word purgatory in the Bible?” It will not be found in the Bible, but the concept of a “final cleansing” or “purgation” for those who require it is very evident in the Bible, in the writings of the early Church Fathers, and in the Old Testament religion whence Christianity sprang.

Daniel 12:2, Matthew 12:32, 1 Corinthians 3:13-15, 2 Timothy 1:16-18, Hebrews 12:14, Hebrews 12:22-23, 1 Peter 4:6 and Revelation 21:10, 27 all speak of purgatory in their telling of the need for purification, prayers for the dead, Christ’s preaching to the dead, and how nothing unclean will see God.

Tertullian says in his work, *The Crown* 3:3, dated A.D. 211: “We offer sacrifices for the dead on their birthday anniversaries.”

Cyprian of Carthage writes in A.D. 253: “It is one thing to stand for pardon, another thing to attain to glory; it is one thing, when cast into prison, not to go out thence until one has paid the uttermost farthing; another thing at once to receive the wages of faith and courage. It is one thing, tortured by long suffering for sins, to be cleansed and long purged by fire; another to have purged all sins by suffering. It is one thing, in fine, to be in suspense till the sentence of God at the day of judgment; another to be at once crowned by the Lord.”

St. Teresa of Avila interceding for the souls in purgatory The Church Fathers speak of purgation. For examples, St. John Chrysostom in his *Homilies on 1 Corinthians* 41:5, A.D. 392, says: “Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them.” And St. Augustine says in *City of God*, A.D. 419: “Temporal punishments are suffered by some in this life only, by some after death, by some both here and hereafter, but all of them before that last and strictest judgment. But not all who suffer temporal punishments after death will come to eternal punishments, which are to follow after that judgment.”

Archaeology also indicates the antiquity of the Christian belief in purgatory, the Final Thesis: the tombs of the ancient Christians were inscribed with words of petition for peace and for rest, and at the anniversaries of deaths, the faithful gathered at the graves of the departed to make intercession for those who had gone before.

## PRAYING FOR THE DEAD

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass freeing souls from purgatory “And making a gathering, he [Judas] sent twelve thousand drachms of silver to Jerusalem for sacrifice to be offered for the sins of the dead, thinking well and religiously concerning the resurrection (for if he had not hoped that they that were slain should rise again, it would have seemed superfluous and vain to pray for the dead) and because he considered that they who had fallen asleep with godliness, had great grace laid up for them. It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins.” – II Maccabees 12:43-46

Those who have died in a state of grace are not truly “dead”; they are our beloved in Heaven or in purgatory (on their way to Heaven) and will forever be, world without end, part of the Communion of Saints – the Church Triumphant (the Saints in Heaven, whether or not they are beatified or canonized), the Church Suffering (the saints in purgatory, the holy souls), and the Church Militant (the saints on earth).

Because we cannot know, aside from those the Church has beatified or canonized, who is already in Heaven, who is in purgatory for a time, or who is damned, we pray for the dead for the rest of our lives, assuming they are in purgatory, while hoping they are in Heaven and not damned. We also ask those who have died to pray for us. While those whom the Church has deemed to be of the Church Triumphant (the canonized Saints) are in Heaven for certain and are, therefore, in no need of our prayers for them, we have always asked for them to pray for us. As to the Church Suffering in purgatory, St. Thomas Aquinas teaches that they are not able to know, by themselves, our prayers; however, it is piously believed, and taught by St. Alphonsus Liguori, that God makes our prayers known to them – not directly, as they are deprived of the beatific vision until they enter Heaven, but by infusing this knowledge into their souls. St. Bellarmine teaches that because the Church Suffering is so close to God – much closer than we are and having the great consolation of knowing they are saved – their prayers for us are very effective. So, as you pray for your dead loved ones and all the holy souls in purgatory, ask them to pray for you, too!

Source: Sisters of Carmel

### Live Your Catholic Faith

Remember your loved ones who have died, by placing a picture of them at your family altar or family table, share stories and pray the Family Prayer for them.

Also, visit the cemetery and pray a Rosary for all the souls in Purgatory .

# Family Prayer

According to tradition, Our Lord told St. Gertrude the Great that each time she piously recited the following prayer, it would greatly ease the suffering of those holy souls in purgatory:

*Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.*

St. Gertrude the Great was a 13th-century German nun, writer, and mystic who was graced with many heavenly visions, including being one of the earliest mystics to whom Jesus encouraged a devotion to his Sacred Heart. It is recounted that Jesus showed her a vast number of souls entering heaven from purgatory as a result of her faithful and frequent recitation of this prayer.



We should note, however, that while this prayer has long been a part of our Catholic tradition, it is not officially *indulged*. This means that the Holy See has declared that we should reject any claims that a ***specific number*** of souls are released from purgatory with the recitation of the prayer. Nonetheless, the Church has always encouraged fervent prayer for those suffering in purgatory because our prayers help to alleviate their suffering.

Our response, then, should be to simply pray with fervor, and let God take care of the details! You can easily memorize this popular prayer and recite it any time you wish to remember the faithful departed among your family and friends. Try adding it in after each decade of the Rosary, especially during November!

The Church dedicates the entire month of November to praying for the Holy Souls; their particular feast day is November 2nd, All Souls Day.

## Family Prayer for November

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.

St. Gertrude, pray for us!

# Catholic Faith Focus for December

## Advent- Gifts of Love

*Each family is asked to donate/make 1 Gift of Love!*

These **Gifts of Love** will be for parishioners who have lost a Loved One this year. Our hope is that this small **Gift of Love** will help ease their sadness and reassure them that people are praying for them during this Christmas season!

### How It Works:

Each family will be given a Name.

Please keep the spending limit to \$25.00 for your **Gift of Love**.

Place the items in a basket, nice container, add in a Christmas card with your family name on it and assure them that you are remembering and praying for their loved one.

Wrap it up nicely with cellophane or Christmas paper, and ribbon.

The **Gift of Love** will be given to the family at Mass on **December 3!**

May this offering of **Love** find your own Homes filled with God's Love by your **Act of Love!**

*{you will receive a personal email with the family that you are gifting}*

# Suggestions for Gift of Love

## Themed Basket Ideas

*[Homemade items are a sweet touch]*

~cookies, party mix, breads, jams, crocheted items, etc...

**Hot Chocolate** with Christmas cups, marshmallows, cookies, candies

**Movie Night-In** with Popcorn, candies, Christmas DVD, throw blanket

**Holiday Scents** with Scented soaps, candles, Christmas towel, apron, décor

**Coffee Please** with (good) coffee varieties, cups, sweet goodies, flavorings

**Warm n' Cozy** with a Christmas throw, book, candle, chocolates

**Holiday Décor** with Christmas wooden sign, candle, ornament, lights

**Treats and More** with Christmas candies, Beef Sausage, Crackers, Spreads

**Breakfast Time** with Pancake mix, syrup, Festive plate or cup, sweet treat

**Read n' Sit** with good Catholic book, throw, candle, chocolates, Saint card

**Taco Party** with different types of salsa, cheese dip, chips, cookies

**Feel Good** with Christmas pillow, candle, treats, picture frame

**Local Flavor** with gift card from restaurant, with some sweet touches added

Be creative and enjoy this **Act of Love** with your Family.



In this Season of Glad Tidings

what a **JOY**

it is to **SHARE**

in **GIFTS OF LOVE!**

# Catechesis

## St. Andrew Christmas Novena

It is piously believed that whoever recites the St. Andrew Christmas Novena Prayer FIFTEEN times each day from the feast of St. Andrew (November 30th until Christmas Eve ) will obtain the favor requested.

Prayer is an *essential* part of **Advent**. Reciting this special novena prayer each day is a simple yet beautiful way to celebrate the spiritual significance of the Advent season and to experience a deeper conversion to the heart of Jesus.

Here is the beautiful prayer:

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment  
in which the Son of God was born  
of the most pure Virgin Mary,  
at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold.  
In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee,  
O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires  
through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and of His blessed Mother.  
Amen.

It might not be easy to pray this novena fifteen times a day for twenty-five days, but if you are able to, it will undoubtedly leave your heart well-prepared to welcome the coming of Christ. The beauty and sweetness of this prayer will unfold for you through its daily recitation, allowing you to meditate more fully on the profound mystery of the Incarnation. Put it as your wallpaper on your phone, write it out and place it on your family alter, or dining room table.

St. Andrew pray for us!

## Act of Love

Your **Gift of Love** with prayers for them daily!

## Celebrate this Feast day of **St. Nicholas** on Dec. 6

When Saint Nicholas was a little boy, he shared all of his toys and gifts happily. His parents were really wealthy, and they bought wonderful things for him. No matter what he got, he shared with his friends.



Saint Nicholas was always looking for ways to help people. He became a priest after his mother and father died, and, little by little, he gave all of his riches away. I think it made him happy to make other people happy..

A friend of Nicholas didn't have money for his daughters to marry. So not to hurt his friends feeling. He tossed some Gold coins into his neighbors window and they landed in the daughters shoes. So it became a tradition to give little "tokens of love" to others . So children soon left their shoes by the fireplace so that St. Nicholas would leave them -Gold Coins, Candy Canes, etc...

Saint Nicholas is the patron of Children. Celebrate St. Nicholas's Feast Day on December 6th and use it to learn and teach more about our relationship with God, about generosity and the spirit of giving, and to share traditions from around the world about good old St. Nick. So have your *children place their shoes out on Dec 5th* in a "respective place in your home" and share in the tradition of Giving.

**God of joy and cheer,  
we thank you for your servant,  
the good bishop Nicholas.**

**In loving the poor,  
he showed us your kindness;  
in caring for your children,  
he revealed your love.**

**Make us thoughtful  
without need of reward**

**so that we, too, may be good followers of Jesus.**