

## **WHY WE PRAY FOR THE DEAD**

November is the month in which the Church sets aside a special time to pray for the saints of the Church and the dead. (All Souls)

The Church has always identified praying for dead, since the earliest of times, as one of the seven spiritual works of mercy. Just as we love and respect our living brethren, so do we love and respect those of our brethren who have departed this life. We express our love for our departed friends and relatives through prayer. Just as we pray for the living that the Grace of God may be upon them, so do we pray for the dead that they may become worthy of the vision of God.

All of us, living and dead, are members of one Church and are bound together by one Faith, by one common love, and are the children of the merciful God. It is also one way in which the compassion of the Resurrected Christ overpowers death and unites as members of the Body of Christ. As members of the Body of Christ we are no longer strangers to one another.

In Christ we give comfort and witness the eternal communion with the dead and the mourning. Together we share the life-giving gift of the Holy Spirit by crying out in one voice, "Abba Father". As Christians, members of the Body of Christ we are called to serve, to keep all the faithful, living and dead, along the way of Christ, so that we may all journey, in him, through him and through him, to rest with the Father in heaven, for ever and ever

Finally, if you notice in our daily mass schedule (bulletin) we place before the Lord the names of people who have been dear to us in our lives or a particular concern that we pray for God's guidance. Each and every time, when we gather to celebrate our Eucharist we recognize that this is the highest expression of prayer in our Catholic faith. This is the greatest possible prayer of intercession insofar as it is the perfect offering of Christ to the Father by making present the paschal mystery of his death and resurrection.

Often people find comfort to know that many others than just themselves, join them in petitioning God's blessing on people who are dear to them, on issues of peace and justice.

Karen has brought to my attention that there are many daily intentions that are open for the new year. I would invite you to consider filling these days with mass offerings that bring your personal intentions before the community at large. There is an offering for \$10 for each day's intention which is used to help meet the cost. You can schedule your request by calling the rectory and talking to Karen.

## ***OUR PRAYER***

*You can still shed tears because they are gone, or you can smile because they lived.*

*You can close your eyes and pray that they will come back, or you can open your eyes and see all that they left you.*

*Your heart can be empty because you can't see them, or you can be full of all that they have shared with you.*

*You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday, or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.*

*You can remember only that they are gone, or you can cherish their memory and let them live on.*

*You can cry and close your mind and feel empty, or you can do what they would want  
Smile, Open your heart, love..... and go on.  
Elizabeth Ammos  
([Lessonslearnedinlife.com](http://Lessonslearnedinlife.com))*