



**“All Souls’ Day –
A Time of Prayer
& Remembrance**

**Today, November
2nd, the Church
celebrates All
Souls’ Day, a sacred
occasion dedicated**

to the faithful departed. Unlike All Saints’ Day, which honors those who have already reached heaven, All Souls’ Day focuses on those who have died and are still undergoing purification in **Purgatory**.

Catholics believe that through prayers—especially the **celebration of the Holy Mass**—the souls in Purgatory are assisted on their journey toward heaven. The faithful are encouraged to pray for the dead, offer Masses, and visit cemeteries to remember and intercede for their loved ones.

The practice of praying for the deceased has deep roots in both **Sacred Scripture and Catholic Tradition**. In 2 Maccabees 12:46, we read: “It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins.” This belief highlights the importance of intercessory prayer and the enduring bond between the living and the dead. On All Souls’ Day, many families visit the graves of their loved ones, bringing flowers and lighting candles as symbols of hope, faith, and remembrance.

Both **All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day** express the Catholic understanding of the **Communion of Saints**—the spiritual union of all Christians: those in heaven, those on earth, and those being purified. This belief reminds us that death does not sever our connection with one another. Through prayer, we continue to support the souls of the departed on their journey to eternal life. It also invites us to reflect on our own mortality and the hope of resurrection.

All Saints’ and All Souls’ Days hold deep significance in the **Catholic liturgical calendar**, emphasizing the Church’s teachings on the afterlife, the power of intercessory prayer, and the enduring communion between the living and the dead. These feasts invite us to honor those who have gone before us, to pray for all souls, and to renew our hope in the promise of eternal life.

As we begin the month of November, let us continue to remember and cherish the memories of our loved ones who are gone ahead of us. Please be assured of my prayers and support for you. I accompany you in your struggles of pain and grief. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

- Fr George