



Indulgences

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Imlay City MI

for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Did you know that you have the ability to release souls from Purgatory?

“An *indulgence* is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints”. (CCC n.1471)

WOW! That’s a mouthful! Let’s break it down so it’s easier to understand.

Who are the Holy Souls or Poor Souls?

The Holy or Poor Souls are those who have died in friendship with God, but have not yet fully paid the price of their sins that were already forgiven, and require some purification before entering Heaven.

What is Purgatory?

Purgatory is where a soul goes to be purified before entering the final reward in Heaven. It is likely that most souls go to Purgatory before they enter Heaven.

What is Temporal Punishment?

There is the *guilt* of sin and there are the *penalties* of sin. For Catholics, the guilt of sin is removed through the Sacrament of Confession. The penalties remaining are called temporal punishment. These penalties due the Divine Justice can be removed through prayer, penance, almsgiving, Purgatory and Indulgences.

What is an indulgence?

An indulgence removes some or all of the temporal punishment due to sin.

There are 2 types of indulgences: *Plenary* and *Partial*.

A Plenary Indulgence removes all temporal punishment due, while a Partial Indulgence removes some.



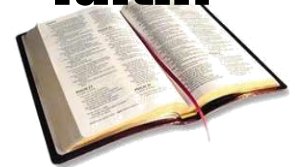
We must empty Purgatory with our prayers.

-St. Padre Pio

There are many different opportunities for gaining indulgences, but with November 2nd coming up, we’re interested in the ones available for the Poor Souls in Purgatory right now.

On All Souls Day, we not only remember the dead, but we apply our efforts, through prayer, almsgiving, and the Mass, to their release from Purgatory. There are two Plenary Indulgences attached to All Souls Day, one for visiting a church and another for visiting a cemetery. While the actions are performed by the living, the merits of the indulgences are applicable only to the Poor Souls in Purgatory.

how well do you know your Catholic faith?



The Three Parts of the Church are:

- The Church Militant (those on Earth)
- The Church Suffering (those in Purgatory)
- The Church Triumphant (those in Heaven)



How YOU can Help the Holy Souls

To gain *any* Plenary Indulgence, (full remission of all temporal punishment due to sin):

1. worthily celebrate sacramental Confession (Reconciliation or Penance),
2. receive Holy Communion (preferably during the Celebration of Holy Mass),
3. say prayers for the Pope’s intentions, (Our Father, Hail Mary), and
4. be in a state of grace, (no Mortal sin), and free from all attachment to sin.

The above four conditions may be carried out several days before or after the prescribed work.

The following “prescribed work” is specifically to gain a Plenary Indulgence for the Holy Souls:

- Piously visit a Church on November 2nd and recite the Our Father and the Creed, or visit a cemetery from Nov. 1st - 8th and pray for the dead.

The Plenary Indulgence is granted when all the conditions and prescribed work have been completed. It’s important to note that, one Confession is good for multiple Indulgences, while one Holy Communion is required for each Plenary Indulgence. You can only earn one Plenary Indulgence per day, but you can earn multiple Partial Indulgences daily.

Note: The Church offers a Partial Indulgence for visiting a cemetery and praying for the dead every day of the year.

By performing these Spiritual Acts of Mercy, you can get souls out of Purgatory faster, and lessen their suffering. Oh, and by the way, the pious use of Sacramentals, (rosaries, scapulars, medals, crucifixes, etc.) also provides opportunities for Partial Indulgences.

During this special time in November, the Church encourages us to remember to pray for the Holy Souls. And, when these souls get to Heaven, they will not forget your kindness, and will be praying for you. You could have an army of Saints praying for you!

A Prayer for the Forgotten Dead

O Merciful God, take pity on those souls who have no particular friends and intercessors to recommend them to Thee,

Who, either through the negligence of those who are alive, or through length of time are forgotten by their friends, family and by all.

Spare them, O Lord, and remember Thine Own Mercy, when others forget to appeal to it.

Let not the souls, which Thou hast created, be parted from Thee, their Creator.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy Of God, rest in peace. Amen.

