

SAT 4pm	Oct. 11	Oct. 18	Oct. 25	Nov. 1	Nov. 8
Servers	Anna Brown Aubrey Brown Tryston Brown	Trey Brown Isaac Wells Fred Dust	Abby Brown Madalyne Brown Adeline Brown	Anna Brown Aubrey Brown Tryston Brown	Trey Brown Isaac Wells Fred Dust
Lector	Alaina Miller	Sarah Roepke	Donna Davis	Doug Brown	Christy Brown
Usher	Mike Holland Jason Wells	Don Brown Doug Brown	Jason Wells Justin Miller	Mike Holland Don Brown	Jason Wells Doug Brown
Ministers of Holy Communion	Don Brown Katrina Davis Beth Spannagel	Kathy Brown Donna Davis Katrina Davis	Sarah Roepke Don Brown Beth Spannagel	Mike Holland Rosemary Holland Kathy Brown	Donna Davis Sarah Roepke Don Brown
Gift Bearers	Kathy Brown	Don Brown Family	Joe & Fred Dust	Jason Wells Family	Doug Brown Family
SUN 8am	Oct. 12 Families in Faith	Oct. 19	Oct. 26 Families in Faith	Nov. 2	Nov. 9 Families in Faith
Servers	Wade Conder Zoey Conder Jacob Vonderheide	Garrett Hoene Braxton Hoene Hunter Buehler	Olivia Vonderheide Rory Miller Wylie Miller	Daisy Miller Gracie Jo Miller Wade Conder	Zoe Conder Jacob Vonderheide Garrett Hoene
Lector	Terry Hoene	Kathy Adams	Lisa Thompson	Terry Hoene	Kathy Adams
Ushers	Roy Waldhoff Trevor Floyd	Dennis Koester Joe Conder	Gene Doedtman Tom Doedtman	Josh Miller Justin Conder	John Neu Don Antrim
Ministers of Holy Communion	Lisa Thompson Leslie Kemme Timber Miller	Vanessa Floyd Linda Doedtman Barb Vonderheide	Trevor Floyd Leslie Kemme Timber Miller	Roy Waldhoff Lisa Waldhoff Lisa Thompson	Vanessa Floyd Linda Doedtman Barb Vonderheide
Gift Bearers	Barb Vonderheide	Josh Miller Family	Jason Pruemmer Family	Don Marcella Antrim	Roy Lisa Waldhoff
Greeters	Joe & Kay Conder	Tom Helen Doedtman	Ed Leslie Kemmer	Jim Mary Miller	John Karen Neu
Money Counters	Waldhoff Hoene	Kemme Adams	Bales, Richards, Sheehan, Hackman	Stremming Conder	Doedtman Shadwell
WED. 8am Lectors	Oct. 15	Oct. 22	Oct. 29	Nov. 5	Nov. 12
	Mike Holland	Linda Doedtman	Irene Koester	Alice Richards	Mike Holland

Please remember to sign in in the sacristy before mass so we know all ministries are covered.

Sacrament of Marriage-Please contact our parish office (1-844-536-6514) at least 9 months before your anticipated wedding date to begin your spiritual preparation. One or both persons must be registered and actively living their faith. All couples planning to be married at our parish must attend a Pre-Cana program, Natural Family Planning program and FOCCUS evaluation.

Sacrament of Baptism - A family must be registered & actively living their faith. Godparents must also be registered in a Catholic parish or other Christian church & actively living their faith. A Baptism Class is required for all parents. We ask that both parents attend this class together. Godparents are also encouraged and welcome to attend. For more information, please call the parish office (1-844-536-6514).



+Bishop Thomas John Paprocki
www.dio.org

Shumway Mass Times:
Tuesday – 5:15 pm
Adoration 4-5 pm
Wednesday 8:00 am
Saturday 4:00 pm
Reconciliation-3pm
Sunday 8:00 am

Green Creek Mass Times:
Thursday – 5:15 pm
Adoration 4-5 pm
Friday – 8 am
Saturday – 6 pm
Sunday – 10:00 am

No Adoration/Mass when it falls on a Holy Day

To reserve the church basement please call 1-844-536-6514.

Cemetery Committee
John Adams 618-322-2874
Matt Childerson 217-254-5896
Daphne Hoffman 217-821-7268

Funeral Meal Coordinators
Leslie Kemme 217-821-3399
Dot Thomas 217-259-8560

November Committee:
Emily Doedtman, Joyce Shadwell, Dorothy Hankins, Linda Doedtman
Helen Doedtman

Annunciation Church of B.V.M.
St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Shumway, IL
Fr. Adam Prichard, Pastor
aprichard@dio.org
PO Box 96, Shumway, IL 62461
1-844-536-6514
Website: www.stmaryshumway.org
Email: stmarysshumway@gmail.com



MISSION
(who we are and what we do, our purpose)
Be a growing community of disciples, centered on the Eucharist, that imitates Jesus by proclaiming the Gospel and serving our neighbors with love.

VISION
(where we are going, our focus)
Building the Body of Christ through families of faith with vibrant spiritual formation, joyful community fellowship and service, and a welcoming presence to all.

Good News! November 2, 2025 All Souls’ Day FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS
Wisdom 3:1–9 / Romans 5:5–11 or Romans 6:3–9 / John 6:37–40

One Halloween, the lady who lived in the big white house down the block gave out bottles of Coke for trick-or-treat. Not 6-ouncers, not 10-ouncers, but 12-ouncers! I remember going up to her door like we did at every other house, stomping up the steps, ringing the bell and waiting, then yelling, “Trick or treat!” for a piece of penny candy as the door opened. Instead, our eyes widened with disbelief as we gasped, “Wow! A bottle of Coke! Gee, thanks a lot.” I remember her smile and the look of delight in her eyes at making some scraggly neighborhood kids so excited. Before long, word got out among that night’s goblins and saints. Kids I had never seen before, kids from neighboring communities, all came streaming in, and she gave each of them a bottle of Coke. To me, it was unbelievable—such generosity. That year, nobody dared “trick” her house. We made sure. Among us kids, such generosity did not go unrewarded.

On All Souls’ Day, we remember those who have died, and we remember them with an awareness of the need we all have for God’s mercy. Sometimes, I think that God is like that woman who lived in the big white house down the block. God is the Great Halloween Mistress. We come to her, armed with our tricks to get what we want, and she disarms us with her unbelievable generosity—the greatest “treater” of all time. God gives us everything undeserved—the most generous treats ever, all year round. ●

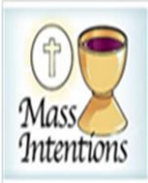
As we celebrate the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed this weekend, also known as “All Souls”, we may wonder why. We may wonder when there is a funeral Mass, or a Memorial Mass, why we place an importance on praying for the souls of those who have died before us, particularly when, to our understanding, that our loved one has lived a good, faithful, and holy life. One of the places we find the importance of this is in 2 Maccabees 12:39-45, when Judas Maccabeus starts a collection among his troops for their fallen comrades, that a sacrificial offering may be made on their behalf. Their fellow men who had been slain had been wearing pagan amulets (which was a sin), but out of a desire for God’s mercy to be poured out on the souls of those men who had died, they ensured that they would be prayed for. Instead of judging that those who had died would experience the deprivation of eternal life with God, the surviving Maccabees understood that God is the judge of souls, hoped that the men had made an individual act of repentance at the moment they died and prayed that God would have mercy on their souls. They also did so with the hope in the resurrection of the dead, for if the soul of every person just ceased to exist at the moment of death, there would be no point in making any offering at all.

We also see, in 2 Timothy 1:16-18, St. Paul praying for the repose of the soul of a fellow Christian, Onesiphorus. Onesiphorus had sought Paul out in Rome, encouraged Paul, and was not ashamed that Paul had been imprisoned. So, we see that not only were offerings for the repose of the souls of the dead occurring in the Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabees but continued to happen. So, much so, that, again, in the light of the Resurrection, St. Paul in his Second Letter to Timothy, affirmed that this practice was appropriate.

We also remember that Jesus is the judge of the living and the dead. And we know that those faithful departed in Heaven are saints, the Church only definitively says these particular people are in Heaven. Why doesn’t the Church say everyone is in Heaven and so everyone is a saint? Well, again, Jesus is the judge of souls, not the Church. And, again, that’s not saying that there’s no one else in Heaven other than Canonized Saints, but that it is perfectly reasonable to understand that none of us die perfect, and as gold is refined, we too need refined, that we may enter into the presence of God in Heaven. Purgatory is not a bad thing, it’s necessary, that our souls may be rid of anything that clings to us. And so we pray for the souls of those who have died, that the state of Purgatory may be “rapid” for those experiencing it. I dearly hope, after I die (hopefully after a joyous, long life), that people will pray for my soul, along with all the souls of the faithful departed, and implore the mercy of God for me. So, let us not despair, but instead, in hope, in light of the Resurrection, continue to pray for one another each day, that we may seek the Lord’s will in all we do.

Fr. Adam

† This symbol denotes-deceased.



- Saturday, Nov. 1 –† Larry Ferguson by Reggie & Katie Flach
- Sunday, Nov. 2- Parishioner of St. Mary's
- Tuesday, Nov. 4 – Special intention by Mark & Karen Kemme
- Wednesday, Nov. 5 - Special Intention by Barb Vonderheide
- Saturday, Nov. 8 – †Larry Ferguson by Linda Strohl
- Sunday, Nov. 9- †Kenneth Kreke by Joe Kay conder
- Tuesday, Nov. 11 –
- Wednesday, Nov. 12 - †Marita Kemme by Alice Richards

To schedule a mass intention please use a mass intention envelope. They are in the cry room in the “mailbox” outside the bathroom. There is also a calendar there with available dates. Drop your intention in the collection basket. If you have any questions, contact Donna Davis @1-844-536-6514.

Dear Padre

Do we pray for the dead on All Souls’ Day for what we can do for them, or for what they can do for us?

On All Souls’ Day, the Church celebrates the one body in Christ that unites its members on earth, in purgatory, and in heaven. For more than a thousand years, we’ve commemorated this transcendent bond on the second day of November, whether at Mass, in a cemetery, or on a home altar to the faithful departed. This bond of companionship between the living and deceased is so vital to our spiritual well-being that All Souls’ Day is celebrated even when November 2 falls on a Sunday.

Because Catholics are in communion with one another through an active relationship that transcends death, our prayers, Masses, sacrifices, and works of charity can be offered up on behalf of the deceased. (See 2 Maccabees 12:38–46.) Souls that get to heaven, in turn, offer their prayers on behalf of the living. Thus, our assistance to the deceased, and their intercession for us, is mutually beneficial! “A perennial link of charity exists between the faithful who have already reached their heavenly home, those who are expiating their sins in purgatory, and those who are still pilgrims on earth. Between them there is, too, an abundant exchange of all good things” (Indulgentiarum Doctrina, 5; Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1475, 954-955, 962). May perpetual light shine upon the souls of the faithful departed. ●Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

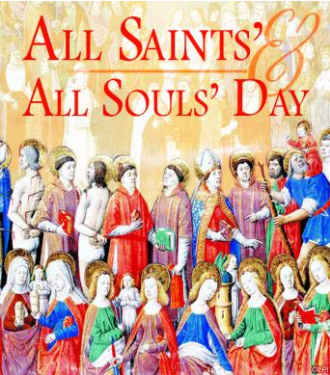
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A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In a world wounded by violence and conflict.... I am convinced that if we are...free from ideological and political conditioning, we can be effective in saying “no” to war and “yes” to peace, “no” to the arms race and “yes” to disarmament, “no” to an economy that impoverishes peoples and the Earth and “yes” to integral development.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 19, 2025



Weekly Offering.....10-26-25

Adult.....	\$1586.00
Loose.....	265.00
World Mission.....	130.00
Cemetery	10.00
Total.....	\$1991.00

Parish Hall update \$130,944.97

- MONDAY**
November 3
11:29–36 Lk
14:12–14
- TUESDAY**
November 4 St. Charles
Borromeo,
12:5–16b Lk
14:15–24
- WEDNESDAY**
November 5
13:8–10 Lk
14:25–33
- THURSDAY**
November 6
14:7–12 Lk
15:1–10
- FRIDAY**
November 7
15:14–21 Lk
16:1–8
- SATURDAY**
November 8
16:3–9, 16, 22–
27 Lk 16:9–15
- SUNDAY**
November 9
The Dedication
of the Lateran
Basilica
Ez 47:1–2, 8–9,
12 1 Cor 3:9c–
11, 16–17 Jn
2:13–22

To Report Child Sexual Abuse by Church Personnel or to inquire about Safe Environment Programs in the Diocese of Springfield call 217-321-1155 or Children & Family Services Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-25-ABUSE

All ladies are invited to the Mattoon Deanery Council of Catholic Women meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at Forty Martyrs Church Hall, 111 E. Van Allen Street, Tuscola, IL 61953. Registration at 8:30 am. The Dean of our Deanery, Fr. John Titus will preside over the installation of new officers. Holy Mass at 10:30 a.m., followed by Fr. Michael Trummer talk on “2025 Jubilee Year of Hope”. Lunch and silent auction (wrapped gift) will conclude the day; proceeds go to the Seminary Fund (check or cash accepted). Contact: MDCCW President: Margaret Thompson (217) 232-4350 or drmathompson76@gmail.com

21st Annual Effingham County Thanksgiving Day Dinner

The Effingham County FISH Organization is sponsoring the 21st Annual Effingham County Free Thanksgiving Day Dinner. Thursday, November 27, 2025 We will offer a congregate meal at Cornerstone Christian Church, with serving beginning at 12:30pm. We will still offer delivered meals as well as curbside pickup. Curbside pickup will be available at Cornerstone Christian Church, 3600 South Banker, Effingham, between 11:00am & 12 noon. Meals will be delivered after 10:00am. This event is free and open to all Effingham County Residents and their families, however donations are always greatly appreciated and may be sent to: FISH, PO Box 473, Effingham, IL 62401. To reserve a Congregate Meal, Home Delivered Meal or Curbside Pickup, please call 217-821-4387 between November 1st through November 24, 2025. Volunteers are needed to help package and deliver meals. We will start packaging meals at 9:00am on Thanksgiving day. To volunteer, please call 217-343-7342.



St. Thomas, Newton is looking for a Kindergarten teacher. More info about the position and an application found at www.stthomassaints.com under school information – employment opportunities.

Advocate Training - The Office for Tribunal Services will be hosting Advocate Training on Saturday, November 15 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at St. Boniface Parish, 110 North Buchanan, in Edwardsville, IL. Current advocates are also welcomed to attend. The training will focus on the procedures concerning marriage nullity and how to assist members of the faithful who seek to have a previous marriage examined. Those interested in attending are asked to RSVP Chelli by November 10 at cbranyan@dio.org or 217-321-1117.

Retreat for married couples offered – Worldwide Marriage Encounter presents weekend experiences for married couples to rekindle romance, enhance meaningful communication, and deepen and renew commitment. Sign-up now! For more information or to apply, go to wwme.org or call Terry & Eric Engholm at 314-649-7317. Next ones: 12/5/2025 – 12/7/2025, St. Peters, MO

TREASURES OF ITALY PILGRIMAGE 12 Days: April 13-24, 2026 Hosted by Fr. R. Dean Probst Visiting Venice, Florence, Assisi, Monoppello, Lanciano, San Giovanni Rotundo, Monte Sant'Angelo, Sorrento, Pompeii, Monte Cassino, Rome with Papal Audience..\$5299 from St. Louis. Contact Fr. Dean 217-494-6326 or rdprobst@gmail.com for more info or brochure.

Happy Birthday



Hilary Conder 11-3
Honora Lowry 11-3
Judy Carroll 11-4
Owen Roley 11-7



EVERY weekend, we will be collecting food for local food pantries. You can find the donation tote in the cry room.

Richard Waldhoff’s 85th birthday party will be held on Sunday, Nov. 2 from 1-3pm at the Effingham Park District, 1906 S. 4th St. The family invites you to stop by and wish him a happy birthday, share some memories, and enjoy light refreshments and good company.

Families in Faith

Next class Sunday, Nov. 9 & 23
If you have any questions, contact Leslie Kemme 217-821-3399
CLASSES FOR ALL AGES...
PRE-K THROUGH ADULT!!!!

Bible Study @ St. Mary’s, Shumway
“A Journey Through Church History.”
Next meeting is Nov.

Blessing of the Cemetery--After Mass on Sunday, Nov. 2 Father Adam will go to the cemetery and do the annual blessing. There will be no walking procession. Those who would like to attend my drive over to the cemetery.

CCW NEWS--November 4 at 6:00 P.M. is the next CCW MEETING. We are installing Marcella Antrim as our new Vice President. We want to thank Joyce Shadwell for being our vice president for the last 7 years. Joyce has been an excellent member of the CCW. We would like the November & December committees to be present to plan the Christmas party (Dec. 7-first Sunday) and January committee present to come and make plans for the casserole dinner (first Tuesday January 6) where we invite St. Anthony and Sacred Heart and St Mary’s Green Creek. All women of the parish is welcome to attend.

PRAYER LIST: Please remember them in your prayers!



Walker Clark	Kathy Miller	Sally Wakefield
Steve Fritts	David Brown	Pat Kuhns
Kenny Hille	Kathy Wakefield	Bill Hamilton
Eloise P.	Larry Nation	Christie Dust
Trevor Roy	Norma Bloemer	Helen Kollinger
Tony Bierman	Beth Hewing	Bill Nuxoll
Tori Schairbaum	Jim Gordon	Cinda Held
Tom Laue	Don Kemme	Marita Elson
Jerry Worman	Don Clark	
Mardell Sheehan	Steve Moore	
Elsie McKay		

Call: 1-844-536-6514 to add or remove someone. Thank You.

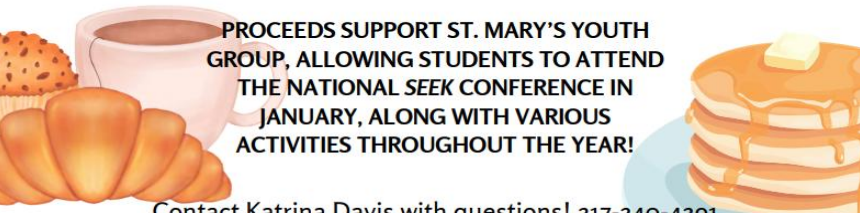


Fall BREAKFAST

hosted by St. Mary's Catholic Youth Group - Shumway
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH
7:00am - 11:00am
 Shumway Kluthe Community Building
 199 Front St, Shumway, IL 62461

FREE WILL DONATION
 PANCAKES, SAUSAGE, FRUIT, SWEET BREADS, MILK, & COFFEE
 GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS AVAILABLE

PROCEEDS SUPPORT ST. MARY'S YOUTH GROUP, ALLOWING STUDENTS TO ATTEND THE NATIONAL SEEK CONFERENCE IN JANUARY, ALONG WITH VARIOUS ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!



Contact Katrina Davis with questions! 217-240-4291

FORMED-Catholic Streaming Service To sign up follow these directions.

1. Go to Formed.org
2. Click on Find your Parish Subscription
3. Enter 62461 in the find your parish box
4. Click on St. Mary's and Next and create your account



Children's bulletins now available. There will be 2 different ones to cover more ages. Parents, please use one or both!! Let me know what you think. I appreciate the feedback.

Deanery Prayer Vigil for Life Everyone is welcome to attend the Deanery Prayer Vigil for Life to Pray for the Protection of All Life at St. Anthony church in Effingham on Monday November 17. Praying the rosary will begin at 6:00 pm. Fr Peter Harman will be the celebrant for the 6:30 pm Mass. A business meeting will follow in the parish center with refreshments being served while current pro-life issues and events are discussed.



Thursday
Nov. 13 @ 7pm

Catechesis Night

Topic:
Spiritual Warfare

with
Fr. Juan Carlos
 @St. Aloysius
 19812 E 1000th Ave
 Dieterich, IL

Happy Hour to follow @
Harry's Tavern
 107 N Main St Dieterich

Effingham Area
 Catholic Young
 Adults
 (21-35)

CATECHISM
 of the
 CATHOLIC
 CHURCH
 SECOND EDITION

Mark your calendars. The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Columbus # 720 are hosting a presentation on the Pilgrims, leaning towards their religious role in our history. Patti Winn is a 41 year veteran storyteller and dramatist. She portrays historical and Biblical people in first person. She'll be portraying a Pilgrim, and the story that modern day history books doesn't tell. It will be held at the Effingham Event Center on Monday, November 10th at 7 pm. All are invited to enjoy her presentation. Free admission. Refreshments will be available.



SonRise Fridays – All Men Invited! Authentic leadership means being willing to pay the price. We've seen how failed leadership has shaped a broken world – now we look to Christ, who perfectly lived all four leadership roles and paid the ultimate price. True leadership may look like failure to the world, but only this kind bears real fruit. Don't miss it! Come for food, fellowship and faith 6:15 AM – 7:30AM, Friday, at the St. Anthony Parish Center, Effingham. For more info Dan Woods, 217-821-1495.

December Catholic Men's Overnight Retreat – Step away from the noise of daily life and renew your soul at the Catholic Men's Overnight Retreat, led by Norbertine Father Herman Joseph Johanneck, O. Praem. at the beautiful Villa Maria Retreat Center on Lake Springfield. Father Herman Joseph will present his series, "Sons of the Father, Men in Christ," guiding participants into deeper prayer, reflection, and brotherhood. The retreat will include talks, personal prayer, Rosary, Adoration & Benediction, Confessions, group discussion, Holy Mass, and time for rest and silence. Saturday, Dec. 13 – Sunday, Dec. 14; \$150 (includes single-occupancy room, meals, and materials); Register by Nov. 21 at events@dio.org.

Why do Catholics Pray for the Dead?

On November 2, Catholics observe All Souls’ Day. This day is special for remembering loved ones who have died. The faithful pray for the dead. Catholics believe their prayers can help these souls. In many parishes, there is a table where people can place photographs of their deceased loved ones. This table sometimes remains for the entire month of November. It is a way to honor and remember them. Praying for the dead is an important Catholic practice. It may seem strange to some people, but Catholics believe it helps those who have passed away. Catholics believe in Purgatory, a place of purification. Even though sins are forgiven, their effects remain. Prayers help the souls in Purgatory become ready to be with God. This practice shows trust in God’s mercy and love.

Understanding Why Catholics Pray for the Dead

Purgatory is a state of purification. It is where souls go to be cleansed before entering Heaven. Catholics believe that even when sins are forgiven, the effects of sin can remain. Purgatory is where these effects are purified. Think of it like breaking a window. If someone forgives you for breaking it, the window is still broken. It needs to be fixed. Purgatory is like fixing the window. It repairs what sin has broken. The purpose of Purgatory is to prepare souls to be with God. It is part of the process of sanctification. Sanctification means becoming holy. In Purgatory, souls are made holy and ready for Heaven. This is why Catholics pray for the dead. They believe their prayers help souls in Purgatory. Praying for the dead supports their journey to Heaven. It is an act of love and one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy.



Why We Pray for the Dead: Scripture and Tradition

The practice of praying for the dead has strong roots in the Bible. One important verse is 2 Maccabees 12:46. It says, “It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins.” This shows that early Jews believed in helping the dead through prayer. Early Church traditions also support praying for the dead. Christians have always prayed for those who have passed away. They believed their prayers could help souls reach Heaven. This practice has been a part of the Church from the beginning.

The Church Fathers, early leaders and teachers of the Church, wrote about praying for the dead. Saint Augustine and Saint John Chrysostom both spoke about its importance. They believed it was a duty to pray for the souls in Purgatory. Church Councils have also affirmed this practice. The Council of Trent, held in the 16th century, confirmed that praying for the dead is a good and holy practice. This council helped to solidify the belief in Purgatory and the need to pray for the dead. Praying for the dead is rooted in Scripture and tradition. It shows love and care for those who have passed away. It is an important part of Catholic faith and practice.

How Prayers Help the Souls in Purgatory

Praying for the dead helps souls in Purgatory. Catholics believe their prayers can ease the suffering of these souls and speed up their purification. It is a way to support them on their journey to Heaven. When Catholics pray for the dead, they show trust in God’s mercy. They believe that God listens to their prayers and helps the souls in Purgatory. Intercessory prayer means asking God to help others. It is a powerful act of love and faith.

There are many specific prayers and practices for the dead. One common prayer is the Eternal Rest prayer: “Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.” This prayer is often said during Masses for the deceased. The Guardian’s Farewell is a beautiful song/prayer remembering those who are passed away. It can be sung at a Mass of Remembrance.

Another practice is offering Masses for the dead. Catholics believe that the Mass is the highest form of prayer. When a Mass is offered for a soul in Purgatory, it brings them great spiritual benefits. Lighting candles and saying the Rosary are also ways to pray for the dead. Praying for the dead helps them in their purification. It shows trust in God’s mercy and the power of intercessory prayer. Through specific prayers and practices, Catholics support their loved ones on their way to Heaven.

The Benefits of Praying for the Dead

Praying for the dead strengthens the faith of the living. When Catholics pray for the dead, they are reminded of God’s mercy and love. It helps them trust in God’s plan for their loved ones and themselves.

Many parishioners have shared personal stories about how praying for the dead has helped them. One parishioner said that praying for her late husband brought her peace. She felt closer to him and to God. Another parishioner mentioned that praying for his deceased parents made him feel like he was still caring for them.

Praying for the dead also brings a sense of connection and comfort to families and communities. When people come together to pray for their loved ones, they support each other. This shared practice helps them feel less alone in their grief.

Communal prayer services, like Masses for the dead, create a strong sense of unity. People find comfort in knowing that others are praying for their loved ones too. It builds a community of faith and hope. Through these shared experiences, Catholics grow closer to each other and to God. Praying for the dead benefits both the living and the deceased. It strengthens faith, brings peace, and creates a sense of community. By praying for the dead, Catholics support their loved ones and each other.

PRAYER OF SAINT GERTRUDE THE GREAT FOR THE 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

