

**Date: November 1, 2020 – All Saints Day**

What is happening this week

- 11/1 – All Saints Day
- 11/2 – The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed
- 11/3 – St. Martin de Porres
- 11/4 – St. Charles Borromeo

Theme: – Pray

There are many ways Prayer can be defined: Lifting up of our minds and hearts to God; Living in the moment by moment presence of God. All believers are called to develop our relationship with the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This relationship is expressed in prayer. Prayer is our response to the God who loves us. There is nothing we can do to make God stop loving us. This week is all about prayer. Next week is about the types of prayer.

**Start Here**

There are many options on these pages.  
This section is the basic class. If you do not have time for anything else. This is the important section.

**What To Do**

1. Preparation
  - a. Clear away distractions
  - b. Set the “mood”
    - i. Find your gathering space
    - ii. Bring out a Cross, Crucifix, Bible, Holy Picture, and/ or a statue
    - iii. Include some family photos
  - c. Explain what is going to happen
  - d. Be flexible with distractions
  - e. Give everyone a chance to share

## 2. Prayer

- a. As God is always present with us, start with the Sign of the Cross and acknowledge that God is in our present with you right now.
- b. Use the following video as your prayer <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNujr-nHRGg>

## 3. Question: What is prayer?

- a. Holy Father, Teach Us to Pray <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Fqg-kkHeek> (younger) or
- b. Why God loves us, Fr. Mike <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52Vm3YTDQ0s> (older)

## 4. Family Discussion questions

- a. Do I need to pray?
- b. Who or what is really in control of my life?
- c. What is prayer?
- d. Is it easy or difficult to speak to God? Or both?
- e. How easy is it for you to tell God that you love Him?

Or talk about the Prayer Survey

## 5. Prayer Survey Source: [https://insight.typepad.co.uk/prayer\\_discussion\\_starters.pdf](https://insight.typepad.co.uk/prayer_discussion_starters.pdf)

I believe that God always answers prayer.	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>	I think God is not interested in our prayers.
Even though I don't always see an obvious answer to prayer, I believe that God has answered.	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>	When I don't see any obvious answers to prayer, I doubt that he has heard.
If God appears to say 'no' to my prayer, I realise it is for my own good.	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>	I find it difficult to accept a 'no' answer.
When God answers my prayers, my faith is strengthened.	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>	When prayers appear to be answered, it's really just a coincidence.
I'm always talking to God.	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>	There are days when I never pray.
I'm always praising and thanking God in prayer.	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>	My prayers are just like a shopping list of requests.
When I don't feel like praying, that's when I pray even harder.	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>	If I don't feel like praying, then I don't.
I feel relaxed praying with other people.	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>	I am always embarrassed about praying with others.
I feel my prayer life is really growing.	<b>1 2 3 4 5</b>	My prayer life is dead.

6. Close with a prayer
  - a. When the Apostles asked Jesus to teach them how to pray, Jesus taught them the Our Father
  - b. Use one of the prayers at the last page

The above basic class outline seeks to teach what we believe as Catholics. This can be found in the **Catechism of the Catholic Church**. These paragraphs from the Catechism are here to help us understand what we need to know about

### Theme Refresher

### Catechism of the Catholic Church

#### WHAT IS PRAYER?

For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.

**2559** "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God." But when we pray, do we speak from the height of our pride and will, or "out of the depths" of a humble and contrite heart? He who humbles himself will be exalted; *humility* is the foundation of prayer, Only when we humbly acknowledge that "we do not know how to pray as we ought," are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer. "Man is a beggar before God."

**2567** *God calls man first.* Man may forget his Creator or hide far from his face; he may run after idols or accuse the deity of having abandoned him; yet the living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer. In prayer, the faithful God's initiative of love always comes first; our own first step is always a response. As God gradually reveals himself and reveals man to himself, prayer appears as a reciprocal call, a covenant drama. Through words and actions, this drama engages the heart. It unfolds throughout the whole history of salvation.

**2590** "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God" (St. John Damascene, *De fide orth.* 3, 24:PG 94, 1089C).

**2591** God tirelessly calls each person to this mysterious encounter with Himself. Prayer unfolds throughout the whole history of salvation as a reciprocal call between God and man.

### **Discovering God in Everyday Life**

St. Paul tells us to Pray always. Start in the morning by telling God that everything you do today is for His greater honor and glory. Placing your day in the Lord's hands allows everything you say, think, and do becomes your prayer.

"Why climb the mountains or go down into the valleys of the world looking for Him who dwells within us? – St. Augustine

This section on **God's Word** has many uses.

It could be used in place of the section above if you want to talk about the readings you have heard at Mass or will hear at Mass.

It could be used for private prayer

It could be skipped

There are links to the readings

### **God's Word**

Looking at the Readings at Mass from this Sunday, November 1, 2020. **All Saints Day**

Readings:

Reading 1: Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 24: 1 - 6

Reading 2: 1 John 3: 1-3

Gospel: Matthew 5: 1-12A

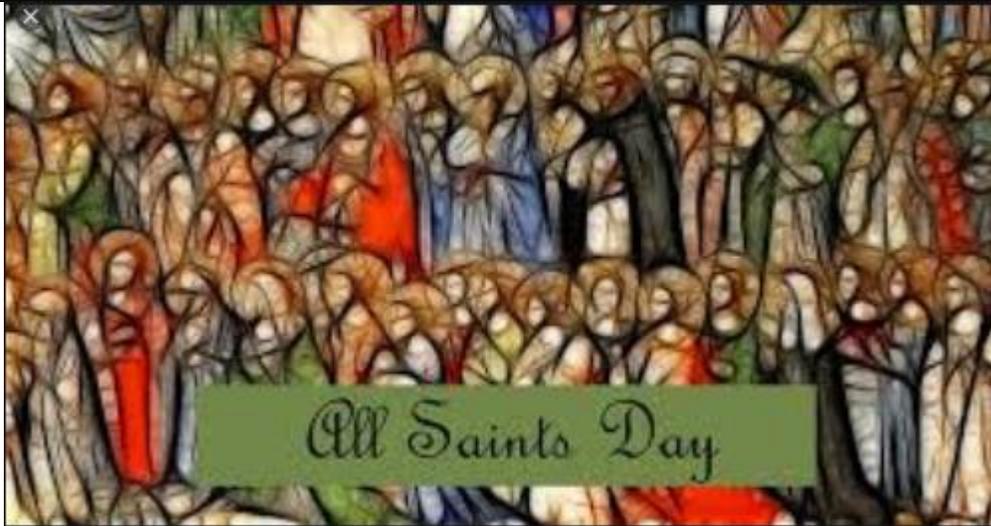
Copy of Readings

English <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/110120.cfm>

Spanish <http://www.usccb.org/bible/lecturas/110120.cfm>

How do the saints get to be saints? They live by the attitudes and actions of Jesus. In this Gospel passage, Jesus teaches his Beatitudes. These are guidelines on how to be a blessed or holy person. Each beatitude describes a group of people who share a certain quality or activity, like mercy or peacemaking. The second half of each beatitude tells how that group will be rewarded. These guidelines assure us that there is more to life than meets the eye. For example, those who are being persecuted for their faith now will rejoice and be glad when they receive their reward in heaven.

Knowing and living the Beatitudes is a secure path to holiness. If we follow that path, we will be numbered with the saints before the throne of the Lamb of God.



As a family, think and talk about the following

- To be poor in spirit means that we recognize our dependence on God. How do you think we can show that we are poor in spirit?
- To be meek means to avoid retaliating against enemies and to be generous to those who seek our help. How can people your age practice meekness?
- To be clean of heart means to avoid impure thoughts that lead to sinful actions. Name one way you can practice being clean of heart.
- Which of the Beatitudes do you believe the world needs most right now? Why? How will you practice that beatitude? What saint might you call on to help you?

Source: Source: Sacred Heart Church, Southbury, CT <https://sacredheartchurch.info>

These questions help us to go deeper into God's Word

- Whose faces do I see among the crowd gathered around the throne? If they could speak to me, what would they be saying? How do I feel about being a part of that crowd?
- Do I believe that I am a child of God? When do I best witness to that in my life? When do I least behave as such?
- How do I feel about the promise that I will one day see God as God really is? Am I ready for that opportunity? What do I need to do to prepare myself for that opportunity?
- What is my understanding of the word *blest*? How might that word be applied to me?
- Which of the promises associated with the Beatitudes most inspires me? Why?
- Which Beatitude do I most faithfully represent in my life? Which Beatitude am I furthest from representing? Which Beatitude do I most admire when I see it in other people?

Looking at the Readings at Mass for next Sunday, November 8, 2020. **32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Readings:

Reading 1: Wisdom 6:12-16

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 63: 2-8

Reading 2: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Copy of Readings English <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/110820.cfm>

Spanish <http://www.usccb.org/bible/lecturas/110820.cfm>

Today's gospel story reminds us to stay alert and be ready. Jesus tells the story of 10 bridesmaids waiting to welcome the groom to a wedding banquet. All of the women took lamps, but only five came prepared with extra oil. When the foolish bridesmaids went off to get more oil, the five others remained, and they greeted the bridegroom when he came. When the five foolish bridesmaids returned, the door was closed and they could not get into the wedding banquet. In this parable (a story that Jesus would tell to teach his followers about the kingdom of God), the wedding banquet is like God's kingdom and the coming bridegroom represents Christ. For all listeners, the story teaches us to be prayerfully alert and ready for the Lord's coming.



As a family, think and talk about the following

- What are the 10 bridesmaids doing in the story?
- What happens to the foolish bridesmaids?
- What happens to the bridesmaids who came prepared with oil?
- What does Jesus teach his listeners in this story?

Source: Sacred Heart Church, Southbury, CT <https://sacredheartchurch.info>

These questions help us to go deeper into God's Word

- How do I "keep vigil" for Wisdom in my life? What do I understand by *Wisdom*? What ways do I have of "keeping vigil" in my life?
- What/who am I grieving these days?
- In what ways am I in need or desirous of consolation these days?
- How can we live our lives so that we are "awake"?
- What are my thoughts/feelings about death right now?

This section is here if you need some additional ideas of what you can do as a family. It is a way of adding things to do during the week.

### **This Could Be Fun**

The Beatitudes Explained [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEf\\_vVq0xMk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEf_vVq0xMk)

Read each of the following ways of being blessed. Choose any three beatitudes. Write one way you will practice each of these three beatitudes.

Blessed are the poor in spirit. I will practice by \_\_\_\_\_.

Blessed are those who mourn (for those who have died or for those who are suffering). I will practice by \_\_\_\_\_.

Blessed are the meek. I will practice by \_\_\_\_\_.

Blessed are they who hunger for righteousness (God's will). I will practice by \_\_\_\_\_.

Blessed are the merciful. I will practice by \_\_\_\_\_.

Blessed are the clean of heart. I will practice by \_\_\_\_\_.

Blessed are the peacemakers. I will practice by \_\_\_\_\_.

Blessed are those who are insulted or persecuted (for doing God's will despite opposition). I will practice by \_\_\_\_\_.

Facts about All Saints Day <https://kidskonnnect.com/holidays-seasons/all-saints-day/#:~:text=for%20KidsKonnnect%20members!-.All%20Saints'%20Day%20is%20a%20Christian%20holiday%20dedicated%20to%20honor,Pentecost%20by%20the%20Eastern%20Churches.>

All Saints Day Activity [https://www.reallifeathome.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/All\\_Saints\\_Activity\\_Page.pdf](https://www.reallifeathome.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/All_Saints_Activity_Page.pdf)

Easy crossword puzzle on Saints [http://www.reallifeathome.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Saints-Crossword-Puzzle\\_Easy.pdf](http://www.reallifeathome.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Saints-Crossword-Puzzle_Easy.pdf)

Medium Saint Crossword Puzzle <http://www.reallifeathome.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Saints-Crossword-Puzzle.pdf>

Challenging Saint Crossword Puzzle <http://www.reallifeathome.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Patron-Saints-Crossword-Puzzle.pdf>

Do you need some additional things to do during the week?  
This section is to help.

### More Ideas

As you become more aware of God's presence, you will find it natural to turn to God for everything

- Thank him for the good things that happen throughout the day.
- Say you are sorry when you have done something wrong.
- Ask him for things you need.
- Ask him for help in learning what you truly need.
- Tell him about anything that worries you.
- Thank him for beauty: "Wonderful are your works, O Lord!"
- Ask for patience, understanding, faith.
- Talk to him throughout the day. Even about small things, talk to him.

Why Pray?: The Truth about Prayer <https://lifeteen.com/blog/why-pray-truth-prayer/>

What You Should Know about Purgatory? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GnwDDsN6ZfM>

Another fun thing to learn about as a Catholic is our friends, the saints. They may have lived in a different time. Some of these saints had a very difficult life. All try to live their life for God. Sometimes it is good to spend some time learning about other human beings so that we might learn how to love God more. At the end of every story is a question to help us learn from these Church heroes

## **The Church Has Heroes Too.**

Coloring pages of the Saints:

<http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/tags/saints>

<http://www.catholicplayground.com/saints-coloring-pages/>

### **November 1 – All Saints Day**

On the feast of All Saints, we honor those men and women who—whether they’ve been canonized or not—have led lives of heroic virtue that set an example for all Christians. Saints are big dreamers. They believe that with God on their side, no one and nothing can stop them. Saints are go-getters. They don’t wait for someone else to do good first; they jump right in. Saints are love-bringers. They try to see Christ in every person and every situation. Saints tell us what matters most in life is not what we earn or own, not the job we have or the people we know. What really matters is how much we love God, others, and ourselves, and how well we show that love in all we do.

Source: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/all-saints-day-kids/>

### **November 2 – the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed**

The Church has encouraged prayer for the dead from the earliest times as an act of Christian charity. “If we had no care for the dead,” Augustine noted, “we would not be in the habit of praying for them.” Yet pre-Christian rites for the deceased retained such a strong hold on the superstitious imagination that a liturgical commemoration was not observed until the early Middle Ages, when monastic communities began to mark an annual day of prayer for the departed members.

In the middle of the 11th century, Saint Odilo, abbot of Cluny, France, decreed that all Cluniac monasteries offer special prayers and sing the Office for the Dead on November 2, the day after the feast of All Saints. The custom spread from Cluny and was finally adopted throughout the Roman Church.

The theological underpinning of the feast is the acknowledgment of human frailty. Since few people achieve perfection in this life but, rather, go to the grave still scarred with traces of sinfulness, some period of purification seems necessary before a soul comes face-to-face with God. The Council of Trent affirmed this purgatory state and insisted that the prayers of the living can speed the process of purification.

Superstition easily clung to the observance. Medieval popular belief held that the souls in purgatory could appear on this day in the form of witches, toads or will-o'-the-wisps. Graveside food offerings supposedly eased the rest of the dead.

Observances of a more religious nature have survived. These include public processions or private visits to cemeteries and decorating graves with flowers and lights. This feast is observed with great fervor in Mexico.

**Source:** <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/commemoration-of-all-the-faithful-departed/>

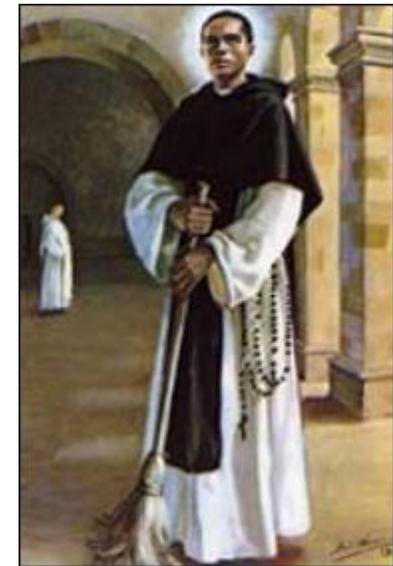
### **November 3 – St. Martin de Porres**

Patron saint of social justice and race relations

“Compassion, my dear Brother, is preferable to cleanliness. Reflect that with a little soap I can easily clean my bed covers, but even with a torrent of tears I would never wash from my soul the stain that my harshness toward the unfortunate would create.”

Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru, to parents of mixed race. Raised primarily by his mother, a freed slave, Martin experienced the effects of racism and poverty early in his life. He became the apprentice of a barber, learning not only how to cut hair, but to perform basic medical treatments. Feeling called to give his life to God in service of the lowly, Martin entered the Dominicans, who accepted him as a lay helper and later as a brother. He spent his days caring for those who were sick and poor, as well as performing menial tasks within the monastery. His nights were spent in prayer, penance, and adoration. Martin treated everyone with respect and dignity, regardless of their race or social status. He was instrumental in founding an orphanage to care for Lima’s many street children.

At his canonization ceremony in 1962, Pope John XXIII said of Saint Martin: “He tried with all his might to redeem the guilty; lovingly he comforted the sick; he provided food,



clothing and medicine for the poor; he helped, as best he could, farm laborers and Negroes, as well as mulattoes, who were looked upon at that time as akin to slaves: thus he deserved to be called by the name the people gave him: 'Martin of Charity.'"

Saint Martin experienced the exclusion, derision, and discrimination of racism. Instead of growing bitter, he used his experience to reach out and comfort others. Martin's unwavering love of God and devotion to the Passion sustained him in his charitable works that often went unacknowledged.

Who are the people that you exclude from your life or keep at a distance? Reflect on the subtle, or not so subtle, ways you discriminate against people who are different from you. Listen for how God might be calling you to a greater inclusion of others.

Source: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/saint-martin-de-porres/>

#### **November 4 – St. Charles Borromeo**

Charles Borromeo was born in northern Italy in 1538 to an established and wealthy family. Trained in civil and canon law in Pavia, he was called to Rome as a young man by his uncle, Pope Pius IV, to be secretary of state at the Vatican. "Always clear and precise in his views, firm in his demeanor, and constant in the execution of his projects," as one biographer has remarked, he played an important role in convincing Pius to reconvene the Council of Trent, which sought to address corruption in a sixteenth-century church beleaguered by Protestantism. Under the auspices of that council, beginning in 1563 Borromeo supervised the writing of an accurate catechism, rewrote liturgical texts and music, and began enforcing clerical reform in Rome. Pope Pius IV named Borromeo archbishop of Milan but kept him in Rome performing a multitude of official functions.

When Borromeo arrived in Milan, he faced a daunting task. Milan was the largest archdiocese in Italy at the time, with more than 3,000 clergy and 800 thousand people. Both its clergy and laity had drifted from church teaching. The selling of indulgences and ecclesiastical positions was prevalent; monasteries were "full of disorder"; many religious were "lazy, ignorant, and debauched," and some did not even understand how to administer the sacraments properly. The city had seen no resident bishop for 80 years.

Borromeo immediately called a synod of his bishops to inform them of the new decrees. Setting an example of personal



frugality and order, Borromeo reduced his household staff, forbade his retainers to accept any presents, and sold some of his property to help feed the poor. He began preaching in churches and monasteries, combining “exhortation with intimidation.” He also addressed the backsliding of laypeople, curtailing Sunday entertainments and requiring that all teachers profess the faith. Always interested in religious education, Borromeo established the Confraternities of Christian Doctrine to teach religion to children, and the organization grew to include 740 schools, three thousand catechists, and forty thousand students in Sunday schools.

Borromeo’s rigor predictably made him enemies. Before Borromeo went to Milan, while he was overseeing reform in Rome, a nobleman remarked that the latter city was no longer a place to enjoy oneself or to make a fortune. “Carlo Borromeo has undertaken to remake the city from top to bottom,” he said, predicting dryly that the reformer’s enthusiasm “would lead him to correct the rest of the world once he has finished with Rome.” Once Borromeo arrived in his own diocese, he was forced to excommunicate and imprison some Milanese nobles, including some civil authorities, for defying his new policies. Some Milanese complained to the pope about Borromeo’s allegedly excessive rigor, but the archbishop was vindicated. When he ordered the reform of a wealthy and corrupt religious order, the Humiliati, foes attempted to assassinate him.

Borromeo also displayed a gentler aspect, however, and many of his people loved him. During a plague in 1576, he stayed in the city and cared for the sick, ordering that decorative church hangings be tailored into clothing for the destitute. During a famine, he incurred great debts to feed more than 60,000 people. In more ordinary times, he liked to wander the city, praying with the people. He established hospitals, colleges, orphanages, and other charitable institutions.

An energetic reformer who took “always the most austere and stringent interpretation” of the dictates of the Council of Trent, Charles Borromeo was instrumental in helping reinvigorate the church during the Counter-Reformation. His work, it is said, “gave new confidence to a shaken church.” He died in 1584, at age forty-six, tired from his labors. He was canonized in 1610 and is the patron saint of catechists.

Borromeo’s life reminds us that we cannot be hypocrites. Do I treat all people fairly?

Source: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/st-charles-borromeo-1538-1584/>

More information on the saints

<https://lifeteen.com/blog/biggest-best-list-confirmation-saints-guys-girls/>

<https://www.catholic.org/saints/popular.php?year=2017&page=1>

Do you have children preparing for Sacraments? Here are some extra resources just for these Sacraments.

Reconciliation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tp1Lnzy47nQ>

First Communion <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdzG5W7vKmw>

Confirmation (overview) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1v-FL07bcTE>

Taking a more mature look at the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6GiWPlvbae8>

There are many useful resources available on YouTube and other web sites. If you want to learn more. This section is a way of helping you find other Catholic Resources.

### **English Resources**

The History of All Saints and All Souls: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJBtcgFI0EM&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJBtcgFI0EM&feature=emb_logo)

Do Saints and Angels Pray for Us? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAJdfFSTsdM>

10 Most Famous Saints for Catholic kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RG6vo6wbaC4>

All Souls Day <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLGwUX8VExo>

A Poem about all Saints <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcPXns6gilk>

St. Charles Borromeo [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SO\\_XTrWHHwU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SO_XTrWHHwU)

Additional Information can be found on this easy to use topical outline:

**Catechism of the Catholic Church, Simplified**

<https://www.catholicity.com/catechism/>

### Spanish Resources

Dia De Todos Los Santos [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kk4OR2O3H5Q&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kk4OR2O3H5Q&feature=emb_logo)

Or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l5vZnEDWvRo>

Dia De Los Muertos <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PqJGtyelaVE> or

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eck\\_pUQuuiM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eck_pUQuuiM)

De la Humildad de San Martín <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U87WaJW9znY> or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=femOT0BvS4g>

Quién Fue San Carlos Borromeo <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iu0M-F6Mu2o>

This final section list the prayers that were talked about in the **What To Do section.**

## Prayers

### Prayer for the Dead

In your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our brothers and sisters.  
In this life you embraced them with your tender love; deliver them now from every evil and bid them eternal rest.  
The old order has passed away: welcome them into paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain, but fullness of peace and joy with your Son and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

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

R/. And let perpetual light shine upon them.

V/. May their rest in peace.

R/. Amen.

V/. May their soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R/. Amen.

Día de los muertos: oraciones para pedirle a Dios por tus difuntos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSJv7ZLGLiU>

### Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

### Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of

the body, and life everlasting.  
Amen.

**Morning Offering**

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you all my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, in reparation for my sins, for the intentions of all my relatives and friends, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father.  
Amen.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sister Peggy Szeljack

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