

Praying for the Dead

When some people say that Catholics pray for the dead, that is incorrect. Catholics do not pray for just the dead, the correct statement is that Catholics pray for the souls in Purgatory. The Catechism defines Purgatory as the postmortem “final purification” (CCC1031) for those who died in God’s grace and friendship, so that they may achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joys of heaven (CCC1030). This “final purification” accomplishes three things: (1) the remission of the remaining guilt of venial sin, (2) the purging of attachments to temporal goods, and (3) the remittance of any remaining temporal punishment due to forgiven past sins.

The forgiveness of sin and restoration of communion with God entail the remission of the eternal punishment due to sin, but the temporal punishment of sin remains. (CCC1472-1473) What that means is that when a person receives absolution from the priest after he confesses his mortal sins in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, the eternal punishment of sin, which is hell, is remitted. However, the temporal punishment due to the sins he committed, both mortal and venial, remains.



One of the ways to remit the temporal punishment of sin is through indulgences: plenary indulgences remit all temporal punishments due to sin up to the point the indulgence was gained, while partial indulgences remit only a portion of the temporal punishments. Another way that all temporal punishments are remitted is through the Apostolic Pardon given by a priest to a dying person. Blessed indeed are the faithful who receive this extraordinary grace on their deathbed.

Eastern Orthodox Christians do not believe in the term “Purgatory.” However, they do believe in an intermediate state after death where souls that are not yet perfectly purified can undergo a process of purification, and that the prayers of the living can help them.

Purgatory was a major issue between Catholics and Protestants in the 16th century. The Council of Trent’s decree in 1563 reaffirmed the existence of Purgatory and the need to pray for the suffering souls. The souls in Purgatory are “saved;” i.e., assured of heaven, but they just have to undergo that final purification so that they can be admitted into heaven. Scripture tells us that nothing unclean will enter the New Jerusalem (heaven). (cf. Rev. 21:27)

In 1922, St. Padre Pio recounted that he was visited by a soul in Purgatory – one night while in prayer, he saw an old man standing in front of him. He could not imagine how anyone could have entered the friary at that time of the night since all the doors were locked. Padre Pio said to the man, “Who are you? What do you want?” The old man responded, “I am Pietro de Mauro, I died in this rectory on Sep. 18, 1908, when it was still a home for the aged. I am still in Purgatory. I need a Holy Mass in order to be freed. God permitted that I come and ask you for help.” The next day, Padre Pio went to check the town records to verify the man’s story and he discovered that there had been a man of that name who died on that day in that place due to a fire.

The souls in Purgatory call out to believing Christians: “Have pity on us, because the hand of the Lord has touched us. Look at our distress, great as the ocean is our misery. Do not delay to aid us, for we are helpless and forsaken. Hasten to assist us, for we cannot help ourselves.” The poor souls in Purgatory cannot help themselves get to heaven. Only the living can help them. How can we help them? By having Holy Mass offered for them, by offering the Masses we attend for the suffering souls, by gaining indulgences in their behalf, by praying for them; e.g. the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, novenas, etc., by acts of mortification and self-denial, by giving alms. Poor souls are grateful souls. If you help them, they will help you.

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PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention children and parents: We will not have Sunday School class on Sunday.

We will observe the Commemoration of All Souls today. You may bring pictures of your deceased loved ones and place them on the remembrance table.

Fr. Bill will administer the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick in the Sanctuary after the 10:30am Mass. Those who would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick, please come to the front of the Sanctuary right after Mass.

We will have our monthly potluck on November 16, 2025. On that same day, Fr. Bill will dedicate the Youth Room in recognition of ACCA's vital contributions and its role in shaping our community before the establishment of the Holy Name of Jesus Chinese Catholic Mission.

Whether or not you are going to the pilgrimage, all parishioners are invited to write their personal intentions in the Book of Intentions for the pilgrimage to Our Lady of La Leche in St. Augustine, FL. Fr. Bill will offer all the intentions in this book to our Blessed Mother during the pilgrimage. You can find the Book of Intentions in the church foyer.

The 10th year anniversary of the dedication of our church will be on November 19, 2027. We would like all church members to have their picture taken for the 10th year anniversary commemorative parish book. Please sign up with Tommy Puk.

For our iGiveCatholic initiative this year, SUPPORT OUR OUTDOOR PRAYER GARDEN AND RECREATION AREA. We have begun the first phase of a new outdoor prayer garden and recreation area in our church property by clearing the space needed for this small capital improvement project. The first phase includes ground covering, outdoor benches and a gazebo or mini-pavilion, our goal for Phase 1 is \$10,000. There will be additional future phases. When completed, the prayer garden will contain an outdoor Stations of the Cross and a monument to Our Lady of China with engraved commemorative bricks. The prayer garden will provide our parishioners and visitors a sacred outdoor space for group prayer and private meditation, as well as open up opportunities for activities which foster both spiritual growth and community building. Please use the iGiveCatholic envelopes provided.

Prayer List: Dawn Leach, Gao Aishang, Xie Yannong, Xu Chunmei, Bian Meiyi, Chen Kun, Chen Shupeng, Ni Yufang, Lydia Chen, David Wang, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing and Xu Taicheng.

Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	Sundays 9:00-9:30 AM	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)	Tuesdays 2:00-3:00 PM	Mondays 6:00 PM (English)
	By Appointment	
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)		Eucharistic Adoration
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	Anointing of the Sick	Sundays 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Tuesdays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 7:00 PM (English)		
First Saturday 10:00 AM (Chinese)		