

Dear Family,

As you know, November 2 is All Souls Day. November is the month where we especially remember to pray for the dead. Please read the following to understand a few concepts about the dogma of Purgatory. You will be able to spread the truth which sets us free.

Pax et bonum, Fr. Michael

Catholic Dogma Regarding Purgatory: The souls of the just which, in the moment of death, are burdened with venial sins or temporal punishment due to sins, enter Purgatory.

Some Bible References that Support the Dogma of Purgatory

+ **2 Maccabees 12:42-46:** Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out. The noble Judas warned the soldiers to keep themselves free from sin, for they had seen with their own eyes what had happened because of the sin of those who had fallen. He then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

+ **Matthew 12:32:** And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. [Comment on this passage from St. Gregory the Great, Pope, Doctor of the Church (540-604 A.D.): “From this sentence we understand that certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come.”]

+ **1 Corinthians 3:12-15:** If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, the work of each will come to light, for the Day will disclose it. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire (itself) will test the quality of each one’s work. If the work stands that someone built upon the foundation, that person will receive a wage. But if someone’s work is burned up, that one will suffer loss; the person will be saved, but only as through fire.

+ **Revelation 21:27** (paraphrase): Nothing unclean will enter heaven.

Some Statements from Sacred Tradition and the Magisterium

Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), paragraph 1030. All who die in God’s grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal

salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.

CCC 1031. The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent. The tradition of the Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture, speaks of a cleansing fire.

CCC 1032. The Church also commends almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead.

St John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor of the Church (347-407 A.D.): “Let us help and commemorate them. If Job’s sons were purified by their father’s sacrifice, why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them” (See Job 1:5).

St. Augustine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church (354-430 A.D.): “Some suffer temporal punishments only in this life, others only after death, still others both in life and after death, but always before this most strict and final court.”

Common Sense and Purgatory

The first reason backing up the dogma of Purgatory and praying for the dead is simple common sense. We all know there is no selfishness in heaven. It simply can’t exist there, because God is pure love, pure unselfishness. But we also know that not all of us, not even all good Christians, die completely freed of selfishness and selfish tendencies. Therefore, those who die with some selfish habits and self-centered attitudes, still clinging to their Christian soul, need to be cleaned up a bit before they enter heaven. This cleaning up process is known as purgatory. The word actually comes from Latin root “purgatio” [puhr- GAHT-see-oh], which means cleansing or purifying.

This purification can also take place here on earth. One of the reasons God permits suffering is precisely to give us an opportunity to accept and endure it with love, as Christ did on the cross. When we do that, suffering becomes a medicine that lessens our selfishness and helps us grow in every Christ-like virtue: patience, humility, fortitude, and wisdom. But when we keep our friendship with Christ alive in this life without really giving it top priority, we allow sinful and selfish habits to grow in our souls like weeds in a garden. In that case, after we die, God has to pull out the weeds and clean out the garden before we can fully enjoy the divine presence in heaven—that’s the painful process of Purgatory.

In sum, common sense tells us that most of us will need some spiritual cleaning up after we die and before we enter heaven. Pray for the dead to get to heaven.

A Quick Summary of Purgatory from the *Diary of St. Faustina, Paragraph 20*

I saw my Guardian Angel, who ordered me to follow him. In a moment I was in a misty place full of fire in which there was a great crowd of suffering souls. They were praying fervently, but to no avail, for themselves. Only we can come to their aid. The flames which were burning them did not touch me at all. My Guardian Angel did not leave me for an instant. I asked these souls what their greatest suffering was. They answered me in one voice that their greatest torment was longing for God. I saw Our Lady visiting souls in Purgatory. The souls call her "The Star of the Sea" [*Stella Maris*]. She brings them refreshment. I wanted to talk with them some more, but my Guardian Angel beckoned me to leave. We went out of that prison of suffering. [I heard an interior voice] which said, **My mercy does not want this, but justice demands it.** Since that time, I am in closer communion with suffering souls.

Comments about Gospel Vigilance

We are now standing in the face of the greatest historical confrontation humanity has ever experienced. I do not think the wide circle of the American Society, or the wide circle of the Christian Community, realize this fully. We are now facing the final confrontation between the Church and the anti-church, between the Gospel and the anti-gospel, between Christ and the antichrist. This confrontation lies within the plans of Divine Providence. It is, therefore, in God's Plan, and it must be a trial which the Church must take up, and face courageously....

We must prepare ourselves to suffer great trials before long, such as will demand of us a disposition to give up even life, and a total dedication to Christ and for Christ. With your and my prayers, it is possible to mitigate the coming tribulation, but it is no longer possible to avert it, because only thus can the Church be effectually renewed. How many times has the renewal of the Church sprung from the shedding of blood? This time, too, it will not be otherwise. We must be strong and prepared and trust in Christ and in his Holy Mother and be very, very assiduous in praying the holy rosary.

-Saint John Paul II

A Writing from St. Anthony Mary Claret

Quick Biography: He was born at Sallent in Catalonia in 1807. After becoming a priest, he spent several years preaching to the people throughout Catalonia and also in the Canary Islands. Returning to Spain, he established a missionary order, and founded a great religious library and publishing house in

Barcelona which published millions of cheap copies of ancient and modern Catholic works. In 1851 the Pope appointed him Bishop of Santiago de Cuba. The diocese was in a terrible state and everything needed reform and renewal. He reorganized the seminary, enforced clerical discipline, and regularized thousands of marriages. He built a hospital and many schools. This was not done without opposition and he was the subject of fifteen assassination attempts.

Queen Isabella II called him to Spain in 1857 to be her personal confessor. He died in 1870.

The Love of Christ Drives Us On

Driven by the fire of the Holy Spirit, the holy apostles travelled throughout the earth. Inflamed with the same fire, apostolic missionaries have reached, are now reaching and will continue to reach the ends of the earth, from one pole to the other, in order to proclaim the word of God. They are deservedly able to apply to themselves those words of the apostle Paul: *The love of Christ drives us on.*

The love of Christ arouses us, urges us to run, and to fly, lifted on the wings of holy zeal. The man who truly loves God also loves his neighbor. The truly zealous man is also one who loves, but he stands on a higher plane of love so that the more he is inflamed by love, the more urgently zeal drives him on. But if anyone lacks this zeal, then it is evident that love and charity have been extinguished in his heart. The zealous man desires and achieves all great things and he labors strenuously so that God may always be better known, loved and served in this world and in the life to come, for this holy love is without end.

Because he is concerned also for his neighbor, the man of zeal works to fulfill his desire that all men be content on this earth and happy and blessed in their heavenly homeland, that all may be saved, and that no one may perish forever, or offend God, or remain even for a moment in sin. Such are the concerns we observe in the holy apostles and in all who are driven by the apostolic spirit.

For myself, I say this to you: The man who burns with the fire of divine love is a son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and wherever he goes, he enkindles that flame; he desires and works with all his strength to inflame all men with the fire of God's love. Nothing deters him: he rejoices in poverty; he labors strenuously; he welcomes hardships; he laughs off false accusations; he rejoices in anguish. He thinks only of how he might follow Jesus Christ and imitate him by his prayers, his labors, his sufferings, and by caring always and only for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Mass Schedule for All Saints: Holy Day of Obligation

-Tuesday, October 31

St. Ignatius, 5:30 p.m. (Margaret Ledezma)

-Wednesday, November 1

St. Bernard, 8:30 a.m. (Keith/Debbie Morrison)

St. Anne, 5 p.m. (Gary/Mary Jo Nolan)

Our Lady, 6:45 p.m. (Chris/Zita Easton)

St. Peter, 6:30 p.m. (Michael/Joan Good)

Next Weekend the Bulletin will Have Scheduled Masses for the Holy Days of the Immaculate Conception and Christmas

All Souls Envelopes; All Souls Day is November 2

If you receive collection envelopes, you have an All Souls envelope in your box. Please think about your beloved deceased and put your envelope with a donation in the collection no later than October 30 so we can place envelopes on the altar and pray for your beloved by name—seven Masses in November.

Novena for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Available at the exits. Begins November 2. “A praying Church is a healthy Church.”

Gems of Wisdom from the *Diary of Saint Faustina*

1035. + This evening, a certain young man was dying; he was suffering terribly. For his intention, I began to say the chaplet which the Lord had taught me. I said it all, but the agony continued. I wanted to start the Litany of the Saints, but suddenly I heard the words, **Say the chaplet.** I understood that the soul needed the special help of prayers and great mercy. And so I locked myself in my room and fell prostrate before God and begged for mercy upon that soul. Then I felt the great majesty of God and His great justice. I trembled with fear, but did not stop begging the Lord’s mercy for that soul. Then I took the cross off my breast, the crucifix I had received when making my vows, and I put it on the chest of the dying man and said to the Lord, “Jesus, look on this soul with the same love with which You looked on my holocaust on the day of my perpetual vows, and by the power of the promise which You made to me in respect to the dying and those who would invoke Your mercy on them, [grant this man the grace of a happy death].” His suffering then ceased, and he died peacefully. Oh, how much we should pray for the dying! Let us take advantage of mercy while there is still time for mercy.

October is Pro-life Month: End of Life Resources

Catholic End of Life Care

The medical facilities and services listed below are provided in accordance with Catholic teaching.

- [Porter Hospice & St. Anthony Hospice](#) serve the Denver Metro area.
- [Collier Hospice Center, Good Samaritan Medical Center and St. Joseph’s Hospital](#) all provide hospice and palliative care.
- [Dominican Home Health Agency](#) provides medical equipment and in-home nursing visits to the poor, sick elderly.

Upcoming Second Collections

-November 4-5: Annual Seminarian Appeal

-November 11-12: Annual Mission Appeal

-November 25-26: Annual Christmas Families

Saturday Vigil Masses at St. Bernard on Nov. 18

Winter Season: 4 and 5:30 p.m., Nov 18 to Mar 24

Calendar of Events

-**Nov 2 (Thu).** All Souls Day. Begin Novena.

-**Dec 8 (Fri).** Immaculate Conception—Holy Day

-**Jan 12 (Fri).** PRC Pro-life Banquet at Younplife

Mass Collections, October 21 – 22

St. Anne	\$ 1833
St. Bernard	965
Our Lady of the Snow	1981
St. Peter	911
St. Ignatius	295
Total	\$ 5985

Vocations Prayer Calendar

Please pray for our seminarians every day.

Sat—Patrick DiLoreto & Micah Flores

Sun—Kevin Kasel & Miguel Mendoza

Mon—Clayton Milla & Samuel Munson

Tue—Manuel Alarcon & Sile Kone

Wed—Carlos Mejia & R.D. Braz

Thu—Joe Bui & Sean Conroy

Fri—Increase in vocations to priesthood/religious life

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS

KEY: StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;

OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

-Sat, Oct 28, StA, 5 p.m., Deacon Jim and Jeri Moat

-Sun, Oct 29, StB, 7 a.m., Wayne/Annette Charnecki

-Sun, Oct 29, OLS, 9:30 a.m., Parishioners and visitors

Weekday Masses

-Mon, Oct 30, StA, 8:30 a.m., Steve and Jan Robar

-Tue, Oct 31, OLS, 7:30 a.m., John and Mary Wells

-**Tue Eve-Wed, Holy Day**—See schedule in upper left

-**Thu, Nov 2, OLS, 8:30 a.m.**, All Souls 1

-**Fri, Nov 3, OLS, 8:30 a.m.**, Timothy and Jodee Seitz

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI

KEY: StP = St. Peter; StI = St. Ignatius (Walden)

-Sun, Oct 29, StP, 10 a.m., Larry and Janice Gross

-Sun, Oct 29, StI, 1 p.m., Parishioners and visitors