

# PRAYERS IN THE PEW™ MONTHLY

## FAITH IN ACTION CALENDAR / HIGHLIGHTS

THURSDAY <b>NOVEMBER 2</b>	All Souls Day
FRIDAY <b>NOVEMBER 10</b>	St. Leo the Great, Pope
TUESDAY <b>NOVEMBER 21</b>	Presentation of Mary

*Faith Formation Companion to Prayers in the Pew™*

### → MONTHLY SYNOPSIS ←

*November 2023 – Catholics take it as a solemn obligation to pray for those who are sick and also for those who have gone before us to eternal life. The month of November begins with the Church's solemn remembrance of our dear faithful departed on All Souls Day. Yet, each Catholic Mass commemorates the death of our Lord, who by dying destroyed death itself.*

## PRAYER FOR THE SICK

It is a little-known fact that the Catholic Church is largely responsible for what today we call *hospitals*. The Latin word *hospes* means "guest" or "traveler", and it was the work of the Church – from the very beginning – to provide hospitality and charity to those who were in need of it.

What was the motivation for Christians to provide healthcare to others? Simply, the words of Jesus: "I was ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25:36).

Many great saints like St. Basil, St. Jerome, and St. Cyprian established hospitals in their areas for care of the sick and suffering. The Council of Nicea (325 AD) even ordered that every city which had a cathedral should also have a hospital, and with the passing of centuries, lay and religious orders formed in the Church that were dedicated exclusively to the care of the sick.

### THE SCHOOL OF SAINTS



"God has no need of your money, but the poor have. You give it to the poor, and God receives it." ~ *St. Augustine*

"The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends to us day after day." ~ *St. Gianna Beretta Molla*

The average Christian who is not a healthcare professional may not be able to care directly for the sick and suffering, but we can all pray for the sick as one of our Christian works of mercy. The Church gives us a simple *Prayer for the Sick* in the following words that we may pray any time we are concerned about the health and wellbeing of another:

*Father in heaven, grant N. comfort in his/her suffering. Give him (her) courage when afraid, patience when afflicted, hope when dejected, and when alone, assure him (her) of the prayerful support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Since sickness is part of a fallen world and will always be with us, we often need to ask for peace of heart to deal with it. Many times illness is stronger than we are, but let us never forget St. Paul's consoling words to the Philippians:

*"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).*

## SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

In the month of All Souls, our challenge is to identify those around us who suffer in any way and ask them to offer their sufferings for the Holy Souls in Purgatory and for the redemption of the world.

Reach out to them if possible, even if it is just a word of support and sympathy. Most importantly, include them in your prayers and the prayers of your family so that they may receive the spiritual consolation the Church provides.



— FAITH FUNDAMENTALS —



### The Corporal Works of Mercy

The term “corporal” signifies bodily needs, and these works of mercy are anything that helps people overcome their material sufferings of this world. The Church’s description of the Corporal Works of Mercy comes directly from the famous passage of the Sheep and Goats in Matthew 25, where Jesus claims that “whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40).

The Church’s list of the seven Corporal Works of Mercy:

1. To feed the hungry
2. To give drink to the thirsty
3. To clothe the naked
4. To visit the imprisoned
5. To shelter the homeless
6. To visit the sick
7. To bury the dead

We can never practice these good works too often.

— CATECHISM CONNECTION —



**2447** The works of mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. Instructing, advising, consoling, comforting are spiritual works of mercy, as are forgiving and bearing wrongs patiently. The corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Among all these, giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity: it is also a work of justice pleasing to God.

## CALENDAR OF FAITH | November

<b>NOV 1</b> <i>Wed</i>	SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS
<b>NOV 2</b> <i>Thu</i>	All Souls Day
<b>NOV 3</b> <i>Fri</i>	St. Martin de Porres, Religious
<b>NOV 4</b> <i>Sat</i>	St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop
<b>NOV 9</b> <i>Thu</i>	Dedication of St. John Lateran Church
<b>NOV 10</b> <i>Fri</i>	St. Leo the Great, Pope
<b>NOV 11</b> <i>Sat</i>	St. Martin of Tours, Bishop
<b>NOV 12</b> <i>Sun</i>	St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr
<b>NOV 13</b> <i>Mon</i>	St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, Virgin
<b>NOV 15</b> <i>Wed</i>	St. Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor
<b>NOV 16</b> <i>Thu</i>	St. Margaret of Scotland
<b>NOV 17</b> <i>Fri</i>	St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious
<b>NOV 18</b> <i>Sat</i>	Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles
<b>NOV 21</b> <i>Tue</i>	Presentation of Mary
<b>NOV 22</b> <i>Wed</i>	St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr
<b>NOV 23</b> <i>Thu</i>	Blessed Miguel Augustin Pro, Priest and Martyr
<b>NOV 24</b> <i>Fri</i>	Sts. Andrew Dung-Lac and companions, the Vietnamese Martyrs
<b>NOV 25</b> <i>Sat</i>	St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin, Martyr
<b>NOV 30</b> <i>Mon</i>	St. Andrew, Apostle

— BIBLE BASICS —



**Matthew 14:14** When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick.

**James 5:14-15** Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint [him] with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise him up. If he has committed any sins, he will be forgiven.

## Praying with the National Eucharistic Revival

**Good Shepherd, True Bread** – Come then, good Shepherd, bread divine, Still show to us thy mercy sign; Oh, feed us, still keep us thine; So we may see thy glories shine in fields of immortality.

O thou, the wisest, mightiest, best, Our present food, our future rest, Come, make us each thy chosen guest, Co-heirs of thine, and comrades blest With saints whose dwelling is with thee.