

## NOVEMBER-A MONTH OF SAINTS AND SOULS

This month the Church meditates on the Communion of Saints, which is the charitable link with the faithful who have already reached heaven (Church Triumphant), the faithful departed who are still expiating their sins in Purgatory (Church Suffering) and of the pilgrim faithful here on earth Church Militant). “In this wonderful exchange, the holiness of one profits others, well beyond the harm that the sin of one could cause others. Thus recourse to the communion of saints lets the contrite sinner be more promptly and efficaciously purified of the punishments for sin.” (CCC 1475)

Throughout November the Church prays for all who are in the purifying fires of Purgatory, waiting for the day when they will join the company of the saints in heaven. The celebration of Mass is the highest means the Church can provide for charity for the dead, but we can also relieve their sufferings through our prayers, sufferings and penances. We can also help the Poor Souls by doing acts and prayers that have indulgences attached to them. There are many indulgences, applicable only to the Souls in Purgatory, that can be obtained during the month of November.

In the month of November, the Church has two traditional means of obtaining a plenary indulgence for the souls in Purgatory. The first is to visit a cemetery and pray for the dead during the Octave of All Saints’, which is Nov. 1-8. The second plenary indulgence is connected to the Feast of All Souls’ Day on Nov. 2, and can be received by those who piously visit a church or oratory on that day and recite the Our Father and the Creed. The Vatican said that these plenary indulgences has been extended and is available to Catholics throughout the month of Nov. to reduce crowds. For more information on indulgences, visit [ewtn.com/allsouls](http://ewtn.com/allsouls).

### Prayer for the Poor Souls in Purgatory

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

And may the souls of all the faithful departed,

Through the mercy of God, rest in peace. AMEN

Notes from the Bible study class-Acts: The Spread of the Kingdom by Jeff Cavins and Sarah Christmyer—taking place at Good Shepherd

So far, we have covered the first ten chapters.

Following the dramatic descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the apostles went out filled with new life and power and began doing the work of Christ. The Greek word for “boldness” is parrhesia, literally, “telling all.” But it is more than just confident communication. The boldness of a Christian flows from conviction and character. The early Christians are changed people—changed by the resurrection of Jesus. Their experience of the empty tomb and the risen Lord gives them a mission, a message, and the means to face any fear or opposition. Jesus’ disciples exercise boldness not only in their preaching, but also in the way they pray. This boldness is the fruit of an encounter with the living Christ and indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This study is showing us how the joys and struggles of the early Christians in living the life of Christ apply to us today.

This month we meet on Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup> in the basement of Good Shepherd at 1:00. In the next few weeks, we will be studying St. Paul and his missionary journeys spreading the gospel to the gentile and the working of the Holy Spirit in his travels.

Please join us. We would love to study God’s word with you!

#### PRAYER AFTER AN ELECTION

God of all nations, Father of the human family, we give you thanks for the freedom we exercise and the many blessings of democracy we enjoy in these United States of America. We ask for your protection and guidance for all who devote themselves to the common good, working for justice and peace at home and around the world.

We lift up all our duly elected leaders and public servants, those who will serve us as president, as legislators and judges, those in the military and law enforcement. Heal us from our differences and unite us, O Lord, with a common purpose, dedication, and commitment to achieve liberty and justice in the years ahead for all people, and especially those who are most vulnerable in our midst. AMEN

Source: USCCB Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers, revised edition by Cardinal Adam Maida, Archbishop of Detroit