



# THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

*During which we are Highlighting the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy*

## Mercy for the Month of November

### PRAY FOR LIVING AND THE DEAD

November begins with All Saints Day and All Souls Day. They are feasts of the Communion of Saints, united as we are with the Church Triumphant in Heaven, the Church Suffering in Purgatory; us being the Church Militant here below on earth. Prayer unites us, and allows us to intercede for one another before God. It is important to pray for those who have died, that they may be admitted to eternal paradise. If they are in Purgatory, then our prayers will provide them with solicitude and aid. We must not neglect this work of charity and mercy. If they are already in Heaven, then God in His goodness can use our charity to aid others. It is also important that we uphold one another in prayer here on earth, as we share in this journey towards Heaven which is fraught with obstacles and dangers. Jesus notes that only few will be saved (Matthew 7), that many will try to enter Heaven and will not be successful (Luke 13). Since the way is narrow and difficult, if we love others and want them to go to Heaven, we will do what we can to aid them, including through intercessory prayer, never taking for granted our own salvation, either.

#### MERCY IN ACTION

Besides personal intercessory prayer for the living and the dead which should be a normal part of your prayer life, consider having a Mass celebrated for your loved ones. At each Mass, the priest remembers one particular intention as the abundance of grace of the Holy Sacrifice of Jesus Christ overflow into our lives and world. This is arranged through the office.

As you come into Church, stop by the Intentions Book to either add your own that others may pray for them, or read some of the other intentions and bring those individuals with you to the Mass as you offer them to the Father.

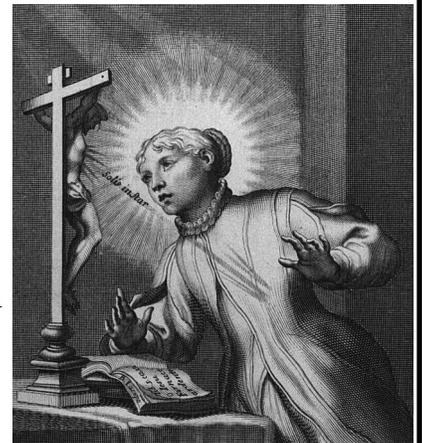
If someone is having a hard day, stop and pray with them—then and there, whether in the grocery store, a parking lot, or even over the phone. Turn to Jesus, the source of all mercy and love.

Finally, sometimes all we need to do is ask. Ask your family or friends if there is anything in particular you can pray for them for. While we can always simply lift up individuals, it is also nice to lift up particular needs or intentions.  
**How are you Merciful like the Father?**

#### PATRON SAINT OF THE MONTH:

##### ST. CATHERINE OF GENOA

St. Catherine died in 1510 leaving behind a legacy of caring for those in need, as well as some writings from her visions. One of these books is dedicated to Purgatory. Since nothing unclean can enter Heaven (Rev. 21:27), it is the fire of God's love which purifies us. "These rays purify and then annihilate. The soul becomes like gold that becomes purer as it is fired, all dross being cast out. Having come to the point of twenty-four carats, gold cannot be purified any further; and this is what happens to the soul in the fire of God's love." For some rare few, this happens entirely here on earth. For most on their way to Heaven, there is still more needed at death, and so God in His goodness and love continues this refining process. Since the souls in Purgatory are suffering, albeit from the love of God, if we love them we will pray for them and aid them in their last journey.





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### BURY THE DEAD

On October 25th, the Vatican released a document on this very work of mercy. "Following the most ancient Christian tradition, the Church insistently recommends that the bodies of the deceased be buried in cemeteries or other sacred places. In memory of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord, the mystery that illumines the Christian meaning of death, burial is above all the most fitting way to express faith and hope in the resurrection of the body. The Church who, as Mother, has accompanied the Christian during his earthly pilgrimage, offers to the Father, in Christ, the child of her grace, and she commits to the earth, in hope, the seed of the body that will rise in glory. By burying the bodies of the faithful, the Church confirms her faith in the resurrection of the body, and intends to show the great dignity of the human body as an integral part of the human person whose body forms part of their identity. She cannot, therefore, condone attitudes or permit rites that involve erroneous ideas about death, such as considering death as the definitive annihilation of the person, or the moment of fusion with Mother Nature or the universe, or as a stage in the cycle of regeneration, or as the definitive liberation from the 'prison' of the body.

Furthermore, burial in a cemetery or another sacred place adequately corresponds to the piety and respect owed to the bodies of the faithful departed who through Baptism have become temples of the Holy Spirit and in which 'as instruments and vessels the Spirit has carried out so many good works'. Tobias, the just, was praised for the merits he acquired in the sight of God for having buried the dead, and the Church considers the burial of dead one of the corporal works of mercy. Finally, the burial of the faithful departed in cemeteries or other sacred places encourages family members and the whole Christian community to pray for and remember the dead, while at the same time fostering the veneration of martyrs and saints. Through the practice of burying the dead in cemeteries, in churches or their environs, Christian tradition has upheld the relationship between the living and the dead and has opposed any tendency to minimize, or relegate to the purely private sphere, the event of death and the meaning it has for Christians." *Ad resurgendum cum Christo* 3

#### MERCY IN ACTION

- Plan your own funeral and final arrangements.
- Comfort those who have had a loved one recently die. Send them a card or call them.
- Attend funerals and pray for the members of our community who have died.
- Visit a cemetery and spend time in prayer.

How are you Merciful like the Father?

#### PATRON SAINT OF THE MONTH:

##### ST. JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA

St. Joseph of Arimathea was a "good and righteous man," a member of the high council. (Luke 23:50) As such, he was a secret disciple of Jesus Christ, for fear of the Jews. After Jesus had died, as evening drew on, he asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. (John 19:38) He then went and purchased the burial linens. Joseph, along with Mary and a few others, took the body of Jesus down from the Cross. With great tenderness they wrapped Him in His burial clothes, and laid Him in the tomb which Joseph had provided. In caring for our own beloved dead, may we do so with the same tenderness and love as did Joseph. May we treat our beloved dead just as did St. Joseph, laying them to rest as they await the Resurrection.

