

Honoring November



November is the month of the Dead.

During this month, we remember those who have died and we do special acts of prayer, almsgiving and fasting to honor and assist those Christians who have gone before us.



What are Indulgences?

God sent us into the world to make the world a better place. Unfortunately, my sins make it worse. When I sin, I do two things: I take grace away from (1) myself and (2) the rest of the world. Because my sin takes away my power to be joyful, I do not have the power to treat others well. The sacrament of reconciliation restores *me* to a state of joyful grace, but the people I mistreated still suffer from my earlier lack of grace. How do I repair *that* damage? And I must repair that damage – God intends me to make the world a better place, and I must do His will. In fact, I cannot enter heaven until I have. The world must be free from the suffering my sins have caused.

I have two choices if I wish to heal the world: I can share in the healing work of the Cross either in Purgatory or through indulgences. An indulgence (partial or plenary) is a prayerful act I can do today that restores part or all of the grace the world *would* have enjoyed if I had never sinned. However, to be worthy of sharing in this healing work of Christ, I must first be in a state of grace.



To perform a partial indulgence, I need only be in a state of grace when doing the work.

To perform a plenary indulgence, I must be in a state of grace when doing the work, receive confession, receive the Eucharist, pray for the Pope's intentions (an Our Father and a Hail Mary is sufficient), and make an act of the will to love God and despise all sin, even the most venial.

Plenary Indulgences for the Month of the Dead

Feast of All Saints/Feast of All Souls: Visiting a cemetery and praying for the dead during the Octave of All Saints' Day (November 1 through November 8) will win a plenary indulgence that can only be applied to those in purgatory.

At the Hour of Death: The Anointing of the Sick contains the apostolic pardon, a plenary indulgence which requires no other work. If no priest is available and the person is baptized, rightly disposed and has regularly prayed in some way during his life, prayer in the hour of death may earn a plenary indulgence.

Feast of Christ the King: Praying the Act of Dedication to Christ the King on the Feast of Christ the King may earn a plenary indulgence. (see reverse side).

Act of Dedication to Christ the King

Most Sweet Jesus, Redeemer of the human race, we are Yours, and Yours we wish to be. To bind ourselves to You even more closely we kneel before You today and offer ourselves to Your Most Sacred Heart.

R. Praise to You, our Savior and our King.

Have mercy on all who have never known You and on all who reject You and refuse to obey You: gentle Lord, draw them to Yourself.

R. Praise to You, our Savior and our King.

Reign over the faithful who have never left You, reign over those who have squandered their inheritance, the prodigal children who now are starving: being them back to their Father's house.

R. Praise to You, our Savior and our King.

Reign over those who are misled by error or divided by discord. Hasten the day when we shall be one in faith and truth, one flock with You, the one Shepherd. Give to Your Church freedom and peace, and to all nations justice and order. Make the earth resound from pole to pole with a single cry: Praise to the Divine Heart that gained our salvation; glory and honor be His forever and ever. Amen.

R. Praise to You, our Savior and our King.

Amen.

Tantum Ergo

Down in adoration falling,
Lo! The Sacred host we hail.
Lo! O'er ancient forms departing,
Newer rites of Grace prevail;
Faith for all defects supplying,
Where the feeble senses fail.

To the Everlasting Father
And the Son Who reigns on high,
With the Spirit blessed proceeding
Forth, from Each eternally,
Be salvation, honor, blessing,
Might and endless majesty. Amen.

Portions of this flier are taken from *The Keys to Grace Calendar of Indulgences 2005*