



# All Souls 2024



Dear Friends of St. Jude,

Our society likes to forget about death. A central motivation for doing so is to avoid the pain of having to deal with the fragility of our own existence. But we, as Catholics, often think about the reality of death. Why? Because we know that united with our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Sacraments of the Church he established, we have the supernatural hope of being granted everlasting joy and union with Him and all our beloved in Heaven.

With this in mind, we traditionally take time during the month of November to make special prayers and fasts for the Faithful Departed, commencing with All Souls' Day. In the Book of Maccabees, Judas Maccabeus prayed for the dead who had fallen in battle in defense of Israel, "so that they might be delivered from their sin." (2 Maccabees 12:45) From scripture verses such as this, and the Sacred Tradition of the Church, we know that many of the souls who die go through a process of purification before they enter into Paradise, known as purgatory, where God's love is perfected in them. For this reason, we should pray for the faithful dead, that they may be aided during this purification.

This is why we, as Dominicans, take praying for the dead very seriously. In fact, we celebrate *two* All Souls' Day in November—one for the souls of all the faithful departed on November 2, and the second for the souls of the deceased brothers and sisters of the Dominican Order on November 8.

**I encourage you all to join us in taking seriously the prayers for the dead this November by praying for the souls of your beloved. One way to do so is to enroll your beloved in the slip enclosed in this letter, or online at the address below. We will then place your petitions before the high altar at St. Dominic's, and pray for your loved ones during our Masses throughout the month of November.**

You, too, should participate in these prayers. One prayer I might suggest is the following, which is found in a Dominican hand missal of 1948:

*O God, the life of those who live, the hope of those who die, the salvation of all who trust in thee. Mercifully grant that the souls of thy servants and handmaidens, being freed from the chains of our mortal nature, may, by the intercession of Blessed Mary, ever a virgin, rejoice together with thy saints in everlasting light, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

I invite you to make this prayer daily, calling to mind all your beloved family and friends, that we may continue to show them the love that we showed them on Earth by aiding them during their time in purgatory.

To many in the world, praying for the dead might seem morbid, but for us it is quite the opposite. In doing so, we confirm our great hope that, united with Christ, he will restore our lifeless bodies into the glory of His Kingdom.

With great hope and confidence,

<https://stjude-shrine.org/enroll-in-month-of-all-souls>

*Rev. Br. Elias Guadalupe Ford O.P.*

Rev. Br. Elias Guadalupe Ford, O.P.  
Director



Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus | 2390 Bush Street | PO Box 15368 | San Francisco CA 94115  
415-931-5919 | [www.stjude-shrine.org](http://www.stjude-shrine.org) | [info@stjude-shrine.org](mailto:info@stjude-shrine.org)



## All Souls Spiritual Bouquet

Dear Br. Elias,  
Please pray for the souls of my loved ones written below and include them in the **All Souls Remembrance** at the Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus **during the Month of November 2024.**

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Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form to **St. Jude Shrine • PO Box 15368 • San Francisco, CA 94115-0368**; or drop it off at the Shrine.