

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

After celebrating the Solemnity of All Saints, we celebrate the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed, praying for all those who have passed from this life. We pray for the faithful departed because there are few people who achieve perfection in this life. And so, we pray for those who have died because some period of purification seems necessary before the faithful departed will come face-to-face with God. Our prayers can indeed speed along this time of purification so that they will rejoice in the gift of heaven, seeing God face-to-face.

Today, November 2nd, is our time to pray for all the faithful departed so that the kingdom of heaven is theirs. Our prayers for the faithful departed are not simply to be offered on one day alone. Traditionally, the Church remembers the faithful departed throughout the entire month of November. Here in our Church, we pray for certain individuals who have passed from this life into eternity. We pray for all those whose funeral services have taken place in our church. Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. We also pray in a special way for members of our families and from those among our friends whether they have passed away recently or many years ago. Those dear to us are always in our thoughts and prayers.

Each year throughout the month of November, we are invited to bring pictures of our loved ones to be displayed in our altar area throughout the month. Today and throughout the month, we have the opportunity to bring pictures here to church if you would like. Our Church's particular commemoration of our departed loved ones takes place at our Parish later in the month.

Everyone is invited to gather together to pray for our departed loved ones that evening.

Remember these words of Jesus *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be."*

Our Mass of Remembrance schedule is as follows:

Our Lady of Grace: November 12th at 7:00pm

Transfiguration: November 22nd at 7:00pm

-Fr. Raphael