

PRAYER FOR ALL SOULS AND ALL SAINTS DAYS

Virtue Link: Faith, Hope, Love, Fortitude

Catholic Character Themes: Community, Discipleship, Reverence, Stewardship

INTRODUCTION

Good morning/afternoon and welcome to our prayer for the feasts of All Saints and All Souls.

These two special days remind us that God has a special plan for everyone. Before we were born, God willed for us to live with Him forever. When we were baptized, we became part of a special family called the *communion of saints*, who share in Jesus' gift of His holiness.

The saints are people who said "yes" to God's plan for them and are now in heaven. Some were children and young people, some were mothers and fathers, some were monks, priests or nuns, and some were single people. On All Saints Day we praise and thank God for what He has done for us through these holy people. We ask the saints to pray for us that we might love our God and neighbour the way Jesus taught us. On All Souls Day, we pray for all people who have died. We ask God to bring them to the joyful banquet of heaven to be with God and the saints forever.

Let us begin our prayer in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

OPENING SONG

Please join in our opening song:

Sugg: (See list of songs at end of prayer service)

Leader: Let us be attentive and listen to God's word.

Reading: A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters;
God loves you and has chosen you as his own special people.
So be gentle, kind, humble, meek, and patient.
Put up with each other,
And forgive anyone who does you wrong,
Just as Christ has forgiven you.
Love is more important than anything else.
It is what ties everything completely together.

Each one of you is part of the body of Christ,
And you were chosen to live together in peace.
Whatever you say or do should be done
In the name of the Lord Jesus,
As you give thanks to God the Father because of him.
(Pause)

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE: (Psalm 16)

Please respond: "We trust you O God, you take care of your people."

Protect me, O God; I trust in you for safety.

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;

All the good things I have come from you." **R**

How excellent are the Lord's faithful people!

My greatest pleasure is to be with them. **R**

You Lord, are all I have,

And you give me all I need;

My future is in your hands.

How wonderful are your gifts to me, how good they are! **R**

You will show me the path that leads to life;

Your presence fills me with joy

And brings me pleasure for ever. **R**

Leader: Let us now stand for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL: (Gospel of John 3, 16-17)

A reading from the Gospel of John

Jesus told Nicodemus;

"God loved the people of this world so much

that he gave his only Son,

so that everyone who has faith in him

will have eternal life and never die.

God did not send his Son into the world

To condemn its people.

He sent him to save them!"

(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

A song or presentation can be inserted here.

Other suggestions:

- Have representatives of each class bring forward symbols from their classrooms which remind them that they are part of the communion of saints: eg. Crucifix, holy pictures, poster or drawing of baptismal font etc.
- Have a picture of school's patron saint brought forward accompanied by a short reading about the saint and how their life reminds us how we all share in the holiness of Jesus by baptism, and are called to be saints.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

1. Let us pray for all God's children, that everyone will learn to share what God has given us to live as brothers and sisters in peace. We pray to the Lord...
Lord hear our prayer.
2. Let us pray for our Pope, our bishops and priests, that with God's help they might always be wise and generous in leading others to live as God's holy people. We pray to the Lord...
Lord hear our prayer.
3. Let us pray for our principals, teachers, E.A.s and school staff. That God will continue to fill them with His strength and peace as they work to make our school a home for the Gospel of Jesus. We pray to the Lord...
Lord hear our prayer.
4. Let us pray for our friends and relatives who have died. May God lead them to the joy of heaven and send us his comfort and peace. We pray to the Lord...
Lord hear our prayer.
5. Let us pray for ourselves. That we might treasure our Baptism, which has made us one in Christ: a communion of saints. We pray to the Lord...
Lord hear our prayer.
6. Let us pray that God will open our eyes and hearts to serving Jesus in each other. May our care for one another be a sign of the oneness we share in Christ with all the saints. We pray to the Lord...
Lord hear our prayer.

Additional Prayer Intentions

Leader: Let us bring together all our prayers: -those we have spoken and those in the quiet of our hearts, uniting them to the prayer of Jesus, using the words he gave us. *Our Father ...*

CLOSING PRAYER

God our Father, by our Baptism, you made us your holy people and called us to share in the joy of your saints. By their help and example you guide us to live for others as Jesus taught us. May their prayers strengthen and comfort us as we follow Jesus to his promise of everlasting life. We make this prayer to you in His name. Amen
And may Almighty God bless us: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Closing Song: (See list below)

Prayer of St. Francis
Blest are They
Alleluia, Sing of Jesus
In the Day of the Lord
Bring Forth the Kingdom
Glory and Praise to our God

Only a Shadow
Here I am Lord
For You Are My God
City of God
For all the Saints