



Holy Souls Sodality

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church, Mankato, Minnesota
Newsletter #1

December, 2019

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen"

May God bless you for your participation in our new Holy Souls Sodality. It is so good for us as a parish to unite our prayers for a common purpose as they become so much more valuable! And I am very pleased with the number of people who have responded. Please share your enthusiasm with others to encourage them to participate as well.

Much of Purgatory remains veiled in a mystery, but our Sodality is simple and pure. We pray for souls to get to Heaven and we do it out of love for our Lord. Your prayers for these souls are helping you to grow in holiness! So, let's review the only two requirements for membership:

PRAYER

Say the "Eternal Rest" prayer daily. This is such a short little prayer that can be added onto your meal prayer, morning or evening prayers. You may even find yourself saying it more than once a day. Find a time that works best for you. A small card with this prayer is included.

HOLY MASS

Have one Mass said for the Holy Souls each year. Basically, these are your "dues" for participation in this organization! You can have this Mass said anywhere. Because of the great interest in the Sodality, we are unable to have the Masses said here - it is just too many extra Masses. If you have turned in your money already, we will send the money on to the missions. Also, you only need to have one Mass said per family!

Here is a list of congregations that will take Mass stipends for the Poor Souls:

Pious Union of Saint Joseph
953 East Michigan Avenue
Grass Lake, MI 49240
517-522-8017
www.piousunionofstjoseph.org

Association of Marian Helpers
National Shrine of The Divine Mercy
2 Prospect Hill Road
Eden Hill
Stockbridge, MA 01262
1-800-462-7426
www.marian.org

Seraphic Mass Association
5217 Butler Street, Suite 100
Pittsburgh, PA 15201
1-877-737-9050
www.mymassrequest.org

We are also providing you with two pamphlets for those of you who may be inspired to further your prayers for souls. One is for praying a different prayer for each day of the week. The other pamphlet explains the St. Gertrude prayer with the promise that 1,000 souls will be released from Purgatory each time it is said. Please enjoy these two pamphlets or pass them on to someone else. For those with children, we are also including a pamphlet for teaching kids to pray for souls.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

You are invited to participate in monthly Stations of the Cross for the Holy Souls in Purgatory on the First Fridays of the month in Church. We will be using Susan Tassone's stations of the cross book. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will also be recited following the Stations.

This is not a requirement of membership, but an opportunity to gather as a group to pray in common.

Please join me on Friday, January 3rd, at 3:00 PM in Church for the Stations of the Cross and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy!

LIGHTING A CANDLE FOR A SOUL(S)

Lighting a candle for souls is also not a requirement, but another opportunity.

In Medieval times it was in common practice to make offerings to maintain lamps that were kept burning on the graves year round in order to comfort the dearly departed. The lights signify the light of Christ - the Eternal Light - to whom all prayers are raised on behalf of the dead. These candles kept silent vigil and began to be called "vigil lights." The offering of a lighted candle for a particular soul, or for a category of souls is a worthy offering which will comfort the members of the Church Suffering.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO OFFER UP YOUR MASS FOR THE HOLY SOULS?

There are several moments during the Holy Mass when it is fitting to offer up prayers for the Holy Souls, even if the Mass is not, strictly speaking, being offered for the Holy Souls as to the priest's primary intention. There are four moments I would highly recommend:

- 1) During the offertory – when we offer ourselves and all our intentions to the Lord;*
- 2) During the Consecration of the Body and Blood of Christ – when Christ offers Himself to the Father;*
- 3) At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer – when the priest asks the Lord to remember the faithful departed;*
- 4) Upon receiving the Lord in the Holy Eucharist – pray for the Holy Souls in union with Christ who is within you.*

At these moments lift the faithful departed to the Lord in prayer and commend them to His Divine Mercy.

Please stop in at our Giftshop as they have ordered Day by Day for the Holy Souls in Purgatory by Susan Tassone. You may find some other materials to enhance your Holy Souls prayers. Susan Tassone has a number of books (treasures) encouraging us to pray for souls. Check out her website at www.susantassone.com. Our Giftshop should be able to order any of these books for you.

God bless you,

Father Andrew Whiting, IVE
Pastor