

November 2

All Souls' Day

Leader Guide



Diocese of
Green Bay

THE OFFICE OF PARISH EVANGELIZATION & DISCIPLESHIP

All Souls' Day

An Outreach of Hope to the Community

From the beginning of time, human beings have always gathered together to ritualize the great sacred moments of life such as birth and death. As Christians, life, death, and resurrection are at the heart of our faith. We, as a Catholic Community, have a mission to bring the light of Jesus Christ into the darkness of death. The Gospel is a gospel of hope.

During this unusual year where COVID-19 has changed how we live and how we grieve, there is an opportunity for us to gather our local community to celebrate the lives of those who have passed away. The Feast of All Souls' is a day of holiness when we remember the loving kindness of our God towards those who have died and grieve for those we have lost. The "Eucharist Prayer for Various Needs" (#4) encourages us to pray for our brothers and sisters who "have fallen asleep in the peace of your Christ, and all the dead, whose faith you alone have known. Admit them to rejoice in the light of your face, and in the resurrection give them the fullness of life". Praying for the dead is rooted in Scripture and supported by the Catechism and the Church's funeral liturgy.

For us, when our earthly pilgrimage is done, we implore the Lord to grant us "an eternal dwelling place" and to live with God for ever; "in communion with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with the Apostles and Martyrs, with all the Saints" and all holy people.





Purpose

The intention is to bring together the local community to celebrate the lives of those who have passed within the year. In a spirit of Christian charity, all are invited to attend and participate. In particular, the Hispanic community appreciates events such as this that call us, as Catholics, to pray for the dead.

This resource should not be used during the Sunday Mass on November 1 because the Feast of All Souls' takes place on a Monday this year, but during the "Mass for the Commemoration of All the Faithfully Departed" on November 2. Some pieces of this prayer experience – particularly the Universal Prayer – might be used as a meaningful way to engage in a prayer effort that is happening across the Diocese.



As the General Instructions of the Roman Missal states, "Because of its special importance, the Sunday celebration gives way only to solemnities or feasts of the Lord." (no. 5)

Please note that the format below is just a suggestion, a starting point for your own creativity and imagination. This event could be a "parish-wide" event or for a specific ministry such as faith formation.

Patronage

The format of the All Souls' Day celebration can be placed under the intercession and emphasize the following saints or others as appropriate:

- Our Lady of Good Help
- Our Lady of Consolation in Times of Sorrow
- St. Joseph: Patron of a Peaceful Death

FORMAT

Venue

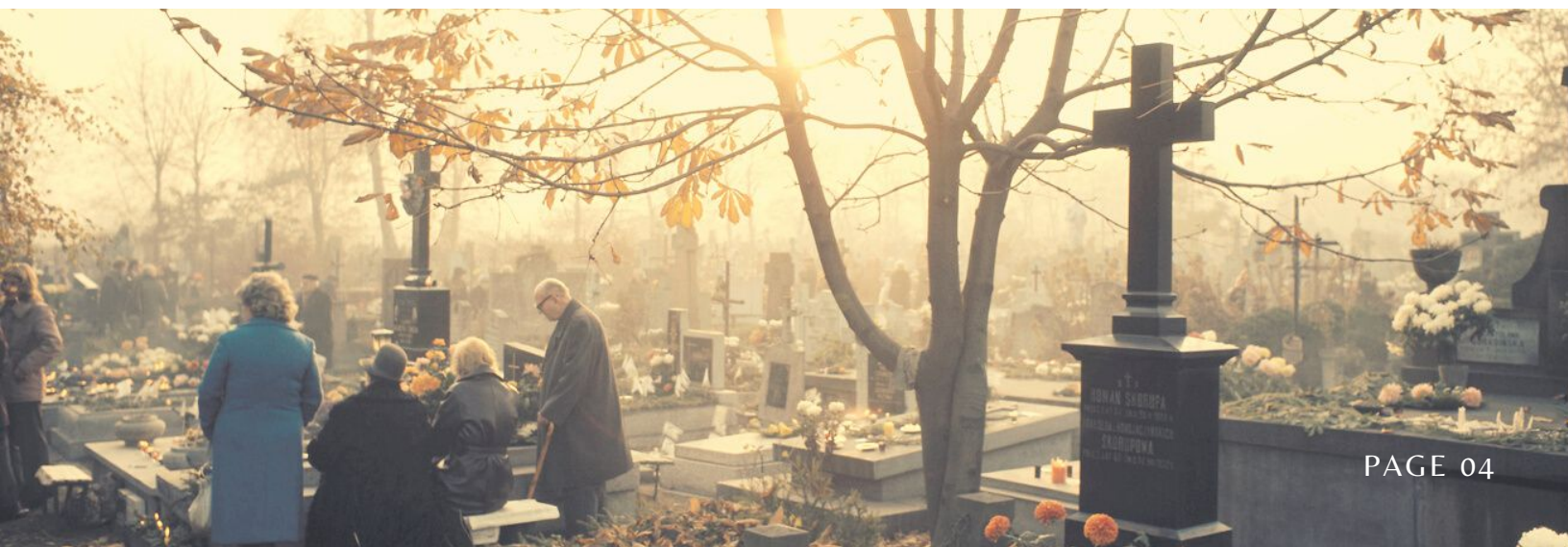
Taking into account local guidelines and ordinances related to social distancing, the All Souls' Day prayer service can be celebrated either inside or outside. For example, it could be in the church proper, a large basement, the school gym, a field, the parish cemetery, or the parking lot.

*O Lord Jesus Christ,
King of Glory,
deliver the souls
of all the
faithful departed.*

Invitation and Personal Connection

As an evangelization outreach, parishioners who have lost a loved one within the year would receive a call four weeks out from the event asking them if they would like to have their loved one honored at such an event. This can be a spouse, family member, friend, etc, also including those not officially registered members of the parish and those who are not Catholic. Allow parishioners to choose who they wish to honor.

This would provide an opportunity to remind parishioners that they are loved and that the parish is united with them in their grief. You may want to help parishioners more actively participate in this experience by encouraging them to bring a picture or personal item connected to a deceased loved one to this experience.



Pictures

Parishioners are invited to email or bring to the parish office a picture of their loved one in advance. If this is too difficult to organize, a staff member/volunteer could simply use the obituary picture that was used since it is in the public domain.

If hard copies are dropped off, they will be returned to the family. These pictures will then be copied to an 8x10 size or larger. Some parishes may wish to have them professionally printed on poster board but a simple 8x10 frame is also appropriate.



Gift Book and Candle

The parish can purchase a simple journal or gift book for each loved one to be celebrated on the Feast of All Souls'.

During this event, the local community will be invited to come to the celebration to share their memories of the deceased and record them in this special book. It will be called the "Book of Memories" to hold all the prayers, special moments, and notes of encouragement and support for the family.

A small candle or votive can also be purchased to be placed in front of the picture of their loved one. Following All Souls' Day, the family will receive the candle, gift book, and framed picture of their loved one as a memorial.

Set-Up

The parish has a couple of options for set-up, depending on whether they do it inside or outside. Again, adhering to local guidelines regarding health and safety, the ideal environment is to arrange individual stations with the picture, gift book, and candle for each person. Make sure to indicate the

name of the deceased in addition to their picture. A few chairs could be placed in front of the station for prayer and reflection.



Music

Soothing, sacred music can be played to set the tone of the event to be reflective and prayerful. Taize style music is especially appreciated for its simplicity and reflectivity.

A Note About Engaging Families

Children are particularly drawn to the “smells and bells” of our Catholic tradition. As a way of helping them to understand that this is a natural part of our Catholic life, this could be an invaluable experience to guide them in their faith. Give some thought to how they can participate, perhaps by creating a special booklet just for them or by asking them to read the name of their loved one who has passed away. One parish that offered a similar event, gave the children small bottles of bubbles which they could blow outside to represent our prayers blowing to heaven for their loved ones.



Timeframe

Monday, November 2, 2020

This celebration could be scheduled after morning Mass so that people can come to pay their respects informally during the day with a "drop in and drop out" format. On the evening of November 2, perhaps from 6:30 to 8:00, there might be an opportunity for a more formal acknowledgement of each loved one, incorporating a reading of each person's name, prayers for the dead, and a blessing by the pastor, pastoral leader, or deacon. The actual service could begin at 7:00 and take no more than 45 minutes, leaving time for people to reflect and pray together in person.

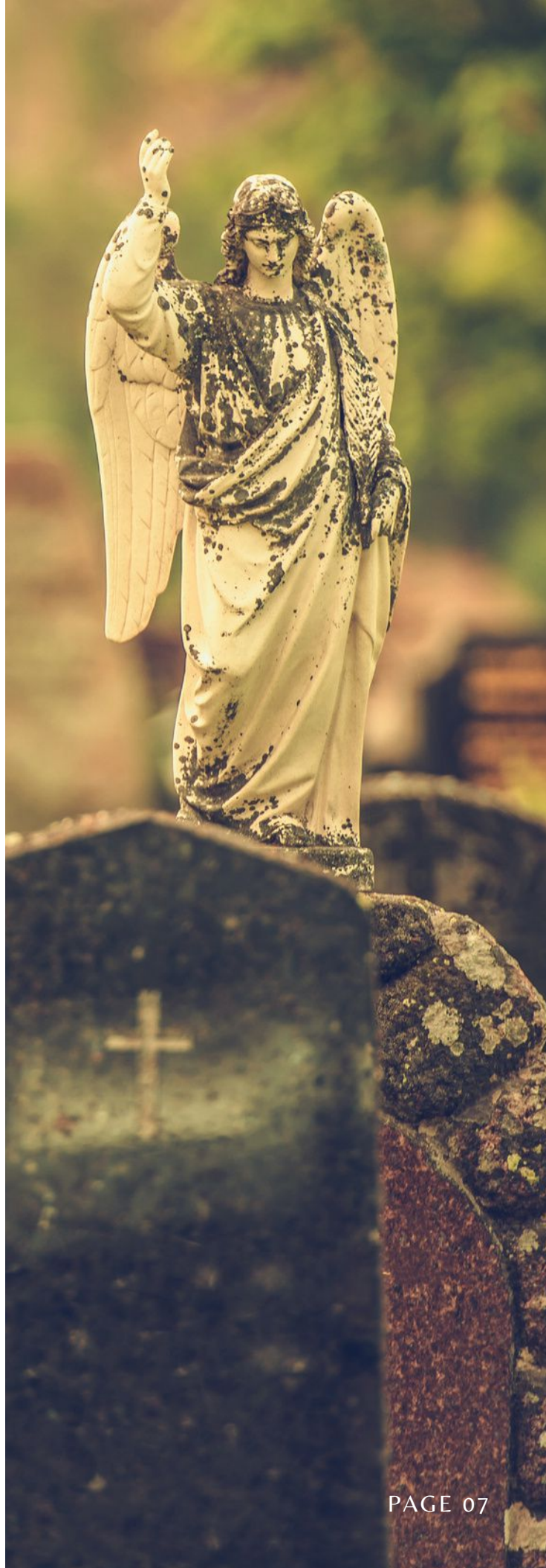
Conclusion

Families may take the picture, gift book, and candle with them following the event.

The practice of recommending to God the souls in purgatory that we may mitigate the great pains which they suffer, and that He may soon bring them to His glory, is most pleasing to God.

Therefore, let us recommend to Jesus Christ, and to His holy Mother, all the souls in purgatory.

Roman Catholic Daily Missal 1962



SAMPLE FORMAT

(This simple format can be adapted to whatever setting is chosen. The priest, pastoral leader, deacon, or lay prayer leader could lead an adapted form of the format options below).

Opening Antiphon and Prayer

All "V" (verses) are to be said by the priest, pastoral leader, deacon, or prayer leader.

V. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

V. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

Prayer (to be said by the priest, pastoral leader, deacon, or prayer leader)

V. Merciful Father, on this day, we gather together to celebrate the lives of those who have gone to their rest in the peace of Christ, particularly those who have died in the past year. May You O Lord, welcome into Your Kingdom our departed brothers and sisters, and all who have left this world in your friendship. Father, in your mercy grant also to us, your children, to enter into our heavenly inheritance in the company of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, and Your apostles and saints. We hope to enjoy for ever the vision of Your glory, through Christ our Lord, from whom all good things come.

R. Amen

V. Lord, have mercy. ... **R. Lord, have mercy.**

V. Christ, have mercy. ... **R. Christ, have mercy.**

V. Lord, have mercy. ... **R. Lord, have mercy.**

First Reading: (1 Cor. 15:51-57)

V. A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and Sisters: Behold, I tell you a mystery: we shall indeed rise again, but we shall not all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall rise again incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. And when this mortal hath put on immortality then shall come to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting? Now the sting of death is sin: and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, Who hath given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

V. The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

SAMPLE FORMAT

Gospel Reading: (John 6:37-40)

The Gospel should be proclaimed by a priest or deacon. If a priest or deacon is not present, then a lay prayer leader may proclaim the Gospel.

V. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John

(Say the following prayer silently while making the sign of the cross on one's forehead, lips, and heart: "May the Word of God be on my mind, on my lips, and in my heart.")

Everything that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and anyone who comes to Me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that I should lose nothing of all that He has given Me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of My Father, that all who see the Son and believe in Him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.

V. The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

Remembrance and Thanksgiving

Presider/Prayer Leader

V. God of grace and glory, we come before You today to commend the souls of our loved ones. As we remember those who have died, we light a candle in thanksgiving to You, O Lord, for the gift of their life.

(At this point, the names of those to be remembered may be read aloud. This can be done in silence or with quiet music played after each name, group of names, or all the names have been read. During this time, a candle may be lit to celebrate the life of each person. After all the candles have been lit, the following prayer may be offered up.)

V. We thank you for giving our loved ones as companions in our pilgrimage on earth. In your boundless compassion console those who mourn. Grant us that we may see in death the gate of everlasting life and continue our course on earth in faith, though Jesus Christ our Lord, the Life and the Resurrection of all who put their trust in him.

SAMPLE FORMAT

Intercessions

Presider/Prayer Leader

V. O God, our refuge and our strength, Who are the Author of mercy, hear the devout prayers of Thy Church, and grant that what we faithfully request, we may effectually obtain. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

V. For the Holy Catholic Church, for Francis our pope, David our bishop, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons, that by the gift of Thy grace all in their several degrees may do Thee faithful service. We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer

V. For the leaders of the nations, that they would seek first the Kingdom of God, and fill the world with the peace and justice of Christ. We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer

V. For all those who are sick or suffering, and especially those who are near death, that they would experience a happy death, free of pain and loneliness. We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer

V. For all the faithful departed in Christ, that perpetual light would shine upon them, and that their earthly imperfections be mercifully pardoned. We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer

V. In thanksgiving for all of our departed friends, family, and community members, and the many ways in which they touched the lives of everyone around them; may their memory always live on, we pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer

V. In thanksgiving for the new life which we all have in Jesus Christ, as we joyfully await the heavenly hope He has promised for us. We pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer

SAMPLE FORMAT

The Lord's Prayer

Presider/Prayer Leader:

V. Let us pray together as Jesus taught us:

R. Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name;
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

V. Eternal rest give to them, O Lord

R. And let perpetual light shine upon them.

V. From the gates of hell

R. Deliver their souls, O Lord.

V. May they rest in peace.

R. Amen.

V. O Lord, hear my prayer.

R. And let my supplication come unto Thee.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

V. Grant, O God, that while we lament the departure of these your servants, we may always remember that we are most certainly to follow them. And give us grace to prepare for that last hour by a good life, that we may not be surprised by a sudden and unprovided death, but be ever watching, that, when Thou shalt call, we may, with the Bridegroom, enter into eternal glory, through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

(Optional: The Hail Mary, Hail, Holy Queen, or decade of the Rosary may follow.)

SAMPLE FORMAT

Blessing

The prayer leader invokes God's blessing with the sign of the cross, saying:

V. May the love of God and the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ bless and console us and gently wipe every tear from our eyes. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord

R. And let perpetual light shine upon them.

V. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God

R. Rest in peace.

The prayer leader then concludes:

V. Go in the peace of Christ.

R. Thanks be to God.

