

## PRAYERS FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

During November, the Church celebrates the communion of saints, intercedes for those who have died, and prepares to welcome the one whom St. Francis called "Sister Death." These prayers are appropriate all through November. The Litany of Saints may also be prayed during November.

### O Lord, Support Us All the Day Long

O Lord, support us all the day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last.

~ Cardinal John Henry Newman

### Psalm 103:1-2, 11-18

Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
and all my being, bless his holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
and forget not all his benefits.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he put our transgressions from us.  
As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him,  
for he knows how we are formed;  
he remembers that we are dust.  
Man's days are like those of grass;  
like a flower of the field he blooms.  
The wind sweeps over him and he is gone,  
and his place knows him no more.  
But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity to eternity  
toward those who fear him,  
and his justice toward children's children  
among those who keep his covenant  
and remember to fulfill his precepts.

### I Know That My Redeemer Lives

The following verses may be sung to any appropriate tune such as "OLD HUNDRETH" ("Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow").

I know that my Redeemer lives,  
and on that final day of days,  
his voice shall bid me rise again:  
unending joy, unceasing praise!

This hope I cherish in my heart:  
to stand on earth, my flesh restored,  
and, not a stranger but a friend,  
behold my Savior and my Lord.

## Prayers After Death – A Prayer for the Dead

Into your hands, O Lord,  
we humbly entrust our brothers and sisters.  
In this life you embraced them with your tender love;  
deliver them now from every evil  
and bid them enter eternal rest.

The old order has passed away:  
welcome them into paradise,  
where there will be no sorrow,  
no weeping nor pain,  
but fullness of peace and joy  
with your Son and the Holy Spirit  
forever and ever. Amen.

## Prayers Immediately After Death

*The following prayer may be recited immediately after death and may be repeated in the hours that follow.*

Saints of God, come to his/her aid!

Come to meet him/her, angels of the Lord!

Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High!  
May Christ, who called you, take you to himself;  
may angels lead you to Abraham's side.

Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High!  
Give him/her eternal rest, O Lord,  
and may your light shine on him/her forever.

Receive his/her soul and present him/her to God the Most High!

Let us pray.

All-powerful and merciful God,  
we commend to you, **N.**, your servant.

In your mercy and love,  
blot out the sins he/she has committed  
through human weakness.

In this world he/she has died:  
let him/her live with you forever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*These verses may also be used.*

Eternal rest grant unto him/her, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon him/her.

May he/she rest in peace.

Amen.

May his/her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of  
God, rest in peace.

Amen.

## Prayers for Mourners

### **A.**

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.  
Amen.

### **B.**

Lord God,  
you are attentive to the voice of our pleading.  
Let us find in your Son  
comfort in our sadness,  
certainty in our doubt,  
and courage to live through this hour.  
Make our faith strong through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **C.**

Lord,  
**N.**, is gone now from this earthly dwelling,  
and has left behind those who mourn his/her absence.  
Grant that we may hold his/her memory dear,  
never bitter for what we have lost  
nor in regret for the past, but always in hope of the eternal Kingdom  
where you will bring us together again.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**For those who mourn the death of a child:**

O Lord, whose ways are beyond understanding,  
listen to the prayers of your faithful people:  
that those weighed down by grief  
at the loss of this little child  
may find reassurance in your infinite goodness.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Prayers at Graveside

During the time of mourning, the following prayers may be recited at the graveside. The *Order for Visiting a Cemetery* may also be used by a priest, deacon, or lay person.

### **A.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
by your own three days in the tomb,  
you hallowed the graves of all who believe in you  
and so made the grave a sign of hope  
that promises resurrection  
even as it claims our mortal bodies.

Grant that our brother/sister, **N.**, may sleep here in peace  
until you awaken him/her to glory,  
for you are the resurrection and the life.  
Then he/she will see you face to face  
and in your light will see light  
and know the splendor of God  
for you live and reign forever and ever.  
Amen.

### **B.**

O God,  
by whose mercy the faithful departed find rest,  
send your holy Angel to watch over this grave.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Source:

*Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers Revised Edition*. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.  
2008.