

THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

November 2024

THE MORE YOU HONOR ME
THE MORE I WILL BLESS YOU



COMING EVENTS

Novena November 17th thru 25th.

Pilgrimage Sunday, November 24th.

Mass at 11:00 AM

Rosary and Novena Prayers before Mass

Mass Times at St. Wenceslaus Home of the National Shrine of the Infant Jesus

Saturday Night Vigil 5:00 PM

Sunday 11 :00 AM

Tuesday through Friday at 9:00 AM

Holy Hour 9:30 to 10:30 AM

First Friday and First Saturday Mass 9:00 AM

Holy Hour 9:30 to 10:30 AM

Gift Shop hours are Tues-Fri 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Sunday Shrine open till 2:00 PM

This newsletter is published monthly to promote the devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the National Shrine in Oklahoma, USA.

www.shrineofinfantjesus.com

www.facebook.com/iopshrine

Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

In November, we cannot help but remember our loved ones who have died, separation is still the most painful thing in life. But with the belief in the Resurrection, death is eliminated, the dead are still present close to us. This is the source of blessing for those who believe in the Resurrection.

On the first of November we celebrated the feast of All Saints, and we remembered with joy and thankfulness all those who have gone before us and who are now enjoying eternal happiness face to face with God. On the second of November, we are celebrating All Souls' Day, also known as the "Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed." Praying for the beloved departed is an ancient custom among the Christians. It can be said that these are just two sides of one mystery, the mystery of the "Communion of Saints."

We believe that all who have fallen asleep in the Lord remain in communion with the community of believers in Christ who are still living. All who are still united with Jesus, whether they are dead or alive, are part of his mystical Body. And so, they are related to one another as cells and organs of the same body.

The community of God's people never wants to forget this mystery of communion. Especially when they gather to celebrate the Liturgy, the living people still remember their brothers and sisters who have gone before them to the afterlife. Among these people, according to common conception, a part is now in Heaven, that is, worthy to be before God, face to face; the rest are waiting to be further refined to be worthy to contemplate the Holy Face of God without shame.

People divide like that based on the belief that highly values the holiness of God and the weakness of man in this life on earth. But no one can know the ratio between the two components. Only know that while the Word of God reveals the number of saints in heaven is countless, there is no revelation about the number of believers in purgatory. That can be an exciting thing for us every time we think about the fate of our brothers and sisters who have gone before us in the afterlife.

Story: Not Believing in Resurrection

In a cemetery in Germany, there is a very noticeable tomb, which is made of granite, and underneath is built of very solid reinforced concrete. The tomb attracts a lot of attention because it is the tomb of a rich woman who does not believe in God, nor does she believe in resurrection. In her will, she requested that a solid tomb be built for her, so that in the event of a resurrection, she would still lie there without moving. On her tomb, she asked that it be inscribed: "This is a tomb that will never be opened."

As time passed, the tomb seemed to be still solid, but one day a seed fell into the rock crevice of the tomb, met the soil below, it began to germinate, grew into a tree, its roots penetrated the tomb, and eventually caused the woman's coffin to burst.

We often profess our faith in the Apostles' Creed: "I believe in the communion of saints." Therefore, believing like that, on November 1st, our faith turns to heaven, contemplating the saints in heaven to give thanks, with a soul determined to follow their example, those who have conquered in Heaven are called the Church Triumphant, may they bless those who are living on earth as pilgrims, called the Church Militant, to go to heaven and join the Church Triumphant when we "close our eyes and leave this world". But we cannot forget to be in communion with the souls in purgatory, the Church Suffering - "The saints who are still on pilgrimage."

Praying for the faithful departed has its origins in ancient times: Beginning in the Old Testament through the New Testament and becoming a belief of the Church over time:

In 2 Maccabees 12:38-46, Judas Maccabee orders that sacrifices be offered in the Temple in Jerusalem for slain Jewish soldiers who had worn pagan amulets (good-luck charms). Some people have seen this story as biblical justification for the teaching on purgatory. "But if he was looking to the splendid reward that is laid up for those who fall asleep in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore, he made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin." (2 Maccabees 12,45)

Jesus said that someone who is thrown into prison will never get out until they have paid the last penny in restitution for their wrongdoing. (Mt. 5,26)

Author Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, a psychologist on death, said in a speech at a school in the United States: "At the end of life, the only thing that really matters is asking yourself whether you had the courage to live?"

We must ask ourselves if we have the courage to live. Because most of us are afraid of death and especially afraid of dying. Indeed, death is the most frightening reality in life, death is the most unnatural act that we must go through in life. That is why, morally, people constantly seek all kinds of ways to avoid thinking about death or deny that death will not come to us.

Not long ago, a parish priest in Brittany, a devoted pastor who cared for his flock, died unexpectedly, and more than two hundred other priests concelebrated his funeral Mass.

He told the children in his last catechism class: "Pray for priests. If I die suddenly, I will surely go to purgatory. Promise me you will pray and pray a lot for me."

And in conclusion, I would like to present here the opinion of a Catholic newspaper: "Remember to pray for the souls in purgatory and think often about death, judgment day, heaven and hell. You can also prepare for the day when you will meet God face to face. On that day, there are only two paths: either eternal suffering or eternal happiness. So which path do we choose?"

Sincerely in Christ,
Very Reverend Christopher Hai Tran, Rector

Happy All Saints Day!

November 1st 2024



National Shrine of the
Infant Jesus of Prague

All Souls Day

November 2nd 2024



*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.~Amen~*

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

SHRINE _____

PROMOTION _____

FLOWERS _____

TREES _____

Pavers _____

ALTAR CANDLES _____

SANCTUARY LAMP _____

6-DAY VIGIL @ \$5.00 _____

MASS STIPEND @ \$10 _____

MASS INTENTION FOR _____

___LIVING ___DECEASED

PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE MASS TO:

PLEASE CALL FOR A PAVER FORM AND WE
WILL MAIL YOU ONE. THANK YOU

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