

AS YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD:

*Jesus, thank You for being my friend
and for sending so many special friends into my life.*

*Today I recall my friends who have died
and are now with You in eternal life.*

*I remember the times we laughed together, cried together,
supported one another and enjoyed just sharing time with one another.*

*Help me to be a good friend to the people in my life today
and to reach out to others I meet with friendship.*

Amen.

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Novena for All Souls

Recited from: October 24th through November 1st

Feast Day: November 2nd



God so loved the world that He gave His only Son,
so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish
but might have eternal life. John 3:16

All Souls Novena

October 24 through November 1

October 24

The king (David) was shaken, and went up to the room over the city gate to weep. He said as he wept, "My son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you, Absalom, my son, my son!" 2 Samuel 19:1

The death of someone we love hurts us deeply and often sends us into a period of grieving. It can be difficult to adjust our life but with God's help, through family and friends, it is possible. We also gain strength and courage from the knowledge that the love this person has for us did not die but lives eternally and continues to flow to us. Just as we pray to canonize saints, we can pray to our deceased loved ones and remain close to them, united in the communion of saints.

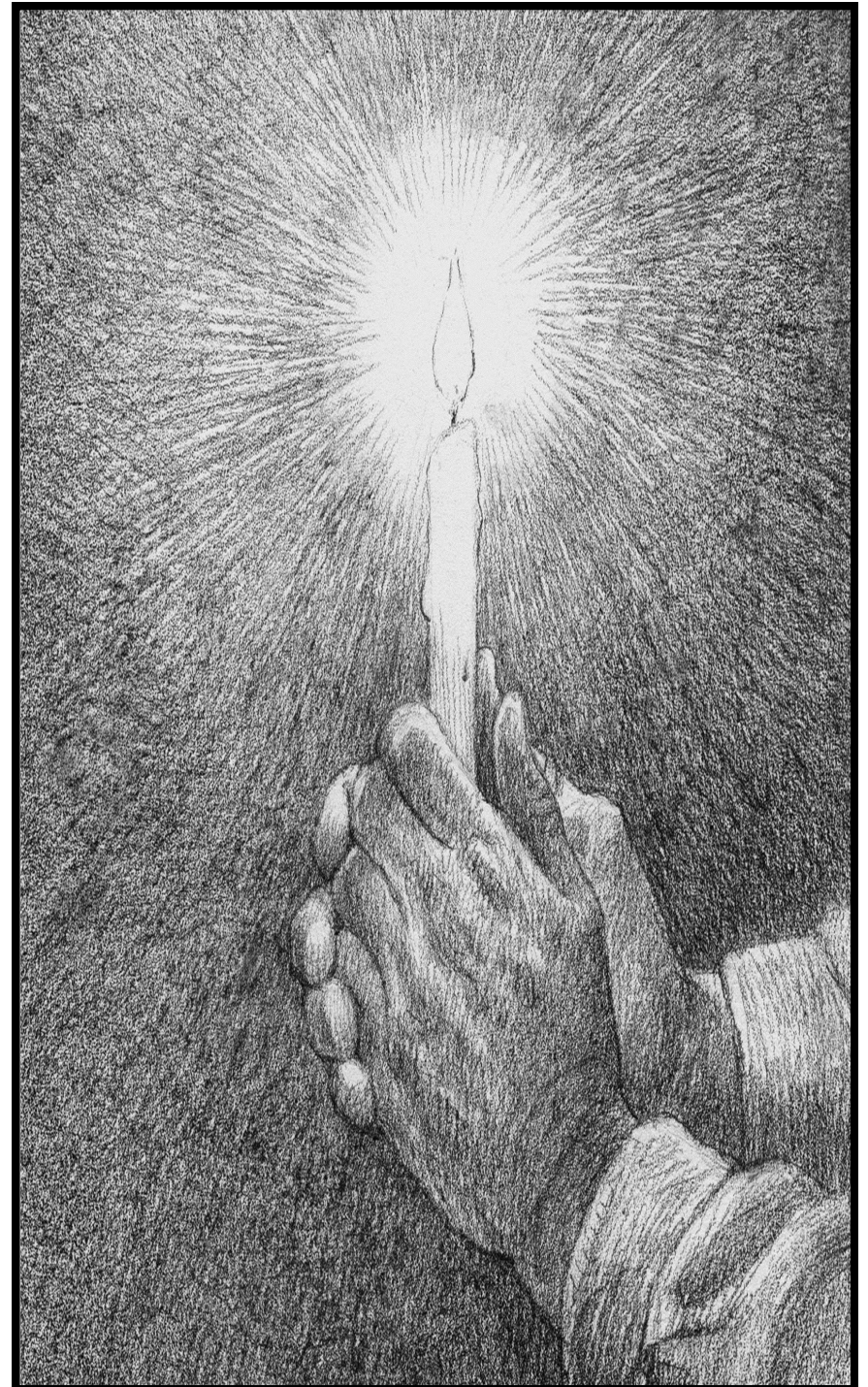
I remember, God, my loved ones who have died. They were Your gifts to me and what wonderful gifts they were. I thank You for each of them and for the gift of eternal life, which we believe they now share with You. I hope to be with You and with them someday but, for now, I accept Your will for me on earth. Help me to bring Your love and compassion to the people in my life now. Help me to follow in their footsteps Amen.

October 25

I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. John 15:15

A good friend is a priceless treasure and when one leaves us through death, the pain of our loss runs deep. Jesus, our friend, understands our suffering. Remember how He cried over the death of His friend, Lazarus. It is good to remember our friends who have died and thank them for all the love, joy, and support they gave us with their friendship. At the same time, it is good to rejoice in the friends now in our life and to cherish all they give us.

Jesus, thank You for being my friend and for sending so many special friends into my life. Today I recall my friends who have died and are now with You in eternal life. I remember the times we laughed together, cried together, supported one another and enjoyed just sharing time with one another. Help me to be a good friend to the people in my life today and to reach out to others I meet with friendship. Amen.



And thank You for Your untiring love and for the gift of eternal life with You. There is nothing more we could want than to be with You forever. Amen.

October 26

Hazael asked, "Why are you weeping, my lord?" Elisha replied, "Because I know the evil that you will inflict upon the Israelites. You will burn their fortresses, you will slay their youth with the sword, you will dash their little children to pieces, you will rip open their pregnant women." 2 Kings 8:12

The September 11 terrorist attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C., have brought home to us the reality of the terrible suffering experienced by millions of innocent people in the world due to war, strife, persecution, and unjust political systems. Through prayer, our hearts can reach out to all these innocent victims in our country and in other countries.

My prayers, Jesus, are for all the innocent men, women, and children who have been and even now are being killed as a result of violence in this world. They sought to live peacefully and lovingly in this world but there were those in the world who rejected them, Jesus, just as some rejected You. May they know Your loving embrace and the joy of eternal life. I pray, also, for those on this earth who live in the shadow of violence and terrorism. May they cling to You, Jesus, and be sustained by Your love. Amen.

October 27

The forces of Israel were defeated by David's servants, and the casualties there that day were heavy – twenty thousand men. 2 Samuel 18:7

Since the September 11 terrorist attacks, we have become more aware of the millions of men and women who, when they go to their jobs, put their lives on the line for others. They include military personnel, police, firefighters, and emergency personnel. They do not expect to die on the job, but they know the possibility exists. They are gifts from God to us and we treasure them.

I pray, God, for all the military personnel, police, firefighters, emergency personnel and others who have died while working at their jobs of serving others. May they bask in the light of Your love and know the joys of eternal life. I pray, also, for the spouses, children, parents, siblings, and other relatives of those who have died in the line of duty. Comfort them in their grieving. Strengthen them as they mend their lives and move onward. Let them feel Your embrace and be warmed by Your compassionate love. Amen.

October 28

Now there was a man full of leprosy in one of the towns where He was; and when he saw Jesus, he fell prostrate, pleaded with Him, and said, "Lord, if You wish, You can make me clean." Jesus stretched out His hand, touched him, and said, "I do will it. Be made clean." And the leprosy left him immediately. Luke 5:12-13

In some parts of the world, particularly Africa, AIDS has become the dreaded scourge that leprosy was at the time of Jesus. Millions of innocent adults and children are its victims, and most face a tortured death. Children who escape the disease themselves are often left orphans and face difficult lives. Jesus loves them and so should we. This is why we must show compassion to them.

My heart goes out, God, to all victims of AIDS. May all those who have died find rest and peace in eternal life with You. May the loved ones they left behind know Your love for them. And may those who are now suffering with AIDS be touched by Your healing hand. I also ask You, Lord, to lead us in finding ways to stop this dreaded disease from destroying such vast numbers of innocent people, many of whom live in distressed parts of the world. Shower Your healing mercy upon them, Lord. Amen.

October 29

They were hungry and thirsty; their life was ebbing away. In their distress they cried to the Lord, who rescued them in their peril. Psalm 107:5-6

There are many people in the world today who are starving to death. Some are victims of war, political turmoil, ethnic cleansing, and religious disputes. Others are victims of drought, earthquakes, storms, and other natural disasters. Even in the United States, where food is plentiful, there are adults and children who do not have enough to eat.

Lord, come to the rescue of my brothers and sisters throughout the world who are starving. Bless those who have already died, be with those who are dying and help us to distribute the world's bounty of food justly. You have gifted us with a world overflowing with food and drink. Help us to be good stewards and to remember that every man, woman, and child in this world is our brother and sister. Amen.

October 30

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." Luke 23:24

It is difficult for us to forgive someone who has taken the life of a loved one. It doesn't matter whether the person who caused the death is a terrorist, robber, rapist, drunk driver, enraged spouse, or misguided teen. It doesn't matter if the death was the result of a deliberate act or an accident. Our hurt and loss can fill us with anger and bitterness. We want to strike back rather than follow Jesus' example

and offer forgiveness. The culprit may or may not benefit from our action, but we will, because it is through forgiveness that we can find peace and try to restore the human community.

This prayer, God, is for all those who are suffering with the loss of a loved one at the hand of another. Counsel and console them in their grief. Wipe away their tears. Help them to gather up the shattered pieces of their lives and begin anew. And lead them to forgive those who caused the death of their loved one. Help them and help all of us to find peace through forgiveness. Amen.

October 31

As they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Acts 7:59

It is natural for us to fear death because survival on earth is a basic instinct. Yet our faith in God and in Jesus' promise of eternal life can ease our fears at the moment of death. Thus we are able to go confidently from this imperfect world into the joy of the next, where we will be reunited with loved ones and, at long last, see the face of God.

When it is time for me to leave this earth, Jesus, send Your Mother, Mary, to come, take my hand and lead me to You. Calm my trembling heart with Your warm embrace. Welcome me with Your kiss. I am not worthy of Your generous gift of eternal life, but through Your suffering and death You have cleansed me. I long to be with You forever. Amen.

November 1

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life. John 3:16

How powerful are these words of St. John the Evangelist! Do they not take our breath away and cause us to drop to our knees in awe and wonder? There is no love greater than God's love for us. There is no action greater than God giving His only Son so that we might have eternal life. There is no one greater than God. In one sentence, St. John has summed up the glory and majesty of God.

I raise my voice in praise and thanksgiving to You, God. Your love for us is so magnificent that I cannot comprehend it. Your actions are so wondrous that I am spellbound. Thank You, God, for all that You have created for our use. Thank You for sending Jesus to teach us the way to eternal life. Thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to dwell in us as our constant companion.