

PRAYER FOR VISITING A CEMETERY

The Church especially remembers those who have died on All Souls' Day, November 2, and it is always good to pray for the dead and visit their graves. You can use this order of prayer during your next visit to a cemetery.

GREETING

Leader: Praise be to God our Father, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Blessed be God forever.

People: Blessed be God forever.

Leader: My dear friends, we gather today to pray for our brothers and sisters whose bodies lie here in rest. They have passed from death to life in company with the Lord Jesus, who died and rose to new life, and are purified now of their faults. We pray that God may welcome them among all the saints of heaven.

READING

Leader: Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians:

Brothers and sisters: Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified Body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself. (Philippians 3:20–21)

LITANY

Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,	pray for them.
St. Michael,	pray for them.
St. John the Baptist,	pray for them.
St. Joseph,	pray for them.
St. Peter,	pray for them.
St. Paul,	pray for them.
St. Andrew,	pray for them.
St. Stephen,	pray for them.
St. Anne,	pray for them.
St. Teresa,	pray for them.
St. Catherine,	pray for them.
St. Frances Cabrini,	pray for them.

(The names of other saints may be added.)

All holy men and women,	pray for them.
Christ, pardon all their faults.	Lord, hear our prayer.
Christ, remember the good they have done.	Lord, hear our prayer.
Christ, receive them into eternal life.	Lord, hear our prayer.
Christ, comfort all those who mourn.	Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.	Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.	Lord, have mercy.

Leader: With Christ there is mercy and fullness of redemption; let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father ...

PRAYER

Leader: All-powerful God, whose mercy is never withheld from those who call upon you in hope, look kindly on your servants (N. and N.), who departed from this life confessing your name, and number them among your saints for evermore. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

Leader: Eternal rest grant them, O Lord.

All: And let perpetual light shine upon them.

Leader: May they rest in peace.

All: Amen.

Leader: May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

All: Amen.

Source: Adapted from the Book of Blessings