

Dear Padre,

I'm a non-Catholic church secretary who receives questions about a Purgatorial Society. What is it?

Those who die in God's grace and friendship imperfectly purified, although they are assured of their eternal salvation, undergo a purification after death, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of God" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1054). This process of purification is known as purgatory. Saint Gregory the Great (540–604) wrote "certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come" (see *Dialogues* 4, 39). This forgiveness of sins granted after death is also suggested in Matthew 12:32 and 2 Timothy 1:18.

Because Catholics believe we're in communion with one another through an active relationship that transcends death, our prayers and sacrifices benefit the deceased (see 2 Maccabees 12:38–46). Thus, a Purgatorial Society is a formal association of Catholics who offer prayers, Masses, and other works of charity to benefit the souls in purgatory. Souls that get to heaven, in turn, offer their prayers to benefit the living. This mutual assistance affirms our belief in an earthly and heavenly Church forming one body in Christ.

Purgatorial societies were especially prevalent from the Middle Ages through the previous century, but they're currently seeing a revival in some church parishes and religious communities. Societies generally maintain a

registry to enroll names of the deceased so that Masses are regularly offered for the holy souls in purgatory—especially during the month of November.

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR
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BENATA SECMANOVASHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*



By visiting the tombs of our loved ones we remember that we have a multitude of saints who before God intercede for our needs. Let us not forget, however, that so many deceased also await our spiritual support. Let us remember them in our prayers...asking that they be welcomed into the ranks of the elect in heaven.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, OCTOBER 31, 2018

Calendar

Monday
MARCH 22
Lenten Weekday
Dn 13:1–9, 15–17,
19–30, 33–62
or 13:41c–62
Jn 8:1–11

Tuesday
MARCH 23
Lenten Weekday
Nm 21:4–9
Jn 8:21–30

Wednesday
MARCH 24
Lenten Weekday
Dn 3:14–20, 91–92, 95
Jn 8:31–42

Thursday
MARCH 25
The Annunciation of the Lord
Is 7:10–14, 8:10
Heb 10:4–10
Lk 1:26–38

Friday
MARCH 26
Lenten Weekday
Jer 20:10–13
Jn 10:31–42

Saturday
MARCH 27
Lenten Weekday
Ez 37:21–28
Jn 11:45–56

Sunday
MARCH 28
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Mk 11:1–10 or
Jn 12:12–16
Is 50:4–7
Phil 2:6–11
Mk 14:1–15:47
or 15:1–39



5th Sunday Of Lent

March 21, 2021



Holy Spirit Catholic Church & Christ the King Catholic Mission

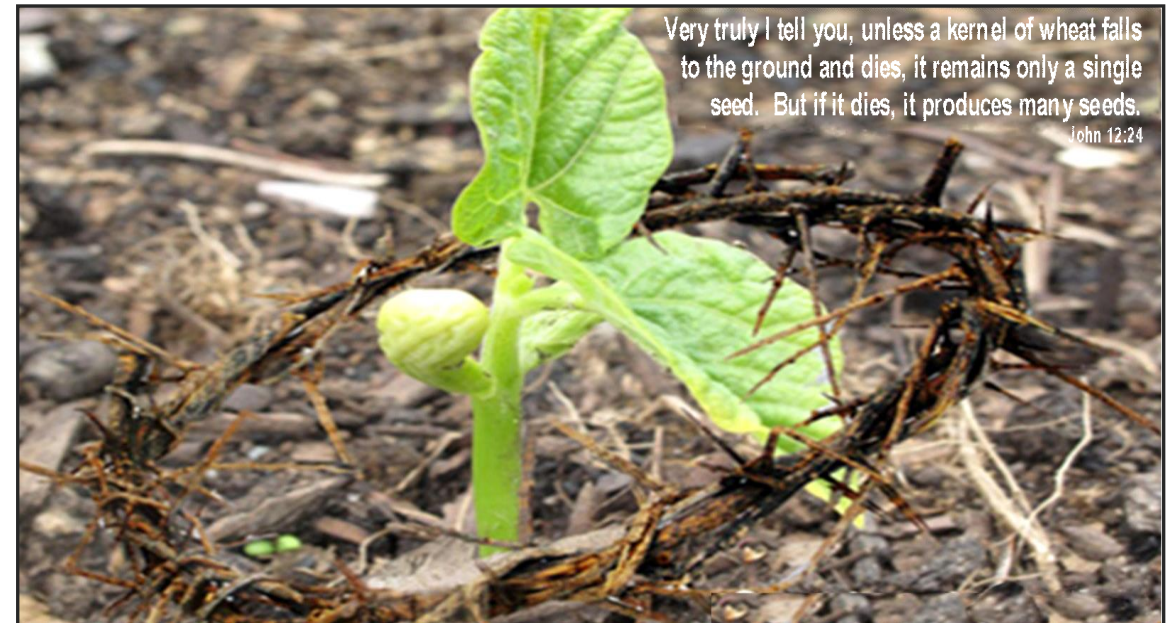
Reverend Peter Kmiecik, Pastor

Deacon John E. Jennings † Deacon Norbert Lloyd, Jr.

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Office Hours: Mon-Thur-8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Fr. Peter is off on Monday



Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.
John 12:24

Holy Spirit Mass Schedule & Intentions

Week of March 20 – March 26

Sat 6:00 pm Parishioners Living & Deceased
Sun 11:00 am †Edward Peterson (Anniv. of Death)
Sun 6:00 pm †Robert Robbins
Mon 8:00 am NO MASS
Tue 8:00 am †James M. O'Neil
Wed 8:00 am †Marianne Weinzierl
Thur 8:00 am †Stella, Frank & Joseph Wozniak
Fri 8:00 am Aricelia Arcadia (Birthday)

Christ the King Mass Schedule & Intentions

Week of March 20 – March 26

Sat 4:00 pm †Elizabeth Byrd
Sun 9:15 am Falcone & Johnson Family
Tue 6:00 pm †All Souls in Purgatory

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Before and after daily Mass, and by Appointment
1st Friday Adoration – 8:30am- 6:00pm
at Holy Spirit in St. Patrick's Chapel
Adoration at Christ the King – Tuesday 5:30pm-6pm