Everyday Catholicism

Why Do Catholics Pray for the Dead?

When a loved one dies, we pray for those left behind. But why do we also pray for the person who has died? Hasn't God already judged that person? The Church teaches that each person receives a particular judgment at death. We aren't praying to change that judgment or to obtain salvation for someone who has rejected God. But our prayers can help those being purified before entering heaven.

We find this practice in the Second Book of Maccabees. Judas Maccabeus arranged for a sacrifice to be offered for soldiers who had died carrying objects forbidden by God's law. He prayed that their sins might be forgiven. He did this because he believed in the resurrection of the dead (2 Maccabees 12:39–46). Even before Christ, some of God's people believed that God would raise the dead. As Christians, our hope rests on Jesus' death and resurrection.

Since the early days of Christianity, the Church has prayed for those who have died. At Mass, the Church offers Christ's Eucharistic sacrifice for the faithful departed. We can also request a Mass for someone who has died, visit that person's grave, or pray at home.

We do these things out of love, trusting that our prayers can help those who are still being purified.

Those who die in God's grace and friendship but are not yet fully purified undergo a final purification before entering heaven. This is purgatory. Those in purgatory are already assured of salvation. Our prayers, especially the offering of the Eucharistic sacrifice, can help them. The Church teaches that this purification is real, even though we do not know exactly how it takes place.

We ordinarily do not know the state of a person's soul after death. God knows each person's heart, so we entrust those who have died to his mercy. We pray for them because we believe that God is merciful and we still care for them.

November begins with All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. This week, think of one person who has died. Speak that person's name to God and pray, "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord." You may also request a Mass for that person. Keep them in your prayers.

Catechism Connection: 2 Macc 12:39–46; CCC 958, 1022, 1030–1032, 1371.



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

360 Park Ave. · Cayucos, CA 93430 · 805-995-3243
OfficeAdmin@SaintJosephCayucos.org · www.SaintJosephCayucos.org

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Lord, Lord, open the door for us!" But he said in reply, "Amen, I say to you, I do not know you." Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.
— Matthew 25:1-13

Mass Intentions

Sat.	07	+John & Birdie Penne
Sun.	08	Glen Bennett
Mon.	09	+Martha Peña Rodriguez
Tues.	10	+Andres Andraca
Wed.	11	+James R. Greene
Thurs.	12	St. Joseph's Parishioners
Thurs.	12	(Spanish) Todos los fieles difuntos
Fri.	13	+Celine Cutler
Sat.	14	+Eric Solum
Sun.	15	+Barbara Sharp

November 8, 2026

Most Rev. Ramón Bejarano
Bishop of Monterey

Rev. Martel Ramos
Pastor
Pastor@SaintJosephCayucos.org

Office Hours
Monday–Thursday
10:00 AM–4:30 PM
Friday — Closed

Parish Staff
Judy Ann Cross
Business Administrator
BusinessAdmin@SaintJosephCayucos.org

Mass Schedule
Monday–Friday — 9:00 AM
Thursday — 6:30 PM (Spanish)
Saturday Vigil — 5:00 PM
Sunday — 10:00 AM

Rosary
Weekdays — 8:30 AM

Confessions
Friday after the 9:00 AM Mass
First Saturday — 4:00 PM

Adoration & Benediction
Friday after the 9:00 AM Mass

A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

In the coming weeks, our parish will be introducing a communication program called Flocknote. This will help us stay connected and communicate more easily with one another as a parish family.

Good communication is important in building a strong and active parish community. Through Flocknote, we will be able to share parish news, Mass schedules, upcoming events, ministry activities, important reminders, and other announcements through text messages and emails. This will help us keep everyone informed about what is happening in our parish, especially those who may not always have the opportunity to read our weekly bulletin.

We also want to assure you that your privacy will be respected. When we send messages through Flocknote, your phone number and email address will not be visible to other parishioners receiving those messages. Your contact information will be handled by authorized parish personnel for parish communication purposes.

We are currently taking the first steps toward implementing Flocknote in our parish. As part of this preparation, we will also be updating our Parish Registration records to make sure we have accurate and current information for our parishioners.

In the coming weeks, we will provide more information about how to register or update your parish information and how to sign up for Flocknote. We will also provide assistance for those who may need help with the registration process.

We hope that every parish household will take this opportunity to participate. Whether you have been part of our parish for many years or have only recently joined us, we encourage you to be part of this effort. By staying connected, we can grow together as a parish family not only by keeping one another informed, but more importantly, by praying for one another, supporting one another, and sharing in the life of our parish.

Thank you for helping us make Saint Joseph Parish a more connected and welcoming family of faith.

Father Martel

Volunteers to Serve at Mass

Children and young people who have received First Holy Communion are encouraged to become altar servers. Young people are also invited to proclaim the Word of God as lectors. Practicing Catholics in good standing may serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Training is provided for each ministry. Please contact the parish office to volunteer.

Veterans Day Trumpet Concert

The SLO County Trumpet Alliance will present “Salute! A Trumpet Tribute to Veterans Day” on Sunday, November 15, at 3:00 p.m. at Saint Timothy’s Catholic Church, 962 Piney Way, Morro Bay. For information, call (805) 546-3132. Admission is free, with donations accepted at the door. The Knights of Columbus of Saint Timothy present the concert to benefit Knights of Columbus Charities.

Parish Financial Report

September 1–30, 2026
Collections: $17,446
Budget: $16,167
Above Budget: +$1,279

Fiscal Year:
September 1, 2025–August 31, 2026
Collections: $229,728
Budget: $189,200
Above Budget: +$40,528

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of Saint Joseph Parish. Your contributions help us meet the needs of our parish.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Confessions are available every First Saturday of the month at 4:00 PM. Confessions are also available every Friday after the 9:00 AM Mass. We invite everyone to take this opportunity to encounter God’s mercy and forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND INJURED

Steve Santi
Stan Piwowarski
Jim Tobias
Innette Starkenburg
Steve Buller
Michael Shields
Camelia Cross
Carlos Cortes
Mary Moloney
Mickey Bruno
Gary & Bonnie Nelson
Butch Rambaud
Marina Taverner
Keith Hart
Glen Bennett
Allen & Alba Beltrametti
Bonnie Bowman
Bill Mazzacane
Editha Andres
William Baldwin
Sandy Johnson
Don Swain
Parker Cyr
Terry Cross