



Ite Ad Joseph

### **Saint Joseph International Purgatorial Society**

Members of the Saint Joseph Purgatorial Society pray for the release of the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Our mission as Christians living in this world (Church Militant) is to help the Holy Souls in Purgatory (Church Suffering) achieve complete purification for entry into Heaven (Church Triumphant).

**Ite Ad Joseph:** “*Go to Joseph.*” These were the words of Pharaoh to the people of Egypt during the years of famine (Genesis 41:55). The Old Testament Joseph foreshadows the New Testament Joseph.

Praying for the dead, according to our Catholic Tradition, is a [Spiritual Work of Mercy](#). If you are interested in joining our association, please email your full name to [mprater@msf-america.org](mailto:mprater@msf-america.org).

You can also reach us via postal mail at:

Saint Joseph Purgatorial Society  
c/o Missionaries of the Holy Family  
3014 Oregon Avenue  
Saint Louis, MO 63118-1412

Telephone numbers:

314-577-6300 (office)  
888-484-9945 (office, toll free)  
314-599-3627 (mobile)

### **Your Membership Benefits**

We have the power to help our suffering friends and bring them relief. To do so is an act of mercy and self-giving love. The sacrifice it requires of us is minimal, and yet the rewards are great.

“Our prayer for them (Souls in Purgatory) is capable not only of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective.” – *Catechism of the Catholic Church #958*

There are no fees. All members can print a Certificate of Membership in the Saint Joseph Purgatorial Society (*scroll down to last page*).

Members will receive a brief email, four times a year, to remind and encourage them to keep praying for the Souls in Purgatory. Also, when members die, and if notification is received, living members of the Society will be encouraged via email to pray for the deceased by name.

### **Your Membership Commitment**

Members commit to praying four (4), short prayers *every day* and a fifth one every First Saturday of the Month for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Here are the prayers:

#### **(1) Divine Assistance Prayer**

May the Divine Assistance remain always with us, and may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. Saint Joseph, Patron of the Dying, pray for us!

#### **(2) Eternal Rest Prayer**

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

#### **(3) Prayer of Saint Gertrude**

Eternal Father, I offer thee the most Precious Blood of thy Divine Son Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the Universal Church, those in my own home, and within my own family. Amen.

#### **(4) Petition to Mary for the Suffering Souls**

O Immaculate Mother, Queen of Heaven, hear the cries of your suffering children in Purgatory and intercede for them at the throne of the Almighty. Behold in them, O Mother most faithful, the image of your Divine Son, who offered Himself in their behalf. Recall His bitter Passion and Death, and see in them His very sufferings. We feel confident, then, O Mother of Mercy, that you will obtain their liberation; so that they, in union with you and the Choir of Heaven, may contemplate the Beatific Vision in Heaven forever. Amen.

## **Our Lady of Sorrows Prayer**

**(This is the prayer for the First Saturday of every month.)**

O Most Blessed Virgin Mary, my Mother, I turn to you in supplication, and by that sword which pierced your sorrowful heart at beholding your Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, suffer on the cross, I pray and ask thee to help the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and particularly those for whom I now pray.

O Mother of Sorrows, Queen of Martyrs, for the love of your Divine Son, whose Precious Blood was shed for us, help us who are in danger not only of falling into Purgatory, but of losing our souls forever in Hell, with your powerful intercession. O Mary Our Mother, Mother of Grace, Mother of Mercy, pray for us now and at the hour of our death with your beloved Saint Joseph, Patron of a Happy Death. O Eternal Father, through the most Precious Blood of Jesus and through the Sorrows of Mary, have pity upon the Holy Souls in Purgatory. Amen.

## **Recommendations for Members:**

The Purgatorial Society depends on dedicated prayer from all members. The type of prayer, fast, sacrifice, or almsgiving is determined according to each Member's preference. Ideas include, but are not limited to:

- Offer up your Mass participation, at least once a month, for the Holy Souls.
- Offer a Mass Intention for the Holy Souls for a donation at your parish.
- Offer Mass Intentions for loved ones on the anniversary of their deaths.
- Attend Mass on March 19, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, for the Holy Souls.
- Attend Mass on All Souls' Day, November 2, for the Holy Souls.
- Dedicate one [Rosary](#) per week for the Holy Souls.
- Dedicate one [Divine Mercy Chaplet](#) per week for the Holy Souls.
- Pray the [Stations of the Cross](#).
- Gain [Indulgences](#) to be applied to the Holy Souls.
- Spend time in Eucharistic Adoration.
- Offer up your pains, self-denials, or sufferings for their relief.
- Fast once a month for the Holy Souls.
- Offer up works of mercy and practice virtues for their consolation.
- Light their darkness as an act of love by burning a blessed candle for them.
- Visit a cemetery (tidy up an unkempt gravestone as you pray for the Holy Soul).
- Pray the *Eternal Rest Prayer* every time you think of a deceased loved one, and then pray another for all the Holy Souls.
- Perform "little errands" for the sick or elderly, small and hidden acts only God sees, done with tender love for the Holy Souls.
- Invite two people per month to join the Saint Joseph International Purgatorial Society!

## **Helpful Information & Links**

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: III. The Final Purification or Purgatory.

1030 All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.

1031 The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned.<sup>606</sup> The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent. The tradition of the Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture, speaks of a cleansing fire.<sup>607</sup>

As for certain lesser faults, we must believe that, before the Final Judgment, there is a purifying fire. He who is truth says that whoever utters blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will be pardoned neither in this age nor in the age to come. From this sentence, we understand that certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come.<sup>608</sup>

1032 This teaching is also based on the practice of prayer for the dead, already mentioned in Sacred Scripture: "Therefore [Judas Maccabeus] made atonement for the dead that they might be delivered from their sin."<sup>609</sup>

From the beginning, the Church has honored the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God.<sup>610</sup>

The Church also commends almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead: Let us help and commemorate them. If Job's sons were purified by their father's sacrifice, why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them.<sup>611</sup>

#### **Footnote scriptural references:**

<sup>606</sup> Matthew 12:31

<sup>607</sup> 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 and 2 Maccabees 12:46

<sup>608</sup> Matthew 12:32

<sup>609</sup> 1 Corinthians 4:1 and 2 Maccabees 12:46

<sup>610</sup> 1 John 3:14-15

<sup>611</sup> Matthew 25:31-46 and Job 1:4-5

[Purgatory Explanation from the EWTN Library](#)

[Helping Students and Families Learn about Purgatory](#)

[Is Purgatory in the Bible?](#)

[Teachings on Purgatory](#)

[Indulgences Brochure](#)

[Books & Resources about Purgatory](#)

[Susan Tassone: The Purgatory Lady](#)

[Heroic Act of Charity](#)

[Perpetual Mass Association Enrollments](#)

[Gregorian Masses for the Holy Souls in Purgatory](#)

After submitting your name to become a Member of the Saint Joseph International Purgatorial Society, ***scroll down to the next page*** and print your own Certificate of Membership:

- Print your name (1),
- Add the initial date of membership (2),
- Sign the Certificate (3), and
- Post it in a place that will remind you of your intention to pray for the Souls in Purgatory everyday (4).

Thank you and God bless your Family!

*“Holy Souls in Purgatory, pray for us!”*

+JMJ+



Ite Ad Joseph

# Membership Confirmation

We hereby declare, in grateful recognition, that

---

Has been registered as a **Member** of the  
Saint Joseph International Purgatorial Society  
on the date of

---

*“Jesus, Mary & Joseph: have mercy on the Souls in Purgatory!”*

Very Reverend Philip Sosa, M.S.F.  
*Superior, Missionaries of the Holy Family*

*Very Rev. Philip Sosa, M.S.F.*

---

Registered Member  
*Saint Joseph Purgatorial Society*

*Signature of Member:*

---

**Saint Joseph: “Pray for us.”**  
*Head of the Holy Family and Patron Saint of the Dying*