

We believe in the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, the communion of saints, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. What is the Communion of Saints? Today we dedicate the day to pray for all the departed Souls, the Suffering Church. When you say the Church Suffering you are talking about Purgatory.

Is there a purgatory? Reason says that there should be. After judgment three options await us: hell, Purgatory or heaven; hell for those who have rejected God, heaven for those who die holy and Purgatory for everybody else. We know that we are not perfect enough for heaven and not wicked enough for hell. So there must be a state of purification.

According to the Catechism Catholic Ch,: *“All who die in God’s grace and friendship but 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 eternal joy of heaven.”*

Today we pray for all the souls who are still in Purgatory undergoing purification and growing in love before they are ready to see God face to face in heaven. It is out of our belief in Purgatory that today’s commemoration of the Holy Souls take origin. If we didn’t believe in Purgatory today’s commemoration of the holy souls and our prayers for them would not make any sense.

The word "purgatory." comes from the Latin word "purgare," which means "to cleanse/purify". So we need to understand purgatory as a time of cleansing or final purification in preparation to spend eternity in the presence of God. In purgatory, the faithful - those who are destined for heaven - "achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven". Bcs, Only perfect love can see God face to face, so in Purgatory we are purified that we may see God face to face.

Tradition testifies that from the beginning Christians have prayed for the dead. If you pray for the dead, *it is presumed that there is a purgatory* because souls in heaven need no prayers and the souls in hell cannot be

helped by prayer. God alone knows who all will go to purgatory and how long. In the funeral liturgy, the priest says, "*May the angels lead you to paradise...*" Life itself is a process of daily purification, namely the unbloody martyrdom of the daily life. The crosses, illnesses accepted willingly especially in the process of dying.

Every member of the Communion of Saints is remembered and prayed for in every Mass. What a blessing we have; It's a great consolation for us to know that long after we are dead and forgotten, the Church will be praying for us in every Mass. And because of the 24 different time zones in the world several Masses are being offered every minute of the day somewhere in the world. When we realize all of this we see what a wonderful gift it is to be a Catholic and to be a member of the Comm. of Saints.

Pope Francis: "Even the best of the saints was not saved by their good works, but by the blood of Christ." "If today we are remembering these brothers and sisters of ours who lived before us and are now in heaven, they are there because they were washed in the blood of Christ," he said. "That is our hope, and this hope does not disappoint. If we live our lives with the Lord, he will never disappoint us.

Eternal Rest grant unto them o Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace, Amen.