

In the month of November, the Church has two traditional means of obtaining a plenary indulgence for the souls in Purgatory. The first is to visit a cemetery and pray for the dead during the Octave of All Saints' Day, which is Nov. 1-8. This year, Pope Francis decreed that this plenary indulgence may be transferred to other days of the same month, until its end. These days, freely chosen by the individual believers, may also be separate from each other.

The second plenary indulgence is connected to the Feast of All Souls' Day on Nov. 2, and can be received by those who piously visit a church or oratory on that day and recite the Our Father and the Creed. The Vatican said that this plenary indulgence has also been extended and is available to Catholics throughout the month of November to reduce crowds.

Plenary indulgences, which remit all temporal punishment due to sin, must be accompanied by full detachment from sin. A Catholic who wishes to obtain a plenary indulgence must also fulfill the ordinary conditions of an indulgence, which are:

- ✠ sacramental confession
- ✠ reception of the Eucharist
- ✠ prayer for the intentions of the Pope

The elderly, the sick and all those who for serious reasons cannot leave their homes will be able to obtain the Plenary Indulgence as long as they join spiritually with all the other faithful, completely detached from sin and fulfill the ordinary conditions of an indulgence before an image of Jesus or the Blessed Virgin Mary, recite pious prayers for the deceased, for example: the rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, other prayers for the deceased dearest to the faithful, or read one of the Gospel passages proposed by the liturgy of the deceased, or perform a work of mercy by offering to God the sorrows and hardships of their own lives.

In summary:

You have all month to visit a church and say the Creed/Our Father and get the Nov 2 indulgence.

You have a whole month of November to visit a cemetery and pray for the dead in order to get the indulgence that usually only occurs Nov 1-8th.

Take advantage of this ridiculously helpful opportunity! Make sure you meet the conditions of the indulgence, and think about who you'd like to offer it for. Let's not let this chance go to waste!