



**“But the tax collector...
was beating his breast and saying,
‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’”** (Lk 18:13)

Divine Liturgy
Sunday at 11:30 am
Our Lady of Victory
1559 Roxbury Rd.
Columbus, OH

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COLUMBUS, OHIO



**OUR LADY
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MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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First Reading: Romans 8:18-27

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

Jesus also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Why do we pray for the dead?

“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.” (The Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1030)

The believers who are in that purification phase are atoning for their sins and being purified from attachment to sin and its consequences. We pray for them to participate in that atonement and lessen their sufferings through our merits, and especially through the infinite merits of Christ when we offers masses for them.

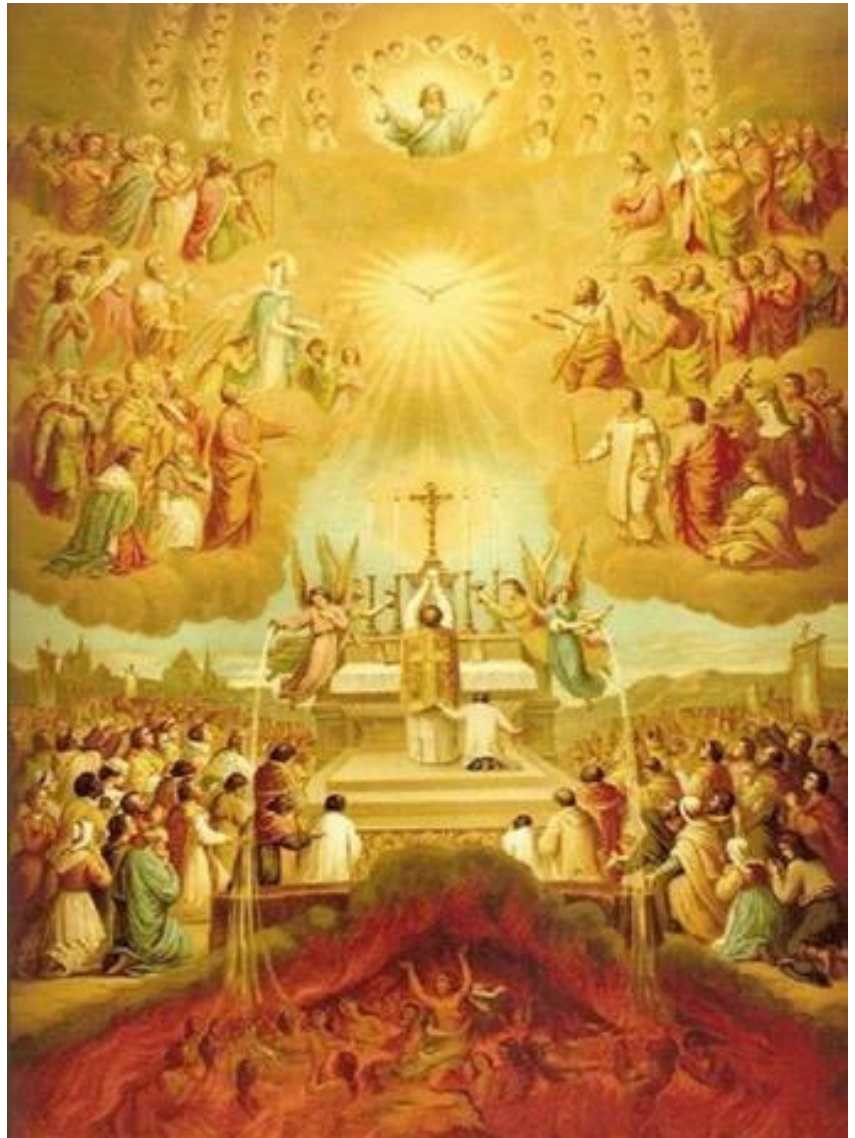
This belief is rooted in the Sacred Scriptures and pious Old Testament practices. When Jewish soldiers were preparing the bodies of their slain brethren for burial, they found out that they were wearing pagan amulets.

Therefore, Judas Maccabeus made a sin offering on their behalf: “...it was a holy and pious thought. Therefore he made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin” (2 Macc. 12:46).

St Paul explains how we can be saved and our works purified through fire: “... the work of each builder will become visible, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each has done. If what has been built on the foundation survives, the builder will receive a reward. If the work is burned up, the builder will suffer loss; the builder will be saved, but only as through fire.” (1Co. 3:12-15)

The early Church was very strong in its belief in the power of intercession for the deceased believers. Tertullian (c. 155 AD – c. 220), for example, explains: “We offer sacrifices for the dead on their birthday anniversaries.” (The Crown 3:3)

“A woman, after the death of her husband . . . prays for his soul and asks that he may, while waiting, find rest; and that he may share in the first resurrection. And each year, on the anniversary of his death, she offers the sacrifice.” (Monogamy 10:1-2)



All the members of the Church (alive and deceased) are united together in Christ in what we call “the communion of saints.” Even death does not separate us from Jesus and from this communion (Rom. 8:38). Therefore, just ask we pray for each other here on earth and God accepts these prayers, he will also accept the prayers we offer for each other even after death. As St. Paul offered his sufferings for his fellow believers, we can repeat with him: “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church.” (Col 1:24)

Birthright Luncheon

Birthright of Columbus is hosting their **annual fundraiser** (Luncheon), where they will spotlight their organization, mission and wonderful supporters and volunteers. Consider joining our **Our Lady of Victory table** at the luncheon, along with Msgr. Anthony Missimi who serves as their spiritual counselor. Contact Barbara Hegler (614-783-0785) for information.

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