



**National Catholic  
Partnership on Disability**  
**Alianza Nacional Católica  
sobre la Discapacidad**

## **Adapted Faith Formation Activities for November**

**Council on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**

# Family Faith Formation



“The witness of Christian life given by parents in the family comes to children with tenderness and parental respect. Children thus perceive and joyously live the closeness of God and of Jesus made manifest by their parents in such a way that the first Christian experience frequently leaves decisive traces which last throughout life.”

***General Directory for Catechesis*** #226



# Four Keys for Practicing Faith

- **Caring Conversations**
- **Family Devotions and Prayer**
- **Family Rituals and Traditions**
- **Family Service**

<https://2nix922u0v5c1unycf149lry-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/four-keys-for-practicing-the-faith-printout.pdf>



# November Monthly Activity

## *All Souls*

All Souls Day is a day set aside to remember those who have died, and we pray for them. Some families go to mass to remember their loved one but it is not a Holy Day of Obligation.

Different cultures have different traditions to remember a loved one who has died.

In Mexico, people who have died are remembered and celebrated during the same time but it is called Day of the Dead.

We all wonder what happens when a person dies.

Where did my friend go?

Why is mom/dad not home anymore?



# November Monthly Activity

## *All Souls*

According to Catholic belief, the soul of a person who dies can go to one of three places:

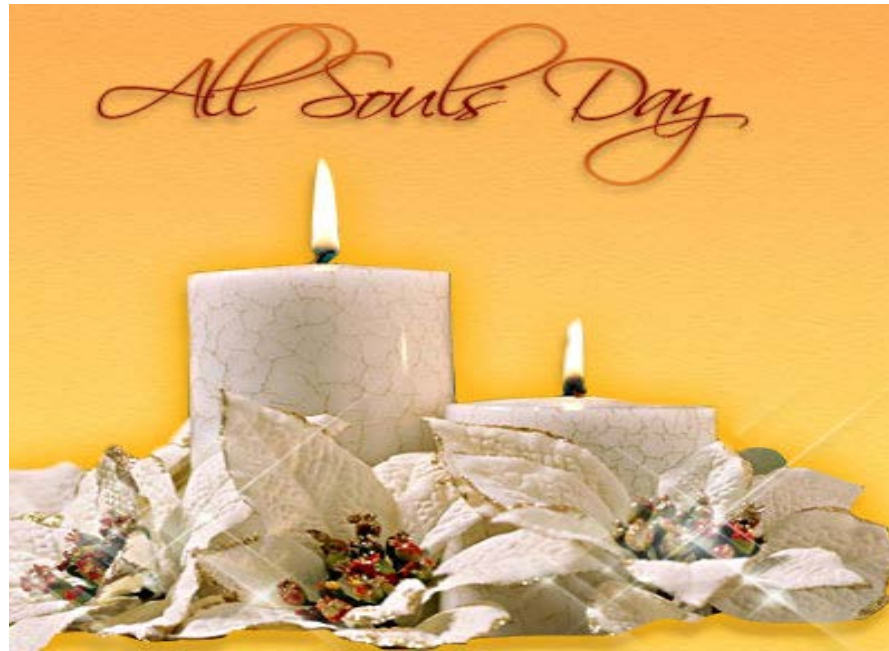
The first is heaven, where a person who dies in a state of perfect grace and communion with God goes.

The second is hell, where those who die in a state of mortal sin are naturally condemned by their choice.

The intermediate option is purgatory, which is thought to be where most people, free of mortal sin, but still in a state of lesser (venial) sin, must go. Consistent with these teachings and traditions, Catholics believe that through the prayers of the faithful on Earth, the dead are cleansed of their sins so they may enter into heaven.

(<https://www.catholic.org/saints/allsouls/> )





## November Monthly Activity

All people with a disability and without a disability should be allowed to mourn the loss of a loved one. Mourning is an expression of grief. We grieve the loss of someone who we loved.

***Let's talk about Death (social story)***

<https://www.dsscotland.org.uk/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Lets-Talk-about-Death-2012.pdf>

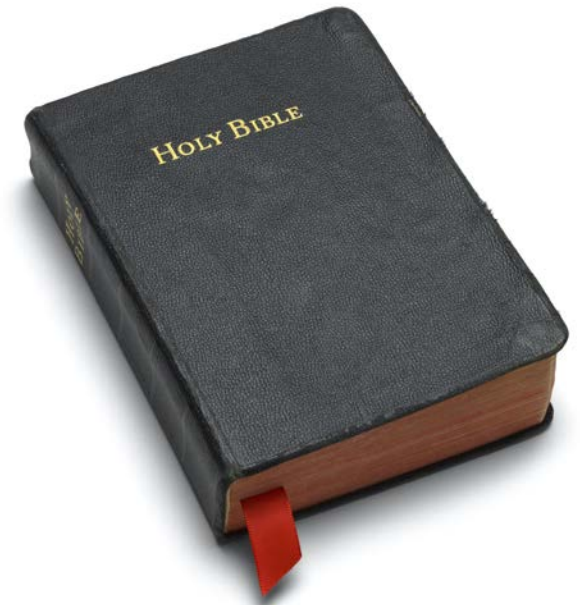


# November Monthly Activity

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Death is not a problem for God.

There are many Bible verses that site how Jesus conquered death so that we can all have everlasting life. Following are just a few of these verses that family members may want to read and then talk about with each other.



# November Monthly Activity

## **John 3:16**

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

## **Romans 6:9**

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

## **Revelation 21:4**

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, [for] the old order has passed away.





# November Monthly Activity

## **2 Timothy 1:10**

. . . but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel,

## **1 Thessalonians 4:14**

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, brings with him those who have fallen asleep.

## **Isaiah 25:8**

He will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.



# November Monthly Activity

## Matthew 27:51-53

*And behold, the veil of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth quaked, rocks were split, tombs were opened, and the bodies of many saints who had fallen asleep were raised. And coming forth from their tombs after his resurrection, they entered the holy city and appeared to many.*

- Discuss Jesus' resurrection and that he conquered death for all of us.  
We say that we believe this every time we recite the [Nicene Creed](#) when we say, "and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen."



# November Monthly Activity

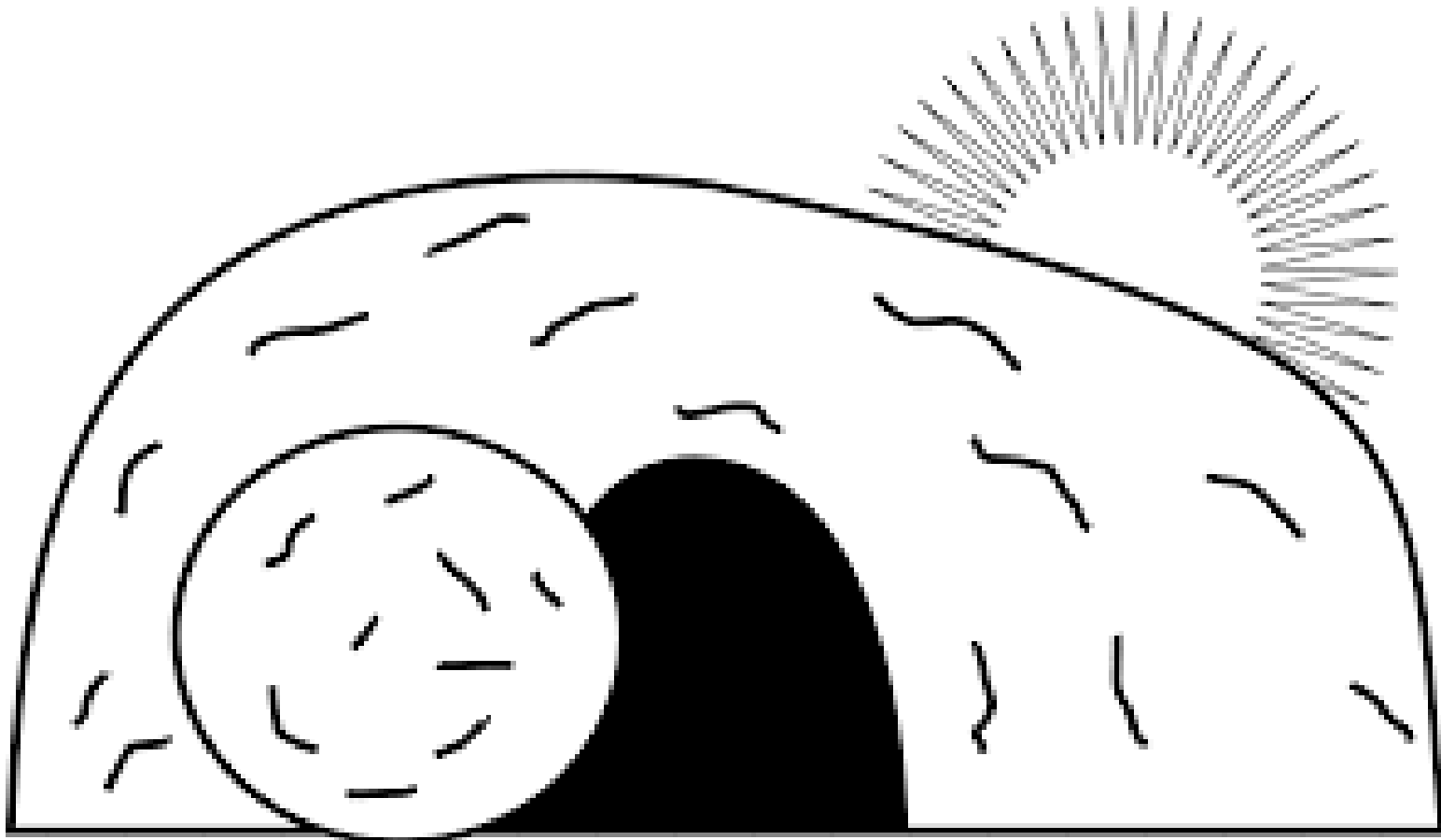
## Matthew 27:51-53

- Decorate the following representation of Jesus' resurrection. They may choose to include in their design the names of loved ones who have passed away.

Perhaps this illustration will be a reminder that, although we are currently separated from our loved ones on earth, we will all be united together again in heaven.



# November Monthly Activity



# FAMILY DEVOTION AND PRAYER

## *All Souls*

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition, describes five different forms of prayer - Prayer of Praise, Prayer of Intercession, Prayer of Petition, Prayer of Thanksgiving, and Blessing & Adoration. (<https://www.usccb.org/sites/default/files/flipbooks/catechism/632/>)

During the month of November, consider choosing one of these types of prayers to remember a loved one who has passed away.

The “PASTA Prayer Prompts” on the following pages may be used to help family members begin their prayers.



# FAMILY DEVOTION AND PRAYER

## *All Souls*

Five forms of prayer:

- ***Praise*** (Praise - give glory to God)
- ***Ask*** (Intercession - asking on behalf of another)
- ***Sorrow*** (Petition - requesting forgiveness/saying I'm sorry)
- ***Thanks*** (Thanksgiving - offering thanks to God)
- ***Adoration*** (Blessing and Adoration - blessing and respectful silence in the presence of God)



# FAMILY DEVOTION AND PRAYER

## *All Souls*

<b>“PASTA”</b> Forms of Prayer				
<b>P</b> raise <i>I want to: Give glory to God</i>	<b>A</b> sk <i>I want to: Ask for something for someone else</i>	<b>S</b> orrow <i>I want to: Say I’m sorry and be forgiven</i>	<b>T</b> hanks <i>I want to: Say thank you</i>	<b>A</b> doration <i>I want to: Pay homage to God</i>

# FAMILY DEVOTION AND PRAYER (con't.)

		<p><i>Glue or staple page 1 forms of prayers on top of the prompts on this page.</i></p>		
<p><b>P</b>raise</p> <p><i>“God, you are wonderful because you put _____ in our lives.”</i></p>	<p><b>A</b>sk</p> <p><i>“Please help us carry out _____’s wishes to . . .”</i></p>	<p><b>S</b>orrow</p> <p><i>“Please forgive me for the time that I hurt _____ by . . .”</i></p>	<p><b>T</b>hanks</p> <p><i>“Jesus, thank you for the memories of _____ that you keep alive in us.”</i></p>	<p><b>A</b>doration</p> <p><i>“In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”</i></p>



# FAMILY RITUAL AND TRADITION

## Prayers and Scripture Readings for Death and Dying -

Many prayers and scripture readings that may offer support during this difficult time can be found at <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/bereavement-and-funerals/prayers-for-death-and-dying>. A sample of prayers include:

All-powerful and merciful God,  
we commend to you N., your servant.  
In your mercy and love,  
blot out the sins he/she has  
committed  
through human weakness.  
In this world he/she has died:  
let him/her live with you forever.

Lord God,  
you are attentive to the voice of our  
pleading.  
Let us find in your Son  
comfort in our sadness,  
certainty in our doubt,  
and courage to live through this hour.  
Make our faith strong  
through Christ our Lord.

# FAMILY RITUAL AND TRADITION (cont.)

## We Were Made For Heaven

The following is an excerpt from an address made by Pope Francis 5/10/20

*We must always remember that we are made for heaven. God is in love with us. We are his children. And for us, he has prepared the most worthy and beautiful place: paradise. We are made for heaven, for eternal life, to live forever.*



# FAMILY RITUAL AND TRADITION (cont.)

## We Were Made For Heaven

In his reflection, the Pope focused on the Gospel reading, John 14:1-12, in which Jesus addresses his disciples at the Last Supper.

*'Do not let your hearts be troubled. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. ... I am going to prepare a place for you.'*

<https://www.ncregister.com/news/pope-francis-remember-youare-made-for-heaven>





## FAMILY RITUAL AND TRADITION (cont.)

### We Were Made For Heaven

- Light a candle and recite of prayer for a loved one's journey from earth to heaven. Candle lighting has a long tradition in the Catholic faith.
- Typically, candles are lit by holding a flame to the wick. However, this method of lighting candles may not be suitable for all individuals. Another way to "light" a candle is by cutting out the "flame" on the following page and placing it on the picture of the candle.



# FAMILY RITUAL AND TRADITION (cont.)

## We Were Made For Heaven

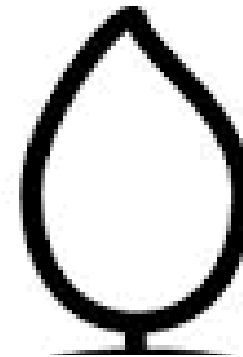
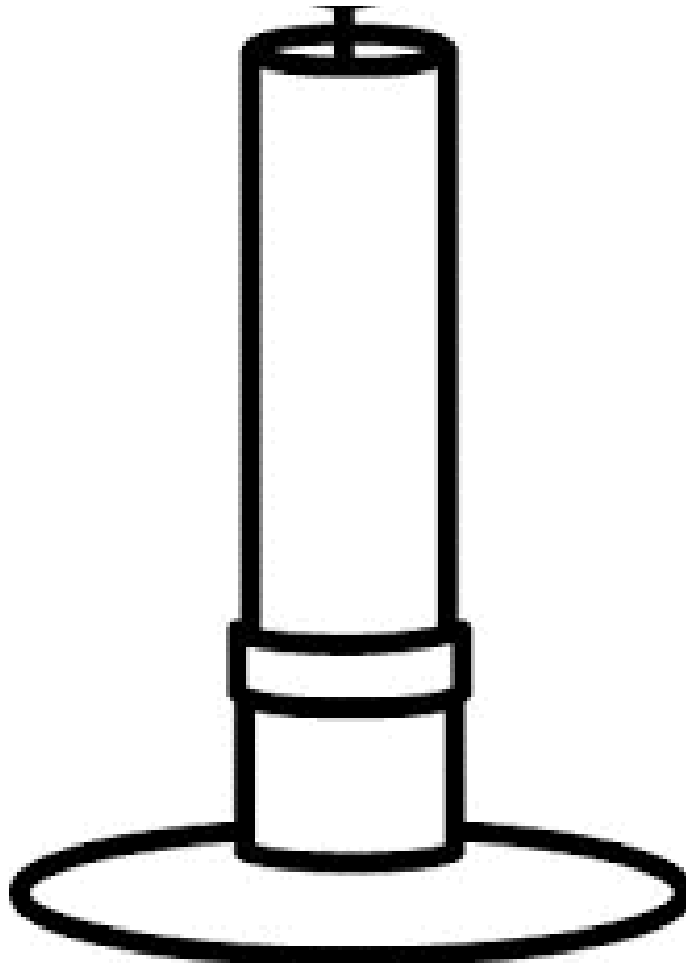
Color the candle and/or write the name of the loved one being remembered on the candle. Candles can be decorated and then displayed for each person who has passed away.

This tradition will help keep alive the memory of the loved one and help family members remember that they, too, are made for heaven.



# FAMILY RITUAL AND TRADITION (cont.)

We Were Made For Heaven





## **MEMORY MAKER ACTIVITY**

On All Souls Day, use a white tablecloth and fabric marker or sharpie to write down a memory about a person in your life who has passed. Pull it out each year to relive those memories and add new ones.





## CANDLE CERAMONY

At the end of All Souls Day, darken the room, and one at a time, light a candle or use a flashlight to mention the name of a person you loved who has died. Share a memory about that person. As you continue, the room will slowly become light representing the light of love throughout your family and throughout the world.



# FAMILY SERVICE

## Everyone is in God's Loving Hands

Participate in a service activity in honor of a loved one who has died. If the loved one passed away due to cancer or another disease, then the family may choose to participate in a service activity that helps raise awareness for a cure of that disease.

Perhaps the loved one had a special interest or cause that the family could take on as a service activity. For example, if the loved one enjoyed reading to young children, then the family could donate story books to their local elementary school.



# FAMILY SERVICE (cont.)

## Everyone is in God's Loving Hands

This includes the living and those who have passed away. When the family performs service in memory of a loved one, it is as though we are all being held together by God. As a family, brainstorm different service activities that you can do for those who are no longer with us.

Write the name of the individual being honored and the service activity performed on the picture of God's hands. Display the hands in an area of the home as a reminder that the loved one and family members will always be in God's loving hands.



# FAMILY SERVICE (cont.)

Everyone is in God's Loving Hands

## Options:

- A different set of hands can be used for each loved one and the service activity performed in their memory.
- Multiple individuals and activities can be noted on the same set of hands.
- The names of the family members who participated in the service activity can be written on the hands.
- Family members can decorate the hands when the service activity is completed.



# FAMILY SERVICE (cont.)

**Everyone is in God's Loving Hands**



# USCCB Scripture Resources

Daily Readings:

[English Daily Readings Audio](#)

[Video Reflection](#)

Click on the links above to reflect on Scripture by reading, listening or viewing the reading.



# Coronavirus and dying

Cristina Gangemi and the Kairos Team prepared the following talking with symbols materials for use with individuals with disabilities in the event of a family death from coronavirus.

*When People Die*

<http://www.kairosforum.org/space/when-people-die/>



# Tips and Tools

## Concrete Language

Concrete language gives a person a clear understanding of what you are talking about, whether it is a person, place, thing, or event by providing **precise details** and **specific identifying information**.

Individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities typically do not understand “STOP THAT.”

You must describe the action you want stopped. “Stop kicking the chair and put your feet on the floor.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZamfYs8WOU>



# National Catholic Partnership on Disability

## Council on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Maggie Rousseau, M.Ed. Chair

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For more information please visit [The National Catholic Partnership on Disability](#)

[NCPD Council on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#)

The CIDD is thankful for contributions from:

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

**Please support NCPD to continue developing resources to nurture the faith of persons with disabilities and their families [by clicking here!](#)**

