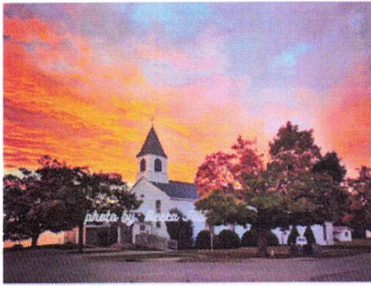


HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Pastor: Fr. Peter Wigton



NOVEMBER: A Month In Honor of the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

MASS READINGS: NOVEMBER 2025

11/2

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Soul's Day)

Reading I: Wisdom 3:1-9

Psalm 25: 6,7b,17-18,20-21(1)or(3a)

Reading II: Romans 8:14-23

Gospel: Luke 7:11-17

11/9

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica. (Stewardship Sunday)

Reading I: Ezekiel 47: 1-2,8-9,12

Psalm 46: 2-3,5-6,8-9 (b)

Reading II:

1 Corinthians 3:9c-11,16-17

Gospel: John 2:13-22

11/16

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading I: Malachi 3:19-20a

Psalm 96: 5-6,7-8,9 (see9)

Reading II: 2 Thessalonians 3: 7-12

Gospel: Luke 21: 5-19

11/23

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Reading I: 2 Samuel 5: 1-3

Psalm 122: 1-2,3-4,4-5 (see 1)

Reading II: Colossians 1:12-20

Gospel: Luke 25: 35-44

11/30 First Sunday of ADVENT

Reading 1: Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm: 122: 1-2,3-4,4-5,6-7,8-9

Reading II: Romans 13:11-14

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

In Need of Prayer:

Gary Cantwell, Paul Cole,
Kathy Maudrie, Perry Souder,
Mary Holm, Owen McDonough,
Joyce VanHolder, Eric Hodgson,
Jan Wigton

In the Catholic Church, the month of November holds special significance as it is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. During this month, the faithful are encouraged to commemorate and pray for all who have departed from this life yet have not reached the eternal joys of Heaven. This observance springs from both scriptural roots and the deep compassion of the Church for those souls who are undergoing purification. By understanding this dedication, we can engage in meaningful prayer, sacrifices, and acts of charity that benefit both the souls in purgatory and our spiritual growth.

Biblical and Theological Foundations of Purgatory

St. Paul, in his letters, implores Christians not to "be ignorant concerning the dead," reminding the faithful that death is not the end but a transition for those who die in Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). The Church teaches that purgatory is a state of purification for those who have died in a state of grace but still require purification before entering the fullness of Heaven. The Catechism of the Catholic Church affirms this belief by explaining that souls undergo a "final purification" necessary to attain the perfection required for Heaven (CCC 1030-1032). This teaching is drawn from Scripture, Tradition, and centuries of theological reflection.

Why Pray for the Souls in Purgatory?

Praying for the souls in purgatory is an act of charity, as these souls can no longer pray for themselves and depend on the prayers of the living to ease their suffering. The efficacy of our prayers, alms, and sacrifices on behalf of the Holy Souls is a testimony to the profound interconnectedness of the Church—what is known as the Communion of Saints. Our prayers assist the souls in their journey, bringing them closer to the beatific vision of God. St. John Chrysostom emphasized the importance of these prayers: "Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them." By praying for the deceased, we manifest our love for them and deepen our awareness of our own mortality and eternal destiny.

Stories of Intercession by the Holy Souls

The Church's history is filled with accounts of faithful individuals who, through their devotion to the Holy Souls, received spiritual blessings. For instance, St. Gertrude the Great had a profound devotion to the souls in purgatory, and it is said that Christ revealed a special prayer to her for their benefit. The St. Gertrude Prayer ("Eternal Father, I offer Thee the most precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus..."), is believed to release many souls each time it is recited. Another story involves St. Padre Pio, who had numerous encounters with souls from purgatory. These souls sought his intercession, and in turn, he encouraged others to pray for them. Many have also claimed to receive assistance from the Holy Souls, who, upon their entrance to Heaven, can pray for us and intercede in gratitude.

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The Month of Holy Souls as a Time of Reflection and Charity

November provides an opportunity for the faithful to reflect on mortality, eternal life, and the bonds that transcend this earthly existence. Through our prayer, sacrifices, and acts of charity, we can alleviate the suffering of the souls in purgatory and deepen our relationship with God. Remembering our departed loved ones, we join in a mission that stretches beyond our world, honoring the Holy Souls and inviting their future intercession. As we do, we unite with the Communion of Saints, reinforcing the beautiful and enduring unity of the Church on earth, in purgatory, and in Heaven.

Ways to Help the Holy Souls in Purgatory

The Church encourages the faithful to perform specific acts during November to assist the Holy Souls, including:

1. **Praying for the Dead:** The most traditional and accessible way to help the souls is through prayer. Prayers such as the *Eternal Rest Prayer* ("Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them") and the *De Profundis* (Psalm 130) are commonly recited for this purpose.
2. **Offering Masses:** The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the most powerful prayer that can be offered for the dead. Attending Mass and offering it for the repose of souls in purgatory is a profound act of charity.
3. **Almsgiving:** Alms given in memory of a loved one are spiritually meritorious for both the giver and the deceased. Donations to the Church or charitable causes on behalf of the dead can also aid in their spiritual journey.
4. **Mortifications and Sacrifices:** Mortifications, such as fasting or personal sacrifices, can be offered for the release of the souls in purgatory. This act of self-denial, united with Christ's suffering, reflects our solidarity with those undergoing purification.
5. **Gaining Indulgences:** During November, the Church grants plenary indulgences applicable to the Holy Souls. By visiting a cemetery and praying for the deceased (especially from November 1st to November 8th), the faithful can obtain a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions.

Source: <https://thecatholicheroes.com/history-biographies/november-a-month-in-honor-of-the-holy-souls-in-purgatory/>

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with THANKSGIVING, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

NOVEMBER: PARISH LUNCHEON

Sunday, November 16,

After MASS @ Holy Cross Parish Hall

Theme: Favorite Appetizer's



Fiscal Year Report: 9/30/25 (end of 1st quarter)

Cemetery Bank Balance for Checking and Savings: \$20,115.66

Church Bank Balance for Checking and Savings: \$145,983.18

Altar Society Balance for Checking and Savings: \$7,654.20

The Finance Council has elected to establish permanent endowment funds with the Northern Michigan Catholic Foundation (NMCf) in Traverse City to ensure lasting financial support for Holy Cross Church and Cemetery. These funds are designed to grow over time and provide annual distributions that will benefit our parish and cemetery in perpetuity.

- **Holy Cross Cemetery Endowment Fund: \$50,000 was transferred on July 30, 2025**
- **Holy Cross Catholic Church Endowment Fund: \$25,000 will be transferred in the near future.**

Donations are always welcomed to be designated to either of these funds to support their continued growth. The Finance Council is committed to prioritizing annual contributions to the endowments, helping to build a lasting source of stability for generations to come.

VANCO

FAITH Online Giving

Online Giving is now available! Help support your beloved island parish by making a one time or recurring gift today. Just five easy steps.

1. Go to holycrossbeaverisland.com and click the ONLINE GIVING button in the top right corner.
2. Select "sign up" in the upper right of the giving page.
3. Enter your first and last names, along with our email and a password for future access.
4. Check your email for your VANCO profile confirmation code.
5. Enter the code within designated field to confirm your email and complete your sign up.
6. **You are ready to make your first gift!**

STEWARDSHIP:

9/28/25 to 10/26/2025

Offering: \$5,687

On Line Giving: \$233.30

Bequest/Donations: \$4,600

Hall: \$ 0

Mass Stipend: \$105

Cemetery Donation: \$ 0

CSA: as of 10/30/2025

\$9,2015 (Received) 85%

\$10,982 (Projected with pledges)

100.2%

CSA Goal: \$10,962

Mass Intentions:

November 2025

- 11/2 Bob & Sue Welke
by Bobbi Welke
- 11/9 Gail Weede
by Mike Weede
- 11/16 Harold Lounsberry
by Todd Lounsberry & Family
- 11/23 Harold Lounsberry
by Todd Lounsberry & Family
- 11/30 Bryan Foli
by David & Natalie Clark

FORMED

Interested in learning about and growing your Catholic faith from home? Check out **FORMED**, a great resource to help us grow in our Catholic faith. It's great for all ages! Signing up is easy and FREE! Simply go to www.formed.org/signup. Click on "sign up" then "sign up as a parishioner." That will take you to "Create a New Account". Do a search for "St Mary! Charlevoix" or type in 49720 and the name will pop up. Then just enter your name and email and **YOUR IN !!**