

Purgatory: Catholic Cheat Sheet by LIFE TEEN

The Short Explanation

Purgatory is a temporary state of purification where souls (after they have died) have the effects of their sins cleansed before they are able to enter heaven. Even though God forgives our sins in the Sacrament of Confession, the temporal punishment of our sin remains and this is what we make up for by spending time in Purgatory. The temporal punishment is the effect of sin that remains on our souls, even after the sin has been forgiven. It's like a broken window — though the offense is forgiven, the effect remains and has to be fixed.

In Depth

Purgatory is very much a reality. The early Church fathers encouraged praying for the dead from the very beginning. It was seen as an act of Christian charity, a way for those living to assist those dead but not yet in heaven. Still, many non-Catholic Christians do not believe in Purgatory because they believe it has no basis in Scripture. However, there are several Biblical passages that support the doctrine of Purgatory. It is true that the word "Purgatory" is not mentioned in Scripture. (Many theological terms that all Christians accept are not found in the Bible, either: "Trinity," for example.) The verb purge comes from a Latin term meaning "to purify." So Purgatory is a state of cleansing in which our souls are purified from sin. In Revelation 21:27, it clearly states that, "nothing unclean will enter heaven." Likewise, in 1 Corinthians 3:15, St. Paul states that "if someone's work is burned up, that one will suffer loss; the person will be saved, but only as through fire." Clearly, the "fire" mentioned here by Paul cannot refer to hell because he says that the "person will be saved." There is no salvation for those in hell. Jesus Himself teaches us that some sins can be forgiven in the "next world," as we hear in Matthew 12:32 and elsewhere (1 Peter 3:18-20, 4:6). St. Paul prayed for the dead, too (2 Timothy 1:16-18). In addition, there is a passage in 2 Maccabees 12:44-46 which clearly speaks of the existence of Purgatory. The real question, then, isn't "Where is Purgatory found in the Bible?" but "Why do we need Purgatory at all?" God is perfect holiness (Isaiah 6:3). We are called to be perfectly holy (Matthew 5:48; 1 Peter 1:15-16). Without perfect holiness, we cannot see God in heaven (Hebrews 12:14). Purgatory is meant for our cleansing and sanctification (Hebrews 12:11). All discipline and affliction leads us closer to God, if we let it (Romans 5:3-5; James 1:2).

Get Praying

Praying for the souls in purgatory is quite easy, so easy in fact that we have no excuse for not doing it. A prayer for the Holy Souls can be as simple as the short Requiem Aeternam prayer: "Eternal rest, grant unto him/her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him/her. May s/he rest in peace. Amen." We can also add a brief petition to our daily meal prayer: "Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts...And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace." Why wouldn't we pray these simply prayers daily? Two effective ways to pray for the souls in purgatory are praying the Divine Mercy chaplet for them and remembering them in your Rosary intentions. The Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary require a time commitment of approximately 10 and 20 minutes. Even praying these powerful prayers once a week for the Holy Souls isn't asking that much considering the benefit it brings to your spiritual family members. We have the power to help the suffering souls in Purgatory and bring them relief. To do so is an act of mercy and self-giving love. The sacrifice it requires of us is minimal, and yet the rewards are great.



Youth Night



Our October Youth Night was so much fun! We designed a huge rosary out on the playground for our school kids to use when they are out at recess. Then came into the gym for a friendly relay team building activity. The students had to maneuver an obstacle course with a baby doll on their shoulders (St. Christopher), throw a rose into a hoola hoop (St. Therese of Lisieux), take off one shoe and run to pick a Saint card out of the basket (St. Kenneth) and make it back before the next person could go. After that Father John talked about the Holy Souls in Purgatory and their Service this month is to pray the Saint Gertrude prayer for the whole month of November. We can't wait until next month! **Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.**



"As we enter Heaven, we will see them, so many of them, coming towards us and thanking us. We will ask who they are, and they will say 'a poor soul you prayed for in purgatory.'" - Ven. Fulton Sheen

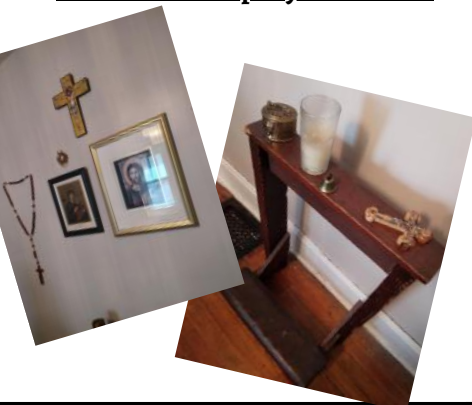


November Schedule

- **November 10th ~** RE class 1st-5th grade 4pm-5pm
Mass 6:15pm//RE class 7/8th grade & Confirmation II 6:15pm-8pm
- **November 17th ~** RE class 1st-5th grade 4pm-5pm
Mass 6:15pm// Youth Night 6:15pm-8pm
- **November 20th ~** La Crosse Diocesan NCYC Experience @ Pacelli High School
Stevens Point 8:15am-7:30pm
- **November 21st ~** Pancake Breakfast in Reardon Hall
- **November 28th ~** Social Sunday following the 10am Mass in Reardon Hall



I love being able to share other family's faith journey. Check out this beautiful prayer corner.



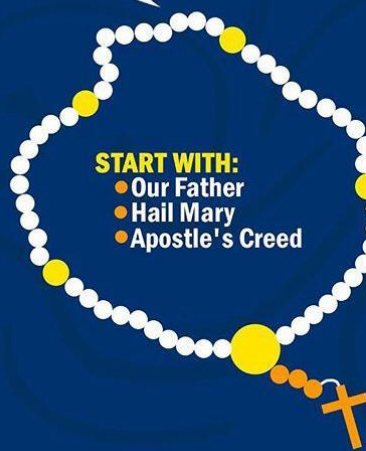
Join Us for an Hour of Mercy:

Tuesdays at 3 PM—
time of prayer,
litany and chaplet
on behalf of our
Church and the world.

Chaplet of DIVINE MERCY



START WITH:
• Our Father
• Hail Mary
• Apostle's Creed



• Eternal Father, I offer you the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of your dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement of our sins and those of the whole world.

• For the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

3 TIMES AT THE END

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Religious Ed Students

Another thing that I LOVE to do is showcase our Religious Ed Students in the news...so if ever you capture a great moment at dance, at a sporting event, in school, please email it to me with a little caption.



Congrats to
Eli Boppart!!
W.I.A.A.
Division II
Boys Cross
Country
Runner-Up!



Congrats
Girl's
Volleyball
on
Conference
Champs 3
years in a
row!



HAPPY
thanksgiving

Key Club
Members
Makenna and Naome spent
some time
cleaning
Veterans'
Headstones
in
Mauston's
City
Cemetery

Congrats Mia on
1,000 Kills!



Pictured from our Parish are: Reagan Randall, Shae Massey, Anna Kudick, Mia Quist, Brie Eckerman, Amelia Gunther, Maddi Quist, Makenna Pouillie and assistant Coach Katie Marien



The Mauston boys' cross country team was first team all conference (fifth place overall) and team conference champs. Congrats **Eli Boppart, Joe Hammer, and Drake Gosda!**