

Order for Visiting a Grave

adapted from *Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers*

The month of November, especially All Saints Day and All Souls Day, is a traditional time for visiting graves, as is the anniversary of death.

✠ ✠ ✠

All make the sign of the cross. The leader begins:

Praise be to God our Father, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Blessed be God for ever.

R. Blessed be God for ever.

The following Scripture text may be read:

I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

After a time of silence, all join in prayers of intercession or one or more litanies. The following prayer may be offered.

Lord Jesus Christ,
by your own three days in the tomb,
you hallowed the graves of all who believe in you
and so made the grave a sign of hope
that promises resurrection
even as it claims our mortal bodies.
Grant that our brother/sister, *N.*, may sleep here in peace
until you awaken him/her to glory,
for you are the resurrection and the life.
Then he/she will see you face to face
and in your light will see light
and know the splendor of God,
for you live and reign for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

The leader introduces the Lord's Prayer with these or similar words:

With longing for the coming of God's kingdom, let us offer our prayer to the Father.

All pray together:

Our Father...

Then the leader prays:

Lord God,
whose days are without end
and whose mercies beyond counting,
keep us mindful
that life is short and the hour of death unknown.
Let your Spirit guide our days on earth
in the ways of holiness and justice,
that we may serve you
in union with the whole Church,
sure in faith, strong in hope, perfected in love.
And when our earthly journey is ended,
lead us rejoicing into your kingdom,
where you live for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
R. and let perpetual light shine upon them.

V. May they rest in peace.

R. Amen.

V. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.

R. Amen.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader concludes:

May the peace of God,
which is beyond all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God
and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

R. Amen.