

FAMILY ACT OF MERCY: PRAY FOR LIVING AND THE DEAD

VISIT THE GRAVE of a family member or friend.

SHARE STORIES of that person's life with your children.

PRAY for the repose of that person's soul and consolation for surviving friends and family.

MAKE A RUBBING of the gravestone. *Note! There are legal and historical conservation considerations involved. Before you head to the cemetery, check out this site for tips on How to Do a Grave Rubbing (and When Not To):*
<https://www.usurnsonline.com/burial/grave-rubbing/>.

DISPLAY THE RUBBING in your home during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays as a way of remembering to pray for and honor a family member and generations who have passed before us.



INDULGENCE FOR VISITING A CEMETERY

- An indulgence is granted the Christian faithful who devoutly visit a cemetery and pray, if only mentally, for the dead. This indulgence is applicable only to the souls in purgatory. **This indulgence is a *plenary* one from November 1 – November 8 and can be gained on each one of these days.** On the other days of the year, this indulgence is a partial one. **Please see below for prescribed conditions and certain prescribed works for an indulgence.**

PLENARY INDULGENCES – GENERAL CONDITIONS

The following "General remarks on Indulgences" from Gift of the Indulgence summarizes the usual conditions given in the Church's law (cf. Apostolic Penitentiary, Prot. N. 39/05/l):

1. This is how an indulgence is defined in the Code of Canon Law (can. 992) and in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (n. 1471): "An indulgence is a **remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven**, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints".
2. In general, the gaining of indulgences requires certain prescribed conditions (below, nn. 3, 4), and the performance of certain prescribed works.
3. To gain indulgences, whether plenary or partial, it is **necessary that the faithful be in the state of grace at least at the time the indulgenced work is completed**. [i.e., one must be a Catholic, not excommunicated or in schism.]
4. A plenary indulgence can be gained only once a day. In order to obtain it, the faithful must, in addition to being in the state of grace:
 - **have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin;**
 - **have sacramentally confessed their sins;**
 - **receive the Holy Eucharist** (it is certainly better to receive it while participating in Holy Mass, but for the indulgence only Holy Communion is required);
 - **pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff.**
5. **It is appropriate, but not necessary, that the sacramental Confession and especially Holy Communion and the prayer for the Pope's intentions take place on the same day that the indulgenced work is performed; but it is sufficient that these sacred rites and prayers be carried out within several days (about 20) before or after the indulgenced act.** Prayer for the **Pope's intentions** is left to the choice of the faithful, but an **"Our Father" and a "Hail Mary" are suggested**. One sacramental Confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, but a separate Holy Communion and a separate prayer for the Holy Father's intentions are required for each plenary indulgence.
6. For the sake of those legitimately impeded, confessors can commute both the work prescribed and the conditions required (except, obviously, detachment from even venial sin).
7. Indulgences can always be applied either to oneself or to the souls of the deceased, but they cannot be applied to other persons living on earth.