



*Serving the Spiritual Needs of Grieving Parents  
Whose Children of Any Age Have Died by Any Cause,  
No Matter How Long Ago*

**Your Emmaus Ministry  
Remote Retreat Guide**

**November 7, 2020**

**9:30am ET**

(or a convenient time for you)

## **ALL SOULS MONTH**

*During the month of November,  
we remember our beloved dead in love and in prayer.*

*Purgatory is the second happiest place in all of creation... Second  
only to heaven because the souls in purgatory have seen God and  
know they will see him again.*

*--St. Catherine of Genoa*



**Preparation:**

Ahead of time, we recommend you find a quiet place in your home where you can immerse yourself in this retreat. Have your child's Emmaus Memorial Candle (or other candle) available along with a lighter or matches.

Take several deep breaths to cleanse your thoughts and open yourself to wherever the Holy Spirit is calling you today several minutes before the retreat is scheduled to begin.

At 9:30am ET open your email and join other fellow Emmaus Parent Companions in getting away from the rest of the world, at least for a time, to focus on God and on your precious child.

**CANDLE LIGHTING PRAYER** (Light your candle)

We begin... In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen

Lord, you are the Light of the World. *Help us feel your presence in the lighting of this candle.*

Lord, you gave us the gift of our children. *Help us feel their presence in the lighting of this candle.*

Lord, you gave us the hope of eternal life. *Help us confirm that hope in the lighting of this candle.*

Lord, you gave us love. *Help us to know that, as much as we love our children, you love them even more.*

We ask you this through Christ, Our Lord  
Amen.

**OPENING SONG:** [To Where You Are](#) by Josh Grobin  
*A breathe away is not too far from where you are*

**PRAYER OF THOSE MAKING A RETREAT**

Loving Spirit of Wisdom,  
Guide my thoughts and my memories.

In the light of your love,  
May I see what is important for me to remember,  
What is important for me to hold to my heart,  
And what I need to simply let go of in peace.

I trust you to be my guide,  
Even when the path seems unclear to me.

We pray this in the name of Your Son, the Healer,  
Our Lord, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

### **Wisdom 3:1-9**

The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them.

They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead; and their passing away was thought an affliction

And their going forth from us, utter destruction. But they are at peace.

For if before men, indeed, they be punished, yet is their hope full of immortality;

Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed, because God tried them and found them worthy of himself.

As gold in the furnace, he proved them, and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.

In the time of their visitation they shall shine, and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;

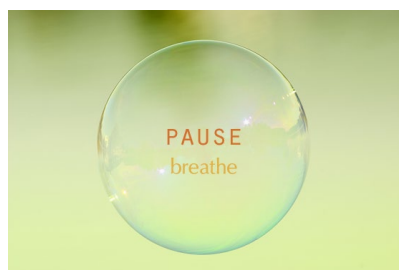
Those who trust in him shall understand truth, and the faithful shall abide with him in love:

Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones, and his care is with his elect.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## **REFLECTION #1: [Did Catholics Make Up Purgatory?](#) by Fr. Casey Cole, OFM**

*What happens after we die?*



Take a moment to pause... breathe... savor what you have received from the Reflection #1.

Clear your mind before focusing on Reflection #2.

**REFLECTION #2: [What You Should Know About Purgatory](#)** by Fr. Mike Schmitz  
*Purgatory is a gift of God's grace.*

### **PRAYER**

Lord, welcome into your calm and peaceful kingdom those who have departed out of this present life to be with you.

Grant them rest and a place with the spirits of the just;

Give them the life that knows no age, the reward that passes not away,

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon them.

May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, rest in peace.

Amen.

**CLOSING HYMN: [I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say](#)** by The Heavenly Saints<sup>96</sup>  
I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest. Lay down, thou weary. Lay down thy head upon my breast."

### **CLOSING BLESSING**

Let us end our time of retreat...united with Brother John Maganzini, OFM and the Franciscan Friars at Saint Anthony Shrine in Boston, MA, by blessing one another.

Bow your head, raise your right hand and, together, we pray...

#### **Especially during this month of All Souls...**

May we not fear Death but accept it, for Death turns time into life eternal.

May we not fear Death because after Death, we will be living in the warm embrace of God and of our children.

May the hearts of our precious children find eternal rest and peace, as they seek God's love and grace.

May our precious children--and all of our departed loved ones--be blessed by God, Our Almighty Father.

We ask you this, as we bless each other in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**FOR FURTHER**



**REFLECTION:**

- **[For All Souls](#)** by Mickey Hibbard  
*We are closer now than ever before.*
- **[Hold on to the Rope of the Anchor](#)** by Pope Francis  
*Hope is an anchor that we have on the other side: we sustain ourselves by clinging to its rope.*
- **[St. Ambrose Challenges Us to Think About Death Every Day](#)** by Philip Kosloski  
*It was through Jesus' death*

*that we are born into new life, and it is through our own physical death that we are brought into eternal life.*



You will receive a new Emmaus Remote Retreat email next Friday.  
Please join your fellow Emmaus Parent Companions again next Saturday at 9:30am EDT

Until then, may God bless you and keep you.  
Sending many warm, virtual hugs

For past Remote Retreats, see [here](#).

