

THE ORDER OF VISITING A CEMETERY

INTRODUCTION

Priest or deacon: The grace and peace of God our Father, who raised Jesus from the dead, be with you always.
All: And with your spirit.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

If Mass has not preceded, a reader, another person present, or the minister reads a text of sacred Scripture.

Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians (4:13-18):

We shall stay with the Lord for ever. We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself, with a word of command, with the voice of an archangel and the trumpet of God, will come down from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

LITANY

Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy	Saint Elizabeth Seton,	pray for them
Christ, have mercy	Christ, have mercy	All holy men and women,	pray for them
Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy		
Holy Mary, Mother of God,	pray for them	Christ, pardon all their faults:	Lord, hear our prayer
Saint Michael,	pray for them	Christ, remember the good they have done:	Lord, hear our prayer
Saint John the Baptist,	pray for them	Christ, receive them into eternal life:	Lord, hear our prayer
Saint Joseph,	pray for them	Christ, comfort all those who mourn:	Lord, hear our prayer
Saint Peter,	pray for them		
Saint Paul,	pray for them	Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
Saint Andrew,	pray for them	Christ, have mercy	Christ, have mercy
Saint Stephen,	pray for them	Lord, have mercy	Lord, have mercy
Saint Ann,	pray for them		
Saint Teresa,	pray for them		
Saint Catherine,	pray for them Saint		
Frances Cabrini,	pray for them		

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest: With Christ there is mercy and fullness of redemption;
let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father...

THE BLESSING OF THE GRAVES

Priest: All-powerful God, whose mercy is never withheld from those who call upon you in hope, look kindly on your servants, who departed this life confessing your name and number them among your saints for evermore. Bless the graves in which they rest, in the Name of The + Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The priest or deacon then sprinkles the graves with Holy Water.

CONCLUDING RITES

Priest: Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

All: And let perpetual light shine upon them.

Priest: May they rest in peace.

All: Amen.

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

All: Amen.