

PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED PARENTS, SPOUSE AND RELATIVES

Prayer for the deceased is the greatest act of love we can offer to those who have departed from this life. The Church teaches that departed souls can no longer help themselves, but our prayers and alms have the power to alleviate their state and grant them salvation.

1. Prayer for Deceased Parents (Mother or Father)

"O Lord Jesus Christ, our God! Thou art the defender of orphans and protector of widows. Have mercy, O Lord, upon the soul of Thy departed servant (name), my father / my mother. Forgive them all their transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, in word, deed, or thought, and settle them in the mansions of the righteous, where there is no sickness, sorrow, or sighing, but life everlasting. For Thou art the resurrection, the life, and the repose of Thy departed servants, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, with Thy eternal Father and Thy All-Holy, Good, and Life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen."

2. Prayer of a Widow for Her Deceased Husband

"O Christ Jesus, Lord and Almighty! In contrition of my heart, I pray to Thee: grant rest, O Lord, to the soul of Thy departed servant (name) in Thy heavenly mansions. Thou hast taken from me my husband, the sole companion of my life. Forgive him all his sins and receive him into the embrace of Thy mercy. Grant me strength to live the remainder of my days in holiness and purity, that at the end of the age I also may be deemed worthy to see him again in Thy Kingdom. Amen."

3. Daily Short Prayer for the Repose of the Departed

"Grant rest, O Lord, to the souls of Thy departed servants: my parents, relatives, benefactors, and all orthodox Christians, and forgive them all transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, and grant them the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen."