

Catholic Beliefs About Death and Afterlife

Directions: Read each of the following passages which are options for the Catholic funeral rite. Then write a short statement telling what the passage says about Catholic beliefs about death and the afterlife. Use separate paper as necessary.

Matthew 5:1–12a

Matthew 11:25–30

Matthew 25:1–13

Matthew 25:31–46

Mark 15:33–39

Luke 7:11–17

Luke 12:35–40

Luke 23:33, 39–43

Luke 23:44–46, 50, 52–53

Luke 24:13–16, 28–35

John 5:24–29

John 6:37–40

John 6:51–58

John 11:11–27

John 11:32–45

John 12:23–28

John 14:1–6

John 17:24–26

John 19:17–18, 25–30

Some Prayers to Mary

Marian Novena

Many different types of Marian novenas take place throughout the world, especially on the nine days preceding a Marian feast (such as the Immaculate Conception (December 8) or the Assumption (August 15)). Here is an example of one such novena.

Novena to Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help

See at your feet, O Mother of Perpetual Help, a poor sinner who has recourse to you and confides in you. O Mother of Mercy, have pity on me! You are called the refuge and hope of sinners; be my refuge and my hope. Help me, for the love of Jesus Christ; stretch forth your hand to a poor, fallen creature. I recommend myself to you, and I want to devote myself to your service forever. I bless and thank almighty God, who in his mercy has given me this confidence in you, which I hold to be a pledge of my eternal salvation. Mary, help me. Mother of Perpetual Help, never allow me to lose my God.

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, three times.)

Litany of the Blessed Mother

Lord, have mercy. (repeat)

Christ, have mercy. (repeat)

Lord, have mercy. (repeat)

God our Father in heaven (have mercy on us)

God the Son, Redeemer of the world (have mercy on us)

God the Holy Spirit (have mercy on us)

Holy Trinity, one God (have mercy on us)

Holy Mary (pray for us)

Holy Mother of God (pray for us)

Most honored of virgins (pray for us)

Mother of Christ (pray for us)

Mother of the Church (pray for us)

Mother of divine grace (pray for us)

Mother most pure (pray for us)

Mother of chaste love (pray for us)

Mother and virgin (pray for us)

Sinless Mother (pray for us)

Dearest of mothers (pray for us)

Model of motherhood (pray for us)

Mother of good counsel (pray for us)

Mother of our Creator (pray for us)

Mother of our Savior (pray for us)

Virgin most wise (pray for us)

Virgin rightly praised (pray for us)

Virgin rightly renowned (pray for us)

Virgin most powerful (pray for us)

Virgin gentle in mercy (pray for us)

Faithful Virgin (pray for us)

Mirror of justice (pray for us)

Throne of wisdom (pray for us)

Cause of our joy (pray for us)

Shrine of the Spirit (pray for us)

Glory of Israel (pray for us)

Vessel of selfless devotion (pray for us)

Mystical Rose (pray for us)

Tower of David (pray for us)

Tower of ivory (pray for us)

House of gold (pray for us)

Ark of the covenant (pray for us)

Gate of heaven (pray for us)

Morning Star (pray for us)

Health of the sick (pray for us)

Refuge of sinners (pray for us)

Comfort of the troubled (pray for us)

Help of Christians (pray for us)

Queen of Angels (pray for us)

Queen of patriarchs and prophets (pray for us)

Queen of apostles and martyrs (pray for us)

Queen of confessors and virgins (pray for us)

Queen of all saints (pray for us)

Queen conceived without sin (pray for us)

Queen assumed into heaven (pray for us)

Queen of the rosary (pray for us)

Queen of peace (pray for us)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world

(have mercy on us)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world

(have mercy on us)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world

(have mercy on us)

V. Pray for us, holy Mother of God.

R. That we may become worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, let your people enjoy constant health in mind and body. Through the intercession of the Virgin Mary free us from the sorrows of this life and lead us to happiness in the life to come. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

First Saturday Devotion

During the third apparition at Fatima (in 1917), the Blessed Virgin requested that all Catholics receive communion “in reparation for sin” on the first Saturday of every month. Since then, this devotion has been faithfully practiced by some Catholics throughout the world.

Feast Days of Mary

Directions: Use this Handout to complete the Journal Assignment on page 287.

JANUARY

- 1 —Mary, Mother of God
- 21—Our Lady of Altigracia
- 23—Espousal of the Virgin Mary
- 24—Madonna del Pianto (Our Lady of Tears)

FEBRUARY

- 2 —Purification of Mary
- 11—Our Lady of Lourdes

MARCH

- 25—Annunciation to Mary

APRIL

- 25—Our Lady of Good Counsel (at Genezzano)
- 26—Our Lady of Good Counsel (elsewhere)

MAY

- 13—Our Lady of Fatima
 - Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament
- 24—Mary, Help of Christians
- 31—Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces
 - Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

JUNE

- 3 —Our Lady of the Holy Letter
- 9 —Mary, Virgin Mother of Grace
- 27—Our Lady of Perpetual Help

JULY

- 16—Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- 17—Humility of the Blessed Virgin Mary

AUGUST

- 2 —Our Lady of the Angels
- 5 —Our Lady of the Snow
 - Our Lady of Copacabana
- 13—Our Lady, Refuge of Sinners
- 15—Assumption of Mary into Heaven
- 21—Our Lady of Knock
- 22—Immaculate Heart of Mary
 - Queenship of Mary

SEPTEMBER

- 8 —Nativity of Mary
 - Our Lady of Charity
 - Our Lady of Meritxell
- 12—Most Holy Name of Mary
- 15—Our Lady of Sorrows
- 24—Our Lady of Mercy
 - Our Lady of Walsingham

OCTOBER

- 1 —Holy Protection of the Mother of God
- 7 —Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary
- 11—Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 12—Our Lady of Pilar
- 16—Purity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

NOVEMBER

- 21—Presentation of Mary at the Temple

DECEMBER

- 8 —Immaculate Conception of Mary
- 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 18—Expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

MOVEABLE FEASTS

- Friday in Passion Week—The Seven Dolors of Mary
- Saturday after Ascension—Our Lady, Queen of the Apostles
- Saturday before the last Sunday in August—Our Lady, Health of the Sick
- Saturday after the Feast of St. Augustine—Our Lady of Consolation
- Saturday before November 3—Mary, Mother of Divine Providence

Mary as Patron Saint

Directions: Many countries have chosen Mary to be their patron saint. Select one country and find out more about its devotion to Mary as patron under a certain title. Use the Internet or library to find examples of the country's cultural devotions to Mary and artistic representations of her. Be prepared to report your findings to the class.

- Albania—Our Lady of Good Counsel
Algeria—Our Lady of Africa
Angola—Immaculate Heart of Mary
Argentina—Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Lujan
Australia—Our Lady Help of Christians
Austria—Our Lady of Mariazell
Bavaria—Mary, Queen of Bavaria
Belgium—Our Lady of Banneux, Our Lady of Baeuraing
Bolivia—Our Lady of Capucdana, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Virgin de la Candelaria, Virgin of Copacabana
Brazil—Our Lady of Nazareth, Immaculate Conception, Our Lady Who Appeared (Aparecida)
Canada—Mary of the Hurons, Our Lady of the Cape
Chile—Our Lady of Mount Carmel
China—Virgin of Sheshan, Our Lady of China
Colombia—Our Lady of Chiquinquira, Our Lady of the Rosary
Costa Rica—Our Lady of the Angels
Cuba—Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, Virgin de Ragala
Dominican Republic—Our Lady of High Grace
Ecuador—Most Pure Heart of Mary, Our Lady of Quinche
El Salvador—Our Lady of Peace
England—Our Lady of Mount Carmel at Aylesford, Our Lady of Walsingham
Equatorial Guinea—Immaculate Conception
France—Notre Dame of Paris, Notre Dame of Chartres, Our Lady of LaSalette, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Pontmain, Our Lady of the Assumption, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal
Germany—Our Lady of Altotting, Our Lady of Kevelaer
Gibraltar—Our Lady of Europe
Greece—Our Lady of the Holy Mountain
Guatemala—Our Lady of the Rosary
Haiti—Our Lady of Perpetual Hope
Honduras—Our Lady of Suyapa
Hungary—Our Lady of Hungary
India—Our Lady of Bandel, Our Lady of Bandra, Our Lady of the Assumption
Ireland—Our Lady of Knock, Our Lady of Limerick
Italy—Madonna of St. Luke, Our Lady of Loreto, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Pompeii, Our Lady of Tears, Our Lady of the Snow
Jamaica—Mary of the Assumption
Japan—Our Lady of Japan
Korea—Mary the Blessed Virgin
Luxembourg—Mary, Comforter of the Afflicted
Mexico—Our Lady of Guadalupe
Nicaragua—Immaculate Conception of El Viejo
Nigeria—Our Lady Queen of Nigeria
Oceania—Mary, Queen of Peace
Panama—Immaculate Conception, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mary of La Antiqua
Paraguay—Our Lady of the Assumption, Our Lady of Lujan, Our Lady of the Miracles of Caacupe
Peru—Our Lady of Mercy
Philippines—Our Lady of Safe Travel, Our Lady of the Turumba, Immaculate Heart of Mary
Poland—Our Lady of Czestochowa
Portugal—Our Lady of Fatima, Immaculate Conception
Puerto Rico—Mary, Our Lady of Providence
Slovakia—Our Lady of the Assumption, Our Lady of Sorrows
South Africa—Our Lady of Shongweni, Our Lady of the Assumption
Spain—Our Lady of Guadalupe or Estremadura, Our Lady of Montserrat, Our Lady of Ransom. Our Lady of the Pillar of Saragossa
Sri Lanka—Our Lady of Madhu
Switzerland—Our Lady of the Hermits
Tanzania—Immaculate Conception
Tunisia—Immaculate Conception
Uganda—Mary, Queen of Africa
United States—Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of the Milk and Happy Delivery, Our Lady of Victory
Uruguay—Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Lujan, Our Lady of the Thirty-Three
Venezuela—Our Lady of Coromoto
Viet Nam—Our Lady of La Vang
Zaire—Immaculate Conception, Our Lady, Queen of Nations