

November 21, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord:

The Church celebrates All Saints Day, November 1, and on the following day, we observe All Souls' Day. We pray for all our deceased loved ones who are in need of our prayer support, and we pray for their grieving survivors. The practice of praying for the dead is part of our Catholic tradition. Praying for the living and the dead is one of the seven spiritual works of mercy. St. Gregory the Great who served as Pope from 590 until 604 wrote *Dialogues* in which he included a section on the existence and a belief in ghosts or spirits. Pope St. Gregory gives this interesting account of a priest who encountered a ghost:

“Bishop Felix...said that he had been told of such a case by a saintly priest who used to bathe in the hot springs of Tauriana whenever his health required. One day, as he entered the baths, he found a stranger there who showed himself most helpful in every way possible, by unlatching his shoes, taking care of his clothes, and furnishing him towels after the hot bath. After several experiences of this kind, the priest said to himself: ‘It would not do for me to appear ungrateful to this man who is so devoted in his kind services to me. I must reward him in some way.’ So one day he took along two crown-shaped loaves of bread to give him.

“When he arrived at the place, the man was already waiting for him and rendered the same services he had before. After the bath, when the priest was again fully dressed and ready to leave, he offered the man the present of bread asking him kindly to accept it as a blessing, for it was offered as a token to charity.

“But the man sighed mournfully and said, ‘Why do you give it to me, Father? That bread is holy and I cannot eat it. I who stand before you was once the owner of this place. It is because of my sins that I was sent back here as a servant. If you wish to do something for me, then offer this bread to Almighty God, and so make intercession for me, a sinner. When you come back and do not find me here you will know that your prayers have been heard.’

“With these words he disappeared, thus showing that he was a spirit disguised as a man. The priest spent the entire week in prayer and tearful supplications, offering Mass for him daily. When he returned to the bath, the man was no longer to be found. This incident points out the great benefits souls derive from the Sacrifice of the Mass. Because of these benefits the dead ask us, the living, to have Masses offered for them, and even show us by signs that it was through the Mass that they were pardoned.”

Fr. Hugo L. Blatsky, O.S.B.

St. Barbara's Church

invites you to take part in our upcoming

SURGE OF THE Heart

PARISH MISSION

featuring international Catholic speaker
and author Jon Leonetti!

Who is God and Why That Matters

Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021 7-8 pm

God's Dream For Your Life

Monday, Nov. 29, 2021 7-8 pm

Living God's Dream

Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2021 7-8 pm

*"One of the most inspiring parish missions
available in America today."*

-Matthew Kelly, Founder of Dynamic Catholic

"Engaging, entertaining, and hilarious!"

-Erin Walsh, NE.

*"One of the most compelling parish
missions we have ever experienced."*

-Fr. Winston Bath, NY.

"I've never heard of the guy."

-Pope Francis

