

How to Get the Plenary Indulgence for the Feast of All Saints Day

1. Go to Mass and receive the Eucharist
2. Make a good Confession (and have a detachment from sin)
3. Recite the Creed
4. Pray prayers thanking the Holy Father for releasing the graces of the Church (Usually one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and a Glory Be prayer)
5. Visit a Cemetery

The 5th work of visiting a Cemetery is what is unique to the Indulgence of All Saints Day. It is both a corporal work of mercy (to bury the dead) and a spiritual work of mercy (to pray for the dead) – as November is the month when we pray for the Souls in Purgatory, the Catholic Church does not want us to forget that our beloved dead are reliant on us (the living) to make reparations for the sins, which they have already asked God's forgiveness of. By visiting a Cemetery, we are reminded of our duty to pray for the Souls in Purgatory. All Saints Day is so great a Solemnity and it is of such vital importance to pray for the Dead that the Catholic Church allows us to work a Plenary Indulgence for 8 days before the 1st of November and 8 days after. Only one Indulgence may be worked per day, but as long as we remain in a state of grace (refrain from committing a mortal sin) one Confession may be used for all the Indulgences during this period. Interestingly, if one is unable to physically go to a Cemetery (Ex. because one is elderly or sick), the Church says, "*a visit may even be a spiritual visit to the Cemetery.*" One interpretation of this is that one would send his Guardian Angel to visit the Cemetery. In any case, a good Catholic ought to work as many Indulgences as he can during this Holy time of year.