

Theme: A LIGHT OF ETERNAL LOVE

COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED!

2 November 2025

THE CANDLE BY THE WINDOW

A light of eternal love

Every year on November 2nd, Maria placed a small candle by her window - a tradition passed down from her grandmother. **"This light,"** her grandmother would say, **"guides the souls of our loved ones home, reminding us that they are never far away."** But this year felt different. Maria's father had passed away just a few months earlier, and her heart still ached with the weight of loss. As she lit the candle that evening, she whispered, **"For you, Papa. May your soul rest in peace."**

Later that night, the wind danced gently against the window, and Maria sat in quiet prayer. Memories flooded her mind: her father's laughter, his patience, the way he never missed Sunday Mass. In that stillness, the pain of his absence softened into a quiet peace. She realized love doesn't end with death - it lives on, woven into the hearts of those who remember. The candle's flame flickered softly, reflecting on the glass. Maria smiled through her tears. **"We are still connected," she thought. "In God's love, no one is ever truly lost."**

Today, we remember and pray for all the faithful departed, anchored in Jesus' words of deep comfort and unshakable hope. He assures us: **"No one who comes to me will I ever reject."** (Jn 6:37). Death, which feels like separation, is not the end for those in Christ- it's a passage to the fullness of life promised by the Father.

The First Reading from the book of Wisdom remind us that the righteous, though tested by trials, are **"precious in God's eyes."** Their struggles are not defeat, but purification - like gold refined in fire. God's faithful ones are never forgotten; they live in peace and share in His glory. This calls us to trust His promise of eternal life, to live righteously, and to hold patience and hope, knowing our true reward is union with God.

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In the Second Reading, St. Paul writes: **"We were buried with Christ in baptism, so we might walk in newness of life"** (Romans 6:4). Baptism unites us with Christ's death and resurrection. We are called to die to sin and rise to a new creation. Death no longer rules

Him - and through Him, it no longer rules us. Our old selves are buried; a new life of grace begins.

The Gospel of John echoes God's mercy: **"The Father's will is that I should lose nothing of what He has given me but raise it up on the last day"** (Jn 6:39). Jesus reveals the Father's heart: a love that welcomes, forgives, and promises resurrection. In doubt or loss, these words anchor us: our lives are held securely in God's hands. To believe in Christ is to entrust ourselves to the One who gives life that never ends.

As we commemorate the dead, we affirm: our prayers and acts of love for them are ***not in vain***. Our communion with them continues in Christ, who unites heaven and earth. Every Mass, every prayer for the souls in purgatory, is a testament that death does not destroy love-it transforms it. The candle by the window still burns a beacon of hope. In God's embrace, our loved ones rest, and we remain connected-alive in faith, bound by a love that transcends time.

This All Souls' Day, join Maria in lighting a candle. Let it symbolize the light of Christ shining into the darkness, guiding our loved ones' home. Pray for the departed: **"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them."** Visit cemetery, share a story, or simply pause in silence. The smallest gestures remind us, just as the flame flickers outward, into the light.

In the end, it's not goodbye - it's **"UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN."** The communion of saints binds us across time: a cloud of witnesses cheering us on (Hebrews 12:1). As Maria blew out the candle, the glow lingered in her heart. **"Papa is at peace. And so am I."** let the light in the window remind you: love outlasts even the darkest night. May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.