Saturday of the Souls

1st, 2nd and 3rd Saturday of the Souls February 26, March 5 and 12, 2022

The body of the Christian is the temple of the living God. For this reason, it is laid to rest in the grave as a candidate to resurrection. Christian burial places are called in Greek "Koimeteria" (cemetery) which means 'sleeping places.' For the Christian, death is but a sleep, and bodies laid to rest in a cemetery are merely sleeping, in the expectation of a resurrection in another life.

Saint John Chrysostom tells us the dead are not so much to be lamented as helped with prayer, supplications, alms and offerings. Such things were not designed in vain, nor is it without reason that, in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, we mention the dead, interceding for them with Christ the Lamb who is slain to take away the sins of the world. From all this, some consolation will go up to them. Neither is it in vain that the priest, standing at the altar during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, Prays: "We offer You this sacrifice for all who are asleep in Christ and all who make commemorations in their honor..." "Let us then not grow weary of helping them and praying for them."

Another purpose of prayers for the departed is to lead the living to virtue and holiness by reminding us of death and preparing us for it. Most of the hymns of the Funeral Service point out that earthly comforts, beauty, riches, health and power, are God-given favors that should help us get ready for better and more permanent treasures still to come.

From the early days of Christianity these offerings were brought to the Church by the faithful for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

Our Church uses the "kolyva" because it is an expression of the resurrection. As wheat is planted (buried) and grows (rises from the ground), so also our dead, who are buried, will rise in glory.

It must be remembered that the position of the primary importance is not held by the "kolyva', but by the "prosforo", the kolyva are secondary. The purpose of the mnemosyno is most closely associated with the Holy Eucharist, which is prepared from the bread of oblation you bring to the Church.

We also need a clean heart because the mnemosyno is primarily a prayer. If we who ask for the mnemosyno do not have a good relationship with God, we should quickly correct our error through repentance and confession, and only then can we attempt to have "memorial prayers" for others.

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FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL:
NAMES:
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Please submit the names of your dearly departed to