

# **“How many Saturdays of Souls are there?”**

## ***Clearing up some misconceptions...***

Mourning for, remembering, and praying for the deceased does not stop when an Orthodox funeral service ends, but those who pass are commemorated through a series of memorials (40 days, six months, annually, etc.).

Yet many Orthodox are not aware that each day of the week carries a specific commemoration, and every **Saturday is the day in which we are called to remember all those who have passed before us**. Additionally, there are specific Saturdays in which the Church calls ALL the faithful together in specific commemoration of the memory and eternal repose of all who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection and for the forgiveness of all their sins.

### ***These are known as the Saturdays of the Souls and are offered on TWO occasions:***

**Saturday before Judgment Sunday** (*this year: Saturday February 22, 2025*)

**Saturday before Pentecost Sunday** (*this year: June 7, 2025*)

in which the Divine services are structured in a specific way to pray for the deceased.

### ***“But aren’t there FOUR Saturdays of Souls?”***

This is a common misconception because it has become custom to offer the Memorial Prayers on the two Saturdays that follow the first Saturday of Souls, and have commonly referred to these Saturdays as the “2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of Souls” when, in actuality:

**The Saturday of Cheesefare** (*this year: March 1, 2025*)

is a day the Church commemorates the **Memory of all the God-bearing Ascetics**.

**The 1st Saturday of Great Lent** (*this year: March 8, 2025*)

is the **Commemoration of the Miracle of Kolyva wrought by Saint Theodore**.

So, while **these other two Saturdays are not structured as proper “Saturdays of Souls,”** seeing that they are still days that our parishes come together for Liturgical worship, **and** that Saturday is the day of the week in which we are called to pray for the deceased, the Memorial Prayers can still be, and often are, offered on these two Saturdays as well.

***“With the Saints give rest, O Christ,  
to the souls of Your servants  
where there is no pain, nor sorrow,  
nor suffering, but life everlasting.”***

*Kontakion of the Saturday of Souls*