Saint Mary's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
165 Ponquogue Ave.
Hampton Bays, NY 11946
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# All Souls' Day Letter

October 8, 2026

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

There is a beautiful prayer in the Burial Service that begins:

> *"Almighty God, with whom still live the spirits of those who die in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful are in joy and felicity."*
> *— Book of Common Prayer, p. 503*

These opening words remind us that when we physically die, our relationship with God does not end. Through the Body of Christ and the Communion of Saints, even in death, we remain in relationship with one another. This is why the Church sets aside All Souls' Day as a special time to remember our departed loved ones and to continue entrusting them to Jesus, our Savior.

The Catechism teaches us why we pray for the dead:

> *"We pray for them, because we still hold them in our love, and because we trust that in God's presence those who have chosen to serve him will grow in his love, until they see him as he is."*
> *— Book of Common Prayer, p. 862*

All Souls' Day, November 2, falls on a Monday this year, and we will celebrate an All Souls' Day Mass at 7:00 p.m.

On All Souls' Day, you are invited to bring photographs of departed loved ones to the church. These photographs will be placed around the altar as we remember and pray for those whom we love.

Also included with this letter is an All Souls' Day envelope on which you may write the names of those you would like to have remembered at the altar.

As an alternative, you may submit names by email to office@stmaryshb.org, or through our online giving system, including a note indicating the names you want remembered at the Service.

A basket will be placed at the back of the church for you to leave your All Souls' Day envelopes. The names will be placed near the altar on November 2 and will remain there throughout the month of November.

If you would like the names of your departed loved ones to be included in the All Souls' Day bulletin and posted online, please return the names to the Parish Office by envelope, email or through online giving no later than Saturday, October 31, at 9:00 a.m.

May we give thanks for those who have gone before us, remembering that in Christ, death is not the end of our communion with one another, but a passage into the fullness of God's eternal life.

In God's love,

**Father Justin**

Rector