

All Souls Shrine

Set up an All Souls shrine in your home:

NOVEMBER 1

- Use an end table or a shelf anywhere in your house that is accessible to everyone to create a shrine. Place a photo of a family member or friend who has passed away on the shrine.
- Place flowers on the shrine as a symbol of life. Place other Christian symbols on the shrine such as a cross, a crucifix, a candle, the Bible, etc.
- Make a small paper chain for the shrine with colored strips of paper about 18" in length. Write one letter of the deceased's name on each link of the chain. Place the chain on the shrine.

NOVEMBER 2—NOVEMBER 29

- Beginning on All Souls Day and ending at the end of November, invite each family to take turns adding a link to the chain (one link per day). The person who adds the link is asked to share one memory of or a short prayer for the deceased. The memory or prayer is then written on the link and the link is added to the chain.

NOVEMBER 30

- At the end of the month, read all of the memories and prayers on the chain. Then burn the chain in a fireplace or an outdoor fire pit as an offering to God. As the chain burns, read Sirach 35:8:

"The offering of the righteous enriches the altar, and its pleasing odor rises before the Most High."

Ancient peoples believed that God's dwelling place was in the sky. It was believed that smoke from a sacrificial fire or from burning incense carried the prayers of the people to God. If the offering being burned was an offering of love, the fragrance of the smoke was a pleasing fragrance to God. The paper chain was a labor of love on behalf of the deceased loved one, and rising smoke is a pleasing fragrance to God because of the sacrifices that were made in order to create the chain.

