

Memorial Services

A Memorial Service should be schedule with the priest to be conducted forty days after someone dies and on the one and three year anniversary. "SATURDAY OF SOULS" After the first year, names should be submitted for the special general memorial services conducted on four designated Saturdays called "Saturdays of the Souls." They are: the two Saturdays preceding Great Lent; the first Saturday of Great Lent; and the Saturday before Pentecost. The Custom of Koliva When the Memorial Service is offered, it is customary for the family of the deceased to bring a dish of boiled wheat to the Church. The boiled wheat is placed on a table in the centre of the nave during the Service. The wheat, known as koliva, is a symbol of the Resurrection. When speaking of the Resurrection, our Lord said: "Unless the grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone, but if it dies it bears much fruit." (John 12:24)

In addition to the 40 day Memorial Service, Memorial Services are normally held annually on or near the anniversary of the loved one's death. Memorials or Trisagion services (celebrated without Koliva) should be arranged by contacting your local priest *at least* two weeks before the desired date. Please note that memorial services are not customarily celebrated on major feast days nor (with the exception of 40-day memorials) on the Sundays of Great Lent. Everyone – especially those with loved ones whose anniversary of passing falls during Lent and Holy Week – is encouraged to remember their departed loved ones annually by submitting their names to be commemorated on the Saturdays of Souls associated with Great Lent and the celebration of Pentecost.

Memorial Service Policy of the Greek Orthodox Church

Memorial services are held after Liturgy based on the following guidelines:

- At 40 days after death, a memorial service should be scheduled on the nearest Sunday.
- At the first year anniversary of death, a second memorial service should be conducted on the nearest Sunday.
- All other memorials after the first year of death, the deceased should be remembered at the yearly Saturday of Souls Liturgies.
- Memorials are **not to be held** on the following days:
 - From the Saturday of Lazarus though the Sunday of Thomas.
 - On Feast Days of Our Lord or any Feastday of the Theotokos.