

# The Communion of Saints

refers to the three states of the Church. "When the Lord comes in glory, and all his angels with him, death will be no more and all things will be subject to him. But at the present time some of his disciples are

pilgrims on Earth. Others have died and are being purified, while still others are in glory, contemplating in full light, God himself triune and one, exactly as he is" (CCC 954).

## The Church Militant

The Church Militant refers to the members of the Church on Earth. We are also referred to as the Pilgrim Church because we are still on the journey toward eternal salvation. We are "militant" because we engage in a constant spiritual battle against evil.

## The Church Triumphant

The Church Triumphant are those of the Church who already share in the eternal glory of heaven. These are saints who are models of holiness.

Because they enjoy God's immediate presence, we often turn to them for intercessory prayer.

## The Church Suffering

The Church Suffering refers to souls who died in the state of grace and are enduring the process of being prepared for heaven.

The souls in purgatory suffer purification, but their greatest suffering is the longing for union with God in heaven. We can assist these souls with our prayers and indulgences.