Día de los Muertos Morristown

November 1, 2023 3pm - 9pm

Morristown celebrates Día de los Muertos with local businesses, churches and Morristown High School collaborating together, creating altars honoring the lives of lost loved ones. The community is invited to explore these altars during an evening walking tour on Wednesday, November 1st, from 3pm to 9pm.

Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a Mexican tradition seeking joy through the remembrance of lost ones, originating from the melding of Indigenous Mexican culture and influences of Spanish Catholicism. It is a vibrant holiday to celebrate the returning souls of our loved ones through devotional art, altars and food. The altars (ofrendas) created to commemorate those who have died use photographs, bright marigold flowers, candles and incense, personal objects and favorite treats to welcome the returning spirits.

The temporary monuments in town call to loved ones, in their memory and guiding their return, with ofrendas for family and friends at Central Taqueria, children at St. Peter's Church and pets at Beenie's Ice Cream. Expanding beyond personal memorials, The Artist Baker's altar dedicated to Vincente Fernandez celebrates musicians, and installation at Colly Flowers, and Morristown High School's National Arts Honor Society students honor lost artists through an interpretation of Judy Chicago's The Dinner Party. Reflecting on current events, The Rocks Box focuses on this summer's devastating fires in Hawaii while the Church of the Redeemer's commitment to care for the environment and sustainability is used to create an altar from recycled materials. The altar walk is from 5pm to 7pm and visitors are encouraged to bring small photographs or reminders of their loved ones to place at the altars.

Activities for the evening begin with a children's workshop making paper flowers and decorating sugar skulls as offerings at The Gateway Totems from 3pm to 6pm. The Morristown Library will screen Pixar's Coco at 4pm for all-ages and the documentary Day of the Dead: A Celebration of Life, suitable for teens and adults, at 6pm and 7:30pm. During the altar walk (5pm to 7pm), St. Peter's Church will host skeleton puppet making and Beenie's Ice Cream will have paper dog treats to dedicate to lost pets. St. Margaret's Church will be open for prayer and evening mass.

The event and activities are free and open to the public.

## Participating Locations:

The Artist Baker, 16 Cattano Ave. // Beenie's Ice Cream, 38 Morris St. // Central Taqueria 61 South St. Church of the Redeemer, 36 South St. // Colly Flowers, 143 Morris St. // Gateway Totems, 17 Early St. Morristown Library, 1 Miller Rd. // The Rocks Box, 4 Elm St // St. Margaret Church, 6 Speedwell Ave. St. Peter's Church, 70 Maple Ave and support from Morris Arts.

## Día de los Muertos Schedule

3pm - 5pm Workshops for Children Gateway Totems 17 Early Street

- Paper flower making
- Sugar skull decorating
- Altar / ofrenda by Morristown High School arts honor society students dedicated to artists

4pm screening of Coco Morristown Library 1 Miller Road

5:00 to 7:30pm Walk to Altars / Ofrendas

The Artist Baker // 16 Cattano Avenue Beenie's Ice Cream // 38 Morris Street Central Taqueria // 61 South Street Colly Flowers // 143 Morris Street The Rocks Box // 4 Elm Street St. Peter's Church // 70 Maple Avenue Church of the Redeemer // 36 South Street

6 & 7:30pm screening of Day of the Dead: A Celebration of Life Morristown Library 1 Miller Road

Mass St. Margaret Church 6 Speedwell Avenue