

Useful Resources

Below are QR codes that you can scan with your phone camera and bookmark on your smart phones.



Busted Halo – Busted Halo is a ministry of The Paulist Fathers.
<https://bustedhalo.com/>



LifeTeen – Resources for Middle School and High School Kids
<https://lifeteen.com/>



Our Sunday Visitor News
<https://www.osvnews.com/>
Catholic On-line New Service

The Resurrection and the Final Judgment

In this Sunday's first reading, God promises to his people that "I will open your graves and have you rise from them." Ezekiel 37:12. In the Apostle's Creed, the Catholic Church's oldest statement of Faith, we affirm our belief in Jesus Christ, his coming again to judge the living and the dead, and the resurrection of the body and everlasting life.

As Catholics, we believe that on the last day, Christ will come and all the bodies of the dead will rise in a new and glorified body and be reunited with their souls, "those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment." John 5:29, CCC, para. 997-98.

In this life, God has given us a free will to either accept or reject the divine grace manifested in Jesus. When we die, this choice will determine our fate at the final judgment. CCC para. 1021. In this week's Gospel, Jesus says to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" And Martha responds to him saying, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." John 11:25-27.

As Catholics, then, we must believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, in order to attain eternal life with him in heaven. But believing in Jesus requires more than a mere intellectual willingness to accept his claims. Believing in Him requires putting our faith into action and doing what he has called us to do, and to confess and repent of our sins when we fail to do so through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This call to action and repentance is the whole purpose of the Lenten season, to focus us on what is really required for our salvation.

For we cannot say we love God or believe in Jesus as Christ when we sin gravely against Him, against our neighbor or against ourselves. To die in mortal sin means remaining separated from Him for all eternity by our own free choice. "Hell" is the definition given by the Catechism for this state of



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definitive, self-exclusion from communion with God. CCC para. 1033.

God wants every person to be saved at the final judgement and will go to extraordinary lengths to find them. CCC, para. 74. This is the parable of the lost sheep. Luke 15:1-7. God will run to meet any person who repents of his or her sins and seeks him. This is the parable of the prodigal son. Luke 15:11-32. But, if a person refuses to accept his love and refuses to listen to those who bring his Word, including his own son, Jesus Christ, then that person is condemning himself or herself and anyone else whom that person convinces to do likewise. This is the parable of the owner of the vineyard and the unfaithful tenants. Matthew 21:33:41.

Jesus himself, describing the last judgment, warns those who fail to carry out corporal and spiritual works of mercy for his sake, that it will be said to them "Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me," and they "will go away into eternal punishment." Matthew 25: 31-46. The Apostle James likewise wrote, "What does it profit, my brethren, if a man says he has faith but has not works? Can his faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and in lack of daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." James 2:147-17.

Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

The *Works of Mercy* are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his spiritual and bodily necessities. CCC, para. 2447. The seven Corporal Works are to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit



The Corporal
Works of
Mercy



The Spiritual
Works of
Mercy

the sick, visit the imprisoned or ransom captives, and bury the dead. The seven Spiritual Works are to: instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, admonish the sinner, bear wrongs patiently, forgive offenses, comfort the afflicted, and pray for the living and the dead.

Saints of the Week

Scan the QR codes with your phone to read and listen about the lives of the Saints.



March 26 – Saint Catherine of Genoa (1447-1510). Dedicated life to hospital charity work.



March 27 – Saint Gregory of Narek (945-1003). Armenian monastic Doctor of the Church.



March 28 – St. Catharine of Bologna (1413-1463). Abbess of Florentine Poor Clare monastery.



March 29 -Saint Ludovico of Casoria (1814-1885). Franciscan priest founded the Gray Brothers.



March 30 – Saint Peter Regalado (1390-1456). Franciscan priest known for charity and miracles.



March 31 – Saint Stephen of Mar Saba (725 – 794). Monastic of the Holy Land near Bethlehem.



April 1 - Saint Hugh of Grenoble (1053-1132). French bishop battle corruption for 52 years.