

Dear Padre,

I am scared of the end times and predictions of these dates. I feel saved, but I don't truly know if I would be accepted into heaven. What are the Catholic teachings on the end times/rapture?

No one but our heavenly Father knows the precise time of our Lord's return. (See Mark 13:32-37.) If this uncertainty about when Jesus will return evokes more apprehension than anticipation, it doesn't help that prophets of doom make predictions based on a distorted understanding of apocalyptic literature in the Bible. An example of this literary form includes the Book of Revelation. It contains elements of a final judgment and cosmic struggle between good and evil written in highly symbolic and imaginative language; however, it wasn't intended to provide a literal description or timeline of how the world ends. In 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, St. Paul also uses apocalyptic imagery to say that all the faithful will be "caught up" ("rapt up") to meet the Lord at his Coming. Some use this single text to vividly imagine true believers being "raptured" from the earth and escaping the destruction of humankind at the end times, but it's a misinterpretation. For Catholics, these apocalyptic passages offer hope and guidance: despite the powerful forces of evil, Christ will overcome. His death and resurrection already ushered in the last age. We don't know how long this age will last before the final consummation, hence the need to be watchful and prepared. ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV
Where are you...when the poor are blamed for their poverty, forgotten and discarded, in a world that values profit more than people? [W]here are you in a hyper-connected life where loneliness corrodes social bonds and makes us strangers even to ourselves?... Fraternity...means rediscovering the face of the other...the very image of God in the face of the poor, the refugee, and even the adversary.

ADDRESS TO MEETING
 ON FRATERNITY, ROME,
 SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

Pray the Rosary every day

Please pray for Kinsley Eslinger & Grayson Novotny who made their First Communion today!!
 (Reception following Mass)



14th Annual BISHOP'S FISHING TOURNAMENT

June 8, 2026
 Fort Pierre, Oahe Downstream Rec Area

REGISTER NOW TO FISH

Sponsorships Available

Western South Dakota Catholic Foundation | wsdcf.org | 605-721-6843

A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Catholic Diocese of Rapid City is firmly committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for our children and young people. To report allegations of sexual abuse by church personnel, contact **Victim Assistance Coordinator, Irene Lee**. To ensure confidentiality in our outreach to victims, she can be contacted privately at 605/209-3418 (cell). Alleged victims are advised of their right to report alleged abuse to civil authorities. In accordance with diocesan policy, all allegations of sexual misconduct involving children, young people, and vulnerable adults by priests, deacons, lay employees, or volunteers serving the Diocese will be investigated. The diocesan Sexual Misconduct Policy and the Code of Conduct are posted at www.RapidCityDiocese.org.

Welcome to Our Parish Community

The Ascension of the Lord ~ May 17, 2026

St Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
 Hot Springs, SD

Weekend Mass Schedules:

Saturday ~ 5:30pm	St John the Baptist Church ~ Custer, SD
Sunday ~ 8:00am	St John the Baptist Church ~ Custer, SD
Sunday ~ 10:30am	St Anthony of Padua Church ~ Hot Springs, SD
Sunday ~ 5:00pm	St James the Apostle Church ~ Edgemont, SD

Parish Office: ~ St Anthony Parish

Office Hours: 8:00am – 5:00pm
 (closed for lunch ~ noon – 1:00pm)

Street Address: 538 University Ave
Mailing Address: PO Box 969
 Hot Springs, SD 57747

Phone: 605-745-3393
After Hours: 605-745-3278
Email: sohillscatholic@gwtc.net
Website: www.stanthonyhotsprings.org

Pastoral Staff:

Pastor:
 Rev Collins Igwilo
cigwilo@diorc.org

Deacon:
 Dcn. Craig Pearson
 605-891-9164

Office Manager / Bookkeeper:
 Susie Hayes
 605-745-3393

Parish Office: ~ St James Parish

Street Address: 310 3rd Ave
Mailing Address: PO Box 568
UPS/FedEx: 308 3rd Ave
 Edgemont, SD 57735

Funeral Contact:
 Linda Tidball 605-685-4301
Office Manager / Bookkeeper:
 Lynn Westberg 703-869-0886
lfwestberg@gmail.com

Mass Information:
 Greg Lacey 605-662-5048

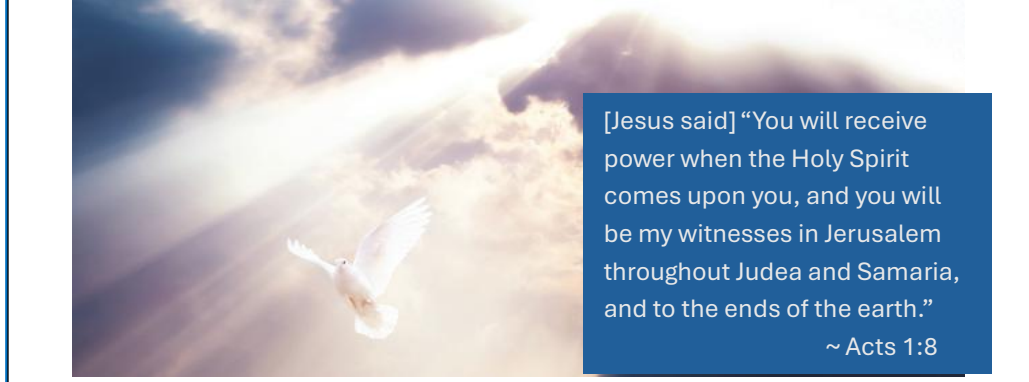
Stairway to Heaven
 MIGUEL DULICK

Even by the Ascension, after forty days of eating and drinking with the resurrected Lord, the obtuseness of the Apostles still frustrates Jesus. In Acts, they're ready for a fight, "to restore the kingdom to Israel" (Acts 1:6). Matthew reports that "they worshiped, but they doubted" (Matthew 28:17). Pentecost cannot come soon enough, when they will be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and all will be made known.

So the next nine days are crucial. The apostles and other disciples, 120 persons in all, prepare for the arrival of the Holy Spirit, a spiritual retreat, the original "novena." Only then can the apostle go and "make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Jesus, who brought heaven down to earth in the Incarnation, now ascends, taking earth up to heaven, with his resurrection. Saint Paul gives us a hint of how special this interchange is when he wishes for the Ephesians to receive from Jesus "a Spirit of wisdom and revelation" (Ephesians 1:17).

Our own obtuseness can block the Holy Spirit when we think we have all the answers. When I first preached in Honduras, in the village where I live, I was so prepared. I said everything I could think of, all that I had learned in my courses for a masters degree in divinity. But then, when I heard the prayers and insights of poor and simple folks, supported by a rich, personal knowledge of the Lord himself, I cut my sermons in half and let the "saints," as St. Paul liked to call the people, finish the job. Thank you, Holy Spirit! ●



[Jesus said] "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
 ~ Acts 1:8

Reflect
 How can I better cooperate with the Holy Spirit?

Welcome to our Catholic faith community. If you are a new parishioner interested in becoming part of our parish community, please stop by the Parish Office and register or call for more information.