

# 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. ●



ILLUSTRATION BY SOLGOWA/ISTOCK

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

<b>Monday</b> May 18 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 19:1-8 Jn 16:29-33	<b>Thursday</b> May 21 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 22:30; 23:6-11 Jn 17:20-26	<b>Saturday</b> May 23 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 28:16-20, 30-31 Jn 21:20-25
<b>Tuesday</b> May 19 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 20:17-27 Jn 17:1-11a	<b>Friday</b> May 22 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 25:13b-21 Jn 21:15-19	<b>Sunday</b> May 24 <i>Pentecost Sunday</i> Acts 2:1-11 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 Jn 20:19-23
<b>Wednesday</b> May 20 <i>Easter Weekday</i> Acts 20:28-38 Jn 17:11b-19		

### 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



MARCO ACCIOLICO EPF / SHUTTERSTOCK

## St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

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## Stairway to Heaven

MIGUEL DULICK

**E**ven 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! ●



LEARN ABOUT  
THE AUTHORS  
OF OUR PARISH  
COMMUNITY



[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?

Today's reading is a prayer, which appears at the conclusion of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. At the end of the prayer, Jesus is arrested in the garden. The prayer might be read as Jesus' final commendation of himself to the Father. In the prayer, Jesus also expresses care and concern for his disciples.

Jesus' prayer reaffirms the complete union between Jesus and the Father. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus has been presented as the Word, who pre-existed with the Father and was sent to do the Father's work on earth. In this prayer we learn that Jesus' life and ministry have been directed toward one purpose, revealing the Father. When this work is accomplished, Jesus is to return to the Father to be glorified. Regardless of what happens to Jesus, in John's Gospel, Jesus and the Father are in charge. Even in the description of Jesus' death, Jesus does not simply die but instead hands over his spirit.

In today's Gospel we also note the distinction found in John's Gospel between the world and the disciples. The disciples are in the world, but they are separate from it because they have been given to Jesus. They are chosen from the world to be in service to the world for its salvation. This salvation has been accomplished in Jesus because Jesus has revealed the Father to the world, but the disciples will be sent by Jesus to make both the Father and Jesus known to the world. Jesus' prayer is for the disciples' work in the world.

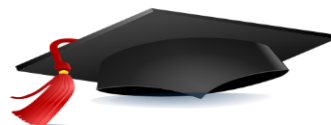
**Mass Schedule & Intentions**  
For the week of May 18, 2026

Mon.	May	18	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Tues.	May	19	7:00 AM	SJ	Josie A. Walz
Wed.	May	20	5:30 PM	SA	John Neal
Thurs.	May	21	4:00 PM	SB	Katherine Pandorf † (Nursing Home)
Fri.	May	22	7:00 AM	SJ	Monica Kramer †
Sun.	May	24	8:00 AM	SJ	People of the Parish
Sun.	May	24	9:30 AM	SA	Liz Romano †
Sun.	May	24	11:00 AM	SB	Chris Phelps †



Josie Lehmuuhler May 18<sup>th</sup>  
Kenneth Wagner May 20<sup>th</sup>  
Piper Boeser May 21<sup>st</sup>

*Congratulations Dylan Pandorf and Erin Fitzgerald from St Boniface*



**Ministry Schedule**

Date: May 24	St John's	St Agnes	St Boniface
<b>Time</b>	<u>Sunday 8:00 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 9:30 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>
<b>Hospitality</b>	Quincy & Bobbi O.	Ned & Jenny P.	Dan & Jo T.
<b>Lector</b>	Jon W.	John B.	Seth P.
<b>Server</b>	Gregory W. & Garrett A.		Erin F. & Katie P.
<b>EMHC</b>	Rex & Kristie W.	Aleta & Conrad P.	Lana P & Hannah P.
	<b>Music:</b> Kelsey A.		<i>Communion to shut ins</i> David P.

**St. John's**  
*Our Gifts to God & Church*  
May 10, 2026  
Total Collection: \$3460.36

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All Ladies are invited and encouraged to attend (CCW) Altar Society meeting Wed. May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the church.



**St. Agnes**  
*Our Gifts to God & Church*  
May 10, 2026,  
Total Collection: \$2211.00

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Thrift Store  
Open June 5<sup>th</sup> 9AM to 4PM  
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Coffee and rolls  
this Sunday May 17

**Totus Tuus registration**  
Click on the link here: [Totus Tuus](#) . Arnold will be hosting it June 21-26. For anyone who have completed grades K-12 by the summer of 2026. No code is needed.

**St. Boniface**  
*Our Gifts to God & Church*  
May 10, 2026  
Total Collection: \$1025.00

*Quote for Today*

**Saint Felix of Cantalice (1515-1587)**  
Feast May 18

“Think about God who rejoices the heart and not about vain things which pollute the heart.”