

**I believe in the
forgiveness of sins.**

“Mercy!”



Baptism

- “Go into the whole world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved.”
- Baptism is the first and chief sacrament of forgiveness of sins. It unites us to Christ who died and rose for our sins.
- In Baptism, we were cleansed and forgiven fully and completely. No trace of original sin or any sins that we may have committed from our own will.
- Yet, Baptism does deliver us from the weakness of our fallen human nature. We remain in combat with that nature which might lead us into sin.

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Penance

- “If the church has the power to forgive sins (Jn 20:22-23), then Baptism cannot be her only means of using the keys of the Kingdom of heaven (Matt 16:13-20) received from Jesus Christ. The church must be able to forgive all penitents for offenses, even if they should sin through until the last moment of their lives.”
- See also Luke 24:47
- Baptism and Penance will be covered at length in Part Two, The Sacraments.

Resurrection of the Body and Life Everlasting

¹⁷ On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was less than two miles^[b] from Jerusalem, ¹⁹ and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

²¹ “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴ Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; ²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

²⁸ After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.” ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there.

³² When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. ³⁴ “Where have you laid him?” he asked.

“Come and see, Lord,” they replied.

³⁵ Jesus wept.

³⁶ Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

³⁷ But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

Last Things

- Death
- Judgement
- Heaven
- Hell



Death

What Happens when we die?: “By death the soul is separated from the body, but in the resurrection God will give incorruptible life to our body, transformed by union with our soul. Just as Christ is risen and lives for ever, so all of us will rise on the last day.” (CCC 1016)

From the Funeral Liturgy: “Lord, for your faithful people, life is changed, not ended. When the body of our earthly dwelling lies in death, we gain an everlasting dwelling place in heaven.”



Judgement

- Immediately after death, each person comes before God and is judged individually (the **particular judgement**) and enters heaven, purgatory, or hell. Yet at the end of time, a final judgement will occur when all reassembled before God and their relationship God is made public (the **general Judgement**).
- The soul is immortal; it does not separate from the body at death. At the final resurrection, it will be reunited with the body. The Last judgement will come when Christ returns in glory...The Last Judgement will reveal that God's justice triumphs over all the injustices committed by creatures and that God's love is stronger than death." CCC 1040

- Those who die in the state of grace and friendship with God but are not fully purified are assured of their eternal salvation. They must undergo a purification to attain the holiness needed to enter heaven. This process is called **purgatory**. We pray for those in purgatory that they may soon be with God in heaven.

- “Following the example of Christ, the church warns the faithful of the sad reality of eternal death also called hell, which is brought about by a person’s free and permanent rejection of God and His love.”



Heaven

- The Last judgement will come when Christ returns in glory...The Last Judgement will reveal that God's justice triumphs over all the injustices committed by creatures and that God's love is stronger than death." CCC 1040
- **Resurrection of the Body:** CCC 1016 By death, the soul is separated from the body, but in the resurrection God will give incorruptible life to our body, transformed by reunion with our soul. Just as Christ is risen and lives forever, so all of us will rise on the Last Day.
- Revelation 21: "God will wipe away their tears from their eyes, and death shall be no more, for the former things have passed away."



Hell

- “Following the example of Christ, the church warns the faithful of the sad reality of eternal death also called hell, which is brought about by a person’s free and permanent rejection of God and His love.”

