

**MASS INTENTIONS****PALM SUNDAY – April 9, 2017**

8:30 am – **JERRY HAWKINS†**  
(Kenny Olsen)

**SOULS in Purgatory†** (Jimmy Ho)

11:00 am – **Missa Pro Populo**  
(Mass for the people)

**MONDAY – April 10, 2017**

8:00 am – **SOULS in Purgatory†**  
(Jimmy Ho)

**KAREN POIROT†** (Margie Frazier)

**TUESDAY – April 11, 2017**

**Liturgy of the Hours**

**WEDNESDAY – April 12, 2017**

10:15 am – ND School Mass

6:15 pm – **GUY FIDELIE†** (Fidelie Family)

**SOULS in Purgatory†** (Jimmy Ho)

**Intentions of CLARISE BUCAG**  
(M/M Feliciano Bucag)

**HOLY THURSDAY – April 13, 2017**

7:00 pm – **Mass of the Lord's Supper**  
(Adoration immediately after Mass until  
10:30 pm in the St. Joseph room)

**GOOD FRIDAY – April 14, 2017**

3:00 pm – Stations of the Cross/church

7:00 pm – Celebration of the Lord's Passion  
(Commemorating the Crucifixion of Jesus  
Christ)

**HOLY SATURDAY – April 15, 2017**

8:30 pm – Paschal Vigil Mass  
(Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus)

**EASTER SUNDAY – April 16, 2017**

8:30 am – **SOULS in Purgatory†**  
(Jimmy Ho)

**Intentions of WAYNE and MARCIA  
RICHEY** (M/M Davy Tolentino)

11:00 am – **Missa Pro Populo**  
(Mass for the people)

**DAILY READINGS****Palm Sunday**

Is 50:4–7 \* Phil 2:6–11 \* Mt 26:14–27:66

**Monday** (Holy Week)

Is 42:1–7 \* Jn 12:1–11

**Tuesday** (Holy Week)

Is 49:1–6 \* Jn 13:21–33, 36–38

**Wednesday** (Holy Week)

Is 50:4–9a \* Mt 26:14–25

**Holy Thursday**

Ex 12:1–8, 11–14 \* 1 Cor 11:23–26 \* Jn 13:1–15

**Good Friday**

Is 52:13–53:12 \* Heb 4:14–16; 5:7–9 \*  
Jn 18:1–19:42

**Holy Saturday**

Gn 1:1–2:2 \* Gn 22:1–18 \* Ex 14:15–15:1 \*  
Is 54:5–14 \* Is 55:1–11 \* Bar 3:9–15, 32–4:4  
\* Ez 36:16–17a, 18–28 \* Rom 6:3–11 \*  
Mt 28:1–10

**Easter Sunday**

Acts 10:34a, 37–43 \* Col 3:1–4 or 1 Cor 5:6b–8 \*  
Jn 20:1–9 or Mt 28:1–10

**Welcome to Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish**  
**"One Family of Faith"**

*We are delighted that you have come to worship with us today!*

*We hope you and your family received a heartfelt Welcome, there is always room for you in our growing parish family. If you come to Mass and tithe at OLQP but have not yet filled out a registration form, you are not yet a member here. If you want to become a member of our parish, please complete a registration form (available in the Narthex and online or simply call the parish office) and return it to the Parish office. If you are just visiting, please know that you are always welcome here. Again, thank you for coming today.*

**Electronic Offertory Giving with Faith Direct!**

Faith Direct enables your family to make your parish contributions through either direct debit to your checking account or through your Visa, Master Card, American Express or Discover credit cards.

With Faith Direct, Our Lady Queen of Peace will gain predictable cash flow that will help us with planning our parish needs and programs.

Of course, enrollment is voluntary. If you find this program appropriate for your family, please enroll by visiting [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) to enroll securely on line. Our parish code is **TX420**.

**Offertory Collection for April**

**April 2, 2017:** ..... \$9,084.37

**Faith Direct Offertory Collection for April**

**March 4:** ..... \$18,949.61

Central/Eastern Church: ..... \$455.00

Black/Indian Mission: ..... \$430.00

Catholic Relief Services: ..... \$734.00

**March 15:** ..... \$10,531.00

Central/Eastern Church: ..... \$ 218.00

Black/Indian Mission: ..... \$ 213.00

Catholic Relief Services: ..... \$ 821.00

**WE ARE A CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP PARISH**

We sincerely thank our parishioners who give online, mail, bill pay or drop off their weekly donations to the parish office while they are away during the summer. Our parish expenses and obligations are met because you continue to give and support even when you cannot personally be with us at Mass here. Once again we extend our gratitude for your continued faithfulness in supporting Our Lady Queen of Peace parish.

**PALM SUNDAY – April 9, 2017**

(Religious Article Store open after Mass)

9:30 am – Religious Education Classes

(Grades K-6 / NDES - Jr. High / YH)

11:00 am – Choir Practice/church

6:00 pm – Women - Prayer/HFC

(Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet)

6:00 pm – Men - Reflection/TBD

(Rediscover Jesus)

7:00 pm – Confirmation Seder Meal/YH

**MONDAY – April 10, 2017**

7:00 pm – Season of Hope/CR

**TUESDAY – April 11, 2017**

8:00 am – Liturgy of the Hours

11:00 am – ND Music practice/church

4:00 pm – CDA Financial Review/SMR

**WEDNESDAY – April 12, 2017**

(Religious Article Store OPEN after Mass)

4:00 pm – Adoration/Church (until 6:30pm)

5:30 pm – Pray the Rosary/Church

7:00 pm – Christ Renews His Parish/SJPII

7:00 pm – Bible Study/SJR

**HOLY THURSDAY – April 13, 2017****OFFICE CLOSED**

7:00 pm – Mass of the Lord's Supper

No Activities in observance of Holy Week

**GOOD FRIDAY – April 14, 2017****OFFICE CLOSED**

3:00 pm – Stations of the Cross/church

7:00 pm – Celebration of

the Lord's Passion/church

No Activities in observance of Holy Week

Paschal Vigil Mass begins at 8:30pm

(Childcare available)

**HOLY SATURDAY – April 15, 2017**

No Activities in observance of Holy Week

**EASTER SUNDAY – April 16, 2017**

(Religious Article Store open after Mass)

**SJR**-St. Joseph Room; **HFC**-Holy Family Chapel; **GH**-Great Hall; **NDE Cafe**-ND Elementary Cafeteria; **NDHS** - NDHigh School; **CR**-Conference Room; **WR**-Workroom; **BR**-Brides Room; **SCMR**-St. Cecilia Music Room; **SEASR**-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton; **SJP2R**-St. John Paul II; **SMR**-St. Matthew Room; **YH** - Youth Hall



**EASTER SUNDAY  
OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION  
MASS TIMES - 8:30 am & 11:00 am**



**PASCHAL TRIDUUM  
APRIL 13, 14, AND 15**

**Holy Thursday**

Mass of the Lord's Supper begins at 7:00 pm  
followed by Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament in  
the St. Joseph Room until 10:30 pm

**Good Friday**

Stations of the Cross begins at 3:00 pm  
Celebration of the Lord's Passion  
begins at 7:00 pm

**Easter Vigil begins at 8:30 pm**

the Paschal Vigil or the Great Vigil of Easter, is a service  
held in traditional Christian churches as the first official  
celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus.

**Purchase Easter Flowers**

In Honor of or in Memory of a Loved one.

Suggested donation is \$10 per plant. Easter Flowers will be  
used to decorate our church during the Easter Season.  
Envelopes are available in the Narthex. Please complete the  
information clearly and bring to the parish office or put in the  
collection basket when you come to Mass.



**PRAY FOR PRIESTS THIS WEEK**

Listed below are the Priests of our Diocese for whom we are asked to pray for daily.  
4/10 – Rev. Karl Pikus, FSSP      4/13 – Rev. Fernando Preciado      4/16 – Rev. Kenneth Robinson  
4/11 – Rev. Jeff Poirot      4/14 – Rev. Sergio Rizo  
4/12 – Rev. Pavlo Popov      4/15 – Rev. Luke Robertson, TOR

*Eternal Father, we lift up to You these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them. Heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness of Your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

**MASS SCHEDULE:**

**Saturday (Vigil Mass)**  
6:00 p.m.

**Sunday**

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

*Childcare available at  
11:00 am Mass only*

*Children's Liturgy of the Word*  
11:00 a.m.

**Monday, Thursday, Friday**  
Holy Family Chapel at 8:00 a.m.

Wednesday All School Mass at 10:15 a.m.  
in the church (during the school year)

**Wednesday**

Holy Family Chapel at 6:15 p.m.  
Pray the Rosary at 5:30 p.m.

**LITURGY OF THE HOURS**

Holy Family Chapel  
Tuesday at 8:00 a.m.

**RECONCILIATION:**

Saturdays from 4-5 p.m. or  
by appointment with the priest.

**ADORATION OF THE MOST  
BLESSED SACRAMENT**

Every 1st Friday of the month  
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Wednesdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

**HOLY FAMILY CHAPEL**

is open Monday through Friday between the  
hours of 8:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. for prayer  
and reflection time.

**FOR ALL  
SACRAMENTAL  
PREPARATION**

Please call the church office.

**PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR**

Rev. Alexander Ambrose, HGN

**DEACON**

Vincent Blake

**DEACON/PASTORAL ASST.**

Jim Bindel • jbindel@olqpwf.org

**COORDINATOR OF ELEM. RE**

Sister Ginny Vissing, SSMN  
srginny@olqpwf.org

**BUSINESS MANAGER**

Licia Vasquez  
licia@olqpwf.org

**RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY**

Rosalie Tolentino • rosalie@olqpwf.org

**VOLUNTEER/EVENTS  
COORDINATOR**

Tamra DuBose • tdubose@olqpwf.org

**GROUNDS & FACILITY MANAGER**

Mike Carlton

**HOUSEKEEPER**

Donna Lindeman

## ACTIVITIES

### PARISH STAFF POSITION OPEN:

#### Director of Religious Education/Faith Formation (Elementary School through High School)

Our Lady Queen of Peace parish in Wichita Falls, a parish of over 1200 families, is looking for a full-time Director of Religious Education/Faith Formation to develop catechetical activities, as well as, coordinate, supervise and execute parish programs designed to engage and educate the youth of Our Lady Queen of Peace in Wichita Falls, Texas, from Elementary School through High School.

An advanced degree in Catechetics, Theology or Religious Education from an approved Catholic Institution Degree with some experience in working with youth is preferred. Candidate must exercise personal initiative, work collaboratively with other staff and youth ministry team members, and possess excellent organizational skills. Candidate must be a prayerful, practicing Catholic, who works well with parents, has a genuine love for working with elementary, middle school and high school youth, and possesses excellent relational and communication skills.

#### Application deadline: May 1, 2017.

Send resume to Parish Administrator, Our Lady Queen of Peace, 4040 York St., Wichita Falls, Texas 76309 or to email: jbindel@olqpwf.org or info@olqpwf.org.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Sat, 29 April 2017**  
**Altar Society's Annual**  
**Salad Luncheon**

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

April 18 (Tuesday; 9:30am – 11:30am) In the St Joseph's room

April 20 (Thursday; 7:00pm – 9:00pm) In the St Matt's room

**Upcoming Yarn Trip: May 2, 2017**

**Gainesville, Texas**

Please Call JoAnn Brennan if you're interested (940)691-0460.

### BIBLE STUDY to begin April 23 (Divine Mercy Sunday)

**Great Unifying Themes in Scripture** (from the Old Testament through the New)

You are invited to nine weekly meetings which will investigate nine great themes in the Bible. These meetings, led by Jack Abel, will consist of a presentation on the theme followed by a discussion. The themes studied will be:

1. God's Choices
2. God's Covenant with His People
3. God's People
4. God in Our Midst
5. To Believe in God
6. The Messiah of God
7. The Spirit of God
8. Exodus: Type and Reality
9. The Kingdom of God

We will meet in the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Room on Sunday mornings, 9:40-10:45, April 23-June 18.

national council of  
**catholic women**  
To support, empower, and educate all Catholic women

### QUARTERLY MEETING

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church** (Wichita Falls, Texas)

**Thursday – April 27, 2017**

Registration begins at 9:30am

Meeting at 10:00am

Mass at 12:10pm (followed by Lunch and Program)

**RSVP by Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> (Contact Caroline at 940-704-2585)**

Please bring underwear and socks for children in grades K through 12 on the day of the meeting or bring to the parish office or with you when you come to Mass and put in the designated area located in the Narthex.

Items will support the Glenmary Mission Project in Appalachia, Kentucky.

**Program:** a wonderful film on the story about the women in the bible

### MEN IN CHRIST

Men of the parish: Do you have a desire to grow as a Christian man? Come join us as we pray, explore Scripture together and support one another in our Christian walk. Meet us in the Parish Office Conference Room each Saturday (except 2nd Saturday of the month) at 7:30 AM. Please call Jack at 696-0741 if you have questions.

GOOD FRIDAY ROSARY VIGIL  
FOR **Life**

"Can you not pray with me for one hour?"  
Matthew 26:41

April 14, 2017 at 12:30 p.m.  
Planned Parenthood Abortion Center  
(6464 John Ryan Road, Ft. Worth, TX)

## Young Adults

**940Catholics**, our local Catholic young adult ministry.

Sarah Merlau 281-732-7280

E-mail: theotap.wftx@gmail.com

And for those Facebook fanatics, please Like our page:

*Theology on Tap Wichita Falls*

**PARISH OFFICE will be CLOSED: APRIL 13 to APRIL 17**  
**REGULAR OFFICE HOURS will RESUME: APRIL 18**



Refocus,  
re-energize  
and reconfirm  
the purpose of  
your life in  
Christ.

## The Next Christ Renews His Parish Renewal Weekend for Women June 24 and 25 2017



Please help us update our parish roster. If your mailing address, email address, home phone number, or mobile number has changed in the last three years, please contact our parish office during office hours: 940.696.1253.

### TODAY is Palm Sunday – April 9

*Palm Sunday* commemorates the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-9), when palm branches were placed in his path, before his arrest on Holy Thursday and his crucifixion on Good Friday. It thus marks the beginning of Holy Week, the final week of Lent.

The palms will be blessed and distributed at Mass, so when you're done with them, DO NOT put them in the trash or scattered in the pews or under the pews. To properly dispose of the palms, they need to be burned, then the ashes returned to the ground. Please take the palms home with you and display them in a special place.

You can creatively fold or curl your palms. When you do, please put them around the house (family altar, in the window, on a book shelf) a lot of times they end up peeking out of the corners of the pictures hanging in our home.

**PLEASE DO NOT throw them in the trash, leave them in the pews or under the pews!**

Prayer Ministry Team is available after weekend Mass in the Holy Family Chapel to pray for your personal Intentions. Please enter through the entrance across the Saint Joseph Room.

### Heritage Society (for those 50+)

Next gathering: Sunday, April 23rd.

This group meets for potluck and games. For more information call Kevin Connors (940-782-0335).

### OLQP Men's Club

Next Meeting: Monday, May 1 at 7pm.

In the St. Joseph Room

Men ages 18 and older are highly encouraged to attend.

There is NO COST to join.

## Youth Ministry

Youth Religious Education Classes (in the Youth Hall):

**High School** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>) Wednesdays 7-9pm

**Middle School** (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) Sundays 9:30-10:45am

Confirmation Mass practice: Sunday, April 23 at 3:00pm (OLQP church)

Confirmation Mass: Sunday, May 7 at 4:00pm (OLQP church)

Sacred Heart and Our Lady Queen of Peace will be co-hosting "True Grit and Dignified" a NET Ministries Retreat for youth grades 6-12. The retreat will be held on Wednesday May 3rd in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall from 4pm-9pm. The retreat is free and all middle school and high school youth are encouraged to attend. More information will be available in the bulletin soon.

Huge thanks to Knights of  
Columbus Council #1473  
for another amazing  
OLQP Fish Fry event



### INTERFAITH MINISTRIES, INC.

Please help us to re-stock our shelves! In 2016 we assisted 771 families with food.

Current needs are: Canned beans (NOT green beans), All canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.), Boxed potatoes, Mac & Cheese, Peanut Butter. For more information: [www.interfaithwf.org](http://www.interfaithwf.org) or 940-322-1365

Located at 1101 11th Street

FB-page: Interfaith Ministries, Inc.

## KID'S CORNER

### Palm Sunday 2017 Sr. Ginny says...

This day began with waving palms  
and people beginning to sing.  
Their excited voices  
were praising Jesus  
And wanting to make him a King!

"Hosanna to the King," they shouted  
"Hosanna to God's Son."  
Finally they had the Messiah!  
They had the long-awaited One!

His mother, then,  
hears the awful news:  
Jesus had been taken away  
And made to carry a cross  
Up Calvary Hill that terrible day.

They put a crown  
of very sharp thorns  
Upon his blessed head.  
They should have  
bowed in reverence  
But they were mean to him instead.

For Jesus had always been good,  
Welcoming sinners and the weak.  
He healed the sick  
and suffering folks.  
For he was kind, loving and meek.



But Jesus was put to death;  
Death on a cross up high  
Hardly anyone kept him company,  
Or was left to say goodbye.

But Mary, the mother  
of Jesus stood near.  
And a few other friends, too.  
This day the Lord of everyone  
Gave his life for me and for you.

Let us pray this week  
and thank the Lord  
for his great love  
in giving his life for us.

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The Great Hall will be CLOSED April 8 through April 24.  
This includes:  
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and the St. John Paul II rooms.

## ADULT FORMATION

### R.C.I.A. – Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

meets every Thursday evening at 7pm in the St. Joseph Room.

Come learn more about our Catholic Faith. Childcare is available, please RSVP to the Parish Office @ 696-1253.

**APR. 20** – Debrief Holy Week; Last things – Heaven, Purgatory, Hell, Praying for the Dead

**APR. 27** – Social Justice: Part I – Basic Rights shared by all People

### WorldWide Marriage Encounter

(Dallas-Fort Worth-East Texas)

“The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced;” Enjoy the help of God in making your good marriage better by participating in a WorldWide Marriage Encounter Weekend on June 9-11, 2017. Dates fill fast. To apply, visit our website at: <http://www.dfwme.org/apply>. For more information e-mail [apply@dfwme.org](mailto:apply@dfwme.org) or call 469-444-0904. Para mas informacion de Encuentro Matrimonial en Espanol, escriba a [emmdfw@gmail.com](mailto:emmdfw@gmail.com) o visite <http://www.emmsection21.org/>

### Rachel's Corner

“On that sacred weekend retreat I finally found the peace and healing that I had been longing for over the past 15 years.” - Rachel Retreat Participant

Call Rachel Ministries. We can help *you* find healing and peace after abortion.

**Rachel Ministries**

**817-923-4757**

**Next Retreat**

**Spanish April 28 - English May 19**

### Enhance your Lenten Journey

**MEN – Reflection: Rediscover Jesus**

6:00 pm (St. Joseph Room)

**WOMEN – Prayer: Rosary & Chaplet of Divine Mercy**

6:00pm (Holy Family Chapel)

## NOTRE DAME NEWS

### NOTRE DAME CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2821 Lansing Blvd,  
Wichita Falls, TX 76309  
940.692.6041

[www.notredamecatholic.org](http://www.notredamecatholic.org)



### ENROLLMENT

[www.notredamecatholic.org](http://www.notredamecatholic.org) or email Matt Ledesma, Director of Enrollment, at [matt.ledesma@ndcswf.org](mailto:matt.ledesma@ndcswf.org).

**Notre Dame All School Mass: Wednesday's at 10:15am (unless indicated otherwise)**

3K - 12th Grade

**Michael Edghill, Principal**

**Melissa Gorley, Assistant Principal**

**Matt Ledesma, Director of Enrollment**

### FREE MASS TIMES APP! ([masstimes.org](http://masstimes.org))

The Catholic Directory iPhone App is FREE and will quickly find the churches nearest to you, including Mass Times, Web sites, Maps, Directions, Staff, Bulletins, and other important information. Powered by [TheCatholicDirectory.com](http://TheCatholicDirectory.com)

### ARE YOU REGISTERED AT OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH?

Occasionally a letter of reference or recommendation to become a godparent, sponsor, or enroll in school may be needed and the Parish Office will not be able to give you a letter if we have no record of you being a registered parishioner. If you attend Mass here regularly and support our parish, are not registered, please fill out a registration form. Registration cards are available in the Narthex, online: [olqpwf.org](http://olqpwf.org) or you may call the office at [940.696.1253](tel:940.696.1253).

### PRAY for OUR TROOPS and LAW ENFORCEMENT

Let us pray for our brothers and sisters as they go forth with courage and determination to face the forces of violence, weapons of destruction and hearts filled with hate.

The thoughts and prayers of our parish are with the Family and Friends of †**Loretta Muerer**, mother of Anita Buerger. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon her. Amen.

### “Thank you” to all the benefactors for

### Our Guatemala Mission Projects.

With joy, we want to let you know that the children have their new bus and gladly are getting the transportation they need. Most of the children have sponsors for this 2017 school year. We have some that still are in need of a sponsor. In case you feel the call to become a sponsor for one of these children, please call Lilianna Samuelson for more information. Phone # 940-687-7100.

### Intentions of Holy Father, Pope Francis April - Young People.

That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.

### BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK!

Please Support our bulletin advertisers

**Archangel's Safer Chimneys Inc.**

(Chimneys, Air Ducts, Clothes Dryer Vents)

*Kevin Connors, parishioner and John Marshall*

940-696-2433

The Sunday Bulletin is provided to us every week by the generosity of our many sponsors. Their ads defray the expense of printing the bulletin. Please contact **Thomas Miner at 512-452-3413** (Bartleby Press, Austin).

During this Lenten Journey, we have been remembering Catechumens and Candidates in our prayer as they prepare to receive holy sacraments at Easter. As we look forward to celebrating at Easter the life-giving mysteries of our Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection, we do so along with the men and women who will join us for the first time at the Eucharistic table of the Lord. They will join us in faith and in the sacramental sharing of the paschal mystery. Please remember these individuals in a special way this week.

## GROWING IN FAITH

### Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion (A)

Is 50:4 –7, Phil 2:6 –11, Mt 26:14 — 27:66

Palm (or Passion) Sunday prepares us to leave behind Jesus' public ministry and to enter into his suffering and death. From miracles, crowds, and praise we move to pain, silence, and humility. Only the strong and true lovers of Jesus will make it to the foot of the cross.

The transfiguration of the Lord reminds us of the glory we are all called to even when that glory is hidden. When God called Abraham, it was to make of him a great nation and to give him glory. But Abraham had to leave what he had and enter into the unknown to receive what was promised. We, too, need to set out and leave our expectations if we ever hope to enter the mysteries of faith and discover the reward we are searching for. Setting out and leaving behind are like little "deaths" that prepare us for the glory of salvation.

The Father revealed Jesus' glory to his three closest apostles so their faith would survive the cross. God didn't want them to become disillusioned or frightened by his suffering and death. A voice came down from heaven and confirmed Jesus as the Son to assure the apostles that even if he didn't seem like the Messiah in his human nature, he most certainly was.

It was this image of the glorified Jesus that Raphael reflected on and labored over for years. He needed to see this transfiguration during his life and at the hour of his death to keep the faith. So do we.

#### **For Reflection**

How do I respond to Jesus' invitation to join him in his passion? How do my actions indicate where my heart really is? Would I be shrouded in shadow or surrounded by Jesus' glory?

Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

### DEAR PADRE

#### **Why don't Catholics study and prepare for the end times or rapture?**

*Quite simply, we don't prepare for the rapture because as Catholics we don't believe in the rapture.*

We do believe that there is a time when the world will end, but we have no idea when that day will come. Fundamentalist Christians believe that the world will end with a rapture where the good will be taken and the evil left. It is based on a misreading of Revelation 20 that speaks of an angel in the pit who will ravage the earth for 1,000 years. This is called amillennialism, and the Church has condemned this belief (CCC 676). The whole "left behind" series comes from this misreading.

Rather than being afraid of the end of the world, the Catholic Church teaches that the best way to prepare for the coming of Christ is by living the sacramental life of the Church: being baptized, celebrating the Eucharist and reconciliation consistently, being married or professing holy orders in the Church, and partaking in the anointing of the sick.

By doing these things we are participating in the fullness of the Church and life with Christ. This is the best way to prepare for Christ's return. While we as Catholics do believe there will be a day when we will be gathered to Christ, we look forward to this day with anticipation and joy, not fear and anguish.

Patrick Keyes, CSSR  
sundaybulletin@liguori.org