



OUR LADY OF THE HILLS

Fr. Scott Morgan, *Pastor*
Fr. Adam Lewis, *Parochial Vicar*

St. Mary Church

212 S. High St. • Hillsboro, OH 45133
937-840-9932

Holy Trinity Church

612 E. Mulberry St. • West Union, OH 45693
937-544-2757
secretary@holytrinity-ac.org

St. Benignus Church

204 S. Second St. • Greenfield, OH 45123
937-981-2785
stbenignus@gmail.com

St. Mary Queen of Heaven Church

205 Wendell Ave. • Peebles, OH 45660
937-544-2757
secretary@holytrinity-ac.org

Family Website: <http://www.ourladyofthehillsoh.com>

At Our Lady of the Hills Catholic Family, our vision is to be a vibrant community that radiates love and compassion, grounded in prayer, and guided by the Holy Spirit. We strive to be a beacon of hope and refuge for all who seek God's Grace, welcoming all with open hearts and unwavering faith in Jesus.

PASTOR, FR. SCOTT MORGAN

smorgan@catholicaoc.org

VICAR, FR. ADAM LEWIS

alewis@catholicaoc.org

OFFICE:

937-840-9932

SACRAMENTAL EMERGENCIES:

937-403-0245

ST. MARY**PROGRAM CONTACTS****ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:**

George Sakash; 937-205-0919

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Grand Knight, Jim Hehl; 937-661-4835

OCIA:

937-840-9932; smorgan@catholicaoc.org

PARISH FAITH FORMATION,**DIRECTOR OF EVANGELIZATION,****SAFE ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR:**

Michelle Vanzant Salyer

937-840-9932; stmarycre119@gmail.com

PRO-LIFE REPRESENTATIVE:

Mary Tamborski; 937-205-4458

ST. MARY CHURCH OFFICE &**ST. MARY PRESCHOOL:**

Leah Salyer, Administrative Assistant &

Beacons of Light

Office: 937-840-9932

justleahatstmary@gmail.com

ST. BENIGNUS**PROGRAM CONTACTS****ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:**

Kristy Bockrath;

937-361-6590; krbockr@icloud.com

OCIA:

937-840-9932; smorgan@catholicaoc.org

ST. BENIGNUS MEN'S AUXILIARY:

937-981-2785

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION:

Chyane Collins; 740-572-2101

chyanecollins@gmail.com

Bruce Bennett, Jr.; 740-572-2085

bennettb@greatoaks.com

CHOIR/MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Kristy Bockrath; 937-361-6590

krbockr@icloud.com

LADIES AUX:

President: Paula Miller

937-876-9883

ST. BENIGNUS CEMETERY:

937-981-2785; stbenignus@gmail.com

PRO-LIFE REPRESENTATIVE:

Mary Tamborski; 937-205-4458

ST. BENIGNUS CHURCH OFFICE:

937-981-2785; stbenignus@gmail.com

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 7, 2025****Sunday, December 7, 2025**8:00 a.m. *St. Mary, Queen of Heaven – Mass*9:00 a.m. *St. Benignus – Mildred Allison +*10:00 a.m. *Holy Trinity – Mass*11:30 a.m. *St. Mary – Joesph Hunt***Monday December 8, 2025***Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day)*8:30 a.m. *Holy Trinity – Mass*Noon *St. Benignus – Ron Gunderman +*7:00 p.m. *St. Mary, Queen of Heaven – Mass*7:00 p.m. *St. Mary – Barb Wilkens +***Tuesday, December 9, 2025**Noon *St. Benignus – Kathy Dye +***Wednesday, December 10, 2025**8:30 a.m. *St. Mary, Queen of Heaven – Mass*Noon *St. Benignus – Clark & Boulas Families***Thursday, December 11, 2025**8:30 a.m. *Holy Trinity – Mass*Noon *St. Mary – Donald Markland +***Friday, December 12, 2025**8:30 a.m. *St. Mary, Mary Queen of Heaven – Mass*Noon *St. Mary – Edward Nerswick +***Saturday, December 13, 2025**5:00 p.m. *St. Mary – Thomas Moran +*5:00 p.m. *Holy Trinity – Mass***Sunday, December 14, 2025**8:00 a.m. *St. Mary, Queen of Heaven – Mass*9:00 a.m. *St. Benignus – Judy Hagerty +*10:00 a.m. *Holy Trinity – Mass*11:30 a.m. *St. Mary – Ruth Vanzant +***Adoration & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**12:30 p.m. *Wednesday – St. Benignus*9:00 a.m. *Thursday – Holy Trinity; Thursday – St. Mary***Confessions***Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. – Queen of Heaven; 12:30 p.m. – St. Benignus**Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – Holy Trinity; 6:00 p.m. – St. Mary***Saturday**4:00 p.m. *– St. Mary; Holy Trinity**Daily Mass Readings Can Be found at: usccb.org***ST. MARY – LIVESTREAM**<https://www.twitch.tv/saintmaryhillsboro>

No Signups Needed, Free Livestreaming of Mass

Audio Stream for WLRU Radio is: wlruradio12345.com**OUR LADY OF THE HILLS FAMILY FACEBOOK PAGE***Please Like & Share!!*<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=615-658-71562111>

From the Pastor's Desk



Tomorrow, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a dogma that was solemnly declared by Pope Pius IX in 1854. This feast reminds us that Mary, from the first moment of her existence, by God's grace, was completely free of the stain of Original Sin, thus giving her the graces needed to become the dwelling of The Most High. Her freedom from sin, and her "Yes" to the announcement of The Angel Gabriel make way for the coming of The Messiah; she becomes the New Eve as all of creation is given new life through the gift of her Son. Coming from a Protestant Christian background, when I converted to Catholicism, I naturally had a lot of questions about Mary and our understanding of her. It wasn't until a few years after my conversion that I began to really develop a relationship with Our Lady. By this time, I had started seminary and would have described my relationship with Mary as being more of an acquaintance than that of a loving mother, so I set out to find Mary. And with the help of a fellow seminarian, I not only found her, but in her I discovered a most beautiful and loving mother. Writing of Mary, philosopher and theologian, Alice von Hildebrand said, "The dazzling radiance of this feminine place – the tabernacle of the God-man – must have blinded the angels, bringing them to their knees." In Mary, we have a most beautiful and loving mother, who never fails to bring us closer to Christ, her son. I invite you to welcome Mary on your own journey to Bethlehem this Advent and together, let us join all of creation in joyful anticipation of the coming of Christ.

Masses for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (Holy Day) are:

8:30 a.m. – Holy Trinity | Noon – St. Benignus

7:00 p.m. – St. Mary, Queen of Heaven | 7:00 p.m. – St. Mary
Fr. Scott Morgan

02074 Church Offices Closed

Christmas Octave: December 24th-January 1, 2026

BULLETIN DEADLINE OR BULLETIN EMAIL REQUEST

Bulletin can be Emailed – If you would like to have the Bulletin emailed to you, please contact the email below or church office. Please submit by **Monday 10:00 a.m.** Bulletin submissions in writing, email justleahatstmary@gmail.com, submit in my mailbox located at the front of the school, or call the office at 937-840-9932.

"Crosses release us from this world and by doing so bind us to God."
– Saint Charles de Foucauld

HIGHLAND COUNTY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Next Parish Council Meeting for St. Benignus & St. Mary – January 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary

Highland County Parish Council Meetings will be held the 2nd Wednesday of every month and rotate locations between St. Mary & St. Benignus.

DATES & INFORMATION AT ST. BENIGNUS

St. Benignus PSR students will have a donation box in the back of the church for new or gently used winter hats, gloves, socks and scarves. The items collected will be donated to St. Benignus St. Vincent de Paul and will be dispersed as needed.

SVDP of St. Benignus is again adjusting our regular meeting times. We are going to shorten meetings to a half-hour before open office.... 5:30-6:00 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays. Do continue to support our youth drive for winter items: hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, and socks.

SVDP of St. Benignus SVDP meetings are on **Thursdays**. On the **first and third Thursdays at 5:00 p.m., SVDP meeting** will occur prior to the 6:00 open pantry in the Religious Education Building. All are welcome.

Men's Group of St. Benignus 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. All men are invited to join us at 6:00 p.m.

St. Benignus Ladies Auxiliary Meetings will be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Religious Ed Bldg. Any questions, please reach out to Paula at 937-876-9883.

Christmas Party: December 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. Place to follow. All are welcome. No December meeting. Meetings will resume on March 12, 2026. All are invited to come and help support your church.

ST. BENIGNUS PARISH RECORDS UPDATE

Blue Registration Forms – Even if you have registered in the past please do so again, please complete one form per family and return it to the collection basket or to the church office. Parish registration forms are available at the back of the church.



Donald Markland, Robert Arbaugh, Amy Kirst-Barnett, Amy Simpson, Rob Wintrow, David Rosselott, Elmer & Ethel Wilkens, Janet Wilkens, Barb Wilkens

Collection Information

St. Mary Collection November 23, 2025

Weekly Collection.....	\$ 6,388.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 45.00
Southern Ohio Pregnancy Center.....	\$ 5.00
Building Fund	\$ 25.00
Christmas Flower Fund	\$ 20.00

St. Mary Collection November 30, 2025

Weekly Collection.....	\$ 5,881.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 120.00
Southern Ohio Pregnancy Center.....	\$ 77.00
Christmas Flower Fund	\$ 100.00

Online Giving makes it easy to fulfill stewardship commitments. Giving electronically also helps the church save money and improve its budget. It's less risky than writing checks or bringing cash to church. **Electronic contributions cannot be lost, stolen, or destroyed and have an extremely high rate of accuracy.**

St. Mary Online Giving Link & QR Code

osvhub.com/stmaryhillsboro/giving/funds

You can give Online to (SOPC, SVdP, Building Fund, Church) to the link above.

Our Lady of The Hills Family Facebook Page Please Like & Share !!



St. Benignus Collection November 23, 2025

Weekly Collection.....	\$ 1,600.00
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St. Benignus Collection November 30, 2025

Weekly Collection.....	\$ 1,388.00
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Thank You for your Generosity!

ST. MARY REMINDERS

St. Mary Women's Group – Meeting December 11th (2nd Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m.)

St. Mary Knights of Columbus meetings are the **2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m. of each month at St. Mary**

ST MARY CHURCH BINGO

Bingo Team 1 (January 2, 2026)

Michelle V-S.,
Jane H,
Ann L,
Josh P.,
Tim L.,
Joann M.



St. Mary Volunteers Needed

St. Mary Art and Environment Committee is looking for a few volunteers to help with church decorations throughout the year. A Catholic Art and Environment Committee will use various elements like flowers, fabrics, plants, and religious art to create a prayerful and beautiful environment to reflect the liturgical season and enhance the worship experience. If interested or would like more information, please call the church office at 937-840-9932.

Traveling Mary and Joseph at St. Mary

A longstanding tradition at St. Mary is the traveling Holy Family. During Advent, Joseph, Mary with child, and a donkey, move to different locations each weekend until they make it to the place where the creche will be erected. So make sure you keep an eye out, say a little prayer for all travelers this holiday season and, in all the rush and stress, be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Remember in your prayers those parishioners or their family or friends who are sick, in a hospital, nursing home, homebound or in need of prayers...

ST. BENIGNUS & ST. MARY PRAYER LIST

Jason Wood, Steve Faust, Madge McCoy, Richard Oakes, Dave Shoults, Gail Grim, Robert Wheaton, Ally Wright, Bonnie Hammons, Joe Carson, Bob Dye, Joe Turley, Jeff Thoroman, David Tolle, Brittany Kinzer, Paula Miller, Claudia Frank, Jeff Hadley, Becky Hiser, Theresa Shackelford, Cathy Thompson, Edna Maxwell, Jean Smith, Dick Lester, Linda Bradford, Roseann Cordrey, Barry Reinholz, Rosemarie Muenster, Dale Braun, Mary Williams, Greg Burns, Rob Wintrow, Nicole Rhoads, Alan Lane, Elaine Feder, Aubrey Griego, Jamey Phillips, Mike Vermeersch, Ervin Moore, Sarah Severyn, Cathy Fox, Arlene Huiet

**** To Add/Remove from Parish Prayer List, please inform the office 937-840-9932 St. Mary) or leave a note in the collection basket. (St. Benignus Church office 937-981-2785) ****

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

December 7 – Christian Gunderman, Cindy Simmons

December 8 – Margaret Block

December 9 – David Hopper, Allison Florek

December 10 – Lana Sakash

December 11 – Shirlee Thomas

December 12 – Timothy Hall

December 13 – Kimberly Fontaine Martin, Caryl Moenster

December 15 – Roy Tesmer, Troy Tesmer

December 17 – Charles Elking

December 18 – Jamison Georges, Erika Thery

December 19 – Avery Miller-Salyer, Mary Takacs

December 20 – Creed Culbreath

December 21 – Mack Pohlman

December 22 – Henry Koehler

December 23 – Joanne McDaniels

December 27 – Kristy Bruckner

December 28 – Lois Richendollar

December 29 – Jane Horne

December 30 – Joyce Baker, Tara Beery, Teresa Stuebs

December 31 – Sheri Duckwall



<https://catholicaoc.org/beacons-of-light>

Your Saturday organists would love to have voices join them upstairs for Saturday Mass. Announcing songs, singing the songs familiar to you and new to us, keeping us on the right verse – all would all be helpful. Please wander upstairs and introduce yourself. No special process necessary. Help us make a joyful noise unto the Lord.

ST. BENIGNUS COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

When: Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, 2025

Time: 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Where: Eagles Lodge, 1275 N. Washington Street, Greenfield, Ohio 45123

Volunteers are needed from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We will be preparing all the food, putting together the carry-out meals, delivering meals and cleaning up.

We serve 700-800 meals of which 600 are delivered. The total cost for these meals is about \$2,500.00 per year and it is totally funded through donations. All food is purchased locally.

Donations can be dropped off to Eric Zint at Corner Pharmacy, 259 Jefferson Street, Greenfield, Ohio or St. Benignus church office.

This event would not be possible if it weren't for all the wonderful people who volunteer each year. Anyone wishing to volunteer is asked to please sign up on the sheet in the back of church. God bless everyone for helping to make this happen each year!

"Our true worth does not consist in what human beings think of us. What we really are consists in what God knows us to be."

– St. John Berchmans

BIBLE PROJECT: SUMMARY OF ISAIAH

<https://youtu.be/d0A6Uchb1F8?si=dumQMnpYBuErFOek>

ST. PATRICK CATHEDRAL PHOTOS

Cory Taylor recently traveled to New York – photos of St. Patrick Cathedral. The main structure of St. Patrick's Cathedral took approximately 20 years to build, from the laying of the cornerstone in 1858 until its completion in 1878. The Cathedral was formally dedicated in 1879. Construction was interrupted for several years due to the American Civil War in the early 1860s. Thank you, Cory, for sharing photos.



2ND COLLECTION WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 14TH

The Retirement Fund for Religious (RFR) provides funding to any religious institute in the U.S. that is listed in the religious institute section of the OCD with an identifying OCD number, and that has an unfunded past service liability. It distributes financial assistance from the fund to religious institutes based on a formula and criteria approved by the conferences of major superiors and bishops. The annual appeal began in 1988 and is approved through 2027.

Mail To: National Religious Retirement Office Retirement Fund for Religious – PO Box 96988 Washington DC 20090-6988.
www.retiredreligious.org

Bible Project: Summary of Isaiah

Scan the QR Code



The book of Isaiah is filled with sobering accounts of Israel's sin and rebellion and warnings of their coming judgement. But along with warnings, Isaiah also offers a message of hope—a suffering servant, a Messiah, will come to establish God's Kingdom on Earth and create a new Jerusalem.

Our Lady of The Hills Family

Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
Mass Schedule

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24

3:30pm-St Mary

5:30pm- St Benignus

9:00pm-St Benignus

11:00pm- St Mary

5:00pm-Holy Trinity

8:00pm-Queen of Heaven

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25

10:00am- Holy Trinity

10:00am-St Mary



Our Lady of The Hills
New Years Eve
(Mother of God)
7:00pm- Queen of Heaven
7:00pm- St Mary

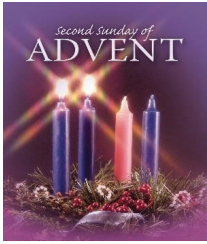
we wish you a
2025
Happy New Year

New Years Day
(Mother of God)
10:00am- St Benignus
10:00am-Holy Trinity
Noon- St Mary

CLOSING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR WITH ARCHBISHOP CASEY – All are invited to join Archbishop Casey as he celebrates Mass for the Closing of the Jubilee Year on Sunday, December 28, 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains. At the request of the Holy Father, a collection for the poor will be taken.

FOOD FOR ALL – Nutritious, affordable food is not readily available to every person in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. Hunger exists in our communities. Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio travels to where hunger is located in Adams, Brown, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton and Highland Counties. Interested in reducing hunger and food insecurity, volunteering at a mobile pantry or learning more about hunger in our area? Call April Hoak, Food for All coordinator at 513.672.3720 or email ahoak@ccswoh.org.

SECOND ADVENT CANDLE/SUNDAY: PEACE
“May we be in this world a ray of that light which shone forth from Bethlehem, bringing joy and peace to the hearts of all men and women.” – Pope Francis
The Second Candle on the Advent Wreath represents **Peace**. Like the first candle, it is also purple. Often called the **“Bethlehem Candle,”** the Second Advent Candle reminds us of Mary and Joseph’s journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before Mary gave birth to Jesus. Building on the meaning of the Prophecy Candle, this Second Candle recalls that after all of the division, destruction, and dispersion of the kingdom in the Old Testament, there might finally be peace on Earth – Jesus is coming, and so is His Kingdom of Peace. As we read in the quote from Pope Francis, this light of peace shone forth from Bethlehem for all the world.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MONTHLY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER, 2025

Donations:

Bingo Concession.....	\$ 300.00
Monthly Donations.....	\$ 1,101.00
Grants	\$ 1,500.00
Big Ernie’s Fundraiser Event.....	\$ 700.00
Total	\$ 3,601

Thank you for your generous monthly contributions by using your SVdP envelope in the church collection. Your contributions will help more families and individuals in crisis.

Expenditures:
Assistance to neighbors:..... \$ 5,020.00
The expenditures of \$5,020 includes help paying utility bills, gasoline, rent, temporary housing, groceries, appliances, furniture, and more.

Monthly Fundraiser:
SVdP members operate the concession stand at St. Mary Bingo. All the concession stand profits goes to SVdP. Come out and enjoy an evening of Bingo and food on the first Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 p.m.)

Thank you:
Thanks to all who came out to Big Ernie’s to support SVdP night on November 12th.

Thank you for the successful food drive for the needy that took place in November too.

Contact information:
The local SVdP phone number for a neighbor in need or to join the SVdP organization: 937-205-0919.

Report submitted by: Lois M. Richendollar

2025 Men’s Retreat
Saints in the Making
Fri, 1/30/26 – Sat, 1/31/26

Save the Date
Sponsored by Men’s ‘5th Step’ Fellowship Breakfast
holysaintsofgod.org

DECEMBER CLERGY COMMUNICATIONS
FOLLOW AND PRAY WITH ARCHBISHOP CASEY – Archbishop Casey has launched his own social media accounts! Follow him on: Instagram: @archbishopcasey and Facebook: facebook.com/archbishopcasey. By following Archbishop Casey, you can pray with him throughout Advent as he has begun posting daily prayer reflections since Sunday, November 30.

Notes from Father Adam Lewis First Sunday of Advent (Year A)



The precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. The obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities is meant to guarantee to the faithful the very **necessary minimum** in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor.

The first precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation and rest from servile labor") requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honoring the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.

The second precept ("You shall confess your sins at least once a year") ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness.

The third precept ("You shall receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season") guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy.

The fourth precept ("You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church") ensures the times of asceticism and penance which prepare us for the liturgical feasts and help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart.

The fifth precept ("You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church") means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability.

On the "rapture"

The Catholic Church teaches that there is no distinct event known as "the rapture" in the sense of a secret, pretribulation removal of believers from the earth, as popularized in some Protestant traditions. Instead, passages often cited in support of the rapture – such as 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 – are interpreted as describing the single, visible Second Coming of Christ (the Parousia), at which time the living and the dead will be united with Him in glory, followed by the general resurrection and judgment. This event is imminent, but its timing is unknown, emphasizing vigilance and faithfulness rather than speculative timelines.

Biblical Foundation and Interpretation

The key scriptural reference is St. Paul's description in 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17: "For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we shall always be with the Lord." The Church understands this "catching up" (from the Latin **rapiemur**, meaning "we shall be raptured" or seized) not as a separate evacuation of the just before a period of tribulation, but as part of Christ's glorious return at the end of time. The living faithful will be transformed and meet the resurrected dead to accompany Christ in triumph, in a public and cosmic event.

The Biblical Commission, in its 1915 responses on the Parousia in St. Paul's epistles, affirmed the inerrancy of apostolic teaching on this matter. It rejected interpretations that would allow the Apostles to express erroneous personal expectations about the timing of Christ's return, insisting that their words under divine inspiration convey truth without deception. Specifically regarding 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17, the Commission upheld the traditional patristic interpretation (e.g., from St. John Chrysostom) that Paul did not imply an exclusively imminent Parousia in which only survivors (excluding the deceased) would meet Christ. Rather, the passage includes both the living and the dead in the resurrection and gathering at the final advent, without suggesting Paul or his readers would necessarily be among the living witnesses. This aligns with the broader eschatological framework in Scripture, where Christ's return is a singular, unexpected event that concludes history, destroys the current heavens and earth, and ushers in the new creation. (cf. 2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1) The Church cautions against overly literal or sensational readings that separate this "meeting" from the immediate resurrection and judgment, as such views can lead to errors like millenarianism.

Church Doctrine on the End Times

The Catechism of the Catholic Church emphasizes the imminence of Christ's return since the Ascension: "This eschatological coming could be accomplished at any moment, even if both it and the final trial that will precede it are 'delayed.'" Believers are called to live in readiness, as "the end will come unexpectedly and take the living by surprise," but no one knows the day or hour. (Acts 1:7; Matthew 24:44). There is no teaching of a preliminary rapture to spare the Church from tribulation; instead, the Church will endure a final trial before the Parousia, purifying the faithful through suffering.

Official documents reject related speculative ideas. The 1944 Decree of the Holy Office on millenarianism (chiliasm) states that "mitigated millenarianism," which posits Christ returning visibly to rule the world before The Final Judgment (often tied to rapture-like scenarios), "cannot be taught safely." This underscores the Church's commitment to a unified eschatology: one general resurrection for all (just and wicked), one Parousia, and one judgment. Early creeds, such as the Exposition of Faith against the Priscillianists (c. 5th century), affirm Christ's return "to judge the living and the dead," with the resurrection of all bodies in their earthly identity, reigning eternally with the saints in the renewed creation.

Distinctions from Other Traditions

While the term "rapture" appears in some Latin Vulgate translations of eschatological texts, the Church does not endorse dispensationalist views (e.g., a seven-year tribulation with believers raptured beforehand). Such ideas emerged in the 19th century and are seen as inconsistent with the integrated Catholic understanding of salvation history. The focus is on hope in the Parousia as the fulfillment of Christ's kingdom, not escape from earthly trials. Theologians like St. Thomas Aquinas, discussing Paul's personal "rapture" in 2 Corinthians 12:2-4, clarify it as a mystical experience distinct from the eschatological gathering, known to be real but not fully comprehensible in bodily terms.

In summary, Catholic teaching integrates the "rapture" concept into the triumphant Second Coming, calling the faithful to persevere amid trials in anticipation of eternal union with Christ. For deeper study, consult the Catechism (paragraphs 668-682) or the Scriptures themselves.

WLRU 106.9 FM

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