

4 Marks Case Studies

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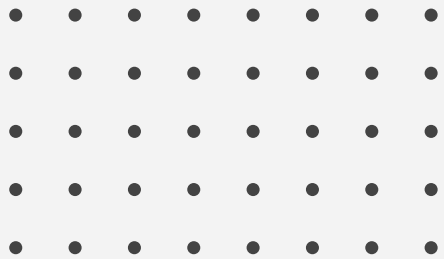
Your parish priest is going on vacation and your church needs to find a substitute priest. Some members of the church have voiced that they could step in for the priest while he is gone. These particular members of the church have been Catholic all their life and know the Bible really well. Should they be allowed to act as the priest while he is gone? Does that violate one of the marks of the Church?

There are three very distinct cultural groups at your parish. There is a strong push for three distinct worship services and separate organizational structures to respond to the needs of each group. What do you think? Do you think this would be beneficial for the whole Church community?

What would you tell people who accused your Catholic Church of being unholy because of the sinful actions of certain members? Do you agree that if the members of the church sin, then the whole church is sinful?



There is no standard pattern of sitting, standing, and kneeling at your parish for Mass. It has become the practice for everyone to do whatever they want and are more comfortable with. Some people are complaining that the lack of unity distracts them from worship. What do you think? Does this go against one of the marks of the Church?



The Four Last Things



DEATH

01

JUDGMENT

02

HELL

03

HEAVEN

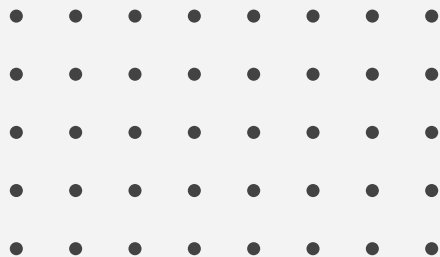
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DEATH

- Something we don't like to talk about, but something we will all experience
- Came through first sin
- What kind of story are you living?
- Should I live differently because death is coming?

JUDGMENT



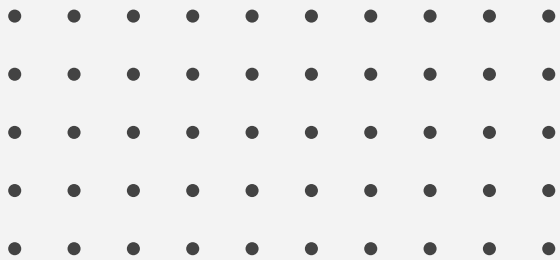
- We all have free will - free to choose
- Choices we make today affect our future, others around us, and our eternity
- "It's no accident whether we end up in Heaven or Hell"
- Where are your choices leading you?

HELL

“If you choose to deny God day after day in this life, then why would you want to live forever with him in eternity.”

- Imagine: your worst day x1000
- CCC 1033 “Definitive self-exclusion from communion with God
- Eternal suffering
- No truth, beauty, goodness, or peace
- Sadness, self-loathing, paranoia, angst, despair
- Not usually one single choice that leads to Hell, but many choices against God





HEAVEN

- Best day x1000
- “Supreme, definitive happiness”
- Fulfillment of the deepest human longings

PURGATORY

- Airport security
- Pit stop before heaven - always leads to Heaven
- Undergo purification to achieve holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven