 ***St Luke’s Catholic Church***

 ***Our Faith Beliefs***

 ***The What & Why***

**Heaven-Eternity P 1 of 2**

 **Fr Tim Says**

“The purpose of this paper is to serve as a friendly reminder that the **ultimate** goal in this life is not to become rich and famous but is to obtain heaven i.e. to be with God for eternity. Here is the What and Why of this goal. Be sure to view the FORMED short video link in the Further Study Resources section below titled ‘What is Heaven’.”

**The What- Here is what Our Catechisms Say?**

**USCCB version.** The final article of the Creed proclaims our belief in everlasting life. At the Catholic Rite of Commendation of the Dying we sometimes hear this prayer: “Go forth, Christian soul, from this world. . . . May you live in peace this day, may your home be with God in Zion, may you see your redeemer face to face” (Prayer of Commendation of the Dying, no. 220). Death is the natural and inevitable end of life on earth. “[There is] a time to be born, and a time to die” (Eccl 3:2). We change, we grow old, and even death seems appropriate after a full life. “And the dust returns to earth as it once was, / and the life breath returns to God who gave it”

View more Digital p179-190 (Book p151-162) at this link: [https://www.usccb.org/sites/default/files/flipbooks/uscca/files/assets/basic-html/page-181.html#](https://www.usccb.org/sites/default/files/flipbooks/uscca/files/assets/basic-html/page-181.html# ) At popup screen that reads United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, key on the X in upper right corner.

**VATICAN version, 1023** Those who die in God's grace and friendship and are perfectly purified live forever with Christ. They are like God for ever, for they "see him as he is," face to face:

**1024** This perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity - this communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed - is called "heaven." Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness.

**1025** To live in heaven is "to be with Christ." the elect live "in Christ," but they retain, or rather find, their true identity, their own name.

See provisions 1026-1029 at: <https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/__P2M.HTM>

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***The* Why-What Jesus Revealed in Scripture**

**Jn 3:16** For God so loved the world that he gave[\*](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/john/3#51003016-1) his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

**Jn 14:2-3** In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?  And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am you also may be.

**Mt 19:16-19** Now someone approached him and said, “Teacher, what good must I do to gain eternal life?”[\*](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/matthew/19#48019016-2) He answered him, “Why do you ask me about the good? There is only One who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” He asked him, “Which ones?” And Jesus replied, “ ‘You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; honor your father and your mother’; and ‘you shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

**Jn 6:54** Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. (See our paper on the Eucharist)

**See also:**1Cor2:9***,*** Col 3:9, Mt 7:13-14, Mt 6:19-20, Lk 23:43, Philp 3:20, Mt 19:14, Col 3:2,

2 Peter 3:13 in your Bible or at [www.usccb.org/bible](http://www.usccb.org/bible)

**Further Study Resources**

There are numerous Heaven related features available free on our St Luke’s FORMED subscription. On the home page key on spy glass (SEARCG feature) and type in Heaven to see them all Registration: Key on Ministries-Formed.org at [www.stlukesparish.com](http://www.stlukesparish.com)

Here is a direct link [to one such feature titled **What is Heaven**? By Chris Stefanick & Dr Michel Barber https://watch.formed.org/videos/thesearchcontinues-19-barber-heaven](to%20one%20such%20feature%20%20titled%20What%20is%20Heaven?%20%20By%20Chris%20Stefanick%20&%20Dr%20Michel%20Barber%20%20%20https://watch.formed.org/videos/thesearchcontinues-19-barber-heaven)

Questions or suggestions email Bill Sweeney at wds27j@aol.com