

# Dear Padre,

*What does the Church teach about respect for the body after death? Is burial the most respectful? It's certainly the most expensive. What about donating your body to science? Or cremation? If someone is cremated, can the ashes be kept respectfully by a family member, or do they have to be buried?*

Your question serves as a summation of current practice and exposes the real-life dilemma and choices facing loved ones: "How can I be respectful and at the same time practical?"

Catholics believe that the body of the deceased must be respected and not simply disposed of without care or concern. Current practice allows for burial, cremation, and the donation of the body to science, and choices depend in large part on tradition, culture, and economic circumstances. If someone chooses to donate to medical science, it is with the understanding that the body will be cremated or properly buried. If cremation is the chosen option, proper burial of the cremains in a sacred place is required.

All of this assumes an uneventful passing of the deceased person. It does not account for war, disease, or disaster. When faced with ordinary, rather than extraordinary, circumstances, loved ones have a real opportunity to be grateful and thankful for the chance to mourn, grieve, and show respect for the person. Unfortunately, that is not always the case in today's world. ☀

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



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VATICAN MEDIA

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Celebrating the Most Holy Trinity is not so much a theological exercise, but a revolution in our way of life. God, in whom each Person lives for the other in a continual relationship...provokes us to live with others and for others. Open. Today, we can ask ourselves if our life reflects the God we believe in.*

ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 12, 2022

### Monday

June 16  
Weekday  
2 Cor 6:1-10  
Mt 5:38-42

### Tuesday

June 17  
Weekday  
2 Cor 8:1-9  
Mt 5:43-48

### Wednesday

June 18  
Weekday  
2 Cor 9:6-11  
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

### Thursday

June 19  
Weekday  
2 Cor 11:1-11  
Mt 6:7-15

### Friday

June 20  
Weekday  
2 Cor 11:18, 21-30  
Mt 6:19-23

### Saturday

June 21  
St. Aloysius Gonzaga,  
Religious  
2 Cor 12:1-10  
Mt 6:24-34

### Sunday

June 22  
The Most Holy Body  
and Blood of Christ  
(Corpus Christi)  
Gn 14:18-20  
1 Cor 11:23-26  
Lk 9:11b-17

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

June 15, 2025

The Most Holy Trinity (C)

Proverbs 8:22-31 / Romans 5:1-5 / John 16:12-15



## Wisdom à la Water Balloons

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**A** *Calvin and Hobbes* comic strip finds Calvin filling water balloons. Immediately, we know there's trouble ahead. Calvin's plan is to drench Susie Derkins unless, as he says, the universe can give him some sign that there is a moral law against it. Calvin gives the universe thirty seconds. When there is no sign, Calvin concludes he is allowed to soak Susie. He finds her and pummels her with water balloons. Susie takes off after Calvin as he runs, screaming, "Help! Help!" The final frame shows Calvin, dazed and beaten, wondering why the universe always gives the sign *after* you do something.

It does seem that we learn more about the ways of life from our mistakes and upheavals than we do from the times when life unfolds smoothly. It is how we come to wisdom—the wisdom that is the very aura of God present in our lives. In fact, John's Gospel

points out that God is always the one who brings us to that wisdom; a God woven into the very ups and downs of what we are about. "When he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth" (John 16:13). It is St. Paul who notices how the troubles of life are always the source of new wisdom. He writes of how our afflictions lead us to endurance, and how endurance brings about character, and how it is our character (our inner values) that brings us to hope and trust in God's wisdom rather than in our own. In so many ways, it is the power and presence of the Holy Trinity making us new. ☀

### Reflect

**Think of a time when life was difficult.  
What blessings or important lessons  
did you receive as a result?**



[Jesus said to his disciples,]  
"Everything that the Father  
has is mine; for this reason I  
told you that [the Holy Spirit]  
will take from what is mine  
and declare it to you."

JOHN 16:15