

Dear Padre,

Can all good people go to heaven after they die, even if they haven't been a Christian? My dad is from India and grew up with another religion. The rest of my family is Catholic. I am afraid that we won't see each other again after we die.

Put your mind at ease. A person who is not a Christian can go to heaven. Heaven is not just for Christians, but for everyone who loves God and responds to God's will in his or her life.

We know that God wants all people to be saved, not just Christians. Jesus began a Church to help people achieve salvation. The Church teaches that those who seek "the truth and [do] the will of God in accordance with their understanding of it can be saved" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1260). What we know as Catholics is that God called us into the Church. It is there that we will work out our salvation. "Since Christ died for all, and since all are called to one and the same destiny, which is divine," we must believe that the Holy Spirit makes a way for everyone, a way that only God knows (*CCC* 1260).

You should pray for your dad and be a faithful Catholic. Perhaps your good example will help him become a Christian. Even if he never becomes a Christian, your prayers will help him work out his salvation without the benefit of the sacraments and a believing community. If he does what is right, God will reward him.

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A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

The face of God revealed by Jesus is that of a Father concerned for and close to the poor....We do not find him when and where we want, but see him in the lives of the poor, in their sufferings and needs, in the often inhuman conditions in which they are forced to live.

MESSAGE, WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, NOVEMBER 14, 2021

Calendar

Monday

NOVEMBER 21
Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5
Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday

NOVEMBER 22
St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr
Rv 14:14-19
Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday

NOVEMBER 23
Weekday
Rv 15:1-4
Lk 21:12-19

Thursday

NOVEMBER 24
St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
Rv 18:1-2, 21-23;
19:1-3, 9a
Lk 21:20-28
Thanksgiving Day (US)
Sir 50:22-24
1 Cor 1:3-9
Lk 17:11-19

Friday

NOVEMBER 25
Weekday
Rv 20:1-4, 11-21:2
Lk 21:29-33

Saturday

NOVEMBER 26
Weekday
Rv 22:1-7 / Lk 21:34-36

Sunday

NOVEMBER 27
First Sunday of Advent
Is 2:1-5
Rom 13:11-14
Mt 24:37-44