

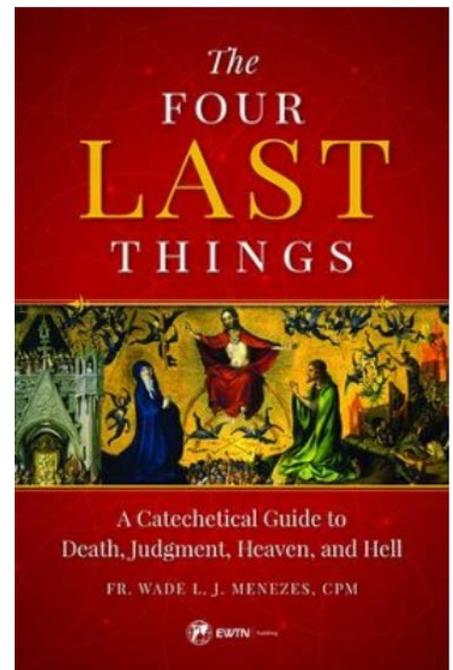
Our November 2025 Recommendation: *The Four Last Things: A Catechetical Guide to Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell* by Fr. Wade L. J. Menezes

In *The Four Last Things: A Catechetical Guide to Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell*, Fr. Wade L. J. Menezes doesn’t just offer a lesson plan on eschatology. He delivers a wake-up call. And not the polite hotel concierge kind, either. This is the spiritual equivalent of someone ringing the church bell at midnight because the house is on fire. Why does that matter?

Because we live in a world allergic to finality, death is politely ignored, judgment dismissed as outdated, Heaven sentimentalized, and Hell—well, that’s just bad marketing, right? Fr. Wade begs to differ. With theological precision and pastoral urgency, he focuses on each of the Four Last Things, reminding readers that these aren’t medieval superstitions—they’re eternal realities.

"Ten trenchant and truth-filled takeaways—doctrinally grounded, pastorally wise, spiritually urgent, and rooted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church [CCC]:"

1. **Death is inevitable.** No euphemisms—everyone dies. “It is regarding death that man’s condition is most shrouded in doubt” [CCC 1006], but Christ has conquered it. Fr. Wade doesn’t sugarcoat death; he sanctifies it, teaching us to *prepare* rather than *pretend*.
2. **Judgment follows death.** Eternity isn’t random—we’re judged [CCC 1021]. Heaven or Hell depends on our choices; it’s the culmination of how we choose to live—faithfully or faithlessly. We are reminded that God honors our freedom, even into eternity.
3. **Hell is real.** God is merciful, but free will makes Hell possible [CCC 1033]. With both clarity and charity, this truth is tackled. He doesn’t dwell in doom, but he doesn’t dilute doctrine, either.
4. **Heaven isn’t automatic; it requires holiness.** It’s not for the merely “nice,” but for the sanctified [CCC 1023]. We are drawn to remember that Heaven is the glorious goal worth living—and dying—for.
5. **Purgatory is mercy.** It’s not punishment, but purification for Heaven [CCC 1030]. **Purgatory is Heaven’s washroom, not Hell’s waiting room.**
6. **Live with eternity in mind.** Every choice echoes in eternity [CCC 1038–1041]. Fr. Wade urges us to live today as if judgment could come tomorrow, because it might.
7. **Presumption endangers the soul, as a spiritual cancer.** Salvation without conversion is false hope. “There is no repentance...after death” [CCC 393]. We are warned against the twin errors of despair and presumption, urging vigilance over complacency.
8. **The Last Things awaken us.** In a distracted, noisy world, the Last Things cut through the noise. We are called to “keep watch with Jesus” [CCC 2849], not to be caught sleeping.
9. **Sin has eternal consequences.** Fr. Wade makes clear that mortal sin leads to eternal separation from God if unrepented [CCC 1035]. It’s not fearmongering, it’s the truth.
10. **The Church gives us tools, not excuses.** Confession, prayer, sacraments, and daily self-examination aren’t extras—they’re essentials [CCC 1434–1439]. Fr. Wade doesn’t just preach about the Four Last Things—he equips readers to live accordingly.



So why should we read this book? This book is a spiritual alarm clock—and we dare not hit “snooze.” In a world that drifts toward comfort and forgets eternity, *The Four Last Things* drags Heaven, Hell, and Judgment back into sharp focus. Read it now, while you have the time—because no one knows when their time will run out. Then re-read it. Then pass it on—because every soul deserves to be reminded: **“Life is short. Death is certain. Judgment is final. Eternity is long.”** (St. John Henry Cardinal Newman)