

My Neighbor Said:

“What Is Heaven Like?”



It is both! In the drawing on the left we see the angels in Heaven. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (quoting St. Augustine) tells us that they are “spirits” by nature—that is, they have no material body, unlike humans (para. 328). “Angel” is their job description (from Greek *angelos*, messenger). They belong to Christ and have existed since the beginning of creation to carry the message of our salvation and to help us as directed by God (para. 331–336).

Yet our own heavenly existence will not be floating around on clouds playing harps. Heaven “is neither an abstraction nor a physical place in the clouds but a living, personal relationship with the Holy Trinity” (Pope John Paul II, *Catechesis of July 21, 1999*). This is hard to imagine, so the Bible uses images such as a feast, good wine, a clear river, or the new Jerusalem. Will we be experiencing this as disembodied spirits? No! At the end of time, we will be raised from the dead and reunited with our bodies (1 Cor. 15:42–44). And we will love whatever we do for God because we love Him. Think of your happiest day doing something (even homework) with your best friend. Heaven is infinitely better than that, because you will be doing things for and with God.

In conclusion, heaven will be both fun and holy. Scripture—our most reliable source—describes Heaven as like a temple, a garden, and a city (Revelation 21–22), much like Genesis 2:9–12 describes the Garden of Eden. And that’s the best we can say until we meet in Heaven.

For further reading: “[Heaven](#),” para. 1023–1029, and “[Angels](#),” para. 328–336 (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*); “[What Is Heaven Really Like?](#)” and “[But Heaven Sounds So Boring!](#)” (Catholic Answers).

Do you have questions about God, faith, life, the Church, or other related topics? Drop them into the Question Box next to the Parish Bulletin Board. We will answer them ASAP and post them in FlockNotes and on the Bulletin Board each week.