

CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI

1919 North 2nd Street, Bismarck, ND 58501-1735

email: info@corpuschristibismarck.com

website: www.corpuschristibismarck.com

facebook: www.facebook.com/CorpusBismarck

parish app: Text "app" to 55321

Parish Office255-4600

Parish Fax..... 255-4616

Food Pantry.....255-3104

Parish Office is open 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Monday-Thursday

Friday 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

***For Sacramental Emergencies after office hours,
please call 701-425-1483 and leave a voicemail.***

We will return your call in a timely manner.

WEEKLY LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday (Vigil of Sunday)4:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Monday-Friday.....12:10 p.m.

(Holy Days as scheduled)

MISSION STATEMENT

***As disciples of Jesus, we live our faith
through Word, Sacrament, and Service.***

Msgr. Patrick Schumacher, Pastor 255-4600

Rev. Logan Obrigewitch, Parochial Vicar. 975-9802

Tracy Kraft, Parish Manager..... 975-9803

PASTORAL MINISTERS

Cindy Anderst, Adult Formation 975-9810

Sarah Bengtson, Pastoral Care 975-9805

Sebastian Haboczki, Music Ministry..... 975-9806

Melanie Konieczka, Faith Formation 975-9809

Tammy Schafer, Pastoral Care..... 975-9816

Sr. Ivo Schoch, Outreach Ministry 975-9808

DEACONS: Bob Wingenbach, Brian Lardy, Michael Fix,
Lonnie Grabowska, Rex McDowall (Retired)

PARISH SUPPORT STAFF

Jane Bosch, Kitchen Manager..... 255-4600

Niel Heinze, Maintenance Technician 975-9815

Colleen Reinhardt, Food Pantry, Music Assoc. ... 975-9807

Beverly Everett, Organist in Residence 255-4600



July 30, 2023

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation - Reconciliation will be offered behind a screen weekdays from 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and from 3:00-3:30 p.m. on Saturdays. Or by appointment by calling the parish office at 701-975-9803. No Reconciliation prior to Communion Services. Also, schedule may change on Holy Days or Special Liturgies.

Baptism - The Baptism Preparation Program and Schedule are by arrangement. Please call the office at 701-975-9805 to register or register online at corpuschristibismarck.com/baptism prior to your delivery date and the program director will return your call. Parents must be registered at Corpus Christi or have permission from their parish.

Marriage - Couples planning to be married should contact the parish office at 701-975-9805 at least **12 months** in advance for completion of Diocesan requirements.

Natural Family Planning Classes are offered by the Bismarck Diocese. The methods offered are Billings Ovulation Method, Creighton Model Fertility Care System, Marquette Model and Sympto-Thermal Methods. If you have questions about NFP please contact the Diocese of Bismarck at 701-222-3035 or www.bismarckdiocese.com/nfp.

RCIA Classes - Persons wishing to learn more about the Catholic faith may call Tracy Kraft at 701-975-9803.

PARISH BULLETIN DEADLINE: Articles must be received by noon on Wednesdays (*typed format*).

PRAYER TREE: 255-4600

Livestreaming Schedule:

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday - Friday: 12:10 p.m.

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 10:45 a.m.

Weekly Mass Intentions

Monday, July 31 - †Rod Hochhalter (12:10 p.m.)

Tuesday, Aug. 1 - Marilyn Cosme (12:10 p.m.)

Wednesday, Aug. 2 - †Debbie Erling (12:10 p.m.)

Thursday, Aug. 3 - Dale Schmaltz (12:10 p.m.)

Friday, Aug. 4 - †Josie Steier (12:10 p.m.)

Saturday, Aug. 5 - †George Volk (4:00 p.m.)

Sunday, Aug. 6 - †Ervin Emter (8:30 a.m.)

†Martin Morrell (10:45 a.m.)

Pro Populo (5:30 p.m.)

YOU are welcome to spend time in

Jesus' Eucharistic presence!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesdays 1:00-7:00 p.m.

During Adoration, the monstrance is not to be left unattended and at least two committed adorers are needed at all times. If you would be interested in being a regular, committed adorer, we would love to have you! If you are unable to come to your committed time, please contact Tracy Kraft at the parish office, 701-975-9803.



Food Pantry Need: Instant Potatoes

*Thank you for supporting the
Corpus Christi Food Pantry. You are
helping your neighbors in need.*

PRAYER BASKET

Special intentions can be placed in the wicker basket located in the back of the church, to the east of the Baptismal Font.



Please write the name of a person and/or special intention on the provided slip and place it in the basket. All of the intentions are prayed for during the Prayers of the Faithful during our Masses.

CONTRIBUTIONS (GENERAL FUND) - (2,463 households)

Adult Envelopes (208 Envelopes) \$13,541.28

Youth Envelopes \$207.00

TOTAL RECEIVED (July 23) \$13,748.28

1st Sunday \$16,994.67

Online Giving Week 1 (June 26-July 2) \$6,344.15

Electronic Contributions \$13,908.68

2nd Sunday \$14,775.15

Online Giving Week 2 (July 3-9) \$4,616.00

3rd Sunday \$13,547.49

Online Giving Week 3 (July 10-16) \$6,630.00

Electronic Contributions \$10,365.68

4th Sunday \$13,748.28

Online Giving Week 4 (July 17-23) \$4,310.00

5th Sunday \$0.00

Online Giving Week 5 (July 24-30) \$0.00

*We appreciate your generosity, which is part of being faithful
stewards of Corpus Christi. Thank you!*

Stewardship Thoughts: "Do not neglect good deeds and generosity. God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind." (Hebrews 13:16)

Vocation Views: God invites us to ask for what we need. Consider what Solomon requested - an understanding heart. What do you need as you seek to follow Jesus? (1 Kings 3:5, 7-12)

Parenting Pointers: "My God, give your servant an understanding heart..." (1 Kings 3:9) Kids make mistakes. You may not be Solomon but seek God's wisdom in disciplining your children and teaching them right from wrong. *Parenting Pointers are provided by www.susanvogt.net*

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities for Fall 2023 at Corpus Christi

At the entrances of the church, you will find a flyer with the Adult Faith Formation opportunities for Fall 2023. To register, use the QR Codes on that flyer or go to the Corpus Christi website at www.corpuschristibismarck.com and look under the Formation & Education tab and select Adult Education. If you have any questions, contact Cindy Anderst at the parish office, 255-4600.

Has something gone missing and you think it may have been left at the church?

LOST & FOUND can be found near the elevator doors on the main level of the church. If you lost glasses, we have a large collection in the parish office. Items of greater value, such as wallets, purses, and phones are generally turned into the office.

Holy Land Pilgrimage**November 13th-24th, 2024**

Msgr. Schumacher invites you to experience *"In the Footsteps of Jesus and His early Disciples: A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land."* Many people refer to the Holy Land as the 5th Gospel, a place where the people, places, and events of the scriptures come to life. For information and to register, visit <https://www.travelillumine.com/trc/vvf>

***Pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress***

The **National Eucharistic Congress** is the culminating event of the entire Eucharistic Revival. The Bismarck Diocese, in partnership with the University of Mary, extends an invitation for the faithful of this diocese to join us on a pilgrimage to the National Eucharistic Congress next summer. In collaboration with the University of Mary, 300 tickets—six busses—are available to what will be one of the most significant gatherings of Catholics in our lifetime. The timeline of the pilgrimage is from July 16-22 departing and returning to Bismarck. Due to the longevity of the trip, there will be overnight stays on the road in Minneapolis and Chicago, until we arrive at our reserved downtown housing in Indianapolis. If you're interested in learning more or registering, please www.umary.edu/faith-service/university-ministry/retreats-events/national-eucharistic-congress. Here, you will find additional information about the plans for the trip, a detailed cost breakdown, and everything you need to get started on the registration process.

The Diocese of Bismarck is firmly committed to the health and protection of children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

The Catholic Church must be exemplary: clergy, employees, whether diocesan, parish or Catholic school and volunteers are held accountable for their behavior. To enable the highest level of accountability, there must be a clear and unambiguous definition of appropriate behavior. To this end, this *Code of Conduct* is defined for the Diocese of Bismarck and it provides a foundation for implementing effective and enforceable standards for all clergy, educators, employees and volunteers in contact with children and youth. The *Code of Conduct* can be found at bismarckdiocese.com/safe-environment-program or at any parish.

What's Going on Here This Week

Sun. 7/30

SNAC, 6:30 p.m., Room 140

Tues. 8/1

Quilters, 9:00 a.m., Community Room

Eucharistic Adoration 12:45-7:00 p.m., Church



"Let no one look down on you because of your youth, but set an example in conduct, love, faith and purity."
1 Timothy 4:12

Corpus Christi Youth Ministry**High School SNAC (Grades 9-12)***(SNAC: Sunday Nights After Church)***July 30: Topic Night**

Search for Christian Maturity is a weekend retreat experience which provides youth an opportunity to think, talk, question and dive deeper into their faith. The weekends are for high school or college age persons at least 15 years old. The program is both rooted in the Catholic faith and open to young people of any denomination or creed.

Search weekends are held five times a year at the Badlands Ministries Camp, south of Medora. Cost for the weekend is \$75. Partial scholarships are available. Weekends for the 2023-24 season are: Oct. 13-15; Dec. 1-3; Jan. 12-14; Mar. 1-3; and Apr. 12-14. Visit bismarckdiocese.com/search1.

Corpus Christi Youth - did you know? The Church of Corpus Christi will cover the registration cost for registered parish members attending their first Search weekend.

The **North Dakota Catholic Conference** is looking for a full-time Executive Director. The Executive Director implements the overall mission of the Conference and oversees all related administrative duties including, budget, payroll, office operations, staff management, and development. The Executive Director monitors, informs, and advises the Bishops on public policy issues considered in the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the state and federal governments, and represents the bishops in matters concerning public policy issues. The Executive Director oversees educational and public communications related to the Conference's priority issues including developing and overseeing a legislative action network and an internet and social media presence for the Conference. For more information and to apply <https://ndcatholic.org/about/edposition/>

Faith Formation Registration 2023-2024

Online Registration Opens August 7th

- Catechists ONLY – August 1st – 6th
- Corpus Christi parishioners ONLY: August 7th – 20th
- Open registration August 21st – 28th

**Registrations taken on a first come
first serve basis!!**

- Online only registration system
- Sunday, Monday, Wednesday class options
 - ***Class meets 12 times
 - Parents stay and meet in the Parish Hall
- If you feel you would be able to teach or aide,
please contact Melanie at 255-4600.

Faith Formation 2023-2024

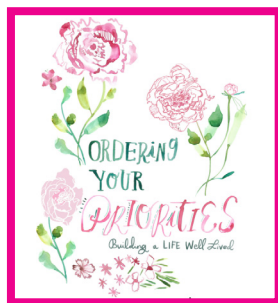
WOMEN'S MINISTRY - FALL BIBLE STUDY

Ordering Your Priorities - Building a Life Well Lived

Tuesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 p.m., South Hospitality Room

September 12, 19, 26; October 3, 24; November 7, 14

Saturday Mini Retreat: October 14, 2023 - 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Ordering Your Priorities: Building a Life Well Lived is an immensely practical eight-session Bible study that will help you put the most important things first. We will begin by paying attention to the One who made us, because He can best tell us what we need for our lives to run well. **Registration is required by September 1st**, and is limited to 10-12 women. There is a \$35 material charge for this study. To register, scan the QR Code above or go online at www.corpuschristibismarck.com and under the tab **Formation & Education / Adult Education**, click on the picture. For additional questions contact Brenda Zastoupil at 701-214-3735.

WEATHER PROVERBS AUGUST

For centuries, farmers and sailors - people whose livelihoods depended on the weather - relied on lore to forecast the weather. They quickly connected changes in nature with rhythms or patterns of the weather. (As printed in The Old Farmer's Almanac.)

- ◆ If the first week in August is unusually warm, the winter will be white and long.
- ◆ [24th] Thunderstorms after St. Bartholomew are mostly violent.
- ◆ When it rains in August, it rains honey and wine.



Did you know your God's Share Appeal donation supports:

Funded by your contributions to the Annual God's Share Appeal, the Office of Continuing Education for Clergy's main purpose is to provide for the ongoing formation of clergy in our diocese. The aim and focus follows closely the details in the USCCB's "*Basic Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests*". The Office of Continuing Education for Clergy accomplishes this by offering a Spring and Fall Clergy Education Conference, an annual Priest Retreat, New Priests' Workshops (for the newly ordained or priests new to the Diocese), and the Sabbatical Program.

And did you know - Msgr. Patrick Schumacher has served as the Director of the Office of Continuing Education for Clergy for the last twelve years.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORY

Corpus Christi has developed a Spiritual Gifts Inventory to recognize your God-given gifts and ways to use them in our parish and community.

There are two ways to complete the inventory:



1: With your smart device, scan the QR Code with your camera app and fill it out online and you will get an email from the office.

2: Pick up a packet at the entrances of the Church and fill out and score the paper form yourself.

Explore your Spiritual Gifts today!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

+Deacon Joe Mathern passed away and I concelebrated his funeral Mass with Bishop Kagan on Friday, July 28th, here at Corpus Christi. We are grateful for his ministry to the church and pray for his eternal rest as well as peace for his wife Elaine and his entire family. We also pray for the families of +John Weis, +Al Wolf, and +Ethel Martin, all whose funeral Masses were either just offered or will be offered this week. *"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."*



The summer has certainly moved swiftly and it is already time for our summer seminarians to depart. Joseph Schon will return to his studies at St. John Paul II Seminary in Washington, D.C., and Deacon Eric Artz will return to Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in St. Louis. It was an enjoyable summer and we were fortunate to welcome them both to Corpus Christi. I hosted their parents a few weeks ago for a meal at the rectory and we had a good visit. I also invited my parents to attend as it is nice for parents of seminarians/priests to get to know one another. As we say goodbye to Joe and Eric, let us pray for them as they continue their studies in mid-to-late August. First they will have a seminarian gathering and then some family time before they depart for the seminary. It is also a good time to announce that Corpus Christi once again has a seminarian. Justin Croonenberghs will enter his first year of seminary at Kenrick-Glennon. I am proud of Justin for discerning the call to the priesthood and I have reassured him of our prayers and support. Justin and I are pictured here with Fr. Jordan Dosch, Diocesan Vocations Director and In-Residence at Corpus Christi. As I said, the men will not start their seminary studies until later in August and if anyone would like to share their support, cards will be forwarded to them.

As we usher in August, that also means Faith Formation will soon be underway with registration for registered parish members starting on August 7th and open registration beginning August 21st. I am grateful to Melanie Konieczka for her organization and all the work that she does. The registration schedule is provided in this bulletin to register your child(ren) for 2023-2024 classes. There will be a Faith Formation kick-off night in September at Papa's Pumpkin Patch, as we have done in previous years. Everyone always has a great time and I know this year will be no different.

Lastly, if you were interested in the Holy Land Pilgrimage, I encourage you to register soon. The second trip is steadily filling and only a few spots remain. The website link for all the details can be found in this bulletin or feel free to contact Sarah Bengtson at the Parish Office.

~Have a great week! Monsignor Patrick A. Schumacher, S.T.L.



Make your weekly envelopes disappear by choosing online giving. Give weekly, monthly or even annually. Visit www.corpuschristibismarck.com and click on the "Online Giving Button" on the home page. If you participate in Online Giving and do not wish to receive envelopes, contact the Parish Office.



LITURGICAL MINISTRY

Please review the schedule below and contact the office to let us know if you are willing and able to serve as a minister next weekend. If you are not scheduled but would be willing to help, call Tracy at 701-975-9803.

Date: Aug 5-6	August 5, 2023 4:00 PM		August 6, 2023 8:30 AM		August 6, 2023 10:45 AM		August 6, 2023 5:30 PM	
Hospitality	1		1	Brian Steffl	1	Kathy Howe	1	
	2		2	Heather Steffl	2	Maryam Abddo	2	
	3		3	Catherine Williams	3		3	
	4		4	Francis Williams	4		4	
Ushers	1		1	Mike Hilbert	1	Dan DeRouchey	1	Gene Rivinius*
	2		2	Lance Bauer	2	Lonnie Zahn	2	Bev Rivinius
	3		3	Dave Schmitz	3	Dan Sautner	3	
	4		4	Linda Schmitz	4		4	
	5		5	Ron Torkelson	5		5	
	6		6	Virginia Torkelson	6			
Lectors	1	Janet Elkin	1	John Saiki	1	Rodger Wetzel	1	Todd Van Orman
	2	Sean Cleary	2		2	Andrew Kraft	2	Sara Postl
Servers	1		1	Brooklynn Barnhardt	1	Madisyn Lowe	1	
	2		2		2	Ella Weigel	2	
Eucharistic Min		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST
	R-1	Larry Thelen	R-1	Dean Anagnost	R-1	Cathy Schatz	R-1	
	2	Father	2	Father	2	Father	2	Father
	3	MaryAnn Metcalf	3	Shawn Anagnost	3	Kathy Howe	3	Margie Schiff
	4	Elaine Thompson	4	Kathy Knudson	4	Janet Spooner	4	
	5	Carol Thompson	5	Lynn Best	5	Makayla Schatz	5	
	6	Janet Elkin	6	Char Blaskowski	6	Cec Reetz	6	
	7	Deacon	7	Deacon	7	Deacon	7	Deacon
	8	Clare Auble	8	Vern Welder	8	Pam Vetter	8	
	9		9	Bill Knudson	9	Barbie Lowe	11	
	10		10	Joyce Welder	10		12	
	11				11			
At 4:00*	D12				12			
	LG		LG	Karen daSilva	LG		LG	

Sunday, Jul 30, 2023

String your own pearls

Jewelry is a matter of taste. Some folks like gold; others prefer silver. But in Jewish tradition, the pearl is a metaphor for valuable teaching. Our "pearl of great price," then, is the teaching upon which we build everything else, the motivation that governs our decision-making. What's yours? For some, it's that all life is sacred. For others, the common good must be served. Still others take the preferential option for the poor, or champion stewardship of creation. Remember: You don't have to choose just one.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52 (109). *"The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls."*

Monday, Jul 31, 2023

Speak his name without shame

Spanish priest Ignatius of Loyola founded the Society of Jesus (along with Saints Peter Faber and Francis Xavier) in Paris in 1541. Members of this religious order are known as Jesuits. Today, the Jesuits are the largest male religious order in the church, and Pope Francis is the first Jesuit pope. The term Jesuit was originally meant as an insult, meaning "someone who too frequently used the name of Jesus." Ignatius never used the term, but members later embraced it with positive meaning. After all, how could anyone use the name of Jesus too much? Take a cue from the Jesuits and don't hold back!

MEMORIAL OF IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34; Matthew 13:31-35 (401). *"The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field."*

Tuesday, Aug 01, 2023

Our saving grace

Alphonsus gave us much, but perhaps the greatest gift was his fight against the Jansenist heresy, encapsulated in his 1748 volume *Moral Theology*. Thanks to Alphonsus, Catholicism has been able to steer a middle path between a darkly pessimistic view of human worth on the one hand and moral laxity on the other. Jansenists held an extreme view of original sin, believing only some are pre-ordained for salvation, saying grace had little chance of saving the rest—even through the sacrament of Reconciliation. Alphonsus encourages us to trust and use the sacrament, but also to "acquire the habit of speaking to God as if you were alone with Him, familiarly and with confidence and love, as to the dearest and most loving of friends."

MEMORIAL OF ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Matthew 13:36-43 (402). *"Pardon our wickedness and sins, and receive us as your own."*

Wednesday, Aug 02, 2023

Meet your maker

As we honor Saints Eusebius and Peter Julian Eymard, two staunch defenders of the faith during their times, we would do well to remember that "faith is born of an encounter with the living God who calls us and reveals his love," writes Pope Francis in *Lumen*

Fidei. How do we encounter God? Any embrace of love is a start, but Peter Eymard is more specific: "Happy the soul that knows how to find Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, and in the Eucharist all things!"

MEMORIALS OF EUSEBIUS OF VERCELLI, BISHOP; PETER JULIAN EYMARD, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 34:29-35; Matthew 13:44-46 (403). *"The skin of his face had become radiant while he conversed with the LORD."*

Thursday, Aug 03, 2023

God's dwelling place

Biblical faith is unique in its image of a universal God who nevertheless chooses to dwell among his people. We have an intimate portrait of this in the Exodus story where Moses is instructed to build a tent that the people of Israel are to carry with them as they sojourn through the desert toward the Promised Land. We can take heart in the notion that God is with us as well, along for the ride so to speak. He will not leave us orphaned. Call on God today, he's right there with you.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38; Matthew 13:47-53 (404). *"He spread the tent over the Dwelling and put the covering on top of the tent, as the LORD had commanded him."*

Friday, Aug 04, 2023

The garden of the soul

John Vianney was dedicated to helping people understand and live the Catholic faith. On the street, in the confessional, and in his writings, John offered wisdom and counsel to encourage people. He wrote many small catechetical teachings collected within his "Little Catechism." In one, John writes, "The Holy Spirit is like a gardener cultivating our souls." The soul as a garden is a beautiful image to meditate on. What does your garden look like? How are you growing in your relationship with God? With John, let us pray his words: "O God, send me Your Spirit to teach me what I am and what You are."

MEMORIAL OF JOHN VIANNEY, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Matthew 13:54-58 (405). *"Where did this man get such wisdom and mighty deeds?"*

Saturday, Aug 05, 2023

Take a holy walk

The 16th-century Italian priest Saint Philip Neri liked to organize a walk through Rome with a few of his friends and acquaintances, visiting churches along the journey. It was a nice way to combine friendly conversation and a shared religious activity. The churches they visited—St. Peter's Basilica, St. Paul Outside-the-Walls, St. Sebastian's, St. John Lateran, Holy Cross-in-Jerusalem, St. Lawrence-Outside-the Walls, and the Basilica of St. Mary Major—became known as the Seven Pilgrim Churches of Rome and the walk is now repeated annually on Wednesday of Holy Week. Seek out holy places wherever you live—they can be a refuge in difficult times.

MEMORIAL OF THE DEDICATION OF THE BASILICA OF ST. MARY MAJOR

TODAY'S READINGS: Leviticus 25:1, 8-17; Matthew 14:1-12 (406). *"This fiftieth year you shall make sacred by proclaiming liberty in the land for all its inhabitants."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

August 2023

Church of Corpus Christi

One Minute Meditations

A vessel of God's grace

We are each asked to share God's love with others. How much we allow ourselves to be filled with God's grace will determine what we can share with others. We fill up with grace when we frequent the Sacraments, pray, and study our faith. After all, if we don't practice our own faith how can we help someone to become excited about theirs?

Our powerful Lord

In the Gospels, Jesus healed people 20 times. Seven times Jesus expelled demons. Three times He raised people from the dead, and eight other miracles showed His power over nature. With God all things are possible. All we have to do is ask in harmony with His will.

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for He has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed" (Luke 1:46-48).



Build up the Kingdom of God

As followers of Jesus, we're each called to take our place in the Kingdom of God and help build it up. Consider these suggestions to do your part:

Find your gifts: What special gifts do you possess? In addition to talents and skills, these can include wisdom from life experience or a particularly deep faith. Discern your gifts and ask God where

He wants you to use them.

Cultivate gratitude: Write down everything for which you are grateful in a "blessings list." Review it and add to it regularly, especially when tempted to jealousy or discouragement. Praise and thank God daily for whatever is on your list.

Practice humility: St. Thomas Aquinas

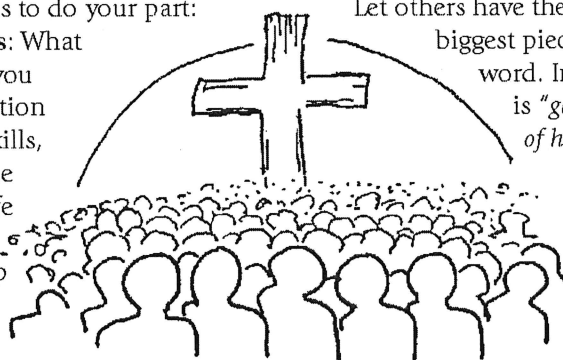
said, "Humility means seeing ourselves as God sees us: knowing every good we have comes from Him as pure gift."

Let others have the best place, the biggest piece of cake, the last word. Imitate Him who is "gentle and humble of heart" (Matthew 11:29).

Be ready to serve: Any act of service can build up your parish, neighborhood, or community. Small

or great, everyone can contribute something. Give of yourself.

Strive for the higher gifts: Jesus asked every one of us to love God and each other. Without love, St. Paul said, "I gain nothing" (1 Corinthians 13:3). If you have true charity, you're on the right track.



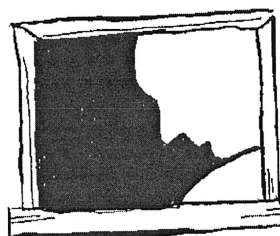
Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics confess their sins to a priest?

On Easter Sunday, Jesus appeared to the Apostles in the Upper Room and said, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19). He breathed on them, saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them and whose

sins you retain, they are retained" (John 20:22-23).

With that, Jesus established an efficacious way to dispense forgiveness of our sins. He knew we'd need to be assured of His forgiveness by personally hearing the words, "I absolve you of your sins."



"Go and make disciples"

We're all called to spread the Gospel as missionaries (Mark 16:15), but not everyone is required to travel. As a Carmelite nun, St. Thérèse of Lisieux lived out her "second calling" to be a missionary. Here are three ways to spread the Gospel within any vocation:

Go deeper in your faith. You can't share what you don't have. St. Thérèse developed her "Little Way" of holiness after years of prayer and study. Step deeper into your faith daily: read a section of the Catechism, pray over a verse of Scripture, listen to a

Catholic podcast while driving or walking, pray.

Adopt-a-missionary: St. Thérèse was a "spiritual sister" to several missionaries, writing them letters and supporting them in prayer, indirectly helping hundreds of souls. Adopt a missionary – or anyone who shares the Faith. Contact your parish or diocese for suggestions.

"Intercession fueled by charity": St. Thérèse lovingly offered to God the "thorns" she received from others – discomforts, misunderstandings, hurt feelings – to win souls for Christ. Offer your "thorns" as saving graces.



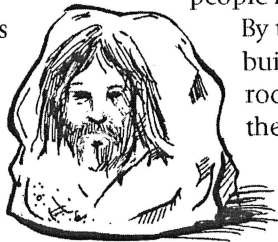
from Scripture

Matthew 16:13-20, The "Rock-solid" foundation

The events in this passage lay the foundations for the Catholic Church. In it, Jesus asks His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" It was a question about Jesus' identity, rather than about the persuasiveness of His teaching or His popularity. The heart of Catholicism centers around the truth of who Jesus is.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Simon answers for the group, identifying Jesus as the Son of God, the Messiah (Matthew 16:17). Jesus proclaims this was divinely revealed to Simon and changes his name to Peter

("Rock"). Jesus gives him the keys to the kingdom, giving Peter (and his successors) the authority to interpret Scripture, forgive sins, and admit people into the Church.



By this, Jesus signaled He was building His Church on a rock-solid foundation – on the confession of Peter about Jesus' divinity. This truth has been handed down through the ages, from the Apostles to the bishops to us. The Holy Spirit would lead Peter – and his successors, the popes – to continue speaking and acting in truth as the visible head of the Church.

Q & A How can I avoid gossiping?

Chatting with friends can become gossip – unfairly disclosing another's faults or sins without a valid reason, to people who don't know them (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2477). Try these ideas when chatting becomes gossip:

Name it: A gentle reminder between friends is an act of kindness. Try, "I think we're edging into gossip," or "Oh, that's not kind!" It's better to risk speaking up than silently allowing sin.

Redirect the conversation: Highlight good qualities of the person about whom others are gossiping. Refocus on inspiring news, a good book you read – anything else that is "honorable ... just ... pure ... pleasing" (Philippians 4:8).

Leave: If nothing else works, excuse yourself and leave the conversation. You'll avoid becoming complicit to sin and wordlessly communicate that you find gossip unacceptable.

Pray: Sins of the tongue (gossip, slander, calumny, detraction) are serious and require grace to resist. Invoke the Holy Spirit for yourself, for those who engage in gossip, and especially for those harmed by it.

Feasts & Celebrations

August 6 – Transfiguration of the Lord. Christ appeared in glory in the company of Moses and Elijah, discussing the Passion (Luke 9:30-31), and a voice was heard to say, "This is my beloved son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matthew 17:5).

August 14 – St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe (1941). A Polish Franciscan, St. Maximilian was imprisoned at Auschwitz. When the jailers chose ten people to execute, he substituted himself for a man with a family. He was honored as a "martyr of charity" by

Pope John Paul II.

August 23 – St. Rose of Lima (1617). Born in colonial Peru, Rose worked constantly to help her poverty-stricken family. She became a lay Dominican, and cared for homeless children, the elderly, and the sick in her house.

August 29 – Passion of St. John the Baptist (1st century). St. John the Baptist courageously spoke the truth to the leaders of his time, making him powerful enemies. He was arrested by Herod and martyred (Mark 6:17-29).



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To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)