

# CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI

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

email: [info@corpuschristibismarck.com](mailto:info@corpuschristibismarck.com)

website: [www.corpuschristibismarck.com](http://www.corpuschristibismarck.com)

facebook: [www.facebook.com/CorpusBismarck](http://www.facebook.com/CorpusBismarck)

parish app: Text "app" to 55321

Parish Office .....255-4600

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

Cole Jones, Youth Ministry..... 255-4600

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



## September 17, 2023

## **SACRAMENTS**

**Reconciliation** - Reconciliation is 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 701-255-4600 to register or do so online at [corpuschristibismarck.com/baptism](http://corpuschristibismarck.com/baptism) prior to your delivery date and the program coordinator 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](http://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 Tuesdays (*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, Sept. 18 - †Patty Knudson (12:10 p.m.)*

*Tuesday, Sept. 19 - †Kristen Lane (12:10 p.m.)*

*Wednesday, Sept. 20 - †Don Herbel (12:10 p.m.)*

*Thursday, Sept. 21 - †Debbie Erling (12:10 p.m.)*

*Friday, Sept. 22 - †Eugene Walters (12:10 p.m.)*

*Saturday, Sept. 23 - †Josie Steier (4:00 p.m.)*

*Sunday, Sept. 24 - †Mary Barth (8:30 a.m.)*

*†Joyce Nagel (10:45 a.m.)*

*Pro Populo (5:30 p.m.)*



**Visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and grow in relationship with Him!**

"Ask and it will be given to you; Seek and you will find; Knock and the door will be opened for you." Matthew 7:7

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

**If you would be interested in being a regular, committed adorer, we would love to have you! Please call the Parish Office to sign up.**

During Adoration, the monstrance is not to be left unattended and at least two committed adorers are needed at all times. If you are unable to come to your committed time, please contact Tracy Kraft at the parish office, 701-975-9803.

### Unable to commit to a regular, committed time of Adoration?

Feel free to stop by Adoration as your schedule allows or spend time in prayer in the Chapel, which is open 24/7.

## Caring Hearts Quilt Show and Sale

Corpus Christi Parish Hall

**Saturday, September 30th**

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, October 1st**

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Proceeds from the sale support local charities.



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

Adult Envelopes (225 Envelopes) . . . . . \$16,292.31

Youth Envelopes . . . . . \$172.70

TOTAL RECEIVED (Sept. 10) . . . . . \$16,465.01

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday . . . . . \$14,035.02

Online Giving Week 1 (Aug. 28-Sept. 3) . . . . \$6,665.00

Electronic Contributions . . . . . \$13,588.68

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday . . . . . \$16,465.01

Online Giving Week 2 (Sept. 4-10) . . . . . \$5,074.50

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday . . . . . \$0.00

Online Giving Week 3 (Sept. 11-17) . . . . . \$0.00

Electronic Contributions . . . . . \$0.00

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday . . . . . \$0.00

Online Giving Week 4 (Sept. 18-24) . . . . . \$0.00

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

**Vocation Views:** The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger, and rich in compassion. Are you following in Jesus' footsteps? Pray for the grace to forgive. (Psalm 103)

**Stewardship Thought:** Stewardship is not optional! "None of us lives as his own master and none of us dies as his own master," says St. Paul. "While we live we are responsible to the Lord, and when we die we die as his servants." If we accept the challenge of putting God first in our time and treasure, our attitudes, priorities, and spiritual lives will definitely change.

**Marriage Moments:** Last week, married couples were urged to take a "criticism break." But sometimes hurts or problems need to be aired. Was it hard to refrain from criticizing? If the complaint still bugs you, agree to a calm time to share it, then pair it with an appreciation. (susanvogt.net)

**All are welcome in this place!**



### We welcome you to Corpus Christi!

To become a registered member, stop by the parish office, visit the *About* tab at [www.corpuschristibismarck.com](http://www.corpuschristibismarck.com), or scan this QR Code.

**New Member Meals will be held on September 24th & 28th.** New Members should have received an invite. If you have not received one, or to RSVP, call Colleen at the Parish Office, 975-9807.

**Are you a registered parishioner and recently changed your contact information?** Registered members are asked to notify the parish office of contact updates (address, phone, e-mail) so we can maintain our records. Thank you!

**Children's Liturgy of the Word:****September 24 at the 10:45 a.m. Mass**

For children in Preschool - 2nd Grade  
(lessons are geared for this age group specifically).

**Men's Group Breakfast:  
Wednesday, September 20**

6:30 a.m. - 7:45 a.m.

Breakfast followed by discussion.

*All are invited!*

Corpus Christi Men's Group

**Eucharistic Revival****Experience Eucharistic Revival -****Encounter Christ's True Presence**

Corpus Christi will initiate the formation/teaching pillar of the parish year of the Eucharistic Revival with ***The Eucharist: Source of our Healing and Hope***, a video produced by the Knights of Columbus that features a variety of Catholic presenters, including: Bishop Cozzens, Dr. Edward Sri, Dr. Tim Gray, Scott Hahn and Mother Teresa. Each of the following events will feature the video and discussion:

**October 5:** 7:00-8:30 p.m., Women's Group**October 8:** 9:45-10:30 a.m., Open to everyone**October 15:** 9:45-10:30 a.m., Open to everyone**October 18:** 6:30-7:45 a.m., Men's Group**November 8:** 1:00-2:00 p.m., Open to everyone

All above events will be held in the Parish Hall and, with the exception of the Men's group, will be facilitated by Cindy Anderst, Adult Faith Formation Coordinator.

**Light of Christ Catholic Schools**

will be selling raffle tickets after Mass in the lower gathering space the weekends of September 16th & 17th and September 23rd & 24th.

**Food Pantry Needs:**

Instant Potatoes

Canned Fruit

Chicken Noodle or Beef Noodle Soup

Food Pantry donations can be dropped off in the upper or lower gathering spaces. There is a grocery cart for donations in the upper gathering space and a wooden cart in the lower gathering space.

Thank you for helping our neighbors in need!

**What's Going on Here This Week**

- Sun. 9/17 Faith Formation **Group D**, 9:30-10:45 a.m.  
9th Grade Confirmation Retreat, 12:00-6:30 p.m., Parish Hall  
SNAC, 6:30 p.m., Room 140
- Mon. 9/18 Faith Formation **Group E**, 5:30-6:45 p.m.  
RCIA, 7:00-9:00 p.m., South Hospitality Room
- Tues. 9/19 Quilters, 9:00 a.m., Community Room  
Eucharistic Adoration 12:45-7:00 p.m., Church
- Wed. 9/20 Men's Group Breakfast, 6:30-7:45 a.m., Parish Hall  
Choir Rehearsal, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Choir Room  
Faith Formation **Group F**, 5:30-6:45 p.m.  
**7th Grade** Faith Formation, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Community Room  
Middle School Youth Ministry (**6th & 8th grade**)  
7:00-8:30 p.m., Room 140
- Sun. 9/24 Faith Formation **Group A**, 9:30-10:45 a.m.  
Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10:45 a.m. Mass  
New Member Meal, 12:00 p.m., Parish Hall  
SNAC, 6:30 p.m., Room 140

**Corpus Christi Youth Ministry:****High School SNAC (Grades 9-12)**

SNAC: Sunday Nights After Church

Sunday, September 17: 6:30 p.m.

Topic - Doubt

**Middle School Youth Ministry**

Wednesday, September 20: 6th &amp; 8th Grade

7:00-8:30 p.m.



Catholic Charities Sunday will be **September 23-24**. Each of the programs offered by Catholic Charities helps a different vulnerable demographic within North Dakota.

Catholic Charities ND relies on the generous support from parishioners and community members to continue to offer the much needed services to those who need them most. Programs include: *Counseling Services; Adults Adopting Special Kids; Guardianship Services - Vulnerable; Guardianship Division - Intellectual Disabilities; Pregnancy, Parenting, and Adoption Services.*

**Blessing of the Pets**

**Sunday, October 1st at 4:00 p.m.  
in the upper east parking lot.**

Please arrive by 4:00 p.m.  
for the blessing.

All creatures great and  
small are welcome!





## 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 any entrance of the Church and fill out and score the paper form yourself.

*Explore your Spiritual Gifts today!*

*"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Pt 4:10*



Light of Christ Catholic Schools

Light of Christ Catholic Schools is now accepting applications for the following positions:

- **Lead Food Service Worker (Saint Anne School)**
- **Food Service Worker (Part-time)**
- **Mission Advancement Officer (Full-time)**
- **Bus Drivers (for games/events and field trips)**

To apply, please go to [lightofchristschools.org/employment](http://lightofchristschools.org/employment). For more information please contact Randy George at [rgeorge@lightofchristschools.org](mailto:rgeorge@lightofchristschools.org) or 701-425-0793.

### 40 Days for Life: Sept. 27 - Nov. 5, 2023

Individuals are needed to sit at the capitol grounds (6th Street and Boulevard) from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m., daily. To sign up or request signs, call Diane at (701) 527-3265 or via email at [40daysbisnd@gmail.com](mailto:40daysbisnd@gmail.com). Always go with another person and thank you for protecting the unborn.

**ND March for Life:** In January of 2023, it was announced that the ND March for Life will be moving to October (instead of January) every year to increase the observance of Respect Life Month. A Holy Hour, led by Bishop David Kagan, will be held on Thursday, October 5 at 8:00 p.m., at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. The Mass, celebrated by Bishop Kagan, for the ND March for Life will be on Friday, October 6 at 10:45 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. Immediately following Mass, the ND March for Life will march from the Cathedral to the ND State Capitol steps. The rally is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Please register by September 27 at <https://bismarckdiocese.com/ndmfl>.



**SOS (Sounds of Silence)** is a suicide support group which provides compassionate support and grief education with the hope that family members and friends will find guidance on the path of healing. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Parkway Funeral Service, 2330 Tyler Parkway. The topic presented by Vicki Olson will be: "How is grief after suicide different? Shame, Stigma, Blame, Religion."



### Area Fall Festivals & Dinners:

**Sunday, September 17:** St. Anthony Church, Linton, at the "Our Club Hall." Doors open at 3:45 p.m. Serving between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The meal will consist of fried chicken, ham, hamburger rice, mashed potatoes, all the trimmings, and desserts and pies. At 5:15 p.m. the silent auction and bingo will start. The raffle drawing will be at 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, October 1:** St. Anthony Church, St. Anthony. Dinner will be served following the 11:00 a.m. Mass until 2:00 p.m. The meal will consist of fried chicken, roast beef, and kuchen. Verein Hall activities include bingo, silent auction, and games. There will be a raffle drawing at 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, October 8:** St. Katherine Church, Braddock. The meal will be in the church basement. Serving between 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The meal will consist of chipped beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, hamburger rice, coleslaw, glazed carrots, relishes, homemade buns and pie. There will be a silent auction, raffle, and bingo at the Braddock Community Hall starting at 5:30 p.m.

**Sunday, October 8:** Sacred Heart, Glen Ullin. Serving between 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The meal will consist of turkey, roast beef, and all the trimmings. There will be children's games, bingo, auction and cake walk.

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

### 25 Ways to Make Kids Safer - Tip #1:

Teach children their full name, address and home telephone number. Make sure they know your full name and how to reach you at work or on your cell phone. To learn more about child safety, visit [BeHereForKids.org](http://BeHereForKids.org).

The *Diocese of Bismarck Code of Conduct* can be found at [bismarckdiocese.com/safe-environment-program](http://bismarckdiocese.com/safe-environment-program) or at the parish in the lower gathering space book rack.

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:



Earlier this spring, parishioner Kyler Haider approached the parish about his Eagle Scout project. Kyler asked if he could build benches for the playground on the southwest corner of our lot. He recently completed his work - I congratulate him and thank him for thinking of Corpus Christi as he planned, prepared, and executed his Eagle Project. Did you know: Eagle Scout is the highest achievement in the Scouts BSA. Since its inception in 1911, only 4% of Scouts have earned this rank, a total of 2.5 million youth. The Eagle Scout Service Project is the opportunity for a Scout to demonstrate leadership while performing a project for the benefit of any religious institution, school, or their community. Kudos, Kyler!

Every year at the Fall Clergy Conference, we receive updates on various offices and ministries in the Diocese. The PBA (Priests' Benefit Association) indicated there are 11 retired priests in the diocese and the average age is 81. We have 65 active priests and the average age is 46 1/2 - amazing! It breaks down to 6-20's; 18-30's; 16-40's; 13-50's; 10 - 60's; 2-70's. The Office of Vocations shared there are 10 men discerning the priesthood.

Lastly, this past week the rectory hosted the middle and high school mentors on Tuesday and the Women's Group on Thursday. The Parish Council also met on Thursday. The Finance Council will meet this week. Our annual State of the Parish Report will soon be mailed to homes. As I said in that report, "...we have much to celebrate, to highlight, and so much to be grateful for. The parish continues to grow, thrive, and do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus!"

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

Have you tried Online Giving? It is easy, convenient, secure, and can make your weekly envelopes disappear. You have the option to give weekly, monthly or even annually. Changes can be made at any time.

Visit [www.corpuschristibismarck.com](http://www.corpuschristibismarck.com) and click on the "Online Giving Button" on the home page.



Envelopes are not automatically cancelled when you sign up for Online Giving. If you participate in Online Giving and do not wish to receive envelopes, contact the Parish Office, 255-4600.

## 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: Sep 23-24	September 23, 2023	September 24, 2023	September 24, 2023	September 24, 2023
	4:00 PM	8:30 AM	10:45 AM	5:30 PM
Hospitality	1	1 Helen Werlinger	1	1
	2	2	2	2
	3	3	3	3
	4	4	4	4
	5	5	5	5
Ushers	1 Gisele Thorson*	1 Jim Volk	1 Donald Williams	1 Darcy Neigum*
	2 Bob Clooten	2 Jerome Werlinger	2	2
	3 Joyce Hinman	3 Mike Hilbert	3	3
	4 Bill Lardy	4	4	4
	5	5	5	
	6	6	6	
Lectors	1 Jackie Mrachek	1 Dustin Fritel	1 Nikki Ferderer	1 Gerri Weisgerber
	2 Rod Kuhn	2 Brennan Quintus	2	2
Servers	1 Mason Mrachek	1 Brooklynn Barnhardt	1 Rose Erhardt	1
	2 Sienna Mrachek	2 Kanin Fitterer	2 Lila Erhardt	2
Eucharistic Min	BODY OF CHRIST	BODY OF CHRIST	BODY OF CHRIST	BODY OF CHRIST
	R-1 Evelyn Spangler	R-1 Gerard Mathern	R-1	R-1 Blaine Nelson
	2 Father	2 Father	2 Father	2 Father
	3 Vicki Conner	3 Pam Mathern	3 Rachelle Massemo	3 Veronica Fernow
	4 Curtis Carik	4 Francis Ziegler	4 Cec Reetz	4 Margie Schiff
	5 Mary Winbauer	5 Jan Ziegler	5	5
	6 Al Nagel	6 Bess Deutsch	6	6
	7 Deacon	7 Deacon	7 Deacon	7 Deacon
	8 Clare Auble	8 Colleen Fyling	8	8
	9	9 Francis Williams	9	11
	10	10 Catherine Williams	10	12
	11		11	
Mask Room at 4	D12		12	
	LG	LG Andrea Jackson	LG	LG

**Sunday, Sep 17, 2023**

**Each one, teach one**

Teachers, preachers, and professors have their place. But most of us learn life lessons more broadly. The first school is our home environment. Groups we affiliate with and wider media influences also communicate their values. In 1935, the Vatican called for special acknowledgment of how our parish catechists pass on the faith. While it's right to honor our DRE or religion teachers on this Catechetical Sunday, let's recall too the role of parents and indeed all parishioners in modeling a life rich in love, generosity, compassion, and forgiveness. Catechists literally "echo" the example of Jesus. Deliver your echo boldly!

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 27:30—28:7; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35 (130). *"Peter approached Jesus and asked him, 'Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive?'"*

**Monday, Sep 18, 2023**

**Make of your life a mission of peace**

In an address to the World Council of Churches in Evanston, Illinois in 1954, Dag Hammarskjöld, the second United Nations secretary-general (1953-61), referred to churches as the "guardians of ... the deepest beliefs and the loftiest dreams ..." of humanity. He died in a plane crash on this date while on a peace mission in the Congo and is the only person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize posthumously. Pope Francis praised him in 2015 for giving his life for "reconciliation among peoples." May the example and inspiration of Hammarskjöld, and the many who work to end conflict in the world, unite the people of God in their pursuit.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 7:1-10 (443). *"I did not consider myself worthy to come to you; but say the word and let my servant be healed."*

**Tuesday, Sep 19, 2023**

**The real magic of relics**

The significance of saintly relics is best understood in light of basic Catholic teaching: Relics aren't talismans born of superstition, nor are they magical souvenirs from worship-worthy saints. Moreover, relics deserve the same basic respect as other human remains. This is key because, historically, relics have been the subject of misunderstanding and abuse, everything from pilgrims who would steal bits of saintly bodies to Martin Luther's objection when relics were sold and hoarded like baubles. God alone works miracles and is worthy of worship. Saints merely agree to be the conduit—in obedience to Divine Love—sometimes paying the price with their martyrs' blood. Consider: The real miracle of Januarius' blood might be that he was willing to sacrifice it.

MEMORIAL OF JANUARIUS, BISHOP, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Luke 7:11-17 (444). *"A great prophet has arisen in our midst and God has visited his people."*

**Wednesday, Sep 20, 2023**

**Be inspired to broaden your concern**

On this day in 1918, at the age of 58, Mary Theresa Dudzik entered into eternal life. She accomplished a lot of good in her time on Earth. After immigrating to Chicago from Poland at 21, she would invite poor elderly women and girls to her home. "I felt the misery and suffering of others, and it seemed to me that I could not love Jesus, or even expect Heaven if I were concerned only about myself," she wrote. Dudzik started the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago in 1893, the first order of religious women founded in

Chicago. The community devoted itself to aiding the elderly and those in need. She received the honorary title of "Mother" in 1948 and is now a candidate for sainthood. Learn more about Venerable Mary Theresa Dudzik and her heroic virtue.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 3:14-16; Luke 7:31-35 (445). *"To what shall I compare the people of this generation?"*

**Thursday, Sep 21, 2023**

**Witness value**

When the name Saint Matthew comes up, many people recall him as the tax collector apostle who wrote the Gospel of Matthew. Modern scholarship has challenged the belief that Matthew the apostle wrote the gospel with his name on it, and other details of Saint Matthew's death by martyrdom cannot be definitively proven. Maybe having precision about all aspects of Matthew's life is not the most important factor in this feast, however. The church celebrates Matthew for being a faithful apostle and evangelist, things to which every Christian can aspire. Does your life evangelize, that is, bear witness to your belief?

FEAST OF MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13; Matthew 9:9-13 (643).

*"Live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience."*

**Friday, Sep 22, 2023**

**Delve into fresh spiritual classics**

The Spirit dwells in each of us and is expressed in myriad ways. The church treasures this rich diversity as "refractions of the one pure light of the Holy Spirit," as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it. Too often erased historically, the experiences of women haven't always been allowed to shine as brightly, however. And so we lift up writers such as Monica Coleman, Gloria Anzaldúa, Mary Oliver, Jung Eun Sophia Park, and Phyllis Tickle, renowned spirituality author who died on this date in 2015. Read one of these or another author whose particular "refraction" resonates with your own.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 6:2c-12; Luke 8:1-3 (447). *"Pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness."*

**Saturday, Sep 23, 2023**

**The essentials of sainthood**

Controversy shadowed the life of the mystical Padre Pio, as Pius of Pietrelcina was known. He was said to bear the stigmata, or wounds of Christ, though detractors claimed he manufactured the wounds with carbolic acid. However one views such claims and counter claims, the undeniable fact is that he was a compassionate counselor to the thousands who came to see him during his lifetime, a tireless servant who lived a simple life. At Padre Pio's canonization Mass in 2002, Saint John Paul II said: "The life and mission of Padre Pio testify that difficulties and sorrows, if accepted with love, transform themselves into a privileged journey of holiness, which opens the person toward a greater good, known only to the Lord." You don't have to be a mystic or stigmatist to mirror the ministry of Christ in your own life—all you need is a kind heart and generous spirit.

MEMORIAL OF PIUS OF PIETRELCINA, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Timothy 6:13-16; Luke 8:4-15 (448). *"And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold."*

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



©2023 TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. For more information about TAKE FIVE and our regular contributors, go to PrepareTheWord.com. Free daily email and app available online at TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe.