

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, S.T.L., 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



October 8, 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 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.

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, Oct. 9 - Fr Orvin & Fr Bernadette Engelhard (12:10 p.m.)

Tuesday, Oct. 10 - Cecelia Vianden (12:10 p.m.)

Wednesday, Oct. 11 - Fr Frank Jakubowsky (12:10 p.m.)

Thursday, Oct. 12 - Fr Jessy Hulm (12:10 p.m.)

Friday, Oct. 13 - Fr Peter E. Tischmak (12:10 p.m.)

Saturday, Oct. 14 - Fr Myron Schell (4:00 p.m.)

Sunday, Oct. 15 - Fr Orvin & Fr Bernadette Engelhard (8:30 a.m.)

Fr Joyce Nagel (10:45 a.m.)

Pro Populo (5:30 p.m.)



Food Pantry Needs:

The Food Pantry is in need of **Peanut Butter** (regular size). We also could use canned fruit.



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, 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.

Corpus Christi Men's Group



Men's Group: Wed., October 18

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

Breakfast followed by discussion.

Topic: *The Eucharist: The Source of our Healing and Hope*

All are invited!

CONTRIBUTIONS (General Fund) - (2,463 households)

Adult Envelopes (254 Envelopes) \$14,892.50

Youth Envelopes \$296.00

TOTAL RECEIVED (Oct. 1) \$15,188.50

1st Sunday \$15,188.50

Online Giving Week 1 (Sept. 25-Oct. 1) \$6,864.15

Electronic Contributions \$13,533.68

2nd Sunday \$0.00

Online Giving Week 2 (Oct. 2-8) \$0.00

3rd Sunday \$0.00

Online Giving Week 3 (Oct. 9-15) \$0.00

Electronic Contributions \$0.00

4th Sunday \$0.00

Online Giving Week 4 (Oct. 16-22) \$0.00

5th Sunday \$0.00

Online Giving Week 4 (Oct. 23-29) \$0.00

We are grateful for your generosity, which is part of being a faithful steward of Corpus Christi.

Vocation Views: Let go of worry. Go to God in prayer. Then the peace of God will dwell in our heart and mind. Ask God to show you how to follow Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-9)

Stewardship Thought: In the Gospel today, the owner of the vineyard sent messengers to collect his share of the harvest from the tenant farmers but there was not a single good steward on the property! God is the owner, we are the tenants. What sort of stewards are we? If we give ourselves to God and let Him use our talents to serve others, we will be amazed by the results. Not only will our lives be changed but so will the lives of others. Have you remembered the good works of the Church in your will? A bequest of part of your estate or for a stated amount ensures that the works of the parish will continue after your death.

Marriage Moments: "Brothers and Sisters: Have no anxiety at all..." (Philippians 4:6) Sure, easy to say, but anxiety comes readily to anyone who pays attention to family and world problems. Let your anxiety be a prompt for calming prayer. Balance it with calling to mind something kind another has done for you. www.susanvogt.net

Parenting Pointers: October is Respect Life Month. Pick the life issue that you feel most strongly about (preventing abortion, supporting new mothers, helping those whose lives are mired in poverty, caring for the frail elderly, working for gun control, eliminating the death penalty, bullying...) Tell your child why this is important to you. www.susanvogt.net

OCTOBER 2023



The Knights of Columbus Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 10, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room.



Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus in our parish are dedicated to the church in promoting faith, family, community, and life. We need your help. Can you donate just one hour a month to your faith and church? The Knights of Columbus will be holding a membership drive (after all Masses) on October 21 & 22. Would you be willing to listen to the opportunities that are available to you and your family? Visit with the Knights during the membership drive or call Mark Gaydos, Grand Knight, at any time: 701-214-0777.



Eucharistic Revival

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

The Eucharist: Source of our Healing and Hope

Each of the following events will feature the video and discussion:

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.

Mark your calendars for the first

Encounter Night: Thursday, October 19

Featuring talks, Adoration, praise music & Reconciliation

7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Corpus Christi Church

What's Going on Here This Week

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Sun. 10/8 | Faith Formation Group A , 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Video-The Eucharist: Source of Our Healing and Hope, 9:45-10:30 a.m., Parish Hall
Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10:45 a.m. Mass
Confirmation Mass with Bishop Kagan, 2:00 p.m.
SNAC, 6:30 p.m., Room 140 |
| Mon. 10/9 | Faith Formation Group B , 5:30-6:45 p.m.
RCIA, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Room 140 |
| Tues. 10/10 | Quilters, 9:00 a.m., Community Room
Eucharistic Adoration 12:45-7:00 p.m., Church
Sacrament Track Tuesday B Group , 5:30-7:30 p.m., Parish Hall
KC Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Community Room |
| Wed. 10/11 | Choir Rehearsal, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Choir Room
Faith Formation Group C , 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 |
| Sat. 10/14 | Sacrament Track Saturday Group , 9:00-11:00 a.m., Parish Hall
Wedding Ceremony, 1:30 p.m. |
| Sun. 10/15 | Faith Formation Group D , 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Video-The Eucharist: Source of Our Healing and Hope, 9:45-10:30 a.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, October 8: 6:30 p.m.
Topic - College Q & A Panel



Middle School Youth Ministry

Wednesday, October 11: 6th & 8th Grade
7:00-8:30 p.m.
Topic - Jesus, I Trust in You

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 #3:

Instruct children to keep doors locked and not to open doors to talk to anyone when they are home alone. To learn more about child safety, visit BeHereForKids.org. The *Diocese of Bismarck Code of Conduct* can be found at bismarckdiocese.com/safe-environment-program, at the parish in the lower gathering space book rack, or in the Parish Office.



Children's Liturgy of the Word:

October 8, at the 10:45 a.m. Mass

For children in Preschool - 2nd Grade

Lessons are geared for this age group.

The **MagnifiKid** is for children ages 6-12. Every **MagnifiKid** offers the Sunday Mass readings, prayers, suggestions on how to live the week with the Lord, various games or comics. Kids, remember your copy each weekend. The **MagnifiKid** can be found at the back of the church or at the north entrances.

The Bismarck CDA will host a **Pinochle Card Party and Family Bingo** on Sunday, October 8, beginning at 1:30 p.m., at the Cathedral. Pinochle admission is \$5/person. Family Bingo is \$20/family (all ages) or \$5/single. A light snack will be served and prizes will be awarded. For more information, call Karen, 527-4203, or Johanna, 223-4929.



Join our **Media and Technology Ministry Team**. Camera operators run the system during Mass for the overflow seating areas and livestream. Assistants are also needed to help with the advancement of wall slides during weekend Masses. These are essential ways to assist in the worship experience at Corpus Christi. Training provided and scheduling is flexible. Contact the Parish Office, 701-255-4600, to volunteer.

The public is invited to the **Red Mass** on Monday, Oct. 9, at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit at 6 p.m. This Mass celebrates with those involved in the administration of justice—judges, attorneys, law professors, law students and government officials.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter will be offering marriage retreats at: Medora (November 17-19), Mandan (February 9-11), and Valley City (March 22-24). These weekends are private and allow couples to focus just on each other. A communication tool is taught to help spouses get to know themselves better and to grow deeper in their married relationships. Live your best life in love! For more information, call Rob & Angie at (701) 347-1998 or apply at wwme.org.

Check out the **MASS INTENTION CALENDAR** and the **PRAYER LIST** at the West Entrance to see who is in need of prayers for healing and strength. Special intentions can be placed in the **PRAYER BASKET** located by the font. All of the intentions are prayed for during our Masses. Please write the name of a person and/or special intention on the provided slip and place it in the basket.

Care Package Sunday



The Corpus Christi High School Youth Ministry Group will be making Care Packages for College Students and Military Personnel of the Parish on Sunday, October 29. Donations of goodies or money for postage plus the names & addresses of parishioners should be dropped off at the Parish Office by Thursday, October 26th. Contact Melanie or Cole in the Parish Office with questions at 255-4600.

Your stepping stones back into life...



LOTUS (*Looking Onward to Understanding and Serenity*) is a group for men, women and young adults who have experienced a death. LOTUS meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of every month at Parkway Funeral Service, 2330 Tyler Parkway. The next session will be on Tuesday, October 10 (Men: 10:00-11:00 a.m. Women: 1:00-2:00 p.m.). *The topic is: Dealing with Guilt and Regrets.*



Healing Hearts *Grief Support Group*. Healing Hearts is a group for anyone who has experienced the loss of a child and provides guidance on the path to healing. This group is made for miscarriages, infant, toddler, youth, teen and adult loss. This grief support group is open to the public and held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Parkway Funeral Service, 2330 Tyler Parkway. The next session will be on Tuesday, October 10. *The topic is: Dealing with Guilt and Regrets.*



PRAYER TREE MINISTRY

The Prayer Tree Ministers are a group of parishioners who pray for special intentions. The names of the requests are not made public, but they do receive purposeful, intentional prayers by committed members of our parish.

Prayer Tree volunteers receive notifications about prayer requests through a simple email notification or phone call. If you would like more information about becoming a Prayer Tree Minister for our parish, go to **corpuschristibismarck.com** and click on the *Prayer Tree Ministry* link.

A **Rosary Rally** will be held Saturday, October 14, at 12:00 p.m. on the grounds of the ND State Capitol (corner of 9th St & Boulevard). It will begin with singing followed by the Rosary. Sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima, USA, Bismarck Diocese Division.



October 21 & 22 is **World Mission Sunday**. This year's message from Pope Francis, *"Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move,"* is inspired by our Lord's encounter with the disciples on the Road to Emmaus found in the Gospel of Luke (24:13-35). World Mission Sunday is a privileged opportunity for us to foster missionary cooperation on both the spiritual and material level. World Mission Sunday, instituted by Pope Pius XI in 1926, is an effort to help over 1,100 dioceses that cannot sustain themselves because they are poor, young or actively persecuted. Envelopes for this collection can be found at the church entrances.

From the Desk of Msgr. Patrick A. Schumacher, S.T.L., Pastor

This weekend, we welcome Bishop Kagan to Corpus Christi for the Sacrament of Confirmation. I congratulate our confirmandi and encourage them - **practice your faith**. Confirmation is not the end of your faith formation, but the beginning. You have completed the Sacraments of Initiation and with your words, "I am ready," have publicly proclaimed your Catholic Faith and committed to live out your baptismal promises, strengthened by the gift of the Holy Spirit. As I tell everyone who asks how to sustain their faith - or grow in their faith: If you only do one thing, go to Mass faithfully. The Church, in her great wisdom, asks the faithful to fulfill a Sunday Obligation because the Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice (CCC 2181). +Saint Pope John Paul II, stressed the obligation should not be seen as an imposition, *"Sunday is a day which is at the very heart of the Christian life...I would strongly urge everyone to rediscover Sunday: do not be afraid to give your time to Christ! Yes, let us open our time to Christ, that he may cast a light upon it and give it direction. He is the One who knows the secret of time and the secret of eternity, and he gives us "his day" as an ever new gift of his love...Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human."*

Congratulations: Remington Anhorn, Brooks Armstrong, Logan Arntz, Alicia Asongkeng, Ireri Barreto, Harper Borth, Anna Brash, Caleb Brubakken, Ryan Bullinger, Kathleen Campbell, Rayden Cook, Adelyn Deede, Taylor Doll, Jacob Dorrheim, Garrison Dreher, Jacob Drewlow, Angelo Ebah, Brilee Erhardt, Kyler Erickson, McKenzie Fitterer, Jack Forward, Jackson Fyiling, Austin Geffre, Benjamin Gitter, Mya Heustis, Evan Hinnenkamp, Sadie Hollar, Kyle Horneman, Maggie Huettl, Bethany Jensen, Dominic Johnson, Jackson Jordan, Hailey Ketterling, Kyan Knudson, Rick Koepplin, Ethan Konieczka, Brody Kramer, Seamus Kuklok, Wyatt Lemer, Addyson Leno, Jake Link, Ava Lucas, Conner Lundeen, Olivia Lundeen, Jordan Merkel, Sophia Meyer, Haley Nelson, Vincent Neumann, Breece Oakland, Drew Paulson, Karter Pearson, John Pfliger, Briahna Pomarleau, Beckett Price, Carter Rensch, Camden Roller, Evan Schaeftbauer, Maria Schaff, Easton Scherr, Abby Schiwal, Sophia Schlinger, Allison Schmidt, Ethan Schulte, Jack Snyder, Jenna Streifel, Onyedikachi Uchem, Eliana Vandermay, Lily Vearrier, Bishop Vetter, Grady Weigel, Kaden Welstad, Abigail Willenbring, Mary Woolsey, Ellianna Zachmeier



Justin Croonenberghs is our new seminarian for Corpus Christi. His vocation story is available at <https://youtu.be/xi-VePcZyW0>. Justin is now living and studying in St. Louis, MO, at Kenrick Glennon Seminary. His house, as a result, is available for rent (or purchase) and Msgr. Schumacher, as his pastor, is listing it here to help our seminarian. **1911 N. 4th Street: 3 bedroom, 1.75 bath home. Includes modern kitchen and appliances, open floor plan, spacious den/entertainment space, master suite with walk-in closet and bathroom, modern wi-fi and surveillance system, two-car heated garage, lawn care tools and storage shed. Only 1 block from Corpus Christi church, 2 blocks from Northridge school, a short walk from the YMCA, the capitol, restaurants and more. Asking \$1600/mo + utilities. Contact justin@ctwelve.net.**

LITURGICAL MINISTRY

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

Date: Oct 14-15	October 14, 2023		October 15, 2023		October 15, 2023		October 15, 2023	
	4:00 PM		8:30 AM		10:45 AM		5:30 PM	
Hospitality	1	Lorraine Hoffman	1		1		1	
	2	Bob Deutsch	2		2		2	
	3	Beverly Larson	3		3		3	
	4		4		4		4	
Ushers	1	Rick Kramlich	1	Tim Kuntz	1	Milissa Kelly	1	
	2	Larry Thelen	2	Linda Feist	2	Dennis Kelly	2	
	3	Judith Kopp	3	Charles Jaszowski	3	Joel Meyer	3	
	4	William Kopp	4	Catherine Williams	4	Maggie Meyer	4	
	5		5	Francis Williams	5		5	
Lectors	1	Sandy WaldClooten	1	Irene Goetz	1	Rose Kruckenberg	1	Bart Brackin
	2	Joyce Hinman	2	Dale Kasowski	2	Joyal Meyer	2	Mary Soucie
Servers	1		1	Annabelle Scholand	1	Triston Brossart	1	Braden Roehrl
	2		2	Gabby Schell	2	Elyse Brossart	2	Kate Masset
Eucharistic Min	BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST	
	R-1	Clare Auble	R-1	Adriana Thein	R-1	Joyal Meyer	R-1	Jackie Buckley
	2	Father	2	Father	2	Father	2	Father
	3	Gisele Thorson	3	Kathy Knudson	3	Bill Marion	3	Margie Schiff
	4	Jane Wolf	4	Teddle Herner	4	Cec Reetz	4	
	5	Joseph Wolf	5	Kermit Herner	5		5	
	6	Helen Berger	6	Dave Schmitz	6		6	
	7	Deacon	7	Deacon	7	Deacon	7	Deacon
	8	Kathy Sailer	8	Linda Schmitz	8		8	
	9		9	Bill Knudson	9		11	
	10		10	Brenda Bergan	10		12	
	11				11			
At 4:00	D12				12			
	LG		LG		LG	Brenda Weisz	LG	



Sunday, Oct 08, 2023

To the greater good!

Our country's second poet laureate, Richard Wilbur (1921-2017), fought in the Second World War. It convinced him that writing verse was serious business: "One does not use poetry ... to organize oneself and the world, until one's world somehow gets out of hand." Wilbur explained: "I feel that the universe is full of glorious energy ... and that the ultimate character of things is comely and good. I am perfectly aware that I say this in the teeth of all sorts of contrary evidence, and that I must be basing it partly on temperament and partly on faith." Believe in the ultimate goodness, regardless of any evidence to the contrary!

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 5:1-7; Philippians 4:6-9; Matthew 21:33-43 (139). *"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious ... think about these things."*

Monday, Oct 09, 2023

Going the distance for faith

In the third century, Saint Denis evangelized the country that would come to be France (then called Gaul), and he is thought to have been the first bishop of Paris (then called Lutetia). He was so successful at making converts that the Roman governor beheaded him on the highest hill in the city, now known as Montmartre. It was said he picked up his head and kept preaching while walking many miles before reaching his burial site in a town later named after him. He is the patron saint of France and one of the Fourteen Holy Helpers. Call on him for a missionary zeal that just won't quit.

MEMORIAL OF DENIS, BISHOP, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 1:1—2:1-2, 11; Luke 10:25-37 (461). *"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind."*

Tuesday, Oct 10, 2023

Don't shortchange charity

In 2021, Pope Francis used today, World Mental Health Day, to pray for those "affected by mental disorders and also the victims, often young, of suicide." This June, Francis mentioned teen suicide again, decrying a "culture that leads young people to think that they are 'losers.'" Francis also emphasized the basic human right to medical care and social services—so critical for mental health—but he also pointed to us individual Christians, who in our "haste" don't often stop long enough to care for each other. "It is easy to delegate charity to others, yet the calling of every Christian"—according to Jesus' parable of the Good Samaritan—"is to become personally involved." His advice? Learn from Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, who said, "charity must not remain locked in the depths of one's heart."

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 10:38-42 (462). *"The Lord said to her in reply, 'Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things.'"*

Wednesday, Oct 11, 2023

A shrine for the ages

In America's "first city," St. Augustine, Florida, many Catholics today will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of La Leche, dedicated to a Marian apparition first recognized during the time of the Spanish colonial empire. The devotion, depicting Mary nursing the infant child Jesus, traveled with settlers to Florida in the 16th century, and a shrine to her was built at Mission Nombre de Dios in the

new colony of St. Augustine. The shrine is the oldest in the United States, having received canonical coronation in 2021, and is a popular pilgrimage site for those seeking intercession related to a pregnancy. Maybe today is the day for you to offer a special prayer for someone in your own life.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 4:1-11; Luke 11:1-4 (463). *"All the nations you have made shall come and worship you, O Lord, and glorify your name."*

Thursday, Oct 12, 2023

Come as you are

Christians whose personalities would never be called pious or meek might take heart in Caryl Houselander (1901-54), whose death we commemorate today. She smoked, drank, and was said to have a sharp tongue. But people were drawn to her for good counsel, and Houselander's spiritual writing persists. A sample: "Love is most likely to spring from another's need for us, and the fact of spending ourselves for another always generates new life in us." With your own God-given personality, warts and all, take a step today toward building the Kingdom.

TODAY'S READINGS: Malachi 3:13-20b; Luke 11:5-13 (464). *"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find."*

Friday, Oct 13, 2023

The devil doesn't have a prayer

In an interview in *Exorcists against Satan* by Italian journalist Fabio Marchese Ragona, Pope Francis was asked about the devil. "It is possible that I get on the Devil's nerves," he said, "because I try to follow the Lord and do what the Gospel says. And that annoys him. At the same time, he is certainly happy when I commit some sin. He seeks man's failure, but he has no chance if there is prayer." It is a great mystery that God should permit diabolical activity, says the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "but we know that in everything God works for good with those who love him" (CCC 395). Take the simple steps of daily prayer and good works to keep the devil at bay.

TODAY'S READINGS: Joel 1:13-15; 2:1-2; Luke 11:15-26 (465). *"If Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand?"*

Saturday, Oct 14, 2023

Redeeming qualities

There was a profound division in the church during the third-century pontificate of Callistus I. The pope believed and taught that even the most serious sins like murder and adultery could be absolved in a sincere confession. His position scandalized many church leaders in Rome who didn't agree. They believed that some sins were too serious to be forgiven, and they accused Callistus of laxity and sympathizing with heretics. Eventually Callistus prevailed and Confession became the healing sacrament for all sin, even the most serious. Thank our merciful God for guiding the church toward an ethic of redemption.

MEMORIAL OF CALLISTUS I, POPE, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Joel 4:12-21; Luke 11:27-28 (466). *"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."*

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



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