

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



4th Sunday of Advent:

December 24, 2023

Please see inside for Christmas Mass times

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



CORPUS CHRISTI APP:

Download the app for any smart device.
Text the word *App* to 55321.
Or scan the QR Code.

We welcome you to Corpus Christi!

To become a registered member, stop by the parish office, or scan this QR Code.



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

Mon., Dec. 25 (8:30 a.m.) - ✠Orvin & ✠Bernadette Engelhard

(10:45 a.m.) - ✠Helen M. Fischer

Tues., Dec. 26 (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Val Wangler

Wed., Dec. 27 (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Orvin & ✠Bernadette Engelhard

Thurs., Dec. 28 (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Hattie Steffan

Fri., Dec. 29 (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Anton Becker

Sat., Dec. 30 (4:00 p.m.) - ✠George Becker

Sun., Dec. 31 **Sunday Obligation / Feast of the Holy Family**

(8:30 a.m.) - ✠Myron Schell

(10:45 a.m.) - Pro Populo

Mary the Mother of God (Does not fulfill the Sunday Obligation)

(5:30 p.m.) - ✠Jacob Neigum

Mon., Jan. 1 **Mary the Mother of God**

(12:10 p.m.) - ✠Donna Howe

Please join us to celebrate the

Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Please note, the Masses on Sunday, December 24 at 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

fulfill the 4th Sunday of Advent, not Christmas. Christmas Masses are below:

December 24: 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

(3:30 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Program)

December 25: 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

The Parish Office will be closed on December 25 & 26.

There will be Daily Mass on December 26th at 12:10 p.m.

Children's Christmas Eve Program

December 24 at 3:30 p.m.

The program will be livestreamed on Youtube.



Bring Baby Jesus to Mass with you!

During the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass, children will be invited to come forward to receive a blessing over the baby Jesus from your home Nativity scene.

CONTRIBUTIONS (General Fund) - (2,443 households)

Adult Envelopes (253 Envelopes) \$20,561.80

Youth Envelopes \$318.61

TOTAL RECEIVED (Dec. 17) \$20,880.41

1st Sunday \$19,074.09

Online Giving Week 1 (Nov. 27-Dec 3) \$7,755.15

Electronic Contributions \$13,683.68

2nd Sunday \$14,325.04

Online Giving Week 2 (Dec 4-10) \$4,995.00

3rd Sunday \$20,880.41

Online Giving Week 3 (Dec 11-17) \$7,590.00

Electronic Contributions \$10,680.68

4th Sunday \$0.00

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

5th Sunday \$0.00

Online Giving Week 5 (Dec 25-31) \$0.00

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

Stewardship Thought: In the first reading, God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary's "Yes" – "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." – that the promise finds fulfillment. God will never be outdone in generosity. No one is ever poorer for giving to our God who is so rich in love, mercy and goodness. *Thank you for your end of year gifts to the Church of Corpus Christi!*



The 5:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday, December 31st will celebrate the vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Therefore, this Mass does not fulfill the Sunday, December 31 obligation. Our Mass Schedule is:

Feast of the Holy Family Weekend Masses:

Saturday, December 30 - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 31 - 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Mary, Mother of God Masses:

Sunday, December 31 - 5:30 p.m.

Monday, January 1 - 12:10 p.m.

Ascension Catholic Church is hosting a **FREE Christmas Eve Dinner** on Sunday, December 24 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. to all those in our Bismarck/Mandan Community. The dinner will be a warm, traditional Christmas meal of turkey and all the trimmings! Treat bags and personal care items will be handed out and Santa will be there with a gift for everyone who attends. This event will take place at 1911 S. 3rd St., Bismarck.

The **2024 Calendars** have arrived and are available at the Church entrances. Please take one for your family.



Thank you for helping with the 2023 Christmas Outreach Program!

504 gifts and 154 food baskets were distributed.

Mass Intentions are available for the **Corpus Christi Rectory Chapel**. These Masses are offered privately by one of the priests and specific dates are not available to choose, but Masses are offered rather quickly. The priests offer the intentions as their schedule allows and after the Mass is celebrated, you are notified of the date it was offered. We only schedule a small number of intentions at any given time, therefore the intentions are offered in a reasonable length of time. The suggested donation for a Mass Intention, as set by the Diocese, is \$10.



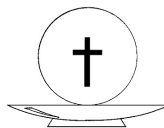
The Family Table - Come to church and enjoy a meal rather than squeezing one in and racing to class! We have been offered a generous gift from the Knights of Columbus to the families in Faith Formation. Starting in January - on Group **B, C, and F** Faith Formation nights - there will be a FREE meal provided and served by the Knights of Columbus from 4:45-5:30 p.m. for the whole family. There is an RSVP required for these meals. Watch for more information and a sign-up link to join us for supper at **The Family Table!**



Food Pantry Needs:

The Food Pantry is in need of **Spaghetti Sauce**
Maple Syrup

Low Gluten hosts are available. These hosts have a very low gluten content (.01%). Talk to an usher or a hospitality minister to learn how to receive low gluten Communion.



Thank You...

for your financial support to the Church of Corpus Christi and her ministries - you are a blessing!

All **Year-End Contributions** are to be dated no later than December 31, 2023 and received by January 8, 2024.

"For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." Matthew 6:21

What's Going on Here This Week

- Sun. 12/24 **4th Sunday of Advent Masses:**
8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. (No 5:30 p.m.)
Christmas Eve Children's Program, 3:30 p.m.
Christmas Eve Masses:
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.
- Mon. 12/25 **Christmas Day Masses:** 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Parish Office Closed - **Merry Christmas!**
- Tues. 12/26 Parish Office Closed
Quilters, 9:00 a.m., Community Room
Eucharistic Adoration 12:45-7:00 p.m.
- Sun. 12/31 **Holy Family Sunday Masses:** 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Mary, Mother of God Vigil Mass: 5:30 p.m.
- Mon. 1/1 **Mary, Mother of God Mass:** 12:10 p.m.
Happy New Year! Parish Office Closed 1/1 & 1/2

Bismarck Catholic Daughters will met on Tuesday, January 2 at Cathedral. Doors open at 6:30. For more information go to bismarckcda.org or call Marella at 255-0559. Rosary at 7:00 p.m.



I am most appreciative of your kindness in remembering me in your prayers this Christmas. Your gifts and remembrances certainly continue to help me be a part of the Corpus Christi family. My prayers are for you and your families at this season.

~ Fr. Paul

Fr. Paul Becker is available on Thursdays, 1:00-2:00 p.m., for meetings in 15 minute increments. Meetings are pre-scheduled (no walk-ins). To schedule a time to meet with Fr. Becker, call the Parish Office, 255-4600.

Stewardship Opportunity:

We are in need of individuals to assist in our Media and Technology Ministries. We have a great group of volunteers, but we need additional help. If you are comfortable around a computer and mouse and have an interest in the Liturgy or helping the Church, we will train you. **Camera operators** run the system from the media room, which is adjacent to the church, in the northeast corner of the church (near the music area). Assistants who run the **wall slides** help from inside the church itself. If you would be interested, training will be provided. Contact the Parish Office, 255-4600, to volunteer. *Your assistance is needed and appreciated!*



Advent Week 4:

**"Behold, you will bear a son,
and you shall name him Jesus...
he will be called holy, the Son of
God." Luke 1:31,35**

Our "Journey to Jesus" continues as we add Mary and Joseph to our Nativity scene as we prayerfully await our Savior's birth.

Baby Jesus will be placed in the Nativity Scene at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass.

Thinking of a New Year's Resolution? As we make plans to better ourselves, the area often lost or forgotten is our faith life. Beginning January 1, 2024, Fr. Mike Schmitz will offer **The Bible in a Year** and **Catechism in a Year** podcasts, reaching millions of people worldwide and transforming their lives. You can join, too! Either podcast is completely free and available on all major podcast apps and YouTube. For more information or to register, visit:

AscensionPress.com/bibleinayear

AscensionPress.com/CIY

If you would like more information, have questions about either program, or need help to register, contact Cindy Anderst in the Parish Office, 255-4600.



Give a gift to your marriage this Christmas! Worldwide Marriage Encounter will be offering marriage retreats at: 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



Light of Christ Catholic Schools

TOUR & ENROLL NOW FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR!

Enrollment is currently open to all Bismarck Catholic parish families to join Light of Christ Catholic Schools for the 2024-25 school year – PreK (half or full day classes) to Grade 12. Schedule a private tour at any of our schools or begin the easy enrollment process online: Call 701-354-7067; Email sindovina@lightofchristschools.org; Online at lightofchristschools.org/enrollment.

The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a number of contests for area youth. All youth are invited to participate in the **"Blessed be God"** contests:



- Christmas Coloring Contest
- Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest
- Culture of Life Poster Contest
- State Youth Essay Contest
- Knights Scholarship Contest

Visit the parish website: <https://corpuschristibismarck.com/knights-of-columbus> for all the information and to download the contest forms. All students are welcome to participate. January 8, 2024 is the deadline for all of the contests except the Scholarship Contest, which has a deadline of March 1, 2024.

Don't miss important messages! Stay engaged with the parish!

Download the Corpus Christi
myParish App
Text **App** to **55321**
or scan the QR Code.



Bishop David Kagan has reinstated the exchange of the **Sign of Peace**, beginning with the vigil of Christmas. This part of the Mass encourages us to reconcile with one another in a sober manner using the words, "Peace be with you." It is not necessary to shake hands or offer other gestures to participate in this part of the Rite.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

You are invited to participate in the Christmas Flower Offering to enhance our worship environment while honoring or remembering a loved one. Monetary donations will fund flowers and decorations for the Christmas Season. You can fill out your Christmas Flower Envelope that you received in your monthly envelope mailing or pick up an envelope at one of the entrances.

You can also donate on our website by clicking on the rolling slide, or by scanning this QR Code. All donations received by December 28 will be included in a special insert in an upcoming bulletin featuring the list of memorials and honorariums.

**** PLEASE donate via the Christmas Flower Offering rather than donating a plant. Thank you! ****



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

This has been a very busy and fruitful week in preparation for Christmas Liturgies. • Confessions went well and I thank Fr. Obrigewitch, Fr. Dosch, and Fr. Becker for their assistance at the various confession times. • I was invited to present at St. Anne's Advent Novena and did so on Wednesday, December 20th. • Also on the 20th, our seminarian, Justin Croonenberghs stopped by for visit. He is doing well and said his time in St. Louis thus far has been wonderful. Let us continue to pray for him and if you would like to send him a note of greeting or encouragement his address is: *Justin Croonenberghs, Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, 5200 Glennon Drive, Saint Louis, MO 63119*. As we gathered to visit with Justin, we also threw an impromptu birthday celebration for Sr. Ivo. Her birthday is on December 26th and she is a great blessing to Corpus Christi! We also said goodbye to our University of Mary intern, Emily. She completed her work here and after the Christmas break she will spend the next semester at the University of Mary Rome Campus. I assured her of our gratitude and our prayers. Although missing a few of our part time support staff, we did take a staff photo with Emily and I'll share it here, along with a photo Fr. Obrigewitch and I took with Justin.



I would like to end by sharing my heartfelt Christmas greetings to you and all those whom you love. You have been generous in sharing cards, gifts, and well wishes; I appreciate them all! I am also grateful for all the ways you support the parish of Corpus Christi. Your spiritual and financial gifts are a blessing - and a necessity - to the parish. We couldn't do **all** that we do without you, "The Body of Christ." If you are interested in making a year-end gift, kindly remember, donations need to be dated no later than December 31 and received by January 8, 2024. Again, thank you for your kind generosity! ~ Have a safe and blessed Christmas! Msgr. Patrick Schumacher



Merry Christmas

from the Parish Staff

of Corpus Christi!



LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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 Kraft at 701-975-9803.

Date: Dec 30-31		December 30, 2023		December 31, 2023		December 31, 2023		December 31, 2023
		4:00 PM		8:30 AM		10:45 AM		5:30 PM
Hospitality	1		1	Brian Steffl	1	Rita Mastel	1	
	2		2	Heather Steffl	2		2	
	3		3		3		3	
	4		4		4		4	
Ushers	1	Bob Clooten	1	Kenneth Heil	1	Joel Meyer	1	
	2	Gisele Thorson	2	Linda Heil	2	Dennis Mastel	2	
	3	Larry Thelen	3	John Saiki	3	Maggie Meyer	3	
	4	Helen Berger	4		4		4	
	5		5		5		5	
	6		6		6			
Lectors	1	Sandy Wald Clooten	1	Amy McKay	1	Rodger Wetzel	1	Todd Van Orman
	2	Heather Lundeen	2	Irene Goetz	2	Joyal Meyer	2	Christopher Knudson
Servers	1	Olivia Lundeen	1		1		1	Joelle Knudson
	2	Conner Lundeen	2		2		2	Kyan Knudson
Eucharistic Min		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST
	R-1	Marsha Lembke	R-1	Amy McKay	R-1	Pamela Vetter	R-1	Jackie Buckley
	2	Father	2	Father	2	Father	2	Father
	3	Claus Lembke	3	Gerard Mathern	3	Cec Reetz	3	Margie Schiff
	4	Sandy Wald Clooten	4	Pam Mathern	4	Makayla Schatz	4	
	5	Heather Lundeen	5	Colleen Fylling	5	Cathy Schatz	5	
	6		6		6	Joyal Meyer	6	
	7	Deacon	7	Deacon	7	Deacon	7	Deacon
	8		8		8		8	
	9		9		9		11	
	10		10		10		12	
	11				11			
Mask Room at 4	D12				12			
	LG		LG		LG		LG	

Feast of the Holy Family Sunday Obligation: 4:00 p.m., 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Mary, Mother of God: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec 24, 2023

An embarrassment of riches

Every so many years, we experience this happy collision of observances: the last Sunday of Advent blossoms into Christmas Eve in a single day. Which means next week, the Feast of the Holy Family will roll into the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God by nightfall. It's a mad scramble for presiders, preachers, choirs, and liturgists to keep up with the whole, holy mess of these occasions. Parishioners too will be obliged to untangle the remarkable Mass schedule this landslide of liturgies creates. Consider it a cheerful reminder that liturgy gathers us into mysteries that are not finite but everlasting.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 (11). *"Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God."*

Monday, Dec 25, 2023

The wonder of it all

In the early church, Christmas was actually not a major feast, but over the centuries it grew in importance, and Saint Francis of Assisi catapulted its popularity in 1223 by creating the first nativity scene in a cave with live animals. Christmas Midnight Mass was celebrated there and it was a huge hit with the whole town. The tradition of the Christmas crèche was born. Francis loved Christmas, considering it the "Feast of Feasts," because God chose to take the humble form of a poor baby. Let the wonder of the Incarnation imbue your day.

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

TODAY'S READINGS: Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 (13); Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20 (15); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16). *"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord."*

Tuesday, Dec 26, 2023

For the love of Saint Stephen

On this second day of Christmas, consider words about true love—and Saint Stephen—from Saint Fulgentius, a North African bishop of the sixth century: "Love was Stephen's weapon by which he gained every battle, and so won the crown signified by his name. His love of God kept him from yielding to the ferocious mob; his love for his neighbor made him pray for those who were stoning him." Celebrate the Christmas octave with the same steadfast love the first Christian martyr showed his persecutors.

FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696). *"They could not withstand the wisdom and the spirit with which he spoke."*

Wednesday, Dec 27, 2023

Through thick and thin

Beloved! That's what we know about today's saint—John the apostle is the "disciple whom Jesus loved." John was the last apostle to leave Jesus at the cross and one of the first to discover his Resurrection on Easter Sunday. He earned the title of evangelist by writing the fourth gospel (likely with help from his

followers). His account of Jesus' life has a more spiritual and mysterious air than those of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. But that doesn't mean he's otherworldly—after all, John is the patron saint of loyalty and friendships. Honor him today by visiting with a friend.

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). *"What we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us."*

Thursday, Dec 28, 2023

Mortal consequences

Amid the Christmas festivities, today the church has a somber reminder of the infants in the vicinity of Bethlehem who were slaughtered by King Herod in his fruitless effort to destroy Jesus. They were "collateral damage" that paved the way for Christianity, a faith that confesses to protecting the most vulnerable. In honor of the Holy Innocents, we might consider the many innocents who die prematurely because of lack of healthcare, pollution that results in disease, and isolation that leads to early death. Strive to be a force for life.

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). *"God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all."*

Friday, Dec 29, 2023

The Catholic bucket list

Gift-giving at Christmastime is a common custom. Whether it's at home under a lit tree or at the secret Santa party at work, it's fun to give and receive. "Experience" gifts are becoming more a part of this custom: tickets to see a ballgame, an art class, a hiking trip. Experience gifts can be given any time, and we can even treat ourselves. Since it's the season of Christmas, let's think of Catholic experiences that we'd enjoy and create a kind of "Catholic bucket list." See the pope? Run a food pantry? Visit Assisi? Take a scripture class? Spend the rest of the Christmas season creating your own list.

FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). *"It had been revealed to [Simeon] by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord."*

Saturday, Dec 30, 2023

What is the purpose of life?

This age-old question has as many answers as there are questioners. For Catholics though, there is one simple answer: love. But when is love ever simple? Deep love can be complicated and even gut-wrenchingly hard. It can bring pain, longing, disquiet, questioning, loneliness, and sacrifice. Yet, "The pain that comes from deep love makes your love ever more fruitful," writes Henri Nouwen. Love is our purpose, and we join with those celebrating Kwanzaa who are reflecting this day on the principle of Nia, that is, purpose.

SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203). *"Whoever does the will of God remains forever."*

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



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