

# 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 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

**Holy Days as scheduled and may differ than below.  
See the inside of the bulletin for details.**

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.

## 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. John Paul Gardner, Parochial Vicar..... 975-9802  
Rev. Dinoy Rebera, Parochial Vicar ..... 975-9818  
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..... 975-9804  
Melanie Konieczka, Faith Formation ..... 975-9809  
Tammy Schafer, Pastoral Care..... 975-9816

**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

**PRAYER TREE:** 255-4600

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Noon on Tuesdays (typed format  
sent to [info@corpuschristibismarck.com](mailto:info@corpuschristibismarck.com))



## July 6, 2025

## 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. 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 Bismarck Diocese at 701-222-3035 or [www.bismarckdiocese.com/nfp](http://www.bismarckdiocese.com/nfp).

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



## CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH REGISTRATION

To become a registered member, stop by the Parish Office or scan this QR Code.



## CORPUS CHRISTI APP (MyParish APP):

Download the app for any smart device.

Text the word *App* to 55321.

Or scan the QR Code.

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



**Above:** The Corpus Christi African Mission Team is pictured with Fr. David Morman, Priest Administrator of the Bismarck Mission. Fr. Morman started his 8th year in Kenya on June 6.

**Below:** Tracy, Emma, Sarah, Lilian, Abby, Robert & Fr. John Paul. Emma, Lilian, and Robert all work for the African Mission. This picture was taken following a *Water with Blessings* training.



I hope you had a good Independence Day holiday. My brother was in town, as he always tries to do, and my family and I took in a few of the area activities. The Bis/Man community knows how to celebrate the 4th of July!

The African Mission Team arrived back in Bismarck late Saturday, June 28 and returned to work on July 1st. The travel time is arduous and I told them when they were planning their time away from the office to take Monday, June 30th off to help with the jet-lag. While we haven't had a formal "debriefing", the team tells me:

- Their time in Kenya was an amazing experience.
- The Kisii people are faithful and worship beautifully.
- Fr. Morman, the staff of the mission, and the mission programs make a great impact on the 450 orphans.
- The mission beneficiaries are extremely grateful to the people of Bismarck, call them "angels", and send their love to Bismarck.
- Every gift donated to the African Mission is carefully used and is seen in many tangible ways - shoes, uniforms, school fees, food, houses, heifers, goats, chickens, supplies, medical care, allowance, and more. Every single gift makes a positive impact!

The team plans to schedule a informational meeting to share pictures and their experience - watch the bulletin for that date/time soon.

~ *Have a great week!* Msgr. Patrick A. Schumacher

## 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: July 12-13	July 12, 2025		July 13, 2025		July 13, 2025		July 13, 2025	
	4:00 PM		8:30 AM		10:45 AM		5:30 PM	
Hospitality	1	Mary Ann Grossman	1	Jason Krebsbach	1	Rita Mastel	1	Mary Nelson
	2	Evelyn Spangler	2	Abbie Krebsbach	2	Beverly Larson	2	
	3		3	Kort Krebsbach	3		3	
	4		4		4		4	
Ushers	1	Helen Berger	1	John Saiki	1	Nancy Haunz	1	Tim Rivinius
	2	Sam Theurer	2	George Simek	2	Dennis Mastel	2	Bernie Rivinius
	3	Derek Theurer	3	Pius Ternes	3	Chuck Holzer	3	
	4	Ron Hopfauf	4	Melvin Schoepp	4	Bernie Holzer	4	
			5	Bob Dauenhauer				
Lectors	1	Sarah Bengtson	1	Francis Ziegler	1	Christine Elzenga	1	Bob Willenbring
	2	Joyce Hinman	2	Dale Kasowski	2	Claudia Dietrich	2	Christopher Knudson
Servers	1	Conner Lundeen	1	Carsten Schmidt	1	Ben Miller	1	Everyn Knudson
	2	Olivia Lundeen	2	Warren Miller	2	Jake Miller	2	Kyan Knudson
Eucharistic Min		<b>BODY OF CHRIST</b>						
	R-1	Carol Thompson	R-1	Gerard Mathern	R-1	Gary Feist	R-1	Tim Bohan
	2	Father	2	Father	2	Father	2	Father
	3	Bob Clooten	3	Dale Kasowski	3	Steven Mittelsteadt	3	Mary Nelson
	4	Sandy Wald Clooten	4	Pam Mathern	4	Charlie Holzer	4	Margie Schiff
	5	Clare Auble	5	Jerome Werlinger	5	Cec Reetz	5	
	6	Heather Lundeen	6	Danell Becker	6	LaVerne Kaufman	6	
	7	Deacon	7	Deacon	7	Deacon	7	Deacon
	8	Connie Kalanek	8	Mike Hilbert	8	Kathy Feist	8	
	9		9	Ron Torkelson	9		11	
	10		10	Virginia Torkelson	10		12	
	11				11			
At 4:00*	D12				12			
	LG		LG	Mary Kasowski	LG		LG	

## Livestreaming Schedule:

### WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday - Friday: 12:10 p.m.

### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

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

Holy Days as Scheduled

### Weekly Mass Intentions

**Mon., July 7** (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Tony & ✠Barbara Klein

**Tues., July 8** (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Donna Zimmerman

**Wed., July 9 - Collective Intention**

(12:10 p.m.) - ✠Doug Knudson

✠John Novak

✠Philip Indovina

✠Gert Schaff

**Thurs., July 10** (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Elva Knudson

**Fri., July 11** (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Richard Wrede

**Sat., July 12** (4:00 p.m.) - ✠George Volk

**Sun., July 13** (8:30 a.m.) - ✠Linda Wanner

(10:45 a.m.) - Leon & Alicia Heick (Anniversary)

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

CONTRIBUTIONS (General Fund) - (2,464 households)	
Adult Envelopes (216 Envelopes) . . . . .	\$13,982.33
Youth Envelopes . . . . .	\$242.10
TOTAL RECEIVED (June 29) . . . . .	\$14,224.43
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday June 1 . . . . .	\$17,349.96
Online Giving Week (May 26-June 1) . . . . .	\$7,092.15
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday June 8 . . . . .	\$18,605.42
Online Giving Week (June 2-8) . . . . .	\$6,095.00
Electronic Contributions (June 5) . . . . .	\$13,143.68
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday June 15 . . . . .	\$18,837.89
Online Giving Week (June 9-15) . . . . .	\$6,771.00
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday June 22 . . . . .	\$15,843.25
Online Giving Week (June 16-22) . . . . .	\$3,145.00
Electronic Contributions (June 20) . . . . .	\$10,455.68
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday June 29 . . . . .	\$14,224.43
Online Giving Week (June 23-29) . . . . .	\$5,457.15

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

### Stewardship Thoughts:

- "The harvest is rich," Jesus tells the seventy-two in today's Gospel, "but the workers are few." The situation is the same today. How can I help with God's harvest? Am I one who could provide food or shelter or wages to those who toil in the fields of the Lord?
- The heart grateful to God needs to find a way to express that gratitude. Some important ways to do that are through prayer, service, and giving of one's resources.
- Have you ever considered purchasing a paid-up life insurance policy naming (parish) as the beneficiary? It could provide a very substantial gift for a small investment on your part. Talk with your agent.

**Need a will?** As a thank you for being a parishioner in the Bismarck Diocese, **FreeWill** is delighted to help you create your legal will. It's 100% free to you, and most people finish in 20 minutes or less. Visit <https://www.freewill.com/bismarckdiocese> to start your will today!

Due to unforeseen circumstances, administration within the Bismarck Diocese has decided to cancel the 2025 Thirst Eucharistic Conference scheduled for October 31-November 1 at the Bismarck Event Center. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

### Annual Town and Country Celebration: Sunday, July 13.

The event will be held at the Dukart Angus Ranch, Manning. The day will begin with a blessing of land, animals and equipment at 10:00 a.m. mountain time followed by Mass with Bishop Kagan and then lunch. The event is hosted by Derrick and Angie Dukart, Doug and Sandy Dukart, with Fr. Joseph Evinger and the parishioners of the churches of St. Joseph (Killdeer), St. Paul (Halliday) and St. Joseph (Twin Buttes). Registration required at [bismarckdiocese.com/townandcountry](https://bismarckdiocese.com/townandcountry).



The Food Pantry is in need of:

**Pancake Mix & Pancake Syrup  
Cream Soups (Chicken or Mushroom)**



**Thank you for your support of the Corpus Christi Food Pantry!**

Prefer not to shop? Monetary donations are accepted to assist in the purchasing of meat, bread, milk, eggs, and other pantry staples as needed.



*I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*

### Sacrament of Baptism

Preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism is required for a couple's first child or first child baptized at Corpus Christi. The baptismal preparation process is two-fold and includes at-home study (1 hour) and an in-person class (1.5 hrs). The in-person classes are taught by Deacon Michael Fix and are generally held the first Saturday of the month or the third Monday of the month. For information or to schedule a class or a baptism, contact Sarah Bengtson, 701-255-4600.

*Explore your Spiritual Gifts*

*and use them at Corpus Christi!*

**Spiritual Gifts Inventory - scan the QR Code**



**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.



**Knights of Columbus Council Meeting**  
 Tuesday, July 8  
 7:00 p.m. - Touchmark on West Century

**Men's Group Breakfast**  
**Wednesday, July 16**

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

Breakfast followed by discussion.  
 All Corpus Christi men are invited!

Corpus Christi Men's Group



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

- Mon. 7/7** Youth Ministry Jesus & Java, 8:00-9:00 a.m.
- Tues. 7/8** Quilters, 9:00 a.m., Community Room  
 Youth Ministry M&W Group, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
 Eucharistic Adoration, 12:40-7:00 p.m.  
 KC Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Touchmark on West Century
- Wed. 7/9** Middle School Youth Ministry, 5:00-7:00 p.m.,  
 North Central Park
- Sun. 7/13** Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10:45 a.m. Mass  
 SNAC, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Room 140

**High School SNAC (Grades 9-12)**

Sunday, July 6: No Snac  
 Sunday, July 13: 6:30-8:30 p.m., Room 140  
 Topic: Men's & Women's Session



**Middle School (Grades 6-8)**

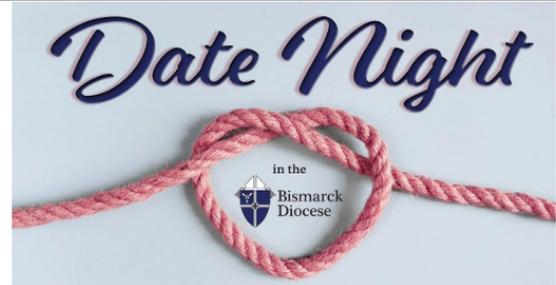
Wednesday, July 9: 5:00-7:00 p.m.  
 Topic: Water Balloons & BBQ @ North Central Park

**Children's Liturgy of the Word**  
**July 13 - 10:45 a.m. Mass**

Lessons are geared for preschool - 2nd Grade.  
 No registration required.



Volunteers needed to serve as Sacristan for daily Mass.  
 There is a schedule in place. Training is provided.  
 Contact Tracy Kraft, for more information, 975-9803.



**Date Night:** Join us for an adults only, fun-filled date night to learn and grow together in your faith. Plan for Friday, July 25. The night begins with Mass at the Pro-Cathedral of St. Mary in Bismarck at 5:30 p.m. followed by a social and dinner at the Radisson. During dinner, speakers, Matt and Mindy Dalton of Marriage Ministries, will present "The Beauty of Marriage." The evening concludes with bingo and prizes. Registration fee (required) is \$65, including dinner. Cash bar available. Register early as spots are limited by visiting <https://bismarckdiocese.com/datenight>. Call Katie with the Diocesan Office of Family Ministry, at 701-712-0418 for more information.

**Preplanning Your Funeral**

Preplanning you funeral Mass is a meaningful way to express your faith, ease the burdens on loved ones, and ensure your wishes are honored.

If you would like to begin this thoughtful process and caring act of faith and love, call Tammy Schafer at (701) 975-9816.



*Dear Msgr. Schumacher & the community of Corpus Christi Church:  
 I am writing this to thank you for your generosity in assisting to help feed the hungry. Through your help, we raised \$1,240. With this money I have personally purchased food for 49 families for two weeks in Colombia, South America. May God bless you and your community.*

*In Jesus Christ,*

*Ligia Peightal of Colombian Qualities*



The Bismarck Diocese 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* ([bismarckdiocese.com/safe-environment-program](http://bismarckdiocese.com/safe-environment-program)) is defined for the Bismarck Diocese 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 Corpus Christi in the literature rack in the lower gathering space.

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### Mary, Undoer of Knots Devotion



The "knots" in our life - *no matter how tangled or hopeless they seem* - are no match for our LORD, through the intercession of our Mother Mary. There are ribbons, a prayer bowl, and prayer cards in the Chapel for this devotion.

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### 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.



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

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### Did you know...

- There are hearing aid devices available for parishioners to use during Mass.
- Low gluten Communion is available.
- MagnifiKid worship aids are available every weekend.

Please contact a hospitality minister at Mass to assist you.

*We are happy to worship with you!*

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### PRAYER BASKET

Special intentions can be placed in the wicker basket located by the Baptismal 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.



Light of Christ Catholic Schools

### Job Opportunities

#### Light of Christ Catholic Schools

Various **faculty, professional, support staff, substitute staff,** and **coaching** positions are available. Check it out today!

Please visit <https://lightofchristschools.org/employment>.

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The Bismarck Diocese has an immediate opening for a full-time cook (36 hours) at the Emmaus Place, a priest retirement facility in Bismarck. Job duties include grocery shopping, preparing and serving meals for the residents and clean-up. Must possess a valid driver's license and have the ability to lift and carry 20 pounds. Prior cooking knowledge and experience is desirable. We offer a competitive salary with a generous benefits package. All offers of employment are pending a clear background check and reference check. Please submit a cover letter, resume, three references and an application for employment to Denise Jordan at [djordan@bismarckdiocese.com](mailto:djordan@bismarckdiocese.com) or PO Box 1575, Bismarck, ND 58502.

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The Cathedral of the Holy Spirit is seeking a full time Director of Faith Formation. This individual is responsible for the leadership, development, and administration of comprehensive faith formation programs within the Cathedral. Major duties include directing programs such as Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS), Family of Faith Night, Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), as well as sacramental preparation for First Communion and Confirmation. For a detailed description and to apply, go to [cathedralparish.com/job-openings](http://cathedralparish.com/job-openings).

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Heartview has a free education/support group called the **HEART** program for families who have a loved one struggling with addiction. The group is confidential, completely free and attendees do not have to have any sort of relationship with Heartview. The first hour of each group is an educational session about topics such as boundaries, codependency, and supporting loved ones in addiction and recovery. The second hour of the session is a support group for individuals to talk through situations and learn from each other. More information can be found at: <https://heartview.org/get-involved/event-calendar.html/event/2024/06/18/1718755200/h-e-a-r-t-family-program/487389>.

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### Volunteers Needed!

North Dakota Right to Life is looking for volunteers to help at our State Fair booth in Minot this July. It's a great way to stand up for life and share the truth with others.

If you're interested, contact us at:

701-955-8239

[director@ndrl.org](mailto:director@ndrl.org)

## Sunday, Jul 06, 2025

### Do some heavy lifting

A homilist once said, “The church serves the kingdom of God. It is not the kingdom of God.” The church is not all of the kingdom but the best way to it. And God’s kingdom is already here. Jesus taught it is among us but not quite complete. God plays a central role in bringing the kingdom to its fullness, of course, but we disciples have to do some of the heavy lifting, too, to move toward a time when evil does not get the last word; sinners who seek it receive forgiveness; the suffering of those who are poor wanes; and everyone takes up God’s offer of new life forever. It’s a pretty good deal. How are you proclaiming and working toward it?

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 66:10-14c; Galatians 6:14-18; Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9 (102). *“Yet know this: the kingdom of God is at hand.”*

## Monday, Jul 07, 2025

### When in doubt

Some people seem to be born with the gift of deep faith. They appear to have an intuitive grasp of the spiritual side of life and to know God is always with them. The rest of us must endure long periods of doubt and uncertainty that are only occasionally interrupted by brief moments of spiritual clarity. Saint John of the Cross advises us to “Live in faith and hope, though it be in darkness, for in this darkness God protects the soul.” Ask yourself, “Where am I on the continuum between faith and doubt?” Is it possible that the Lord is with you and you don’t know it? Ask God to shine his light into your darkness.

Genesis 28:10-22a; Matthew 9:18-26 (383). *“Truly, the Lord is in this spot, although I did not know it!”*

## Tuesday, Jul 08, 2025

### Wrestle with your fears and doubts

When you think of an encounter with God, what’s the first image that comes to mind? Wrestling? Maybe not, but it’s a powerful biblical image. Think of Jacob, who grappled with the angel of God. At the time, Jacob feared for his life because he was in dangerous territory. Would God remain with him in his hour of need? For Jacob, a crisis of faith followed. So did a wrestling match. How often do we wrestle with God? In illness, financial hardship, and other troubles, we may try to lash out at God or try to negotiate. A monk once told author Nikos Kazantzakis that he wrestled with God. “With God!” Kazantzakis exclaimed. “And you hope to win?” The monk replied. “I hope to lose.” Pray that in your next battle with God, despite feeling bruised and battered, you emerge with greater self-knowledge and stronger faith.

Genesis 32:23-33; Matthew 9:32-38 (384). *“But Jacob said, ‘I will not let you go until you bless me.’”*

## Wednesday, Jul 09, 2025

### A tough job but everyone has to do it

We tend to think that the word *apostle*—which means “one who is sent”—appears only in the gospels, yet the term is also used in Saint Paul’s letters to mean “one who has seen the risen Lord and has been commissioned to proclaim the Resurrection.” And in fact all believers in Christ are commissioned to evangelize. As Pope Saint John Paul II says, “No believer in Christ, no institution of the Church can avoid this supreme duty: to proclaim Christ to all peoples.” But spreading the Good News is no easy task. The early

disciples were scoffed at, scolded, beaten, and tortured for delivering a message that frightened and confused many even as it liberated and heartened a few. Prepare for blowback as you fight the good fight.

Genesis 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a; Matthew 10:1-7 (385). *“Jesus sent out these Twelve after instructing them.”*

## Thursday, Jul 10, 2025

### Turn the tables

The Israelite Joseph had it tough as the second youngest in a family of 12 brothers. Picked on and resented because he was his dad Jacob’s favorite, Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers. The next time he meets up with his brothers, years later, the tables are turned. Joseph is in a position of power, and his brothers are the vulnerable ones. It wouldn’t have taken much for Joseph to tap into feelings of hurt, betrayal, and rage and respond measure for measure. But instead, he draws on love and reacts with kindness and an outpouring of generosity. We, too, have that capacity for a love that is bigger than hurt. Remember that the next time a family resentment challenges you.

Genesis 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5; Matthew 10:7-15 (386). *“It was really for the sake of saving lives that God sent me here ahead of you.”*

## Friday, Jul 11, 2025

### What it takes to follow the Rule

Saint Benedict’s famous *Rule* was originally written as a guide for those living in monastic communities he had founded or had gathered around him. Ever since, though, the *Rule of St. Benedict* has been a source of guidance and inspiration for many people seeking to live more faithful Christian lives. “This message of mine is for you,” Benedict wrote in the prologue to the *Rule*, “if you are ready to give up your own will, once and for all, and armed with the strong and noble weapons of obedience to do battle for Christ the Lord.” All it takes is a simple, “Here I am, Lord” to be ready to follow the rule.

MEMORIAL OF BENEDICT, ABBOT

Genesis 46:1-7, 28-30; Matthew 10:16-23 (387). *“There God, speaking to Israel in a vision by night, called, ‘Jacob! Jacob!’ He answered, ‘Here I am.’”*

## Saturday, Jul 12, 2025

### Keep it simple

Today is National Simplicity Day in honor of the birth of Henry David Thoreau, a 19th-century U.S. transcendental philosopher and author. “Our life is frittered away by detail,” says Thoreau in *Walden*, “Simplify, simplify, simplify!” As we enter into the dog days of summer that advice is welcome. But remember that same advice as work and family obligations heat up come fall. Living simply takes effort and strict attention. As Carmelite nun Saint Thérèse of Lisieux insists, “Our Lord needs from us neither great deeds nor profound thoughts. Neither intelligence nor talents. He cherishes simplicity.” Where will simplicity lead you? Perhaps where it led Saint Oscar Romero: to live “simply and justly in solidarity with the poor.”

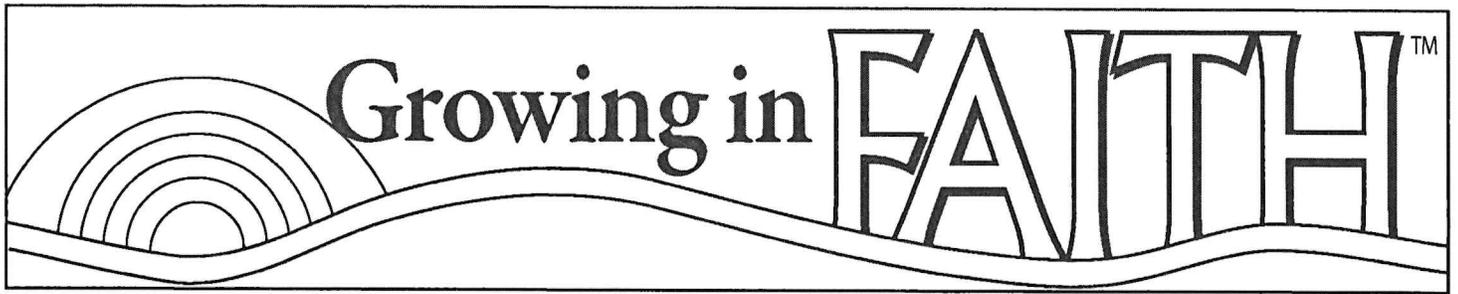
MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Genesis 49:29-32; 50:15-26a; Matthew 10:24-33 (388). *“Do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”*

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



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## One Minute Meditations

### St. Elizabeth of Portugal

St. Elizabeth followed the footsteps of her great-aunt and namesake, St. Elizabeth of Hungary: she was born to royal parents, practiced fervent spirituality, great generosity and penances. She married King Denis of Portugal. Despite a difficult marriage and family conflicts, she remained patient and charitable. She is known for her care for the poor and sick, and for resolving political conflicts peacefully. After her husband's death, St. Elizabeth entered the Third Order of St. Francis.

### Prayer is a response to Love

God wants a relationship with us. This is a central truth of our faith. "The living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer. In prayer, the faithful God's initiative of love always comes first; our own first step is always a response" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2567). So, next time you feel called to pray, say, like Samuel, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening" (1 Samuel 3:10).

"By mercy you have washed us in the Blood, and by mercy you desire to converse with your creatures... Loving Madman! ...Your mercy constrains you to give even more to mortals, namely, to leave yourself to them in food."

St. Catherine of Siena

## Step out and let Christ meet you where you are

"Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water" (Matthew 14:28). St. Peter showed remarkable courage when he stepped out of the boat in the middle of a storm. While God may sometimes call us to follow Him in dramatic or difficult moments, more often He invites us in the quiet, ordinary circumstances of daily life — to step out of what's comfortable and meet Him in our prayer, our relationships, and our service.

**Prayer:** The greatest challenge in deepening your prayer life is often just beginning. Start with a Gospel passage, read slowly, reflect, respond, and rest in God's presence. Light a candle. Sit in front of an icon. Play sacred music. Let beauty draw your heart to God. Ask the Holy Spirit to renew your desire, focus, and love for God. Step out of the boat — and you'll find Christ waiting.

**Relationships:** The virtues — patience, self-control, fidelity, honesty — aren't just about personal growth; they're about

loving others well. Show kindness to someone who frustrates you. Have a real conversation with someone with whom you disagree. Forgive, even if it's undeserved. These small choices shape us into Christ's likeness.

**Service:** "...the Son of Man came ... to

**"Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid" (Matthew 14:27).**

serve" (Matthew 20:28). Loving service doesn't require grand gestures. True holiness is forged in everyday acts: give away a piece of clothing you love but don't need. Help with the dishes, even when it's not your turn. Offer a break to a tired parent by watching their children. When service flows from love, it transforms both the giver and the receiver — and conforms our hearts to Christ's.

## Why Do Catholics Do That?

### Why Do Catholics Believe in Purgatory?

The Church teaches that many souls, though destined for Heaven, undergo purification after death, a process called Purgatory. Purgatory prepares us to see God clearly.

Scripture supports this: Judas Maccabee offered prayers for the dead (2 Maccabees 12:43-46), and Jesus mentioned sins forgiven in the next life (Matthew 12:32). St. Paul described a

judgment in which a person is saved, but their works are tested by fire. This fire isn't Hell (since they are saved), but a purifying fire, which aligns with the idea of Purgatory (1 Corinthians 3:13-15).

Purgatory is mercy. The souls there benefit from our prayers — and they pray for us in return. It's part of God's loving plan to make us truly ready for His presence.

# Outsmart temptation with grace in action

When temptation strikes, the first line of defense is often simple: say “no” or avoid the situation entirely. But when that’s not enough, there are deeper, proven strategies that can help us respond with grace and strength.

First, think of temptation as an opportunity for holiness. God always gives us a choice, and when we say “yes” to Him and “no” to sin, He responds with even more grace. If another person is involved, pray for him or her. That small act of charity not only pleases God but disarms the enemy. As Scripture says, “Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

Second, don’t just resist temptation—replace it. Trying

not to think about sin often leads us right back to it. Instead, follow the advice of Philippians 4:8: focus on what is true, honorable, and good. For example, swap out gossip for words that build others up, or replace a bad habit with a holy one.

Finally, don’t overlook small victories. Faithfulness in little things strengthens us for bigger battles. Telling the truth in a pressure situation, showing patience in traffic, or keeping a promise all train the soul for harder moments. “Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities” (Matthew 25:23). Grace builds on effort. Use every moment well.

## from Scripture

### Luke 11:1-13, The Our Father is a school of prayer

If you’ve ever found yourself thinking, “I want to pray better,” this Scripture reading is for you. In it, Jesus teaches His disciples the Our Father — a masterclass in prayer, compact and profound. It’s not just one prayer, but four in one.

First, it’s a prayer of praise and thanksgiving, placing God above all. Second, it’s a petition, where we ask for our daily needs — spiritual and material. Third, it’s a plea for mercy, as we ask for forgiveness and the grace to forgive others. And finally, it’s a declaration of trust in God’s providence, a surrender of our will to His.

Praying the Our Father well means acknowledging that God knows what’s best for us — even when His will challenges ours. It’s an invitation to deeper faith.

God always answers prayer — but not always how or when we expect. Sometimes the answer is “Yes.” Other times, it’s “No” or “Wait — I have something better.” Jesus also makes it clear that persistence matters. Like the neighbor in the parable who keeps knocking at the door, we’re called to ask, seek, and knock with confidence. Prayer isn’t just about getting what we want — it’s about drawing closer to the One who loves us most.

## Feasts & Celebrations

July 9 – St. Augustine Zhao Rong and Companions (1648-1930). This feast honors St. Augustine Zhao Rong, a soldier-turned-Catholic priest, and his martyred companions, forming a group of 120 Chinese Christians and Catholic missionaries. They were canonized by Pope St. John Paul II in 2000.

July 16 – Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (1251). The Blessed Mother appeared to St. Simon Stock in England, carrying the brown scapular, a sign of her favor of the Carmelite Order, and promised whoever wore the scapular until death would avoid the fires of Hell.

July 18 – St. Camillus de Lellis (1614). Born in Italy, St. Camillus aimed for holiness despite battling a gambling addiction and a hot temper. After gambling away his possessions, including his shirt, Franciscan brothers gave him a job. He was ordained a priest, and later founded the Order of the Camellians, caring for the grievously sick, prisoners, and the plague victims.

July 31 – St. Ignatius of Loyola (1556). Ignatius spent several years defending Spain and suffered serious injuries. While recovering, he began a religious conversion and a lifelong dedication to education. He wrote spiritual exercises and started a community of priests now known as the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

## Q & A Can we console Jesus?

If you saw a close friend in deep pain, you wouldn’t walk by thinking, “She will get over it — I’m busy.” You’d drop everything, run to her, and ask, “What can I do?” This is the logic — and the love — behind consoling the Heart of Jesus. It’s not just a pious tradition; it reaches into the very core of our faith.

Jesus is fully human. He felt real emotions — joy, grief, betrayal, and sorrow. He understands our pain, and we can share in His, since He is also fully God, He stands outside of time. In the Garden of Gethsemane, He saw not only every sin but also every act of love, repentance, and faith. That means your love today can truly console His Heart in His Passion.

Words like “consolation” or “reparation” might sound outdated, but they mean something simple and powerful: to love Jesus where He has been wounded, to bring gratitude where there was ingratitude, and to respond with compassion where He was abandoned. Even small acts of love — a kind word, a prayer, a moment of sincere repentance — touch Him deeply.

### Our Mission

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