

# 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 27, 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

It has been said that one of the best proofs of God's existence is that the Catholic Church still exists and that the Catholic Church not only exists, it continues to thrive century after century. How does it continue to exist?

## Priests.

### God still calls.

We saw it last weekend at our Masses (3 of the 4) as Fr. Steven Vetter introduced many of our seminarians in the Bismarck Diocese. Let me ask you, "Where in the world do these young men get this idea and motivation to become a priest?" Are they all collectively insane? Group hallucination is impossible, yet are they experiencing some kind of group delusion? In the midst of secularism, the media narratives, and all the wrong notions of what people believe the Catholic Church to be, where in the world do all of these men get this idea to give everything away and lose their life? **The Risen Lord is the answer!** And, the Bismarck Diocese does it well - I want to direct you to a good on-line article, *Priestly Vocations Are Booming in the Midwest and the South* (<https://www.ncregister.com/news/priestly-vocations-per-capita>) and particularly the chart to the right. Wonderful news - check it out!

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

*P.S. I've also included a photo that was taken when the seminarians and Fr. Vetter stopped by the Rectory during their time at Corpus Christi.*

#### Top ten dioceses:

1. Bismarck (North Dakota)	4,037	5T. Lincoln (Nebraska)	5,246
2. Steubenville (Ohio)	4,723	7. Jackson (Mississippi)	6,346
3. Wichita (Kansas)	4,931	8. Springfield (Illinois)	7,322
4. Tulsa (Oklahoma)	5,230	9. Marquette (Michigan)	7,477
5T. Fairbanks (Alaska)	5,246	10. Nashville (Tennessee)	7,533

#### Bottom ten dioceses:

1T. Lubbock (Texas)	None	6. Salt Lake City (Utah)	170,238
1T. Stockton (California)	None	7. Fresno (California)	159,258
3. Las Vegas (Nevada)	206,667	8. Spokane (Washington)	158,534
4. Brownsville (Texas)	196,881	9. San Diego (California)	154,041
5. New York (New York)	187,917	10. San Bernardino (California)	152, 373

#### Top five dioceses with major metro areas (over 2 million):

1. Nashville (Tennessee)	7,533
2. Kansas City - Saint Joseph (Missouri)	10,978
3. Kansas City (Kansas)	12,176
4. Cincinnati (Ohio)	15,512
5. Arlington (Virginia)	18,058

*This chart reflects Catholics per ordination. The lower the number, the better the ordination ratio.*

Source: Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA)



## 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: August 2-3	August 2, 2025	August 3, 2025	August 3, 2025	August 3, 2025
	4:00 PM	8:30 AM	10:45 AM	5:30 PM
<b>Hospitality</b>	1	1 Brian Steffi	1 Kathy Howe	1 Kathleen Fettig
	2	2 Heather Steffi	2 Maryam Abdo	2
	3	3 Catherine Williams	3	3
	4	4 Francis Williams	4	4
<b>Ushers</b>	1 John Meier	1 Mike Hilbert	1 Dan DeRouchey	1 Gene Rivinius <sup>2</sup>
	2 Pam Meier	2 Lance Bauer	2 Lonnie Zahn	2 Bev Rivinius
	3 Duane Urlacher	3 Dave Schmitz	3 Dan Sautner	3
	4	4 Linda Schmitz	4	4
	5	5 Ron Torkelson	5	5
	6	6 Virginia Torkelson	6	
<b>Lectors</b>	1 Janet Elkin	1 John Saiki	1 Mandi Hetletved	1 Todd Van Orman
	2 Sean Cleary	2 Hank LaBore	2 Rodger Wetzel	2
<b>Servers</b>	1 Teigyn Saylor	1 Renley Becket	1 Madisyn Lowe	1 Evan Hinnenkamp
	2	2 Brooklyn Barnhardt	2 Ella Weigel	2 Sophia Schlinger
<b>Eucharistic Min</b>	<b>BODY OF CHRIST</b>	<b>BODY OF CHRIST</b>	<b>BODY OF CHRIST</b>	<b>BODY OF CHRIST</b>
	R-1 MaryAnn Metcalf	R-1 Bill Knudson	R-1 Cathy Schatz	R-1
	2 Father	2 Father	2 Father	2 Father
	3 Janet Elkin	3 Shawn Anagnost	3 Kathy Howe	3 Margie Schiff
	4 Carol Thompson	4 Lynn Best	4 Janet Spooner	4
	5 Clare Auble	5 Kathy Knudson	5 Makayla Schatz	5
	6 Larry Thelen	6 Vern Welder	6 Cec Reetz	6
	7 Deacon	7 Deacon	7 Deacon	7 Deacon
	8	8 Joyce Welder	8 Pam Vetter	8
	9	9 Craig Zander	9 Barbie Lowe	11
	10	10 Dean Anagnost	10	12
	11		11	
<b>At 4:00*</b>	D12		12	
	LG	LG Karen daSilva	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 28** (12:10 p.m.) - ✠ Robert Schempp

**Tues., July 29** (12:10 p.m.) - ✠ Janice Wild

**Wed., July 30 - Collective Intention**

(12:10 p.m.) - ✠ Judy Davis

✠ Veronica Jahner

✠ Al Dressler

Special Intention

**Thurs., July 31** (12:10 p.m.) - ✠ Rod Hochhalter

**Fri., Aug. 1** (12:10 p.m.) - ✠ Francis & ✠ Burnetta Barth

**Sat., Aug 2** (4:00 p.m.) - ✠ Julia Brossart

**Sun., Aug 3** (8:30 a.m.) - Pro Populo

(10:45 a.m.) - ✠ Eudora Sticka

(5:30 p.m.) - ✠ Donna Stair

### Celebrate being a Corpus Christi Parishioner!

Everyone is invited to this year's parish-wide event, sponsored by the Young Ministry Program.

- The event is free to attend. Concessions will be available for purchase: FOMO Ice Cream, 3andME, and Fizzily.
- There will be a Kentucky Mission Trip video shared as the movie preview at 8:00 p.m.

**Parish Outdoor Movie Night**

featuring  
**"The Sandlot"**

July 30th 8:30 PM BYO Lawn Chair Lower Parking Lot

Concession Stands - Popcorn, drinks, ice cream, other treats!

Kentucky Mission Trip Video as Previews begins at 8 PM

### The Food Pantry is in need of:

Instant Potatoes

1 lb. Bag Rice

Elbow Macaroni



Thank you for your support of the Food Pantry!

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

CONTRIBUTIONS (General Fund) - (2,464 households)	
Adult Envelopes (248 Envelopes) . . . . .	\$18,146.85
Youth Envelopes . . . . .	\$155.12
TOTAL RECEIVED (July 20) . . . . .	\$18,301.97
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday July 6 . . . . .	\$17,256.51
Online Giving Week (June 30-July 6) . . . . .	\$7,510.00
Electronic Contributions (July 5) . . . . .	\$13,143.68
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday July 13 . . . . .	\$16,436.41
Online Giving Week (July 7-13) . . . . .	\$5,181.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday July 20 . . . . .	\$18,301.97
Online Giving Week (July 14-20) . . . . .	\$7,845.00
Electronic Contributions (July 20) . . . . .	\$10,455.68
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday July 27 . . . . .	\$0.00
Online Giving Week (July 21-27) . . . . .	\$0.00

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

### Stewardship Thoughts:

- Jesus is describing God's immeasurable generosity when He says in today's Gospel, "Whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted." But it should also be the description of us as Christian stewards – those seeking to follow Christ by using our gifts in service to others. If we accept the challenge of putting God first in our time and treasure, our attitudes, priorities, and spiritual lives will definitely change.
- Memorial gifts in your will can provide for a scholarship in your name or that of your family. The annual income earned on your gift will provide a Catholic education for some student almost perpetually.
- 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!



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.



vitalant

## BLOOD DRIVE

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Thursday, July 31 at Corpus Christi (in the Bloodmobile)

3:30-6:30 p.m. ~ 18 Donors needed!

To schedule, call 202-3379 or scan the QR Code.



**Have you moved?**  
**Are you a snowbird - or plan to be "temporarily away"?**  
**Have you dropped your land-line?**  
**Have you changed your cell number?**  
**Do you have a new email?**

Kindly notify the Parish Office of any/all contact changes by calling staff member, Colleen Reinhardt, 975-9807.



**Calling All High School Seniors & Parents!**

The Bismarck Diocese is taking part in Newman Connection's Faith Forward movement, a national initiative designed to ensure that every high school senior is personally connected to a campus ministry, military chaplain, or young adult parish before they graduate. *Why is this important?* Nearly 80% of young Catholics stop practicing their faith after high school—not because they don't believe, but because they were never connected to a new faith community. This Faith Forward movement changes that. But this effort isn't just for students in our schools — if you know a high school senior, whether they're your child, grandchild, neighbor, or friend, now is the time to help them get connected. Too many young Catholics lose their faith simply because they never find a new spiritual home after high school. The Faith Forward movement is our chance to change that. Visit [newmanconnection.org/faith-forward](http://newmanconnection.org/faith-forward) today to sign up a senior and ensure they step into their next chapter with faith, not fear.

There are new Pope Leo XIV holy cards available at the church entrances on the upper level. Help Yourself - first come, first serve.

With school starting soon, International Cultural Exchange Services (ICESUSA) is urgently looking for families who are willing to open their hearts and homes. Laura Ringsak is the local coordinator, based in Bismarck, and is seeking host families for a few exceptional students who have specifically expressed a desire to be placed with a Christian family and be involved in church life during their time in the U.S. These students are excited not just about experiencing American culture, but also about growing in their faith, connecting with a supportive community, and being part of a family that shares their values. Hosting a student is a beautiful way to live out the Gospel—opening your home and heart to someone who may carry this love back to their own country and family. *For more information, contact Laura Ringsak at 701-527-5157 or visit [www.icesusa.org](http://www.icesusa.org).*

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

- Sun. 7/27** Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10:45 a.m. Mass
- Tues. 7/29** 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.
- Wed. 7/30** Parish Outdoor Movie Night, 8:30 p.m.
- Thurs. 7/31** KC Blood Drive, 3:30-6:30 p.m., Lower Parking Lot
- Sun. 8/3** SNAC, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Room 140

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



Sunday, July 27 - NO SNAC  
 Pray for the youth & adult chaperones at the Steubenville Conference.

**Children's Liturgy of the Word**

**July 27 - 10:45 a.m. Mass**

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



Our priests/clergy will NEVER email, text, or call to solicit gift cards or gift certificates.

**This is a SCAM!**

If you get a message: delete it, report it - **do not respond!**

**Faith Formation  
 Registration 2025-2026**

**Online Registration Opens August 8<sup>th</sup>**

- Catechists ONLY – August 1<sup>st</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>
- Corpus Christi parishioners ONLY: August 8<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>
- Open registration August 22<sup>nd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>

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

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

**ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**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. Unable to commit to a scheduled time of Adoration? Feel free to visit Adoration as your schedule allows.

## Preplanning Your Funeral

Preplanning your 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.*



Light of Christ Catholic Schools

## Job Opportunities

### Light of Christ Catholic Schools

**St. Mary's Elementary School** – Lead Food Service Worker

**Cathedral Elementary School** – Part-Time Library Aide

**St. Mary's Academy** – Full-Time Custodian

Part-Time Spanish Instructor (*with secondary credentials*)

**St. Mary's Central High School** – Full-Time Custodian

**Kids Club Team Leaders** – Multiple Schools, *Monday-Friday from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m.*

**For information:** <https://lightofchristschools.org/employment>.



Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

***Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith and possibly joining the church?***

***Are you a Catholic who is interested in receiving Sacraments you may have missed - First Eucharist, First Communion or Confirmation?***

***Have you left the Catholic Church and interested in "Coming Home to the Catholic Faith"?***

***Are you a practicing Catholic and interested in learning more about your faith as an adult?***

The **Order of Christian Initiation of Adults "OCIA"** [Formerly known as RCIA] might be for you! Classes begin soon and are held Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. beginning September 8, 2025. For more information, visit our website <https://corpuschristibismarck.com/order-of-christian-initiation-of-adults-ocia> or call Tracy Kraft, Parish Manager, at her direct office number: 701-975-9803.

Has something gone missing?

### LOST & FOUND

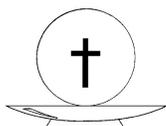
can be found near the elevator doors on the main level of the church. If you lost glasses, we have a large collection in the parish office. Items of greater value, such as wallets, purses, and phones are generally turned into the office.

***"Tony, Tony, come around, something's lost that must be found."*** Prayer to St. Anthony, Patron Saint of Lost Things

Deepen Your Faith Beyond Sunday! Catholic radio is here to accompany you every day of the week, not just on Sundays. Tune in to Real Presence Radio for inspiring conversations, solid Catholic teaching, and encouragement to live your faith fully. Listen on the radio - 91.7 FM, online at Real Presence Radio, or on our free mobile app.

Low Gluten hosts are available.

These hosts have a very low gluten content (.01%). Talk to a hospitality minister before Mass to learn how to receive low gluten Communion.



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 at the back of the church, to the east of 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.

**CHRISTIAN MUSIC FESTIVAL**

# Gospel Praising Festival

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 24** **ND STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS**  
11:30am-7:30pm

**SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS:**

**SARAH HART**

Gospel Praising Ministries \* Erhardt Country Band  
Stealin' Country Band \* Dne Dei \* The Bluestems  
Alice & Friends Gospel Music \* Ascension Music Ministry

**FOOD VENDORS ALL DAY (11:30AM-6:30PM)**  
Hensley's Tasty Truck \* FOND 10/40 Creamery \* Holy Crepe  
Baking with Beatitude \* Just Desserts by Jessie \* Auntie Jade's Catering  
The World of Macarons \* LoriLynn's Mibbles and Nosh

**EVENT IS FREE TO ATTEND. FREE-WILL DONATIONS ACCEPTED THROUGHOUT THE DAY FOR MINISTRY ON THE MARGINS AND STEPPING STONE MINISTRIES.**

**\*\*\*In case of inclement weather, event will be at the Bismarck Eagles, 313 N 26<sup>th</sup> St**

Sponsored by Gospel Praising (GPS) Ministries  
Julie Ternes 701-226-0356

**Sunday, Jul 27, 2025**

### **Celebrate our perfect parent**

In 1994 President Clinton signed a congressional resolution setting aside the fourth Sunday of July as Parents' Day for "recognizing, uplifting, and supporting the role of parents in the rearing of children." Embracing this day is easy for those of us who have or had loving parents, but for those of us who didn't experience great parenting, we may find it hard to feel uplifted. Surely, however, we can all celebrate the fact that we have a perfect divine parent who has loved us unconditionally and cared for us unceasingly since before we were born.

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Genesis 18:20-32; Colossians 2:12-14; Luke 11:1-13 (111). *"If you . . . know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"*

**Monday, Jul 28, 2025**

### **How does your garden grow?**

Jesus uses the parable of the mustard seed to illustrate that when the reign of God takes root even from the smallest seed, it will grow to great size. But is that what most of us want? Do we really hope to see the establishment of God's reign—where the lowly are lifted up and the mighty are brought to their knees? Scripture scholar John Dominic Crossan points out that in Mediterranean areas the mustard bushes that sprout from tiny mustard seeds are considered weeds—a nuisance to any garden. Hmm . . . how many of us find God's ways an irritant to our best-laid plans? God's reign is messy when judged by worldly standards. Weeds are welcome.

Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34; Matthew 13:31-35 (401). *"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed . . . It becomes a large bush."*

**Tuesday, Jul 29, 2025**

### **Martha has her moment**

Martha, Mary, and their brother Lazarus were close friends of Jesus. Martha has come down to us as the original "Type A" personality, the busy one in Luke's gospel who has trouble sitting still when Jesus visits. But she also was a woman of great courage and faith. Even in the face of her profound grief at having lost her brother, she was unshaken in her faith that Jesus was the "resurrection and the life." When a loss of a loved one leaves us feeling devastated, Martha's witness can bring strength and hope that death does not have the last word.

MEMORIAL OF MARTHA, MARY, AND LAZARUS

Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; John 11:19-27 or Luke 10:38-42 (402/607). *"I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God."*

**Wednesday, Jul 30, 2025**

### **We are more precious than we know**

Jesus' metaphor that the kingdom of God is a "pearl of great price," so precious that a person would sell all their possessions to have it, may seem extreme. However, Jesus is not giving out financial advice. He is putting a fine point on a truth he has utter confidence in: that God and God's reign of love is all that matters.

Often, it's only when we are pushed to the brink and confronted with losing it all that we realize the "pearl" in our midst. Think about it. Jesus laid down his life for us. We are pearls of great price to him. Breathtaking, isn't it?

Exodus 34:29-35; Matthew 13:44-46 (403). *"The Kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls."*

**Thursday, Jul 31, 2025**

### **Get in the spirit of giving**

The spirit of giving doesn't come naturally to all of us. Saint Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuits, had a prayer for that, as he did for most things: "Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God, teach me true generosity. Teach me to serve you as you deserve, to give without counting the cost, to fight heedless of wounds, to labor without seeking rest, to sacrifice myself without thought of any reward, save the knowledge that I have done your will." When the giving gets tough, the tough get on their knees and pray for wider hearts.

MEMORIAL OF IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, PRIEST

Exodus 40:16-21, 34-38; Matthew 13:47-53 (404). *"Whenever the cloud rose from the Dwelling, the children of Israel would set out on their journey."*

**Friday, Aug 01, 2025**

### **Anything not divine must go**

Skeptics abound. Those who retain their faith are tempted toward the fringes: a severe expression of religion that either lacks mercy or embraces a laxity that makes everything seem relative and even irrelevant. Does that sound like a description of our generation? Actually, it's how many described the 18th century that saw the rise of the Enlightenment but also severe economic inequalities and class divisions. In that divided age, Saint Alphonsus Liguori became the champion of a simple focus. "The heart of man will never find true peace, if it does not empty itself of all that is not God." In our own divisive age, that remains good advice.

MEMORIAL OF ALPHONSUS LIGUORI, BISHOP,  
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Leviticus 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Matthew 13:54-58 (405). *"On each of the seven days you shall offer an oblation to the LORD."*

**Saturday, Aug 02, 2025**

### **Fight against fear**

When word came to King Herod about Jesus and his ministry, Herod mistook him for John the Baptist come back from the dead. Perhaps Herod's error grew out of a fear that John had returned to haunt him or seek revenge of some kind for his murder at Herod's command. Fear can lead people to many kinds of misjudgments: avoiding problems, damaging relationships, not speaking out, holding back from taking steps to go forward in life. Muster the courage to fight your fear. This simple prayer to Jesus from 20th-century Trappist monk Thomas Merton may provide some strength: "I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

Leviticus 25:1, 8-17; Matthew 14:1-12 (406). *"Mighty powers are at work in him."*

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



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