

# 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))



## August 17, 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

At the midpoint of August, I have a few miscellaneous things/thoughts to share:

- On August 3, Pope Leo celebrated the Holy Mass for the Jubilee of Youth and I'd like to share a few of his words here. *"We are not made for a life where everything is taken for granted and static, but for an existence that is constantly renewed through gift of self in love...Through all this, you can grasp an important point: the fullness of our existence does not depend on what we store up or, as we heard in the Gospel, on what we possess (cf. Lk 12:13-21). Rather, fullness has to do with what we joyfully welcome and share (cf. Mt 10:8-10; Jn 6:1-13). Jesus is our hope. It is He, as Saint John Paul II said, "who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives...to commit...to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal." (XV World Youth Day, Prayer Vigil, 19 August 2000)."* While he was speaking to young people for the Jubilee of Youth, his words resound for each one of us, young or old. I challenge you to prayerfully think on these words of our Holy Father and allow the Spirit to direct your actions. To continue my stewardship theme over the last couple of bulletin articles; how can you use your God-given abilities to do 'something great with our lives,' right in our own families, communities, and circle of influence?
- Faith Formation registration is underway. As is the case every year, Melanie Konieczka has been quite busy getting everyone registered and answering questions. By the time registration closes, we have around 500 students in the program - this is the size of many small parishes or North Dakota towns! I am grateful for Melanie's work as well as that of her catechists, aides, and volunteers who assist throughout the year.



• Next weekend, on Sunday, August 24, Cappella will be singing for the 10:45 a.m. Mass. Cappella is a University of Mary choral ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Rebecca Raber, that provides liturgical music for campus liturgies and other special events. We look forward to having them at Corpus Christi next Sunday!

• Please consider attending one of the presentations by the African Missionary Team in the next week (see the times inside this bulletin). I plan to attend all three events - see you there!

~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: August 23-24	August 23, 2025		August 24, 2025		August 24, 2025		August 24, 2025	
	4:00 PM		8:30 AM		10:45 AM		5:30 PM	
Hospitality	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Ushers	1 Bob Clooten	1 Jerome Werlinger	1 Donald Williams	1 Darcy Neigum				
	2 Joyce Hinman	2 Jim Volk	2	2				
	3 Gisele Thorson	3 Mike Hilbert	3	3				
	4 Mary Barbere	4	4	4				
	5	5	5	5				
	6	6	6	6				
Lectors	1 Rod Kuhn	1 Dustin Fritel	1 Jane Link	1 Gerri Weisgerber				
	2	2 Brennan Quintus	2	2				
Servers	1 Sienna Mrachek	1	1	1 Evan Hinnenkamp				
	2	2	2	2				
Eucharistic Min	BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST	
	R-1 Clare Auble	R-1 Catherine Williams	R-1 Rita Mastel	R-1 Darcy Neigum				
	2 Father	2 Father	2 Father	2 Father				
	3 Curt Carik	3 Gerard Mathern	3 Cec Reetz	3 Blaine Nelson				
	4 Mary Winbauer	4 Pam Mathern	4 Rachele Massemo	4 Margie Schiff				
	5 Evelyn Spangler	5 Bess Deutsch	5 Kay Williams	5				
	6	6 Carl Jackson	6 Craig Schaaf	6				
	7 Deacon	7 Deacon	7 Deacon	7 Deacon				
	8	8 Colleen Fyiling	8 Lynde Pesirla	8				
	9	9 Francis Ziegler	9 Justin Reisenauer	9				
	10	10 Jan Ziegler	10	10				
	11		11	11				
At 4:00*	D12		12	12				
	LG	LG Andrea Jackson	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., Aug. 18** (12:10 p.m.) - *My Organ Donor & All Organ Donors*

**Tues., Aug. 19** (12:10 p.m.) - *Al Schmaltz*

**Wed., Aug. 20 - Collective Intention**

(12:10 p.m.) - *†David Cervillino*

*†Kay Sehn*

*†Veronica Jahner*

**Thurs., Aug. 21** (12:10 p.m.) - *†Pete & †Gen Horner*

**Fri., Aug. 22** (12:10 p.m.) - *†Bobbie Schauer*

**Sat., Aug. 23** (4:00 p.m.) - *†George Volk*

**Sun., Aug. 24** (8:30 a.m.) - *†Allan J. Baumgartner*

(10:45 a.m.) - *†Tillie Dilger*

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

CONTRIBUTIONS (General Fund) - (2,464 households)	
Adult Envelopes (246 Envelopes) . . . . .	\$17,174.26
Youth Envelopes . . . . .	\$236.09
TOTAL RECEIVED (Aug 10) . . . . .	\$17,410.35
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Aug 3 . . . . .	\$19,979.00
Online Giving Week (July 28-Aug 3) . . . . .	\$6,350.00
Electronic Contributions (Aug 5) . . . . .	\$13,068.68
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Aug 10 . . . . .	\$17,410.35
Online Giving Week (Aug 4-10) . . . . .	\$5,526.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Aug 17 . . . . .	\$0.00
Online Giving Week (Aug 11-17) . . . . .	\$0.00
Electronic Contributions (Aug 20) . . . . .	\$0.00
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Aug 24 . . . . .	\$0.00
Online Giving Week (Aug 18-24) . . . . .	\$0.00
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Aug 31 . . . . .	\$0.00
Online Giving Week (Aug 25-31) . . . . .	\$0.00

*Thank you for your generosity and for being a faithful steward of Corpus Christi!*

**Stewardship Thought:** In today's second reading, St. Paul encourages us not to grow weary or lose heart, but to persevere in following Jesus. Our willingness to give of ourselves, even in the face of conflict and division is one way to measure our discipleship. Jesus made it clear that being stewards of our time, talent and treasure is part of the will of His Father.

**August is National Make-A-Will Month** The Bismarck Diocese has secured FreeWill, an online service that makes it simple and free to create your own will. Visit [www.freewill.com/bismarckdiocese](http://www.freewill.com/bismarckdiocese) and from the convenience of your home, in about 20 minutes, you create a will and you print it out and have your signature witnessed by a notary public. *If you have any questions, please contact the Bismarck Diocese: Ron Schatz, 701-204-7202, [rschatz@bismarckdiocese.com](mailto:rschatz@bismarckdiocese.com) or Bryan Winterberg, 701-415-0399, [bwinterberg@bismarckdiocese.com](mailto:bwinterberg@bismarckdiocese.com).*

**The Food Pantry is in need of:**

1 lb. bag of Rice  
Pancake Mix & Syrup  
Canned Tuna

*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.



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 are you interested in "Coming Home to the Catholic Faith"?

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

Classes are held Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m., beginning September 8, 2025. For more information or to register, scan the QR code or call Tracy Kraft at 701-975-9803.



### Men's Group Breakfast Wednesday, August 20

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

Breakfast followed by discussion.

All Corpus Christi men are invited!

Corpus Christi Men's Group



### Corpus Christi Women's Group Wednesday, August 27

9:30-11:00 a.m., Parish Hall

"African Mission Presentation"

Join us for a light brunch, followed by a presentation by the team who served at our Diocesan African Mission this summer in June. Hope you can join us for this wonderful morning of good food and friendship with other women, while learning about the African Mission. No registration required - all women are invited! For more information, contact Cindy Anderst at the Parish Office at 255-4600.



**Fall 2025 Adult Faith Formation Class**  
*Mary: The Bible and the Mother of God*  
 Monday evenings: Sept. 22 - Nov. 10, 2025  
 7:00-8:30 p.m., Parish Hall  
 The cost of the class is \$15  
 Register by Sept. 15 - scan QR Code below

Why is Mary so important to Catholics, and why have so many people been devoted to her over the centuries? In this 8-part series, Dr. Brant Pitre examines what the Old and New Testaments, the life of Christ, and the early Church fathers reveal about the life and identity of Mary. Sr. Nancy Gunderson, OSB (Annunciation Monastery) will also present supplemental material from revelations of mystics, that give us deeper insights into the mystery of Mary. For information, contact Cindy Anderst at 255-6400.



Light of Christ Catholic Schools

**There are various full-time & part-time  
 Job Opportunities at  
 Light of Christ Catholic Schools**

<https://lightofchristschools.org/employment>



*Save the Date!*  
**FAITH FORMATION  
 FALL KICK-OFF**

Papa's Pumpkin Patch  
 Sunday, September 14, 2025  
 4:30-6:30 p.m.



**FAITH FORMATION  
 Registration 2025-2026**

**Online only registration system opened August 8**



Corpus Christi Parishioners - August 8-21  
 Open Registration - August 22-29

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

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.

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

- Sun. 8/17** SNAC, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Volleyball @ Sertoma Park
- Tues. 8/19** Quilters, 9:00 a.m., Community Room  
Eucharistic Adoration, 12:40-7:00 p.m.
- Wed. 8/20** Men's Group Breakfast, 6:30-7:45 a.m., Parish Hall
- Thurs. 8/21** African Mission Presentation, 6:00 p.m., Church
- Sun. 8/24** 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, Aug. 17: 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
 Topic: Sand Volleyball @ Sertoma Park

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

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



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. A copy of the Code of Conduct is located in the Lower Gathering Space Literature Rack.

**Corpus Christi MyParish App:**

Text the word **App** to **55321**.

*Stay in touch with Corpus Christi and engaged in your faith!*

The Catholic Church is concerned for those who are ill and near the end of life. To request the Sacraments, including the Anointing of the Sick, call the parish office, 701-255-4600. For **Sacramental Emergencies** after business hours, leave a message at 701-425-1483, and your call will be returned in a timely manner.



**AFRICAN  
 MISSION  
 PRESENTATIONS**

**JOIN US!**

**WED., AUG. 20 – MEN'S GROUP – 6:30 A.M.**  
**THURS., AUG. 21 – 6:00 P.M.**  
**WED., AUG. 27 – WOMEN'S GROUP – 9:30A.M.**

St. Hildegard's Church in Menoken, ND will be hosting their annual **Fall Dinner** on Sunday, September 7 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. The homemade dinner will feature their traditional sausage, roast beef, pies, buns and all the trimmings! There will be fun for all ages including games, bingo, and sale of home baked goods, and fresh garden produce. The cost of the meal will be \$15 for adults; \$8 for children 4 – 10 years; free for children 3 and under. Raffle tickets available for \$5 each, or 5 for \$20, (with over \$10,000 in prizes!) Winners will be drawn at 4:00 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of fellowship and fun for all ages! St. Hildegard's church is located at 17200 Highway 10, Menoken, ND (10 miles east of Bismarck).

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. 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) to sign up a senior.

There are also informational post cards in the upper gathering area by the church entrances.

**Beginning Experience**, a non-denominational peer ministry, is offering the 10-week session called "**Coping with Life Alone.**" This program is for those who struggle and need support after the loss of a love relationship by death, divorce or separation. Sessions start Sunday, September 7. Contact Elaine at 701-400-1941 (Bismarck area) or Cindy at 701-690-9003 (Dickinson area) for more information. Brochures are available upon request.

**Job Opening:** The Bismarck Diocese is seeking to fill the full-time position of **Coordinator of Priests' Services**. Responsibilities include: serving as a resource to all diocesan priests as it relates to healthcare, insurance (*healthcare, Medicare and long-term care*), retirement planning and other benefits; coordinating the needs of diocesan retired priests, including the priests who reside at Emmaus Place (*priest retirement home*); coordinating the housing contracts and apartment assignments at Emmaus Place; assisting Emmaus Place residents with medical appointments/consultations, transportation needs and other appointments or needs that arise. A licensed nurse with experience in eldercare is required. Competitive salary and generous benefits package provided. Visit [www.bismarckdiocese.com](http://www.bismarckdiocese.com) and click the "About" tab and then click the "Job Openings" tab to find specific details of the job requirements.

Community Potluck, games, and "Forgiving Father Community Fundraiser" for Ministry on the Margins, Heaven's Helpers and Stepping Stone Ministries. Come learn about these community resources, bring a dish to share, and play games! Saturday, August 23, Charity Lutheran (120 Aspen Ave), 4:00-6:00 p.m.

 **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 975-9816.*

**SOS** (*Sounds of Silence*) is a suicide support group which provides compassionate support and grief education with the hope that family members and friends will find guidance on the path of healing. Meetings are held 6:30-7:30 p.m., at Parkway Funeral Service, 2330 Tyler Parkway. Next meeting is Tuesday, Aug 19. Topic: "Our Special/favorite things we did or went to was..." If you have questions, contact Brenda Bergan, 426-1021.

Bismarck Diocese **Office of Catechesis and Youth** invites you to the following events:

- How Grace Works through the Ordinary: Why Practical Life Activities Matter, featuring keynote speaker Dr. Stella Marie Jeffrey, Saturday, September 13, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. CT, Church of St. Joseph, Beulah. \$20 Registration Fee. *For more info, visit <https://bismarckdiocese.com/catechesis-youth>.*
- CGS Catechist Day Retreat with Fr. Nick Schneider as Retreat Leader, Saturday, September 6, 10:0 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Christ the King, Mandan. \$20 Registration fee. *For more info, visit <https://bismarckdiocese.com/goodshepherd>.*



**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 \* One Dei \* The Bluestems  
Alice & Friends Gospel Music \* Ascension Music Ministry

**FOOD VENDORS ALL DAY (11:30AM-6:30PM)**  
Hensley's Tasty Truck \* FOMD 10/40 Creamery \* Holy Crepe  
Baking with Beatitude \* Just Desserts by Jessie \* Auntie Jade's Catering  
The World of Macarons \* LoriLynn's Nibbles 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, Aug 17, 2025

### Make no small plans

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire,” says Saint Catherine of Siena. But who is it that God wants you to be? The search for that answer is what the church calls the “process of discernment.” At various points in our lives, each of us must pause to ask: Where am I being called? What will ignite a fire within me—and set the world ablaze? As you determine your fiery course, consider this exhortation from Pope Francis: “We Christians were not chosen by the Lord for little things; push onwards toward the highest principles. Stake your lives on noble ideals.”

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10; Hebrews 12:1-4; Luke 12:49-53 (120).  
*“I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!”*

## Monday, Aug 18, 2025

### Check your security system

Why does having many possessions stand in the way of our spiritual freedom? If that is the case, why do we go to such great lengths to acquire things, and why is it so difficult to part with them, even when their usefulness to us is long gone? Perhaps it’s because we all need something we can hold onto, and holding onto things we can see and touch is certainly an understandable response to insecurity. But ultimately perishable things will fail to deliver the hoped-for security, as each of us learns sooner or later in life. Our relationships with God and our fellow human beings are the only sources of security that can endure. As spiritual giant Thomas Merton put it, “In the end, relationships save everything.”

Judges 2:11-19; Matthew 19:16-22 (419). *“He went away sad, for he had many possessions.”*

## Tuesday, Aug 19, 2025

### Believe in the big picture

“With God all things are possible” is surely one of the most well-known of Jesus’ statements. It’s short, optimistic, and, most important, we want it to be true. But when we look at the world around us, the words of the ancient Israelite Gideon more likely capture what’s on our minds, “If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened?” What Gideon didn’t know and we forget is that God holds the entire picture of creation, while we see only a very small piece. It’s like viewing a corner of a painting and wondering why we can’t make sense of the whole canvas. What’s a believer to do? Believe. Believe in a loving, merciful God who makes all things possible. That’s what Gideon did.

Judges 6:11-24a; Matthew 19:23-30 (420). *“Alas, Lord GOD, that I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!”*

## Wednesday, Aug 20, 2025

### Cultivate your calm

Bernard of Clairvaux, a French abbot of the 12th century, had a profound influence on the course of Catholicism at a time of great strife and intrigue in the church. He reformed monastic life, brought Marian devotion to the forefront of popular piety, and mediated between princes and popes. He was also instrumental in the founding of the Knights Templar, who came to embody the medieval ideal of a Christian knight. Amid the tumult of his age, he held fast to the conviction that the “three most important virtues are humility, humility, and humility.” Our own time is no less turbulent.

Perhaps a touch of Saint Bernard’s contemplative spirit—and his humility—could help us find calm today

MEMORIAL OF BERNARD, ABBOT, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Judges 9:6-15; Matthew 20:1-16 (421). *“Go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.”*

## Thursday, Aug 21, 2025

### Turn the table on tyrants

The concept of freedom is intrinsically linked with the struggle against tyranny. In the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, Abraham Lincoln explores two principles that, he says, have stood face to face from the beginning of time: the common right of humanity and the divine right of kings. It is an eternal push and pull of right and wrong, of a spirit that says, “You toil and work and earn bread, and I’ll eat it.” Whether in the context of a ruler or enslaver, “it is the same tyrannical principle,” says Lincoln. Jesus describes a different type of reign where the king invites everyone to the table and defies norms by making the last first and the first last. This upside-down world is the one our Baptism in Christ calls us to espouse.

Judges 11:29-39a; Matthew 22:1-14 (422). *“Behold, I have prepared my banquet.”*

## Friday, Aug 22, 2025

### The royal we

Though Mary was never crowned Queen of Heaven in scripture, she has long reigned as queen in the hearts of the faithful. Still, the question remains: In what way is her queenship *real*? Mary’s royal stature holds meaning for us, apart from whatever it signifies in the divine realm. “She is a most tender and kind Queen,” writes Saint Alphonsus Liguori, “eager to help us in our miseries. So much so that the church wants us to call her a Queen of Mercy.” We, too, are invited to be a holy and royal people, shaped by divine mercy and loving-kindness. What Mary already possesses is a vision of what we can be. Give yourself and others the royal treatment. Start with a touch of love.

MEMORIAL OF THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Matthew 22:34-40 (423). *“Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.”*

## Saturday, Aug 23, 2025

### Mary, most honored

You may be familiar with the 16th-century Litany of Loreto, which gathers wonderful images of Mary such as Mother Admirable, Mystical Rose, Tower of Ivory, Gate of Heaven, and Morning Star. Saint Francis of Assisi in the 13th century had a similar litany, his “Salutation of the Virgin,” which hails Mary as Christ’s Palace, Tabernacle, Home, and, perhaps the most striking, Mary as “Virgin made church.” Mary is the model for Christian discipleship. “Let it be done unto me according to God’s word,” she prays. Listen to Mary. She is always directing us toward her son, saying again and again, “Do what he tells you.”

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Matthew 23:1-12 (424). *“The greatest among you must be your servant.”*

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



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