

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 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

**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)



August 31, 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 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.

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

"Before God, no occupation is in itself great or small. Everything acquires the value of the love with which it is done." St. Josemaria Escriva

Happy Labor Day! Did you know? Labor Day is one of our country's older holidays. In 1887, Oregon became the first state to make Labor Day an official public holiday, and in 1894, Congress passed a bill recognizing Labor Day as a federal holiday. Only six federal holidays pre-date Labor Day. Congress created the original four federal holidays (*New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas*) in 1870. George Washington's Birthday (1880) and Memorial Day (1888) were added prior to Labor Day (1894). The next federal holidays were Armistice Day - now Veterans Day (1938), Columbus Day (1968), MLK, Jr. Day (1983), and Juneteenth (2021). [While many states recognize federal holidays as state holidays, the federal government cannot enact laws to compel them to do so, and states can recognize other days as state holidays that are not federal holidays.]

What does the Church say about work? In 1891 - three years before the institution of Labor Day - Pope Leo XIII wrote an encyclical, *Rerum Novarum* (Latin: *Of New Matters*), on capital and labor. Through the years, subsequent pontiffs have continued a series of encyclicals focused on Catholic social teaching. In 1981 - 90 years after Pope Leo XIII's original encyclical - Pope John Paul II wrote *Laborem Exercens* (Latin: *Through Work*). The encyclical begins with a scriptural argument that work is more than just an activity or commodity, but an essential part of human nature. "Work is a good thing for man - a good thing for his humanity - because through work man not only transforms nature, adapting it to his own needs, but he also achieves fulfillment as a human being and indeed, in a sense, becomes 'more a human being'." He writes about labor preceding capital and people over things; suitable employment for all who are capable of it, including the rights of persons with disabilities; the dignity of work; and the spirituality of work. A few key points: • Human work - and rest - are sharing in the activity of God, our Creator. • Work is following in the footsteps of Jesus, a carpenter, and there are many other examples of 'occupations' found in both the Old and New Testaments. • "By enduring the toil of work in union with Christ crucified for us, man in a way collaborates with the Son of God for the redemption of humanity." On this Labor Day, may you find a bit of respite from your work. My hope is you find joy and a sense of purpose in your work but if you find yourself weary - which is bound to happen to any one of us - remember, Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest...For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

Lastly, this week is the annual Fall Clergy Conference in Medora with Fr. Mark Avila as our presenter. I look forward to the education and fraternity the week provides and I thank the deacons for offering Communion Services in our absence. Also, my father's birthday is Friday; Happy Birthday, Dad! ~**Have a great week!** Msgr. Patrick 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: September 6-7	September 6, 2025		September 7, 2025		September 7, 2025		September 7, 2025	
	4:00 PM		8:30 AM		10:45 AM		5:30 PM	
Hospitality	1	1	Brian Steffl	1	Kathy Howe	1	Kathleen Fettig	
	2	2	Heather Steffl	2	Maryam Abdo	2		
	3	3	Catherine Williams	3		3		
	4	4	Francis Williams	4		4		
Ushers	1	1	John Meier	1	Mike Hilbert	1	Dan DeRouchey	1
	2	2	Pam Meier	2	Lance Bauer	2	Lonnie Zahn	2
	3	3	Duane Urlacher	3	Dave Schmitz	3	Dan Sauter	3
	4	4		4	Linda Schmitz	4		4
	5	5		5	Ron Torkelson	5		5
	6	6		6	Virginia Torkelson	6		
Lectors	1	1	Janet Elkin	1	John Saiki	1	Mandi Hetletved	1
	2	2	Sean Cleary	2	Hank LaBore	2	Rodger Wetzel	2
Servers	1	1	Teigyn Saylor	1	Mason Diehl	1	Madisyn Lowe	1
	2	2		2	Brooklyn Barnhardt	2	Ella Weigel	2
Eucharistic Min	BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST	
	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	Dean Anagnost	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	Brenda Bergan	10		12	
	11							
At 4:00*	D12							
	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., Sept. 1 (12:10 p.m.) - Communion Service
- Tues., Sept. 2 (12:10 p.m.) - Communion Service
- Wed., Sept. 3 (12:10 p.m.) - Communion Service
- Thurs., Sept. 4 (12:10 p.m.) - Communion Service
- Fri., Sept. 5 (12:10 p.m.) - †Kay Sehn
- Sat., Sept. 6 (4:00 p.m.) - †George Volk
- Sun., Sept. 7 (8:30 a.m.) - †Orvin & †Bernadette Engelhard
(10:45 a.m.) - Pro Populo
(5:30 p.m.) - †Pete Masset

Please note!

Schedule Change this week~

Due to the Fall Clergy Conference, September 1-4:

12:10 p.m. Communion Service with a Deacon
No Sacrament of Confession will be available



New Member Meal

Monday, September 15 at 5:30 p.m.

Please RSVP by September 11 at 255-4600

Invitations were mailed to new members. If you did not receive an invitation and you registered in the last 6 months, please call Colleen at her direct office line, 975-9807.



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?

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

Monday evenings, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Beginning September 8, 2025.

For more information or to register, scan the QR Code.

CONTRIBUTIONS (General Fund) - (2,464 households)	
Adult Envelopes (237 Envelopes)	\$15,133.42
Youth Envelopes	\$184.50
Total Received (Aug 24)	\$15,317.92
1 st Sunday Aug 3	\$19,979.00
Online Giving Week (July 28-Aug 3)	\$6,350.00
Electronic Contributions (Aug 5)	\$13,068.68
2 nd Sunday Aug 10	\$17,410.35
Online Giving Week (Aug 4-10)	\$5,526.00
3 rd Sunday Aug 17	\$19,621.72
Online Giving Week (Aug 11-17)	\$6,625.00
Electronic Contributions (Aug 20)	\$10,405.68
4 th Sunday Aug 24	\$15,317.92
Online Giving Week (Aug 18-24)	\$3,671.00
5 th 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 Thoughts:

- In the Gospel today, Jesus warns us not to give in hopes of repayment, but to give open-handedly to the poor and needy. That sort of giving mirrors the bountiful giving of God, and Jesus assures us it is blessed indeed!
- Stewardship is planned giving and does not leave giving to chance. It challenges us to plan. It asks us to appraise – deliberately – how we use our time, talent and our treasure.
- The end of August is here - did you make your will? August is National Make-A-Will Month and 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 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 questions, contact: Ron Schatz at 701-204-7202 or Bryan Winterberg at 701-415-0399.

Take the opportunity to stand up for the unborn at the **North Dakota March for Life** on Friday, October 10. The day begins with Mass (*celebrated by Bishop Kagan*) at 10:00 a.m. at the Bismarck Event Center (*use door A1*). After Mass, all are invited to march to the N.D. capitol building south mall for a rally. The rally is set to begin at 12:30 p.m. The N.D. March for Life is an annual event in October to coincide with **Respect Life Month**. Bishop Kagan will lead a holy hour on the eve of the N.D. March for Life on Thursday, October 9 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. The public is invited to attend both events.

Food Pantry Needs:



The Food Pantry is in need of Spaghetti Noodles, Hamburger Helper, Peanut Butter (Regular size jars)





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.



What's Going on Here This Week

Sun. 8/31 KC Perpetual Rosary for Vocations, 10:15 a.m.
 NO SNAC

Monday 9/1 thru Thursday 9/4: Fall Clergy Conference
No 11:30 a.m. Sacrament of Confession
12:10 p.m. Communion Services offered by a Deacon

Tues. 9/2 Caring Heart Quilters, 9:00 a.m., Community Rm.
 Eucharistic Adoration, 12:40-7:00 p.m.
 Food for the Soul, 5:30 p.m., Community Rm.

Wed. 9/3 Choir, 6:30 p.m., Music Rm. *(Note new rehearsal time)*
 Confirmation Kick-Off, 5:30 p.m., Community Rm.

Thurs. 9/4 Women's Young Widows Meet & Greet, 5:30 p.m.,
 Community Rm.

Fri. 9/5 Wedding Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m.

Sat. 9/6 Nuptial Mass, 1:30 p.m.

Sun. 9/7 Faith Formation **Group A**, 9:30 a.m.
 Youth Ministry Fall Kick-Off, 6:30 p.m.



Food for the Soul
Tuesday, September 2
5:30 p.m. in the Community Room

Eating alone after the loss of a spouse could be called the "6th Stage of Grief." Corpus Christi has created a community of friendship and support to assure you that there is always room at the table. Food for the Soul is a once-a-month meal for those who have lost a spouse; for more information, contact Tammy Schafer, 701-975-9816.

Young Women's Widow Meet & Greet

This group is a safe space for young widows to find understanding, share stories, and support one another through grief and healing.

Thurs., Sept. 4th - 5:30 p.m.

Corpus Christi Community Room
 Supper Provided (free of charge)



To RSVP or Learn More, contact: **Tammy Schafer**
 Call/text 701-220-9893 or tammy.schafer@corpuschristibismarck.com

This kickoff is just the beginning of a supportive journey. Feel free to bring a friend or support person if that makes you more comfortable.



Congratulations, August Knight of the Month:
Dan Klug



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) 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.



Children's Liturgy of the Word
September 14 & 28 - 10:45 a.m. Mass
 Lessons are geared for preK - 2nd Grade.



Volunteers needed for 2025-2026!



Faith Formation Fall Kick-Off
Papa's Pumpkin Patch
 Sunday, September 14 ~ 4:30-6:30 p.m.
 Scan QR Code to Register



YOUTH MINISTRY
Fall Kick Off

7TH SEPT | 6:30-8:30 PM
CORPUS CHRISTI | PARISH HALL

MIDDLE SCHOOL | HIGH SCHOOL
 PARENTS & FAMILY

BBQ | GAMES | REGISTRATION

Contact Cole Jones with questions!
 cole.jones@corpuschristibismarck.com



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.*

Reminder: The Parish Office is closed on Labor Day.



SoulCore Prayer and Exercise

SoulCore is a prayer experience that combines the rosary with core strengthening, stretching and functional exercises; a sensory experience combining candlelight, music, scripture, reflections and movement to nourish the body, mind and soul, and encourage deeper meditation on the mysteries and virtues of the rosary.

Who is SoulCore for? Adult women (16 years & older). Registered parishioners will be given priority to sign up for the program.

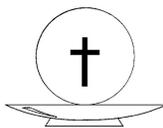
When? Thursday evenings, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Two four-week sessions (you can sign up for one or both sessions): **Session 1 = October 2-23 and Session 2 = October 30 - November 20.**

What? Bring an exercise mat and be dressed for exercise.

Cost? A donation box will be available at each class for those who are able to contribute.

Note: Class size is limited. Registration is required. Out of consideration for everyone involved, if you register and are unable to attend, please notify Cindy Anderst so your spot can be made available to someone else.

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.



Calling all girls in grades K-12! Local college students are teaming up with *CDA Court Immaculate Conception #322* to reinstate Bismarck's chapter of **JCDA - Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas**. Join us for our first informational meeting to learn about this opportunity for girls to grow in faith, leadership, friendship and serve their community.

Junior Catholic Daughters Welcome Luau

Sunday, September 14 at 2:00 p.m.

Cathedral of the Holy Spirit

We will have fellowship, pizza and a bracelet making service project. We can't wait to share more about JCDA with you! *Please RSVP to Madeline Abbot at mabbott1@umary.edu or 218-457-1518 by September 7. Feel free to reach out with questions.*

The Bismarck/Mandan **Catholic Daughters of the Americas** will meet on Tuesday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m. at Cathedral. **PLEASE NOTE** the date change. For information, call Karen at 527-4203.



The **Caring Hearts Quilters** meet every Tuesday morning in the Community Room from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Fabric donations are always welcome. The quilters wish to say **Thank you** for these donations as the fabric is wonderful and appreciated; these donations help continue this ministry! To join the quilters or to make a donation, contact Cec Reetz, 391-6520. *The Caring Hearts Quilters donate quilts to the community and raise funds through their annual Quilt Show & Sale in the Fall.*

Celebrate Grandparents Day: Sunday, September 7!

Real Presence Radio Fall Live Drive: September 9-11, from 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. each day, for *Real Stories, Real People, and Real Faith* on your local Catholic radio station. Support Real Presence Radio by tuning in at 91.7 FM and calling 877-795-0122 to give - or scan a QR Code.



You're invited to an exclusive screening of Triumph of the Heart. Come join Bella Health and Wellness as we witness the heroic journey of St. Maximilian Kolbe – a martyr of charity. This is a limited screening, available on September 11 at 7:00 p.m. **Reservation is required!** To learn more or to register, visit <https://bellahealthwellness.ticketspice.com/nd-25-triump-of-the-heart>.



Great Food, Great Fun!

Annual Fall Dinners around the Diocese

Scan the QR Code for ALL the local events!

Are you or someone you know struggling in a marriage? The diocesan program for troubled marriages called **Corazon** (*Spanish for heart*) is available the weekend of September 26-28. Couples who may be in a marriage in crisis are encouraged to attend a weekend. All confidences are kept and privacy for anyone inquiring about or attending a Corazon weekend is a priority. For questions, contact Amanda at 701-204-7205. For couple registration or additional information, visit bismarckdiocese.com/corazon.

Job Opportunities at the Bismarck Diocese:

- Full-time **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.
- Full-time **Cook 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. Visit www.bismarckdiocese.com.

Click the "About" tab and then the "Job Openings" tab to find specific details and how to apply.

Sunday, Aug 31, 2025

Gifts that keep on giving

“Love one another.” “Forgive everyone.” “Give to those who cannot repay you.” These sayings of Jesus seem like a lot of hard work with little reward. But nothing could be further from the truth. Have you ever left a large tip for a tired waitress or waiter? Or smiled at a store clerk who was having a difficult day? Such gestures generate feelings of gratitude and well-being that do not come any other way. If we spent only a few minutes every day thinking of a small gift we could give to someone, just imagine how our world would change! Try it today—then do it again tomorrow.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a; Luke 14:1, 7-14 (126). *“Blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you.”*

Monday, Sep 01, 2025

Prophetic advice

When Jesus returned to Nazareth and spoke prophetically, his hometown people rejected him. That foreshadowed the reception he would receive from his own people in general. It is a pattern repeated many times in history, from the time of the Jewish prophets who suffered repudiation right through to our own era, when right-to-life and immigrant-rights activists encounter stiff resistance to their prophetic message. It does us well to give folks a second hearing if we find ourselves made uncomfortable by their message. It may be the one we need to hear most. Pope Francis called each of us to be a prophet, who “shows Jesus to others, witnesses him, and helps live today and build tomorrow according to Jesus’ design.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Luke 4:16-30 (431). *“When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury.”*

Tuesday, Sep 02, 2025

Our small efforts make a splash

What does encouragement look like? A smile, a pat on the back, a kind word, an affirmation of effort or accomplishment. Encouragement is not hard physical labor. Yet at times we find it difficult to overcome our anger or disappointment in how little impact we’ve had. But Servant of God Dorothy Day says, “No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There’s too much work to do.” Her words of encouragement can help us encourage others. “What is the sense of our small effort?” Day asks. “A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words, and deeds is like that.”

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11; Luke 4:31-37 (432). *“Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up.”*

Wednesday, Sep 03, 2025

The cure for what ails you

“I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.” This hopeful prayer of Thomas Merton is one to draw on in difficult times. Hope is exactly what we need when we are in pain or despair. It is the foundation of all healing. Our bodies, minds, and hearts are made for healing. That healing may come quickly and completely, or it may be long,

painful, and only partially realized. And for each of us, once in a lifetime, healing ends in death. Yet as Christians, we remain hopeful because we have been promised the forgiveness of sins and eternal life in God’s love. So draw on hope—and let the healing begin.

Colossians 1:1-8; Luke 4:38-44 (433). *“He laid his hands on each of them and cured them.”*

Thursday, Sep 04, 2025

Our happiness is God’s

The biblical scholar Father Jerome Neyrey, S.J. wonders of the Early Church: “What it must have been like to be catechized into the gospel of Jesus, told that in Baptism we die with him and rise with him.” It was a radically new message—yet it remains so. What does it mean to find new life in death? Why do we and how can we feel the presence of the risen Christ? These questions continue to astound and fascinate us. Not to worry if we cannot fathom the depths of the mystery. As Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne says, “We may not understand His Will for us in time, but in eternity the veil will be drawn and we shall see that He acted only for our happiness.”

Colossians 1:9-14; Luke 5:1-11 (434). *“They left everything and followed him.”*

Friday, Sep 05, 2025

Celebrate good times

From the moment you hit the reception hall until the happy couple drives away, tin cans rattling and tissue-paper flowers fluttering, it’s party time. Hors d’oeuvres piled high on plates make the rounds, and sparkling beverages are liberally poured. The food never stops coming, from the first salad to the final slice of much-decorated cake. Music fills the hall and dancers demonstrate how each generation once cut the rug. Cameras capture the joy of the hour with each flash. That is what celebration looks like. Jesus says every hour is worth celebrating, for those who believe. It’s time to party!

Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 5:33-39 (435). *“Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?”*

Saturday, Sep 06, 2025

Some rules are meant to be broken

Jesus condemns strict observance of the sabbath when it comes at the expense of life and well-being. Who wouldn’t want to recover an animal that fell down a well on the sabbath or gather grain to feed one’s family? In today’s terms, you’d search for your lost pet on a Sunday or go grocery shopping if you were out of food. Jesus loves the law and understands its value, but he wants to make a larger point about how God’s love comes ahead of strict observances. Simply put, in the words of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, “Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing.” Show some kindness ahead of everything else, and you’ll make a sabbath of your life each day.

Colossians 1:21-23; Luke 6:1-5 (436). *“The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.”*

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. Lawrence Justinian

Born into a noble Venetian family, St. Lawrence Justinian desired sanctity from an early age. He entered the Order of the Augustinian Canons Regular of St. George, where he became known for his zeal, penitential lifestyle, and deep charity—especially toward the poor. He eventually became the general of the order. Recognized for his holiness, he was appointed Bishop, and later Patriarch, of Venice by the pope. He served faithfully until his death at the age of seventy-five.

Jesus turns sorrow into joy

Each September, the Church celebrates the Exaltation of the Holy Cross—not because we glorify suffering, but because the Cross reveals a Love that is total, faithful, and fearless. Christ embraced suffering, rejection, and death—and triumphed over them. His Cross is the ultimate sign that love is stronger than pain. When we bring our trials and sorrows to Jesus, He transforms them—through a kind of divine alchemy—into strength, healing, joy, and even glory. In Him, suffering is never the end of the story.

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

Holiness in everyday life

Pier Giorgio Frassati — to be canonized on September 7 — was known for blending intense spirituality with fun—he loved mountain climbing, practical jokes, and friendship. He taught that holiness can be simple, joyful, and practical, woven into daily life. In a 1923 address to young people, he summed up the Christian life: “Our religion is based on charity, which is nothing other than the most perfect Love.” He proposed three ways to live that love: by example, through compassion, and by joyful invitation.

By example: Blessed Pier believed that our lives should reflect our faith without needing words. “We Catholics must strive to have our whole life guided by Christian moral law,” he said. That includes building our schedules around the Eucharist, practicing reverence, treating others with dignity, and living generously. These everyday choices silently proclaim who we are—and whose we are.

With compassion: Blessed Pier encouraged personal, thoughtful acts of

love: visiting the lonely, offering a kind word, or putting others first. He reminded us that holiness begins with small, intentional acts of compassion.

By joyful invitation: Blessed Pier’s faith was magnetic, marked by laughter,

“Jesus is with me. I have nothing to fear.”

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

adventure, and prayer. He urged others to draw people to Christ with warmth and sincerity: “Persuade [those who are far from the Church] to follow the ways of God.” A quiet chapel visit or simple prayer can be a powerful invitation to grace.

He urged Catholics to stay rooted in the Eucharist: “Approach the Eucharistic Table as often as possible... from which you will draw strength.” His life reminds us that sainthood is not about perfection, but about choosing love—daily, faithfully, and joyfully.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe in angels?

In the Nicene Creed, professed at every Sunday Mass and solemnity, we affirm belief in “all things visible and invisible”—a direct reference to spiritual beings, including angels. Throughout Scripture, angels appear as messengers, protectors, and servants of God’s will. Jesus’ words in Matthew 18:10,

referencing angels who “*behold the face of [His] Father*”—form the basis for the Church’s belief in guardian angels. These faithful spirits, who remained loyal to God, continue to watch over and guide us. Belief in angels is not optional but a vital part of Catholic teaching and tradition.

Hearing God's voice in the everyday

Discernment isn't limited to religious vocations—it's a way of seeking God's will in all areas of life. Whether you're considering a marriage, a job change, or a move to a new city, discernment helps you respond to God's loving plan with clarity and peace. Here are three tips to avoid common pitfalls:

Learn to recognize His voice: It's difficult to discern God's will if we don't know His character. A healthy relationship with God—nurtured through prayer and Scripture, especially the Gospels—helps us become familiar with His voice. The more time we spend with Him, the easier it becomes to distinguish His promptings from fear, pressure, or personal bias.

Take a practical step: Discernment requires action. You can't always think your way to clarity. Take the interview, visit the new city, introduce your intended to your family. These steps don't commit you for life—they give you real-world experience that sharpens your perspective and brings peace to your decision-making.

Narrow your focus: Too many options can paralyze progress. At some point, discernment involves commitment and trust. Begin by eliminating options that clearly don't fit. The path may shift as you go, but each step—taken prayerfully—leads you closer to the right destination. God's guidance is often gradual but unmistakable.

from Scripture

Luke 16:19-31, Doing the good we ought to do

In this Gospel passage, Jesus tells a parable aimed at those who are indifferent to the suffering around them. A rich man enjoys daily luxury while Lazarus, a poor and sick man, lies just outside his gate, starving and ignored. Though the rich man likely passed by Lazarus often—and even knew his name—he offered no help.

After death, their roles are reversed. Lazarus is carried to the side of Abraham, a place of comfort and honor. The rich man finds himself in torment and pleads for relief. He asks Abraham to send Lazarus with water,

and later to warn his brothers. Both requests are denied.

Jesus' parable does not condemn wealth but the failure to love. The rich man's sin was not what he did, but what he refused to do. He saw suffering and remained unmoved.

This passage challenges us to examine our own hearts. Do we see those in need and look away?

True Christian living means turning prayer into mercy, and faith into action. When we love as Christ commands, the reward is eternal joy.

Feasts & Celebrations

September 12 – The Holy Name of Mary. Mary has many titles. Begun in Spain in 1513, this feast celebrates her as the Blessed Virgin and is the counterpart to the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. Pope Innocent XI extended this feast to the entire Church after the King of Poland, with Mary's protection, defeated an advancing Muslim army in Vienna in 1683.

September 14 – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (c. 326). St. Helena (mother of Emperor Constantine) discovered what is believed to be the True Cross while on pilgrimage in Jerusalem. On that site, Constantine built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher.

September 16 – Saints Cornelius and Cyprian (c. 253). A renowned theologian and orator, he was ordained a priest and served as the bishop of Carthage. He helped Pope St. Cornelius defend the Church against the Novatian heretics. Pope Cornelius was exiled and died from harsh treatment in 253. Cyprian was arrested for refusing to worship idols. He was exiled and subsequently beheaded.

September 19 – St. Januarius (c. 305). Not much is known about this saint, except that he was the Bishop of Benevento, Italy, and that he was martyred with six companions under the Diocletian persecutions. For reasons unknown, a vial of his blood has miraculously liquified annually, several times a year, since at least 1389.

Q & A Why do Catholics display crucifixes instead of crosses?

Jesus is risen in glory, having conquered sin and death. Yet we, though united to Him in Baptism, remain on our earthly journey, still vulnerable to temptation and suffering. The Crucifix stands as a powerful reminder of the cost of sin and the price of our redemption.

More than a symbol of pain, the Crucifix reveals the depth of God's mercy and love: *"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son"* (John 3:16). It reminds us that Jesus is *"a compassionate high priest"* (Hebrews 4:15) who knows human suffering firsthand—rejection, sorrow, and even death (cf. Psalm 22:14; 69:20).

In every Catholic church, the Crucifix also points to the reality of the Eucharist. The sacrifice of the Mass is not separate from Calvary—it is the same sacrifice, made present to us (*Catechism*, 1545). Christ offers Himself to the Father, and we receive the fruits of that offering: grace, healing, and strength.

The Crucifix is not just a symbol—it is the visual proclamation of love that saves, heals, and invites us into deeper communion with Christ.

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