

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)



September 7, 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

I appreciate your comments on my August 23/24 homily, which is posted online. I also promised a few of you I would reiterate a mindset of the Church highlighted in that homily, *Nulla Salus Extra Ecclessiam (NSEE)*; "There is no salvation outside the Church." I said this is a particularly Catholic mindset reminding us of the necessity of the Church for salvation. Why? Because Jesus Christ is present through the Church and Jesus Christ is also made accessible through the Church. Our Lord believed that. That is why He founded the Church. Many, as is the pattern, will misrepresent the Church and say that NSEE means the Catholic Church teaches that all those visibly outside the Church are automatically and definitively condemned. That is not the Church teaching. In fact, the Church acknowledges people can be saved without explicit membership in the visible Church that Christ established. In God, all things are possible (Mt. 19:26) who alone judges a person's implicit desire for salvation. However, "There is no salvation outside the Church" does mean that the Catholic Church is the ordinary means for our salvation because the Catholic Church is the divinely ordained means by which salvation is both offered and received. That is why our Lord gave us the gift of the Church!

Finally, an observation for what it is worth. Last week I had an appointment in Dickinson, so I thought I'd take my bike to run out. This was my first experience on I-94 at the new 80 mph speed limit, and it would be on my motorcycle (HD04, FLHRSI, Stage II, Samson exhaust). My touring Harley Davidson has plenty of horsepower and torque, but I feel most comfortable setting my cruise to 70 or 75, depending on the weather/road conditions. With the new speed limit, I was concerned I would be run over. (On a motorcycle, many threats come from behind.) However, that was not the case. I passed vehicles and trucks and was passed myself. I never felt uncomfortable, nor did I ever feel like traffic blew by me at 85 or 90 mph, as I feared. I was surprised. I also saw repeated presence of State troopers, which I always like to see. I probably saw five along the way to and from Dickinson. The fact of the matter is that speed is most often a commonality in motorcycle fatalities. Be safe, everyone, and watch for motorcycles - the life you save may be your priest.



~Have a great week! Msgr. Patrick Schumacher

P.S. A photo with Fr. Mark Avila, the presenter at the Fall Conference. We took the photo in the rectory Chapel where we had Mass, followed by lunch at the rectory, before we departed for Medora. The conference was excellent! Thank you to our team of deacons who assisted while we were on conference, as well as the staff for their work while we were away.

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 13-14	September 13, 2025		September 14, 2025		September 14, 2025		September 14, 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		4		4	Bernie Holzer	4	
			5					
Lectors	1	Nikki Ferderer	1	David Klym	1	Claudia Dietrich	1	Christopher Knudson
	2	Heather Lundeen	2	Francis Ziegler	2	Christine Elzenga	2	Bob Willenbring
Servers	1	Chloe Lundeen	1	Carsten Schmidt	1	Ben Miller	1	Joelle Knudson
	2	Olivia Lundeen	2	Warren Miller	2	Jake Miller	2	Kyan Knudson
Eucharistic Min		BODY OF CHRIST						
	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	Karen Stahl	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., Sept. 8 (12:10 p.m.) - †Joe Zahradka

Tues., Sept. 9 (12:10 p.m.) - †Dan Hruby

Wed., Sept 10 - Collective Intention

(12:10 p.m.) - †Elaine Buresh

†Tillie Becker

†Harris Kukla

Thurs., Sept. 11 (12:10 p.m.) - †Myles Knudson

Fri., Sept. 12 (12:10 p.m.) - †Leo Rudnick

Sat., Sept. 13 (4:00 p.m.) - †Marc Baumgartner

Sun., Sept. 14 (8:30 a.m.) - †Earl Sauer

(10:45 a.m.) - †Ron Dressler

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



Happy Grandparents Day

- September 7 -

Lord God almighty, bless our grandparents with long life, happiness, and health.

May they remain constant in your love and be living signs of your presence to their children and grandchildren.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

www.usccb.org



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.

Do you like to sing? Join the Corpus Christi Music Ministry Team! Weekly Choir rehearsals have resumed. Do you have a love for music? New members are welcome! For information about the Music Ministry program, contact Dr. Sebastian Haboczki, 701-945-9806.

Remember - Stay Vigilant!

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 - do not respond!

CONTRIBUTIONS (General Fund) - (2,464 households)	
Adult Envelopes (209 Envelopes)	\$12,443.02
Youth Envelopes	\$199.01
Total Received (Aug 31)	\$12,642.03
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	\$12,642.03
Online Giving Week (Aug 25-31)	\$4,327.15

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



Caring Hearts Quilters meet on Tuesday mornings, 9:00 a.m. - Noon, in the Community Room. If you are interested in joining the quilters or have questions, contact Cec Reetz, 391-6520.

- Fabric donations are welcome (*and very appreciated!*) to continue the ministry.
- This past year (*since September 2024*), the Caring Hearts Quilters have made financial donations to the Corpus Christi Food Pantry and the Bismarck Schools Pantry; they have donated 102 pillows/pillowcases to Ministry on the Margins; they have donated 86 quilts to: *CHI Home Health & Hospice, Right to Life, KC Bunk Bed Project, Touchmark, Brave the Shave, Women's Care Center, American Cancer Society, Missouri Slope, Edgewood Vista, Maplevue Memory Care, Augusta Place, Edgewood on Dominion, Sertoma Silent*

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.

Men's Group Breakfast Wednesday, September 17

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 Food Pantry Needs:
Hamburger Helper & Pancake Syrup
Prefer not to shop? Monetary donations are accepted. Thank you!



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.



Knights of Columbus

Council Meeting
 Tuesday, September 9
 7:00 p.m., Community Room

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 and **registration is open**. Please click the link below to register yourself and/or your group. Sign up as soon as you are able, as registration will close on October 1. <https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Form/57686aed-aa84-4cfa-b102-eea6280249dc>.



Society of St. Vincent de Paul
Friends of the Poor 5K Walk
Sunday, September 28
 Sertoma Park Community Shelter

3:30 p.m. Registration & 4:00 p.m. Walk

• The Cathedral of the Holy Spirit Knights of Columbus will provide a picnic meal following the walk. • Scan the QR code to register. • There is no registration fee, a free will donation is encouraged. • All funds stay local to help the poor in our community.

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, 255-4600. For **Sacramental Emergencies** after business hours, leave a text or voicemail message at 701-425-1483, and your call will be returned in a timely manner.

What's Going on Here This Week

- Sun. 9/7** Faith Formation **Group A**, 9:30-10:45 a.m.
 Youth Ministry Fall Kick Off, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Parish Hall
- Mon. 9/8** Family Table, 4:45-5:30 p.m., Parish Hall
 Faith Formation **Group B**, 5:30-6:45 p.m.
 OCIA, 7:00-9:00 p.m., South Hospitality Room
- Tues. 9/9** Caring Hearts Quilters, 9:00 a.m., Community Room
 Eucharistic Adoration, 12:45-7:00 p.m., Church
 Knights of Columbus Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Community Room
- Wed. 9/10** Family Table, 4:45-5:30 p.m., Parish Hall
 Faith Formation **Group C**, 5:30-6:45 p.m.
 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m., Choir Room
 Middle School Faith Formation (**Grades 6, 7 & 8**), 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Sun. 9/14** Faith Formation **Group D**, 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.
 Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10:45 a.m. Mass
 Confirmation Retreat (**Grade 9**), 12:00-6:30 p.m., Parish Hall
 Faith Formation Fall Kick Off, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Papa's Pumpkin Patch
 SNAC, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Youth Room 140



Volunteers needed for 2025-2026!

Select the Sundays that work for you!

Children's Liturgy of the Word
September 14 & 28 - 10:45 a.m. Mass

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



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 | (701) 975 9804



Interested in joining the Catholic Faith?
 OCIA is the normative way to receive formation to enter the Catholic Church.

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

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



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.

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.

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.



Mark your calendars -

The KCs and the Quilters are joining forces once again!

The Caring Heart Quilt Show (Day #2)

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast
Sunday, October 19

All details will be included in the October bulletins.

St. Serra Vocations Apostolate of Bismarck-Mandan

Fundraising Breakfast and Bake Sale

for Religious Vocations

Sunday, September 21

St. Mary's Academy Cafeteria (1025 N. 2nd St.)

The meal is served 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The menu includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, coffee and juice. Soft serve ice cream will also be available with an assortment of toppings. Cost is \$10/adults; \$5/children (10 and under); free for children under age 3. There will also be a bake sale. Donations are welcome for the bake sale and can be dropped off on Saturday, September 20 between 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m., at the St. Mary's Academy (1025 N. 2nd St.).



Great Food, Great Fun!

Annual Fall Dinners around the Diocese

Scan the QR Code for ALL the local events!

The list is also included in the September DCA.

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. 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 apply.

ND Right to Life Memorial to the Unborn on Saturday, September 13 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Mary's Cemetery (located at 23rd St. and Avenue D, Bismarck). Together let us remember the victims of abortion and pray for a final end of this injustice in our land during the National Day of Remembrance for Unborn Children. For information, call 701-955-8239 or email director@ndrl.org.

"Love God, Serve God; everything is in that." St. Clare of Assisi

Sunday, Sep 07, 2025

Don't hold back

Do we recognize the Jesus who says, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, he cannot be my disciple"? The words seem harsh in comparison to the soothing invitation of the Good Shepherd. Not to worry—Jesus is not insisting we abandon family or become homeless in order to follow him. But Jesus is saying, without doubt, that nothing—no thing and no one—can become so central in life that it interferes with doing God's will to love God and love your neighbor as yourself by being just, showing mercy, and walking with God. Jesus' call is "do as I do. Love as I love, hold nothing back. Do this in remembrance of me."

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Wisdom 9:13-18b; Philemon 9-10, 12-17; Luke 14:25-33 (129).

"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."

Monday, Sep 08, 2025

Set your sights on love

Disappointments come in all varieties: in finance, romance, parenting, and professional fulfillment. Some of us dream big dreams only to reap what seem humble returns. Should we set our sights lower, then, to keep disappointment at bay? For his part Saint Paul does recommend an attitude adjustment: Aim for love. Those who orient their actions and intentions toward love of God will not be disappointed because God is glad to employ all things, successes and failures together, to fulfill divine purposes. Just ask Saints Joachim and Anne, aged parents of a late-arriving child soon to be called "full of grace."

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Micah 5:1-4a or Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23 (636). *"We know that all things work for good for those who love God."*

Tuesday, Sep 09, 2025

The secret lives of Christians

The Spanish Jesuit priest Saint Peter Claver spent 40 years ministering to African slaves arriving in the port of Cartagena, in what is now Colombia. Many thought he was wasting his time and even opposed his work with people whose welfare was almost entirely neglected. In the last few years of his life, Peter himself was nearly forgotten, having become ill and confined to his room. Yet his death in 1654 prodded the city into the realization they had lost a saint. Even if your efforts to help others go unnoticed or unappreciated—the beneficiaries of your goodwill will know you through your works as will God.

MEMORIAL OF PETER CLAVER, PRIEST

Colossians 2:6-15; Luke 6:12-19 (438). *"He brought you to life along with him."*

Wednesday, Sep 10, 2025

Take a good hard look

What's not to love about the Beatitudes? Each is a source of hope in the midst of the joys and sorrows of everyday life. But then there's that curious part that follows that begins with those fateful words, "Woe to you," and that's about the time we decide God is taking on all those "evildoers" out there. It's difficult to hear these words of admonishment addressed to us, yet we must take them to

heart and see them as calling us to life. Joan of Arc offers a good prayer for these moments of uncertainty: "If I am in God's grace, may he keep me there. If I am not, may he put me there."

Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 6:20-26 (439). *"You have taken off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed."*

Thursday, Sep 11, 2025

You are what you wear

Clothing has a dual purpose: to protect the body from harsh weather and to adorn and identify ourselves: the business suit of an executive, the jeans of a teenager, the uniform of a soldier. In that respect, it makes sense that Saint Paul says we should "put on" virtue; we should wear compassion, kindness, patience, gentleness as colorfully and obviously as we wear our outfits. Paul wants us to wear our allegiance to Christ "on our sleeves" if you will. The Christian display is not meant as a boast like a Gucci or Prada logo, but as a simple, humble sign that the wearer belongs to Christ, and is thus cloaked in love.

Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 6:27-38 (440). *"Over all these put on love."*

Friday, Sep 12, 2025

Set a good example

Remember that moment when you first realized: "Oh, my gosh, I'm becoming my mother!"—or your father or whoever it was staring back at you from the mirror of your life? We do tend to grow up to become like our elders in many ways, whether we like it or not. Indeed, we put a lot of time and effort into trying to mold young people. Yet, if the above is true, we ought to spend more energy molding and shaping ourselves to be worthy of emulation. That way, when the student becomes like the teacher, we will have made some progress. Remember, says Pope Benedict XVI, "a witness of Christ does not merely transmit information but, through the coherency of his own life, becomes a dependable reference point."

1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14; Luke 6:39-42 (441). *"No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher."*

Saturday, Sep 13, 2025

Simple words of wisdom

A gifted preacher gains a great following. Take the Early Church Father John Chrysostom (347-407) for example. Because of his eloquence, he was given the surname *chrysostomos*, meaning "golden mouthed," and his sermons are still studied and quoted today. What gave his words such power? It is said he avoided flowery language and complex images; instead, he spoke simply and plainly and applied biblical lessons to everyday life. Here's one sweet example: "The bee is more honored than other animals, not because she labors, but because she labors for others." Gifted preaching changes hearts and lives. The next time you hear such preaching, let the one who delivered it know you appreciate the effort that went into preparing it.

MEMORIAL OF JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, BISHOP,
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 1:15-17; Luke 6:43-49 (442). *"I will show you what someone is like who comes to me, listens to my words, and acts on them."*

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



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