

# 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))



## September 28, 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

As we end the month of September, a few miscellaneous items:

- Thank you for your comments on last weekend's homily. The State of the Parish report has hit homes and I hope every parishioner will take time to reflect on Luke 16:10 and consider our stewardship opportunities here at the parish. Last weekend - Friday, September 19 and Sunday, September 21 - the rectory hosted the Young Adult Group and the High School Youth Group, respectively. Fr. Gardner, Fr. Rebera, and I (as well as Romeo & Titus) enjoyed our time. I commend Cole Jones, and his leadership team, for all their work with our youth and young adult ministries. The parish is blessed to have these active and growing ministries, assisting our youth and young adults on their walk with Christ. Not many parishes are able to have a full-time Director of Youth Ministry. Cole has been with us on a full-time basis since July 2024 and continues to expand and guide the program. Many parents have expressed their excitement and appreciation for what is happening at Corpus Christi.
- This weekend, both Fr. John Paul and I had weddings. He was here at Corpus Christi and I was out of town; the second out of town wedding I have had in the month of September.
- Next weekend, Romeo and Titus are looking forward to the annual Pet Blessing. One of my favorite things about the Pet Blessing is you never know what animal is going to show up - dogs, cats, rabbits, and birds are pretty typical. We've also had horses and reptiles. I always hope a new species can be added to my list of blessed pets! What pet do you have? Please join us!
- After the Pet Blessing and the 5:30 p.m. Mass on October 5, we will have Confirmation rehearsal and confessions as our Confirmandi are preparing for this great Sacrament with Bishop Kagan on October 12.

~Have a great week! Msgr. Patrick Schumacher



**Romeo and Titus**  
are "PAWS-itively" excited  
to invite all animal friends  
and their owners to the  
**BLESSING OF THE PETS,**  
next Sunday, October 5,  
promptly at 4:30 p.m.  
in the Upper East Parking Lot.

*They remind their animal friends:  
everyone must be leashed or crated  
and monitored so all animals  
(and humans) are safe.*

**All God's creatures are invited!**  
(Not just those with spots and four legs)

*See you then!*

## 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: October 4-5 | October 4, 2025 |                       | October 5, 2025 |                       | October 5, 2025 |                       | October 5, 2025 |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
|                   | 4:00 PM         |                       | 8:30 AM         |                       | 10:45 AM        |                       | 5:30 PM         |                       |
| Hospitality       | 1               |                       | 1               | Brian Steffl          | 1               | Kathy Howe            | 1               | Kathleen Fetting      |
|                   | 2               |                       | 2               | Heather Steffl        | 2               | Maryam Abdo           | 2               |                       |
|                   | 3               |                       | 3               | Catherine Williams    | 3               |                       | 3               |                       |
|                   | 4               |                       | 4               | Francis Williams      | 4               |                       | 4               |                       |
| Ushers            | 1               | Duane Uriacher        | 1               | Mike Hilbert          | 1               | Dan DeRouchey         | 1               | Gene Rivinius*        |
|                   | 2               |                       | 2               | Lance Bauer           | 2               | Lonnie Zahn           | 2               | Bev Rivinius          |
|                   | 3               |                       | 3               | Dave Schmitz          | 3               | Dan Sauter            | 3               |                       |
|                   | 4               |                       | 4               | Linda Schmitz         | 4               |                       | 4               |                       |
|                   | 5               |                       | 5               | Ron Torkelson         | 5               |                       | 5               |                       |
|                   | 6               |                       | 6               | Virginia Torkelson    | 6               |                       |                 |                       |
| Lectors           | 1               | Lisa Frank            | 1               | John Saiki            | 1               | Mandi Hetletved       | 1               | Todd Van Orman        |
|                   | 2               | Janet Elkin           | 2               | John Kambeitz         | 2               | Rodger Wetzel         | 2               |                       |
| Servers           | 1               | Teigyn Saylor         | 1               | Mason Diehl           | 1               | Madisyn Lowe          | 1               | Evan Hinnenkamp       |
|                   | 2               |                       | 2               | Renley Becker         | 2               | Ella Weigel           | 2               | Sophia Schlinger      |
|                   |                 |                       | 3               | Leo Scholand          |                 |                       |                 |                       |
| Eucharistic Min   |                 | <b>BODY OF CHRIST</b> |
|                   | R-1             | MaryAnn Metcalf       | R-1             | Bill Knudson          | R-1             | Cathy Schatz          | R-1             | Margie Schiff         |
|                   | 2               | Father                | 2               | Father                | 2               | Father                | 2               | Father                |
|                   | 3               | Janet Elkin           | 3               | Shawn Anagnost        | 3               | Kathy Howe            | 3               |                       |
|                   | 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. 29** (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Otto & ✠Mary Barth

**Tues., Sept. 30** (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Robert Schempp

**Wed., Oct. 1- Collective Intention**

(12:10 p.m.) - ✠Chuck Zachmeier

✠Alvin Emineth

Mel & Mike

**Thurs., Oct. 2** (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Ed Lacher

**Fri., Oct. 3** (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Dan Hruby

**Sat., Oct. 4** (4:00 p.m.) - ✠George & ✠Margaret Wetsch

**Sun., Oct. 5** (8:30 a.m.) - ✠Orvin & ✠Bernadette Engelhard

(10:45 a.m.) - Joseph & Julia Cunningham

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

All creatures great & small are invited!

### Blessing of the Pets

**Sun. Oct. 5, 4:30 p.m., Upper East Parking Lot**

Please arrive early. Blessing will be at 4:30 p.m.

All animals must be leashed or crated and monitored.



### Priesthood Sunday is September 28

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of our priests, especially those who care for Corpus Christi -

**Msgr. Patrick Schumacher, Pastor**

**Fr. John Paul Gardner, Parochial Vicar**

**Fr. Dinoy Rebera, Parochial Vicar**

We also pray in a special way for:

- all of our past parish priests • all retired priests
- all men ordained to the priesthood

*Without priests, the Mass could not be offered and the Sacraments could not be received.*



Catholic Charities Sunday will be **September 27-28**. Each of the programs offered by Catholic Charities helps a different vulnerable demographic within North Dakota. Catholic Charities ND relies

on the generous support from parishioners and community members to continue to offer the much needed services to those who need them most. Programs include: *Counseling Services; Adults Adopting Special Kids; Guardianship Services - Vulnerable; Guardianship Division - Intellectual Disabilities; Pregnancy, Parenting, and Adoption Services.*

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| CONTRIBUTIONS (General Fund) - (2,470 households) |             |
| Adult Envelopes (250 Envelopes) . . . . .         | \$16,041.00 |
| Youth Envelopes . . . . .                         | \$211.75    |
| Total Received (Sept. 21) . . . . .               | \$16,252.75 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Sept 7 . . . . .           | \$19,543.25 |
| Online Giving Week (Sept 1-7) . . . . .           | \$9,020.00  |
| Electronic Contributions (Sept 5) . . . . .       | \$12,868.68 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Sept 14 . . . . .          | \$21,016.84 |
| Online Giving Week (Sept 8-14) . . . . .          | \$4,085.00  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Sept 21 . . . . .          | \$16,252.75 |
| Online Giving Week (Sept 15-21) . . . . .         | \$8,645.00  |
| Electronic Contributions (Sept 20) . . . . .      | \$10,185.68 |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Sept 28 . . . . .          | \$0.00      |
| Online Giving Week (Sept 22-28) . . . . .         | \$0.00      |

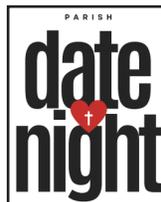
Thank you for  
your generosity  
to Corpus Christi!

We appreciate your  
stewardship spirit!



### Stewardship Thought:

The sin of the rich man in today's parable was not that he was rich, but that he failed to share his wealth with the beggar at his gate. He perhaps knew Lazarus and walked by him every time he came in or out, but did nothing to relieve his suffering. Is there a Lazarus in my life? What am I doing to help?



### Parish Date Night

Save the Date - October 10, 2025

Join us for dinner & great conversation!

Register by scanning the QR Code



**Can you help?** We are creating a team to assist in the planning and the facilitation of Parish Date Night. Would you consider being a part of this exciting parish program? Contact Melanie Konieczka at 975-9809 or email her at [melanie.konieczka@corpuschristibismarck.com](mailto:melanie.konieczka@corpuschristibismarck.com).

### Young Adult Late Night

Friday, October 10

8:00 p.m. Praise & Adoration

8:45 p.m. Octoberfest Gathering

Homemade Pretzels, beer cheese dip, and Trivia! Open to anyone ages 21-39.



### Praise & Adoration

Corpus Christi Church

Eucharistic Adoration with Praise & Worship Music

Friday, October 10 ~ 8:00 p.m.

All are invited - please join us!





**Wonderful opportunity for women!**  
**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).

**When?** Thursday evenings, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Two four-week sessions:

**Session 1 = Oct. 2-23 (FULL)**

**Session 2 = Oct. 30 - Nov. 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.

**Annual N.D. Rally for Life: Friday, October 10**

Take the opportunity to stand up for the unborn at the **N.D. Rally for Life** on Friday, October 10 at the Bismarck Event Center (use door A1) followed by the rally at the same location. *Please note: In light of recent events of violence in our nation and from advice of local law enforcement, members of the N.D. Pro-Life Committee decided to move the event indoors. With safety as the concern, the march from the Bismarck Event Center to the state capitol lawn has been cancelled. The schedule of events remains the same as previously announced, only the rally location changed and all events will take place at the Bismarck Event Center main arena.*

**Schedule:**  
 9:30 a.m. – Door A1 open to attendees  
 10:30 a.m. – Mass with Bishop Kagan  
 After Mass - Lunch (served until gone)  
 12:30 p.m. – Rally for Life

**The public is invited.** Register at [bismarckdiocese/ndmfl](http://bismarckdiocese/ndmfl) to help ensure an accurate lunch count. Bishop Kagan will lead a Holy Hour on the eve of the **N.D. Rally for Life** on Thursday, October 9 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.



<https://www.respectlife.org/>

*Please pray this daily prayer, specifically during the month of October: Jesus, you came that we might have life — and have it in abundance. Together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you form us in our mothers' wombs and call us to love you for all eternity. As your most precious gift of human life is attacked, draw us ever closer to your Real Presence in the Eucharist. Dispel the darkness of the culture of death, for you are the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. By the power of your Eucharistic Presence, help us to defend the life of every human person at every stage. Transform our hearts to protect and cherish all whose lives are most vulnerable. For you are God, forever and ever. Amen*

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

- Sun. 9/28** **Priesthood Sunday** - *Thank you to our Priests!*  
 Faith Formation **Group A**, 9:30-10:45 a.m.  
 Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10:45 a.m. Mass  
 SNAC, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Room 140
- Mon. 9/29**  
 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. 9/30**  
 Caring Hearts Quilters, 9:00 a.m., Community Room  
 Eucharistic Adoration, 12:45-7:00 p.m., Church
- Wed. 10/1**  
 Family Table, 4:45-5:30 p.m., Parish Hall  
 Faith Formation **Group E**, 5:30-6:45 p.m.  
 Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m., Choir Room  
 Middle School Faith Formation (**6-7-8**), 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Sun. 10/5**  
 Faith Formation **Group D**, 9:30-10:45 a.m.  
 Blessing of the Pets, 4:30 p.m., Upper East Parking Lot  
 Confirmation Rehearsal & Reconciliation, 6:30 p.m.  
 SNAC, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Room 140

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

Sunday, Sept. 28: SNAC, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
 Topic: Identity

**Middle School (Grades 6-7-8)**

Wednesday, Oct 1: No Youth Ministry  
 October 1 is a Middle School Faith Formation Night



**\*\*\* RESCHEDULED \*\*\***

**Faith Formation Fall Kick-Off**

**Papa's Pumpkin Patch**

Sunday, October 5 ~ 4:30-6:30 p.m.

*Please see your email correspondence from Melanie Konieczka.*



**Upcoming Children's Liturgy of the Word**

**September 28, October 12 & 26 - 10:45 a.m. Mass**

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

**Bella Health + Wellness**

**October 4 & 5**

At all Masses, Bella Health + Wellness will speak on who and what Bella is, funding and opening date, and some exciting updates for the community! Please financially support the construction and opening of the clinic; there will be envelopes in the pews for your donations - simply put the envelope in the collection basket as it is passed around. If you'd like more information about Bella, please email [amychang@bellawellness.org](mailto:amychang@bellawellness.org) or see the Bella Bismarck website: <https://www.bellawellness.org/bella-bismarck>.



**Corpus Christi Food Pantry Needs:  
 Instant Potatoes & Cold Cereal**

*Thank you for your support!*

Looking to strengthen your marriage? Join us for a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** weekend in beautiful Medora, November 7–12, 2025. This retreat is designed for couples who want to enhance an already good marriage, deepening communication, love, and understanding. The weekend takes place at the Rough Rider Motel. Cost is just \$75. Registration deadline is two weeks before the event. For details or to register, visit [wwme.org](http://wwme.org). Give your marriage the gift it deserves!

The Pro-Cathedral of St. Mary, Bismarck, will host **Hope and Healing Grief Support Sessions** on Thursday evenings, October 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th, 6:30-8:00 p.m. The sessions are led by Fr. Jared Johnson and Nancy Darling. Registration required by September 30 at [www.stmarysbismarck.org/hopeandhealing](http://www.stmarysbismarck.org/hopeandhealing). Contact Nancy Darling, (701) 712-2926, with questions.

Come enjoy a night of faith and fellowship at Real Presence Radio's Fundraising Banquets! Join us in Dickinson (*Thursday, October 30, 2025*) or in Bismarck (*November 4, 2025*). Reserve your spot today! <https://realpresenceradio.com/banquets/> or contact Corpus Christi parishioner, Karen Selensky, at 701-318-5467.

As part of the Jubilee Year of Hope, the Pro-Cathedral of St. Mary in Bismarck will be hosting a special Mass with the Anointing of the Sick on Tuesday, October 7 at 7:00 p.m. **During the Mass, only those individuals whose health is seriously impaired by either sickness or advancement in years are invited to receive the Anointing of the Sick.** Individuals who are planning to receive the Anointing of the Sick are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Penance beforehand. Confessions will be offered before Mass beginning at 6:00 p.m. All are invited to attend, whether it is to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick or to pray for those in our community who are sick.

*Mark your calendars!*



### Caring Hearts Quilters Quilt Show & Sale

October 18: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
October 19: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
*Lower Gathering Space & Parish Hall*

### KC Breakfast

Sunday, October 19  
9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
Parish Hall



**Knights of Columbus Membership Drive:** The Knights of Columbus in our parish are dedicated to the church in promoting faith, family, community, and life. We need your help. Can you donate just one hour a month to your faith and church? The Knights of Columbus will be holding a membership drive (after all Masses) on October 18 & 19.



*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.*

### Patriotic Rosary

First & Third Thursday of the month  
7:00 p.m. - Spirit of Life, Mandan.  
All are invited!



The Knights of Columbus Council #2760 of St. Joseph, Mandan, will be hosting their 10th Annual KC Festival on October 25 at 6:00 p.m. at the Mandan Eagles. The night will consist of wine and beer tasting, a meal of barbecue ribs, pulled pork and the fixings, live music, a silent auction, and a live auction. Tickets are \$40 in advance and \$45 at the door. For more info or to purchase tickets, please contact: Pat 701-202-9103 or Clint 701-721-3638.

The Knights of Columbus #1604 of the Pro-Cathedral of St. Mary's, Bismarck, is seeking participants for this year's **Trunk-or-Treat** event taking place on Sunday, October 26. If you are interested in sponsoring a spot, please reach out to Brent and Laura Horner at 605-957-5619.

**Catholic Daughters:** Members are invited for our Mexican potluck on Tuesday, October 7 at 5:45 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. Our Rosary and meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m. For more info call Karen, 701-527-4203. *PLEASE NOTE the change in the meeting time. Bring a guest.*



### Food for the Soul

**Tuesday, October 7**

**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.

Join us for our **Rosary Rally**, song and prayer on Saturday, October 11 at 11:00 a.m. Meet at the corner of 6th Street and Boulevard Avenue, Bismarck. *Sponsored by the former Fatima membership of the World Apostolate of Fatima, Bismarck Diocese.* The public is invited. Call Johanna, 701-223-4929, for more information.

*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.



## Sunday, Sep 28, 2025

### Who's on your doorstep?

Long-standing images of the fires of hell owe much to the vivid description of the afterlife contained in a gospel story. A rich man (later sometimes named Dives) suffers tormenting flames after death because he ignored poor Lazarus on his doorstep throughout his life. Medieval artists loved to illustrate the story because of its drama and visual potential. But beneath all the fire and brimstone lies a clear and direct message: Living only for one's own wealth and comfort leads to a living hell. If we hope to rest in the bosom of Abraham, we need to pay attention to the Lazarus waiting at our doorstep.

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Amos 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Timothy 6:11-16; Luke 16:19-31 (138). *"My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad."*

## Monday, Sep 29, 2025

### Choose your side

The Bible sometimes reads like a chapter from Dungeons and Dragons. In the apocalyptic passages of Daniel and the Book of Revelation we meet serpents, angels, ancient ones, prophets, and warriors. These characters are set against a backdrop of fire, war, struggle, truth, and deceit. Such images paint a picture of a God who takes sides. In reality the world is deeply interconnected, one in which we can see the human suffering on all sides of violent conflict. What image of God can convey the truth that God is for *everyone*? Or more to the point, how can we refocus our vision to understand that there are no sides but God's?

FEAST OF MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL,  
ARCHANGELS

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 or Revelation 12:7-12ab; John 1:47-51 (647). *"War broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon."*

## Tuesday, Sep 30, 2025

### Savor these words

Saint Jerome, brilliant biblical scholar, patron of librarians and translators, was fascinated by the meaning of words. Unlike many translators of his day, he favored use of what modern scripture-scholar Father Leslie Hoppe, O.F.M. calls "dynamic equivalence." That is, Jerome sought to translate texts from their original Hebrew and Greek "sense for sense" rather than "word for word." Jerome's contributions to Catholics' understanding of the Bible are unsurpassed. But perhaps his most significant contribution was simply his love of the word. Spend some time today savoring the words and struggling with the meaning of scripture.

MEMORIAL OF JEROME, PRIEST, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Zechariah 8:20-23; Luke 9:51-56 (456). *"Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?"*

## Wednesday, Oct 01, 2025

### Spiritual bouquet

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, known as the "Little Flower," is one of the most popular saints, owing to her inspirational simplicity. She spent almost a decade of her short life cloistered as a Carmelite nun expressing her thoughts in writings that were eventually shared with the world. "Love proves itself by deeds," she wrote, "so how am I to show my love? Great deeds are forbidden me. The only way I can prove my love is by scattering flowers and these flowers

are every little sacrifice, every glance and word, and the doing of the least actions for love." Scatter some flowers of loving deeds in honor of this great saint.

MEMORIAL OF THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS,  
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Nehemiah 2:1-8; Luke 9:57-62 (457). *"No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the Kingdom of God."*

## Thursday, Oct 02, 2025

### You've got a friend

Joan Wester Anderson has been writing about angels since 1989 after her son was mysteriously rescued from a devastating snow storm on Christmas Eve. That experience resulted in her first book of true stories of remarkable encounters with angels, *Where Angels Walk*. Since then, she has written many more books on the subject, and all of them offer spine-tingling, inspiring tales of ordinary people who have been rescued, healed, comforted, and sheltered by heavenly visitors. These amazing stories make the case that every one of us has a guardian angel. That's a proposition the church itself has made from the earliest times. Biblical scholar and Doctor of the Church Saint Jerome posited: "So valuable to heaven is the dignity of the human soul that every member of the human race has a guardian angel from the moment the person begins to be." It's nice to know we're not alone.

MEMORIAL OF THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS

Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Matthew 18:1-5, 10 (458/650). *"Their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father."*

## Friday, Oct 03, 2025

### Models of what's possible

The biblical towns of Tyre and Sidon might bring to mind some modern-day big cities: prosperous, bustling, cosmopolitan—and spiritually hungry. Early in Jesus' ministry people from these distant port cities heard about the things Jesus was doing, and, though they were in some sense outsiders, they responded with more enthusiasm than many of those who were closer to Jesus. Jesus held up these "pagan" cities as models of what is possible when people express a genuine desire for spiritual nourishment. Respond to the gospel with enthusiasm, and your spirit will be rewarded.

Baruch 1:15-22; Luke 10:13-16 (459). *"It will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you."*

## Saturday, Oct 04, 2025

### Do what you need to do

If Saint Francis of Assisi knew that his band of brother-beggars would one day be called Franciscans, he'd probably laugh, or sigh. He never set himself up as a model. Indeed, he admonished his brothers: "We ought to be ashamed of ourselves; the saints endured but we who are servants of God try to win honor and glory by recounting and making known what they have done." Good deeds are ours to do, according to Francis. At the end of his life, he made that point abundantly clear: "I have done what was mine to do. May Christ teach you what is yours to do." Time to get doing.

MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS OF ASSISI, RELIGIOUS

Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29; Luke 10:17-24 (460). *"Although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike."*

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



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