

# 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))



## October 12, 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

G.K. Chersterton, whom I've often quoted, wrote a poem entitled, *In October*, in which he spoke of 'the month of luminous and golden ruin.' This is an interesting way - beautiful, really - of describing the season of fall. With an explosion of color, autumn signifies nature's completion of life. The dying, the resting, and the continuation of life as it nurtures the soil, preparing for the blossoming of life in the spring. When we contemplate nature, we learn something very important about our own life cycle and something about the life of God within us.

This Sunday, we welcome Bishop Kagan for the Sacrament of Confirmation. I congratulate our Confirmandi:

*Brooklynn Barnhardt, Colter Bartsch, Ari Bren, Lily Corbin, Madeline daSilva, Easton Deede, Cole Dreher, Lyla Erhardt, Emmalee Eriksmoen, Kolter Freidt, Nora Friez, Jetta Genetzky, Anna Gitter, Brody Glinz, Cole Golberg, Thomas Haas, Weston Halvorson, Hayden Hanzal, Nolan Healy, Skylar Heid, Daxton Helten, Ian Herzog, Kyla Heustis, Jacob Hollevoet, Jack Huettl, Cheyenne Humann, Henry Klop, Nate Koffler, Ryan Konschak, Ashlen Larsen, Abigail Lenhardt, Madisyn Lowe, Kaitlyn Mahlum, Braden Maier, Maggie Meyer, Berklie Moos, Ledger Moos, Zack Motschenbacher, Aliyah Nagel, Seth Nagel, Naryan Nangare, Tenley Norrie, Keifer Oakland, Kyler Privratsky, Bryson Reis, Zoe Roehrich, Paxton Roller, Katherine Schaibley, Gabriella Schell, Alexander Schmidt, William Schmidt, Tyler Schulte, Taylor Seifert, Ty Skelton, Tyson Smykowski, Sydney Steele, Skylar VanZomeren, Abigail Vandermay, Morgan Wagner, Ella Weigel, Kaylie Welstad, Grace Whitely, Jaida Wisniewski, Molly Zeltinger, Veronica Zander, Joseph Zimmer.*

You each proclaimed, "I am ready." Indeed, you are! I encourage you to continue to seek God and grow in faith. If there is one thing you should do - make Mass a priority. There is good reason mother Church mandates and makes Sunday Mass obligatory. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass rightly directs our prayers, praise, and worship, it is the center of our faith, and is the avenue in which we receive our Lord, truly present in the Eucharist.



Next weekend, October 18th & 19th, I ask the men of the parish, who are not current Knights of Columbus members, to stop after any of the Masses and visit with a Knight during their Membership Drive. I am a 4th Degree Knight and have been a member since high school. We are blessed with a very active KC Council here at Corpus Christi, and I hope you will consider joining. The Knights are sponsoring a Pancake Breakfast next Sunday, the 19th. Also next weekend, is the annual Caring Hearts Quilters Quilt Show and Sale.

Be sure to stop by and see the beautiful work!

Lastly, I want to extend birthday and anniversary greetings - October 17th is my Mom's birthday and my parents' 62nd anniversary!  
~ *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: October 18-19	October 18, 2025		October 19, 2025		October 19, 2025		October 19, 2025	
	4:00 PM		8:30 AM		10:45 AM		5:30 PM	
Hospitality	1	Bob Deutsch	1		1		1	Karen Gaydos
	2		2		2		2	
	3		3		3		3	
	4		4		4		4	
Ushers	1	Larry Thelen	1	Tim Kuntz	1	Dennis Kelly	1	Mark Gaydos
	2	Rick Kramlich	2	Linda Feist	2	Joel Meyer	2	Joel Streitz
	3	Judith Kopp	3	Charles Jaszkwski	3	Maggie Meyer	3	
	4	Bill Kopp	4	Catherine Williams	4	Sophie Meyer	4	
	5		5	Francis Williams	5	Brianna Feist	5	
Lectors	1	Sandy WaldClooten	1	Andrew Kraft	1	Joyal Meyer	1	Bart Brackin
	2	Steve Huebschwerlen	2	Dale Kasowski	2	Rose Kruckenberg	2	Mary Soucie
Servers	1		1	Mckayla Klym	1	Elyse Brossart	1	Kate Masset
	2		2		2	Triston Brossart	2	
					3	Brady Wheeler		
Eucharistic Min	BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST	
	R-1	Helen Berger	R-1	Bill Knudson	R-1	Joyal Meyer	R-1	Jackie Buckley
	2	Father	2	Father	2	Father	2	Father
	3	Gisele Thorson	3	Dave Schmitz	3	Rose Kruckenberg	3	Margie Schiff
	4	Jane Wolf	4	Teddie Herner	4	Cec Reetz	4	
	5	Clare Auble	5	Kermit Herner	5	Bob Kudrna	5	
	6		6	Judane Ohlhauser	6	Reyne Richter	6	
	7	Deacon	7	Deacon	7	Deacon	7	Deacon
	8		8	Mike Hilbert	8	Brenda Weisz	8	
	9		9	Linda Schmitz	9		11	
	10		10	Brenda Bergan	10		12	
	11				11			
At 4:00	D12				12			
	LG		LG		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., Oct. 13** (12:10 p.m.) - ✠ Joe Zahradka

**Tues., Oct. 14** (12:10 p.m.) - ✠ Robert Schempp

**Wed., Oct. 15 - Collective Intention**

(12:10 p.m.) - ✠ Pete & ✠ Gen Horner  
✠ Linda Ormiston

**Thurs., Oct. 16** (12:10 p.m.) - ✠ Bob & ✠ Marie Harper

**Fri., Oct. 17** (12:10 p.m.) - ✠ Kay Sehn

**Sat., Oct. 18** (4:00 p.m.) - ✠ Marie & ✠ Tony Dirk

**Sun., Oct. 19** (8:30 a.m.) - ✠ George Volk

(10:45 a.m.) - ✠ Jim Kostelecky

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



### Preplanning Your Funeral:

Preplanning your funeral Mass is a meaningful way to express your faith, ease the burdens on loved ones, and ensure your wishes are honored.

If you would like to begin this thoughtful process and caring act of faith and love, call Tammy Schafer at (701) 975-9816.

Clergy/staff members 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!* If you receive a message (of any sort) that seems "out of the ordinary", be vigilant. Call and ask!

## Don't Miss This - Next Weekend!



### 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.

CONTRIBUTIONS (General Fund) - (2,470 households)	
Adult Envelopes (263 Envelopes) . . . . .	\$18,344.85
Youth Envelopes . . . . .	\$333.31
Total Received (Oct 5) . . . . .	\$18,678.16
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Oct 5 . . . . .	\$18,678.16
Online Giving Week (Sept 29 - Oct 5) . . . . .	\$8,720.00
Electronic Contributions (Oct 5) . . . . .	\$12,943.68
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Oct 12 . . . . .	\$0.00
Online Giving Week (Oct 6-12) . . . . .	\$0.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Oct 19 . . . . .	\$0.00
Online Giving Week (Oct 13-21) . . . . .	\$0.00
Electronic Contributions (Oct 20) . . . . .	\$0.00
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Oct 26 . . . . .	\$0.00
Online Giving Week (Oct 22-28) . . . . .	\$0.00

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

### Stewardship Thoughts:

- Jesus healed ten lepers in today's Gospel. Only one (10%) came back to say thank you. I, too, have received many blessings from the Lord – indeed, all I am and all I have is a gift! How and how often have I remembered to thank Him?
- Stewardship is an important concept for our spiritual growth as Catholics. It is a way of thanking God for all of the Lord's blessings by returning to God a portion of the time, talent, and treasure we have received.
- Have you remembered the good works of the Church in your Will? A bequest of part of your estate or for a stated amount of \$1,000, \$5,000, \$10,000 or more will ensure that the works of the parish will continue after your death.

### World Mission Sunday: October 19

"Missionaries of Hope among the Peoples"

Envelopes are located at the church entrances.

World Mission Sunday is an effort to help over 1,100 dioceses that cannot sustain themselves because they are poor, young or actively persecuted.

Text MISSIONS25 to 53555 to give online.

### Men's Group Breakfast

Wednesday, October 15

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

Breakfast followed by discussion.

All Corpus Christi men are invited!

Corpus Christi Men's Group



### Corpus Christi Women's Group

Wednesday, October 22

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

### Food Pantry Needs:

Instant Potatoes & Pancake Mix

Prefer not to shop? Monetary donations are always accepted.

Thank you for your support!

**Special Masses offered by Bishop Kagan in October:**

*All Masses are open to the public and held at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit.*

**Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Mass:**

Wednesday, October 15 at 5:30 p.m.

*All are welcome to attend, especially those who grieve the loss of a child resulting from miscarriage, stillbirth, abortion or early infant death.*

**Red Mass:** Monday, October 20 at 5:30 p.m.

*The Red Mass celebrates with those involved in the administration of justice—judges, attorneys, law professors, law students and government officials.*

**White Mass:** Monday, October 27 at 5:30 p.m.

*The special Mass honors healthcare professionals, active and retired.*



**RESPECT LIFE MONTH**

*October 2025*

<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*

**ADORATION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT**  
Tuesdays 1:00-7:00 p.m.

If you would be interested in being a regular, committed adorer, please call the Parish Office to sign up. Unable to commit to a scheduled time of Adoration? Feel free to visit Adoration as your schedule allows.

*Jesus is waiting for you!*



**The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick:**

The Catholic Church is concerned for those who are ill and near the end of life. To request the Anointing of the Sick, call the parish office, 255-4600.

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



*Explore your Spiritual Gifts and use them at Corpus Christi!*  
**Spiritual Gifts Inventory - scan the QR Code**

**What's Going on at Corpus Christi this Week**

- Sun. 10/12** Faith Formation **Group A**, 9:30-10:45 a.m.  
Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10:45 a.m. Mass  
Confirmation Mass, 2:00 p.m.  
SNAC, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Room 140
- Mon. 10/13** 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  
Ultreya Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Community Room
- Tues. 10/14** Caring Hearts Quilters, 9:00 a.m., Community Room  
Eucharistic Adoration, 12:45-7:00 p.m., Church  
Sacrament Track **Tuesday B Group**, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Parish Hall  
Knights of Columbus Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Community Room
- Wed. 10/15** Men's Group Breakfast, 6:30-7:45 a.m., Parish Hall  
Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m., Choir Room  
Middle School Youth Ministry, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Room 140
- Sat. 10/18** Quilt Show & Sale, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Parish Hall
- Sun. 10/19** KC Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., Parish Hall  
Quilt Show & Sale, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Parish Hall  
SNAC, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Room 140

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

Sunday, Oct. 12: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

*Topic: Joy in Suffering*

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

Wednesday, Oct 15: 7:00-8:30 p.m. - Oasis

*Topic: Hope in Suffering*



**Children's Liturgy of the Word**

October 12 & 26 - 10:45 a.m. Mass

Lessons are geared for preK - 2nd Grade.

No registration required.



**Trick or Treating**

Friday, October 31 ~ 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Corpus Christi Rectory

Use the main door, 1931 N. 3rd St.

*\*\* November 1, All Saints Day, is not a Holy Day of Obligation in 2025. There will not be a vigil Mass on October 31. \*\**



**Care Packages**

Submit names and addresses of college students or military to receive a care package from the youth ministry program.

**All submissions needed by Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>**

If you are able, please donate to help cover the shipping cost. Money can be dropped off at the front office.

Questions? Contact Cole Jones 975-9804



A **Worldwide Marriage Encounter** weekend will be held 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 Riders Hotel. Cost is just \$75. Registration deadline is two weeks before the event. For details or to register, visit [wwme.org](http://wwme.org).

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



*"The one who sings, prays twice" - St. Augustine*

Do you have a love for music? New members are always welcome! Choir rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. For information about the Music Ministry program, contact Sebastian Haboczki, 701-945-9806.

The **Patriotic Rosary** dedicates the 50 Hail Marys of the traditional Catholic rosary to each of the 50 states of the U.S.A. and asks God's protection and guidance for our nation. The Patriotic Rosary is offered on the the first and third Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at Spirit of Life, Mandan. All are invited!

*Please cut this out and pray for our seminarians often*

+ + + **Pray for our Seminarians** + + +

*Configuration IV: Deacon Colton Steiner*

*Configuration III: Joseph Richter*

*Configuration II: Joseph Schon*

*Pastoral Year: Ben Weigum*

*Discipleship IV: Aaron Ripplinger & Dominic Schaeffbauer*

*Discipleship III: Griffin Schaeffer & Alex Wilson*

*Discipleship II: Brady Hendrickson & Thomas Kraljic*

*Propaedeutic: Preston Barbie, Nolan Johnson, Ronan Klindworth, Aidan Schaeffbauer, Joseph Schweitzer, Tyler Selzler, Taylen Thomas & Paul Vetter*



*O Dearest Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, grant to our young people the generosity necessary to follow Your call, and the courage required to overcome all obstacles to their vocations. Give to parents that faith, love and spirit of sacrifice which will inspire them to offer their sons and daughters to God's service and cause them to rejoice exceedingly whenever one of their family is called to the religious life. Let your example and that of Your Blessed Mother and St. Joseph, encourage both young people and parents, and let your grace sustain them. Amen*

## **Gospel PraiSing Fiesta ~ Nourish your soul & body!**

*Christian music presented by Colleen Reinhardt, Julie Ternes, and guest musicians.*

**Mayas Mexican Restaurant ~11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**

**October 19, November 9 & 23 and December 21**

Mayas is located at 1601 W. Century Ave, Bismarck.

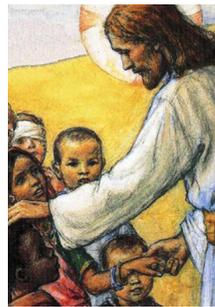
Lunch is available for purchase off the menu and free-will donations accepted for local charities. Presented by Gospel PraiSing (GPS) Ministries. For information, call Julie Ternes, 701-226-0356.



Check out the **Prayer Board List** at the West Entrance to see who is in need of prayers for healing and strength. If you or someone you know (*with permission*) needs to be added to the Prayer List, call the Parish Office or visit the *Prayer Ministry* tab at <https://corpuschristibismarck.com/prayer-ministry>.

## **FORMED: The Catholic Faith on Demand**

Get thousands of enriching Catholic movies, programs, audio, and books instantly. A generous donor of Corpus Christi has gifted the parish with an annual subscription so FORMED is free! <https://formed.org>.



## **Children, we like having you here!**

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in church. All are welcome! It matters that children learn that worship is what we do as a community of faith, that everyone is welcome, that their worship matters. When we teach children that their presence and worship matters, we teach them that they are enough, right here and right now, as members of Corpus Christi. It matters that children learn that they are an integral part of this church, that their prayers, their songs, and even their badly timed (or perfectly timed, depending on who you ask) cries are a joyful noise because it means that they are present. Please know that your family is a vital part of the Church of Corpus Christi. As Jesus said, **"Let the little children come to me."**

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

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

**Beginning Experience**, a non-denominational peer ministry, is offering "The Weekend," November 21-23 in Richardton. This weekend is a comprehensive program for those struggling with the loss of a love relationship due to divorce, separation or death. Interested people are invited to contact Elaine at 701-400-1941. Registration is due before November 7. For more information, go to [www.beginningexperiencewesternnd.com](http://www.beginningexperiencewesternnd.com).

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.

## Sunday, Oct 12, 2025

### Faith brings a wellspring of healing

Whether Jesus was speaking to a woman who had anointed him in a Pharisee's house, another woman whom he had cured of a hemorrhage, or a leper whom he'd cleansed, his closing words were much the same: "Your faith has saved you." Believing in Jesus' power to heal had opened the door to healing. Some versions of the Bible, though, translate this phrase a little differently: "Your faith has made you well." To be "saved," then, can mean to be made well, to be made whole, not only in one's own person but in relationships with others, too. In yourself and in your relationships with God and others, what needs healing?

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2 Kings 5:14-17; 2 Timothy 2:8-13; Luke 17:11-19 (144).

*"Stand up and go; your faith has saved you."*

## Monday, Oct 13, 2025

### Don't say no to this invitation

When in Luke's gospel Jesus uses the phrase "the sign of Jonah," most of us would think of the whale. But Jesus has something else in mind. Jonah had been a prophet sent by God to convert the pagan city of Nineveh—a job Jonah didn't want. But when he finally buckled down and did what God asked, the people—much to Jonah's astonishment—converted! So for Jesus the "sign of Jonah" recalls the Ninevites' acceptance of God's word through God's prophet. At the judgment, Jesus says, those Ninevites will shame his own generation because they were humble enough and smart enough to accept God's invitation. We, who have been given the gospel and are surrounded by so many signs of God's love, have even less justification for not hearing the word of God and keeping it.

Romans 1:1-7; Luke 11:29-32 (467). *"This generation ... seeks a sign, but no sign will be given it, except the sign of Jonah."*

## Tuesday, Oct 14, 2025

### Be slow to judge

The Pharisees may have gotten a bit of a bum rap in the New Testament because of events that occurred after Jesus' death. The passages of the New Testament that are most hostile to the Pharisees were compiled at a time when it had become clear that most Jews did not consider Jesus to be the Messiah. The Pharisees may have served as a convenient scapegoat for that rejection. The Pharisaic tradition was in fact more flexible on many questions than it was portrayed to be. It does us well to look and listen carefully and judge slowly when it comes to those who follow a different drummer.

Romans 1:16-25; Luke 11:37-41 (468). *"You Pharisees . . . inside you are filled with plunder and evil."*

## Wednesday, Oct 15, 2025

### A one-step program

Ever wonder whether you are in good spiritual health? It's easy to assess: If love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control come easily to you, you're in good shape. If hatred, rivalry, jealousy, outbursts of fury, acts of selfishness, and envy are your frequent reactions to events, you're in need of a spiritual workout. Let Saint Teresa of Ávila (1515-82), reformer and church doctor, be your spiritual trainer. Step one: Recite this Teresian prayer daily: "Let nothing disturb you; Let nothing dismay you; All things pass: God never changes. Patience attains all that it strives for. He who has God lacks for nothing: God

alone suffices." Step two: There is no need for a step two if you master step one.

MEMORIAL OF TERESA OF JESUS, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Romans 2:1-11; Luke 11:42-46 (469). *"There will be glory, honor, and peace for everyone who does good."*

## Thursday, Oct 16, 2025

### We are already blessed

It helps to know things will work out before you get started on them. Paying bills is easy when you know the money is there. Getting something fixed is a less anxious experience when you have confidence in the repair person. So it is with the spiritual life. In all the apparent struggle to believe, live a holy life, and do the right thing, we can forget how much God has already done for us. And Saint Paul makes this point many times. We are already blessed. We already have redemption in Christ. God has revealed a plan for us. All we have to do is to stay close to God and follow the way. Saint Vincent de Paul understood this truth well when he asked, "Why should your soul not be filled with confidence since, by the mercy of Our Lord, you are his beloved child?" God has given us so much and promises to lead us to glory. Knowing that might make the journey a bit easier.

Romans 3:21-30; Luke 11:47-54 (470). *"The righteousness of God has been manifested ... through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe."*

## Friday, Oct 17, 2025

### A loving embrace

Ignatius of Antioch (c. 35-110) is one of the apostolic fathers of the church, a small group of Christian authors who lived close to the time of Jesus and had personal contact with some of the 12 apostles. It is said that Saint Peter himself appointed Ignatius to be bishop of Antioch. Tradition also has it that as a young child Ignatius had been one of the children Jesus took in his arms and blessed (Matthew 19:13-15). Whether or not historically true, this story signals something each of us can make our own—the image of being held in the loving arms of our Savior. That is a tradition that remains unbroken, from the time of Jesus down to the present.

MEMORIAL OF IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, BISHOP, MARTYR

Romans 4:1-8; Luke 12:1-7 (471). *"Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them has escaped the notice of God."*

## Saturday, Oct 18, 2025

### Care to share with the class

Today we celebrate Saint Luke, author of the Acts of the Apostles as well as the gospel that bears his name. Thanks to Luke we have an original, compelling portrait of Jesus, our Messiah, the master who emphasized the importance of prayer and who cared deeply for women and the poor, the outcast, the ill, and the lowly. Luke is the only one of the four evangelists whose stated purpose in writing his gospel is so that others would be assured of the truth of what they've already learned. He writes in the Prologue to his gospel: "I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, . . . so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received." Let us be grateful to parents, teachers, mentors, and others who, like Luke, freely share what they have learned for the benefit of others.

FEAST OF LUKE, EVANGELIST

2 Timothy 4:10-17b; Luke 10:1-9 (661). *"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few."*

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



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