

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)



November 9, 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

As I mentioned at the Masses last weekend, our Food Pantry requests have essentially doubled, and we anticipate the need will continue to rise. Many of our neighbors are scared and struggle with food insecurity, and our Food Pantry ministry is making an immediate impact for our neighbors. Colleen Reinhardt and her volunteers are working hard to keep the pantry stocked and the phones lines answered. The best tool for versatility is monetary donations as we have great working relationships in the Bismarck/Mandan area with various vendors to purchase the necessary items we include in every food box that we distribute: milk, eggs, bread, and 1-pound packages of meat, as well as other pantry staples as needed. Your response is greatly appreciated and is directly affecting those right in our community. We will continue to do all that we are able, for as long as we can! This year's Thanksgiving and Christmas Outreach will be substantially greater; please continue to support our Food Pantry - particularly throughout this holiday season.

This weekend we have two extra collections. The diocese tries to prevent that from happening, but sometimes things do overlap. The collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA (AMS) is only taken every three years, but it is important and directly impacts the families within the military services. The AMS does not receive financial assistance from the government or the U.S. Armed Forces, and without parishes, it cannot receive funds from weekly collections. Its mission is solely supported by your generosity. Secondly, we have the annual BACEF collection. The Bismarck Area Catholic Education Foundation (BACEF) is a non-profit corporation established in 1975 by six Bismarck area parishes to provide a permanent endowment fund with annual earnings from investments to support parish faith formation and religious education programs. In 2025, Corpus Christi received \$29,081, which is used to supplement our parish's faith formation program.

Please say a prayer for Bishop Kagan this weekend; his birthday is this Sunday, November 9th. I hosted a small gathering in his honor on Friday, November 7th at the Rectory to celebrate his 76th birthday.

Lastly, regarding this week's schedule: • the Parish Office will be closed on Monday, November 10th in the morning to allow the staff to attend the funeral for +Joe Gartner, father of staff member Tammy Schafer. We do anticipate the office will be open around noon. If you have business to do and you plan on stopping around Mass time, please plan to stop after the 12:10 p.m. Mass and the staff will be available. • The Parish Office remains open for Veteran's Day - join me in a prayer of gratitude for our veterans and their service! *~Have a great week! Msgr. Patrick A. Schumacher*



Thanksgiving Day Mass
Thursday, November 27 at 9:00 a.m.

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: November 15-16 | November 15, 2025 | | November 16, 2025 | | November 16, 2025 | | November 16, 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 Jaszowskiak | 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 | Irene Goetz | 2 | Claudia Dietrich | 2 | Mary Soucie |
| Servers | 1 | | 1 | Ellie Givan | 1 | Elyse Brossart | 1 | Kate Masset |
| | 2 | | 2 | Mckayla Klym | 2 | Triston Brossart | 2 | |
| 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 | Brenda Bergan | 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 | Laurie Vanderpan | 8 | Brenda Weisz | 8 | |
| | 9 | | 9 | | 9 | | 11 | |
| | 10 | | 10 | | 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., Nov. 10 (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Floyd Fischer

Tues., Nov. 11 (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Joseph Hager

Wed., Nov. 12 - Collective Intention

(12:10 p.m.) - ✠David Cervillino

✠Mike Hinman

The Wahl Family

Thurs., Nov. 13 (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Debbie Erling

Fri., Nov. 14 (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Jack Y. & ✠Rose K. Leingang

Sat., Nov. 15 (4:00 p.m.) - ✠Vernon Thelen

Sun., Nov. 16 (8:30 a.m.) - ✠Dorothy Wanner

(10:45 a.m.) - Pro Populo

(5:30 p.m.) - ✠Marc Baumgartner

"Serving those who Serve"

Special Collection ~ November 8 & 9

National Collection for the Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMS), USA

- Envelopes are available at the church entrances
- Scan the QR Code (click the gold "give" box under the search icon)



This collection is approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and is taken up every three years. The AMS provides pastoral care to Catholic men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, enrolled at a U.S. Military Academy, being treated as a patient at any of the 153 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, or who work for the federal government beyond U.S. borders - including those from our own parish and diocese. The AMS does not receive any funding from the government or military, and has no parishes from which to receive a weekly assessment. *To learn more about the AMS, go to www.milarch.org/nationalcollection.*

| | |
|---|-------------|
| CONTRIBUTIONS (General Fund) - (2,470 households) | |
| Adult Envelopes (276 Envelopes) | \$20,528.98 |
| Youth Envelopes | \$349.82 |
| Total Received (Nov. 2) | \$20,878.80 |
| 1 st Sunday Nov 2 | \$20,878.80 |
| Online Giving Week (Oct 27-Nov 2) | \$7,992.15 |
| Electronic Contributions (Nov 5) | \$12,893.68 |
| 2 nd Sunday Nov 9 | \$0.00 |
| Online Giving Week (Nov 3-9) | \$0.00 |
| 3 rd Sunday Nov 16 | \$0.00 |
| Online Giving Week (Nov 10-16) | \$0.00 |
| Electronic Contributions (Nov 20) | \$0.00 |
| 4 th Sunday Nov 23 | \$0.00 |
| Online Giving Week (Nov 17-23) | \$0.00 |
| 5 th Sunday Nov 30 | \$0.00 |
| Online Giving Week (Nov 24-30) | \$0.00 |

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



Most of us are bad at waiting and if we admit it, we really dislike having to wait. Advent is the liturgical season of waiting, making it an ideal time to sit in the often uncomfortable part of our hearts where we wait on the Lord.

Waiting Well: Advent with Fr. Mike Schmitz uses a new daily prayer journal that emphasizes learning how to encounter the Lord in times of waiting, so you can see how he wants to use every moment in your life. Most of us, instead of waiting, get worried, anxious, or check out, and often get lost scrolling on our phones. During Advent 2025 commit a short period each day that will engage you in daily reflections, prayer, and journaling opportunities.

Mondays (Dec. 1, 8, 15) 7:00-8:30 p.m., Parish Hall
 Thursdays (Dec. 4, 11, 18) 1:00-2:30 p.m., Community Room



Cost \$5/person.
 Register by November 26 - Scan the QR Code or visit corpuschristibismarck.com

If you prefer to do the study on your own, there will be a limited supply of books available for purchase in the Parish Office.

Prayer Blankets: Do you know someone in the hospital, homebound, or in need of extra prayers? There are Prayer Blankets available at the Parish Office that you can deliver to reassure the person of our prayers.

children's program



Children's Christmas Eve Program

The sign-up for the Christmas Program (held before the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass) is open.

The practice times are scheduled for December 15 & 22 from 3:30-4:45 p.m.

Children must be able to attend **both** practices.

Scan the QR Code to sign your child up to participate in the program.

Sign up deadline is **Friday, December 10.**

No late registrations will be accepted.

For more information call Melanie at 701-975-9809.

THANKSGIVING OUTREACH 2025

*"The Lord has anointed **ME** to bring good news to the poor..." Isaiah 61:1*



Thanksgiving Food Basket Sponsorship

Sponsor a local family in need:

| | | |
|--------------------|---|----------------------|
| \$15 / Family of 1 |  | \$75 / Family of 5 |
| \$30 / Family of 2 | | \$90 / Family of 6 |
| \$45 / Family of 3 | | \$120 / Family of 8 |
| \$60 / Family of 4 | | \$150 / Family of 10 |

Scan the QR Code or visit www.corpuschristibismarck.com

Monetary donations, in any amount, are welcome now - or at any time.

Did you know? Last year we distributed 190 Thanksgiving Baskets and there is greater need in 2025. Please help as you are able.

Every donation helps!



Thanksgiving Food Drive

November 22 - 30

The annual Thanksgiving Food Drive (when items are placed in the center of the Church) is scheduled for November 22-30.

The following items are especially needed:

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Peanut Butter (Regular size jars) | Pancake Mix & Syrup |
| Soup (Tomato, Chicken Noodle, Vegetable) | Hamburger Helper |
| Cream Soup (Chicken, Mushroom) | Pasta Noodles & Sauce |
| Canned Meats (Tuna, Chicken) | Instant Potatoes |
| 1 lb Bag of Rice | Cold Cereal |

Non-Food items are appreciated also:

- Hand Soap / Dish Liquid / Laundry Soap / Facial Tissues
- Toilet Paper / Paper Towels / Shampoo & Conditioner
- Body Wash / Personal Hygiene Products

THANK YOU for supporting the Food Pantry!

Address updates, for any reason, are appreciated!

Contact Colleen Reinhardt at her office line, 701-975-9807, or via email at colleen.reinhardt@corpuschristibismarck.com.

What's Going on at Corpus Christi this Week

- Sun. 11/9** *Happy Birthday, Bishop David Kagan!*
Faith Formation **Group D**, 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. 11/10** OCIC, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Conference Room
OCIA, 7:00-9:00 p.m., South Hospitality Room
- Tues. 11/11** Caring Hearts Quilters, 9:00 a.m., Community Room
Eucharistic Adoration, 12:45-7:00 p.m., Church
Sacrament Track **Group B**, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Parish Hall
KC Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Community Room
- Wed. 11/12** 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 Youth Group (**6-7-8**), 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Thurs. 11/13** Eucharistic Minister Training, 6:00 p.m., Church
- Sun. 11/16** Faith Formation **Group A**, 9:30-10:45 a.m.
SNAC, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Room 140

High School SNAC (Grades 9-12)

Sunday, Nov. 9: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Topic: *Knoephla Night with Mel Konieczka*

Middle School (Grades 6-7-8)

Wednesday, Nov 12: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Topic: *Grief & Loss with a guest speaker from Soul 57.*

Parents are welcome to join.

Youth Ministry Summer Trip Registration:

High Schoolers (entering freshmen through exiting seniors)

- Restore Mission Camp (offered by Life Teen) in St. Louis, MO
- Steubenville Conference in Rochester, MN

Middle Schoolers (entering 6th-8th Grade)

- Summer Camp on Lake Metigoshe, Bottineau, ND

There are limited spots for these trips ~ register soon!

Contact Cole Jones with questions.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

November 9 & 23 - 10:45 a.m. Mass

Lessons are geared for preK - 2nd Grade.

No registration required.



We are in need of additional adorers.

- If you would be interested, please call Tracy Kraft at the Parish Office, 975-9803, to visit about your availability and to commit to a time.
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is every Tuesday, immediately following the 12:10 p.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 pm.

Men's Group Breakfast

Wednesday, November 19

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

Breakfast followed by discussion.
All Corpus Christi men are invited!

Corpus Christi Men's Group



The University of Mary invites you to its annual **Prayer Day** on Wednesday, November 12. We are thrilled to welcome Floriani, a men's sacred music group, to campus this year. More information and registration can be found at www.umary.edu/prayerday with a complimentary lunch for pre-registered guests.

The Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Bismarck joyfully invites the gathering of diocesan faithful for 40 hours of Eucharistic Adoration and prayer. This **40 Hours Devotion** event will take place on November 14, 15, and 16 and includes Eucharistic Adoration, Masses, confessions, worship music, and more. Fr. Wayne Sattler will lead a parish mission with a series of homilies. For a full schedule and to sign up for an hour of adoration during the 40 Hours, go to cathedralparish.com/40-hours-devotion.

Knights of Columbus Events:

Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 11 ~ 7:00 p.m.

Blood Drive: Friday, November 21

To sign up ~ visit corpuschristibismarck.com and click on the rolling slide or contact Alan Hoerner, 701-220-3566.

Breakfast: Sunday, November 30 ~ 9:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

All are invited for the breakfast - pancakes, sausage & eggs!



When Corpus Christi switched to a "direct-to-office" phone system, each staff was assigned an individual phone number (they all have the format 701-975-XXXX and are listed on the front of the bulletin). When you receive a call, it will show that particular direct-to-office number, not the parish's home number 701-255-4600. For instance, the receptionist desk is 701-975-9805 and the parish manager is 701-975-9803. As you receive calls, please consider adding these numbers into your contacts. Thank you!



Light of Christ Catholic Schools

~ News from Light of Christ Catholic Schools ~

• **Taste of Kindergarten:** This event is designed for students and parents considering Kindergarten for 2026-27:

St. Mary's Elementary School - Friday, November 14

Cathedral Elementary School - Friday, November 21

Currently enrolled PreK students at our grade schools will attend this event with their class and parents are encouraged to attend with their child. If you are not currently enrolled in one of our Pre-K classes, an RSVP and parental supervision is required. For specific details or to RSVP, please contact: Shannon Indovina, 701-354-7067, sindovina@lightofchristsschools.org.

• 2026 Carnival – Jan 30-31-Feb. 1

NEW silent and live auction items or gift cards can now be donated. For more details, contact John Herold, 701-751-8719, or email jherold@lightofchristsschools.org.

Turkey Bingo: The Saint Anne's Knights of Columbus is hosting their annual Turkey Bingo on November 16, 2:00-4:30 p.m. in the Saint Anne School gym (use the south gym door). At least 30 games will be played. Proceeds will benefit the local soup kitchen and Ministry on the Margins. There will also be a bake sale after all weekend Masses, November 15 & 16.

Bismarck Catholic Daughters will host Home on the Range at the next meeting on Tuesday, November 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit. **[Please note the date change]**. Guests are invited, come hear what is new at HOTR! For more information, contact Karen: 527-4203.



BACEF:

Supporting parish Faith Formation Programs!



November 9th is BACEF Sunday!

BACEF is 50!

The **Bismarck Area Catholic Education Foundation (BACEF)** was established in 1975 by the 6 Bismarck area parishes as a permanent endowment fund. The earnings each year are returned to support Faith Formation and religious education programs at the parishes and schools. **BACEF has made annual distributions totaling \$7.75M since 1977!** *Corpus Christi Parish is receiving \$29,081 in 2025 for Faith Formation Programs!*

BACEF increases the endowment by receiving legacy gifts, collecting memorial contributions, and conducting annual Foundation Sunday Fund Drives. This year, **Foundation Sunday is November 9**. We are counting on you for support again this year and thank you for your stewardship over our 50 years of service!

Please refer to our web page at <https://cfwnd.org/bacef> or scan our QR code to learn more about BACEF and to make a donation. Donations made out to BACEF can also be received into the collection at Mass or by mail to PO Box 1544, Bismarck, ND 58502.

Sunday, Nov 09, 2025

The Lord's living house

How often, when we speak of church, we have to clarify whether we mean the faith community or the building where that community gathers. The fact that the memorial of the dedication of the Church of St. John Lateran today replaces even the Sunday liturgy reminds us that our faith reaches into the clay from which we are made. We celebrate this building—the pope's own cathedral, the mother of all churches—remembering that human beings need things that appeal to the senses to remind us of spiritual values. Saint Augustine says that when the community of faith gathers “they are hewn out, as it were, from mountains and forests, like stones and timber; but by catechizing, baptism, and instruction they are . . . shaped, squared, and planed by the hands of the workers and artisans” and finally are made into a house for the Lord, “fitted together through love.”

FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN
BASILICA

Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17; John 2:13-22 (671). “Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

Monday, Nov 10, 2025

Called to account

It's easy to fall into the habit of blaming others when things go wrong. But Jesus challenges us to take responsibility for our own actions. At the same time, Jesus calls us to hold each other accountable: “If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him” (Luke 17:3). There's a tension here—justice and mercy—but they go hand in hand. For Saint Augustine forgiveness is a great gift we can give to others and ourselves: “There are many kinds of alms, the giving of which helps us to obtain pardon for our sins; but none is greater than that by which we forgive from our heart a sin that someone has committed against us.” Avoid blame and focus on accountability and mercy, two sides of divine love.

Wisdom 1:1-7; Luke 17:1-6 (491). “Wisdom is a kindly spirit, yet she acquits not the blasphemer of his guilty lips.”

Tuesday, Nov 11, 2025

A soldier of Christ

If conscientious objectors had a patron saint, it would be Saint Martin of Tours (316/317-397). Though Martin was born into a military family and named after Mars, the god of war, his conversion to Christianity led him to renounce military service and dedicate his life to the gospel. “I am a soldier of Christ,” he said. “I cannot fight.” Such a decision, then and now, is never easy for a soldier to make and, depending on the time or place, could lead to imprisonment (as it did for Martin), physical punishment, even death. As we rightly honor all those who have given military service to their country today, let us also remember those who have chosen to fulfill a different duty.

MEMORIAL OF MARTIN OF TOURS, BISHOP;
VETERANS DAY

Wisdom 2:23-3:9; Luke 17:7-10 (492). “When you have done all you have been commanded, say, ‘... we have done what we were obliged to do.’”

Wednesday, Nov 12, 2025

Love rules

Jesus asks a good question in the story about the 10 lepers he cleansed after only one returned to offer thanks: Where were the other nine? We can only imagine they were off doing exactly what Jesus told them to do: showing themselves to the priests, a Jewish

ritual prescribed for the healing of leprosy. The tenth man, a Samaritan, wasn't bound by Jewish law. So he was free to return and thank the Lord. When it comes to leading a virtuous life, it's always a safe bet to follow the law, but not at the expense of the good news of God's saving love. Christ's whole purpose for becoming human was to teach us that lesson. Remember that the next time you use church law as a crutch or a cudgel instead of a path that leads to the abundant love of Christ.

Wisdom 6:1-11; Luke 17:11-19 (493). “Desire therefore my words; long for them and you shall be instructed.”

Thursday, Nov 13, 2025

Good deeds build the Kingdom

The word *kingdom*, found in the frequently used New Testament phrase “kingdom of God,” comes from the Greek *basileia*, meaning “kingdom,” “reign,” or most literally “foundation.” Jesus laid God's foundation among us, and Christians continue to build on that foundation through lives of love and service. Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini (1850-1917) desired to build her life on Christ: “Convert me, Jesus,” she wrote in her diary, “for if you do not make me a saint, I will not know how to work in your vineyard.” God's kingdom comes each time we do the right thing—fight a just cause, serve the needs of our community, follow God's command to forgive and show mercy. Without a desire to do God's will, we will, in the words of Mother Cabrini, “end by betraying God's interests, instead of rendering them successful.”

MEMORIAL OF FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI

Wisdom 7:22b-8:1; Luke 17:20-25 (494). “Behold, the Kingdom of God is among you.”

Friday, Nov 14, 2025

Prepare for final approach

Old cathedrals preserve images of a sea of flames in which men and women are paying the penalty for their dissolute living. Replace the word “penalty” with “preparation,” and the idea of a “place” where souls are sent with the concept of a “process.” That comes closer to how the church speaks of purgatory today. Purgatory is a process whereby each soul is prepared for glory. If God is Love, then anything unloving or unyielding in our spirits must be surrendered before approaching final union with the Lord. Start the winnowing process now and let go of all that isn't heaven ready.

Wisdom 13:1-9; Luke 17:26-37 (495). “Whoever seeks to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses it will save it.”

Saturday, Nov 15, 2025

Science and religion: let's talk

As scientists probe ever more deeply into the mysteries of life, some people of faith feel threatened by the new terrain being traversed. But rather than retreat from the field, believers do well to bring their faith and ethics to the dialogue. We can turn to Saint Albert the Great (1193/1206-80) for inspiration. Albert was a Dominican friar and priest famous for his advocacy of the peaceful coexistence of science and religion. Tutor to Saint Thomas Aquinas, Albert brought Aristotle out of the shadows of the Dark Ages and ushered in the modern era of scientific inquiry. If we believe that God is Lord of all creation, we have nothing to fear from the exploration of the mysteries of that creation.

MEMORIAL OF ALBERT THE GREAT, BISHOP,
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Wisdom 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Luke 18:1-8 (496). “They beheld stupendous wonders.”

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



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