

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 Hours:

Monday - Thursday ~ 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
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 30, 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 hope your Thanksgiving week was a good one! We had a good New Priests Workshop; I'll include a photo here.

Thanksgiving Outreach 2025 was a success! I would like to thank Colleen Reinhardt, Tracy Kraft, Larry Thelen, Niel Heinze, and the team of Food Pantry volunteers who distributed the 232 Thanksgiving Food Boxes. I am always amazed to see the organization and manpower it takes. And to everyone who donated - thank you! The Corpus Christi Food Pantry is a very tangible way that you are assisting your neighbors in need. Only through your support are we able to impact the community, 52 weeks of the year!

Advent is here - will you be *Waiting Well*? A few weeks ago, here in this article, I encouraged you to do something today that doesn't need to be done today. Why? To prepare ourselves for Christmas so we can fully immerse ourselves in the season of Advent. We often find ourselves distracted during this beautiful season, simply counting down the days to Christmas while we are frantically getting ready for the holidays. During this time, we often miss the important part of the season: preparing for Christ and prayerfully focusing on where God is calling us. I'll ask again, Advent is here - will you be *Waiting Well*? Our Advent activities were listed in our Thanksgiving card that was mailed to every household and will be featured in the bulletins throughout the Advent Season; please join us as you are able.

A quick note about next weekend. Corpus Christi will welcome the 3rd and 4th Degree Knights of Columbus for their state meetings. We expect that we will be hosting a good number of guests for the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass as the Knights and their families/guests will participate in the processional and Mass, and there will be an honor guard. The Knights will also be using the Parish Hall and the Community Room throughout the weekend; therefore, we will not have a mask required room available. Welcome, Knights!

~Have a great week! Msgr. Patrick A. 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: Dec 6-7 | December 6, 2025 | | December 7, 2025 | | December 7, 2025 | | December 7, 2025 | |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| | 4:00 PM | | 8:30 AM | | 10:45 AM | | 5:30 PM | |
| Hospitality | 1 | | 1 | Brian Steffi | 1 | Kathy Howe | 1 | |
| | 2 | | 2 | Heather Steffi | 2 | Maryam Abddo | 2 | |
| | 3 | | 3 | Catherine Williams | 3 | | 3 | |
| | 4 | | 4 | Francis Williams | 4 | | 4 | |
| Ushers | 1 | John Meier | 1 | Lance Bauer | 1 | Dan DeRouchey | 1 | Gene Rivinius |
| | 2 | Pam Meier | 2 | Mike Hilbert | 2 | Lonnie Zahn | 2 | Bev Rivinius |
| | 3 | Duane Urlacher | 3 | | 3 | Dan Sauter | 3 | |
| | 4 | | 4 | | 4 | | 4 | |
| Lectors | 1 | Janet Elkin | 1 | John Kambetz | 1 | Mandi Hetletved | 1 | Todd Van Orman |
| | 2 | Sean Cleary | 2 | John Saiki | 2 | Rodger Wetzel | 2 | |
| Servers | 1 | Teigyn Saylor | 1 | Renley Becker | 1 | Madisyn Lowe | 1 | Evan Hinnenkamp |
| | 2 | | 2 | Ryer Becker | 2 | Ella Weigel | 2 | Sophia Schlinger |
| Eucharistic Min | | BODY OF CHRIST |
| | R-1 | Larry Thelen | R-1 | Dean Anagnost | R-1 | Cathy Schatz | R-1 | Margie Schiff |
| | 2 | Father | 2 | Father | 2 | Father | 2 | Father |
| | 3 | MaryAnn Metcalf | 3 | Shawn Anagnost | 3 | Kathy Howe | 3 | |
| | 4 | Clare Auble | 4 | Kathy Knudson | 4 | Janet Spooner | 4 | |
| | 5 | Carol Thompson | 5 | Lynn Best | 5 | Makayla Schatz | 5 | |
| | 6 | Janet Elkin | 6 | Brenda Bergen | 6 | Cec Reetz | 6 | |
| | 7 | Deacon | 7 | Deacon | 7 | Deacon | 7 | Deacon |
| | 8 | | 8 | Karen daSilva | 8 | Pam Vetter | 8 | |
| | 9 | | 11 | Bill Knudson | 9 | Barbie Lowe | 11 | |
| | 10 | | 12 | Craig Zander | 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 & Holidays as Scheduled

Weekly Mass Intentions

Mon., Dec. 1 (12:10 p.m.) - ✠ Joe Zahradka
Tues., Dec. 2 (12:10 p.m.) - ✠ Ted Becker
Wed., Dec. 3 - Collective Intention
 (12:10 p.m.) - ✠ Chris Welle
 ✠ Jane Greer
Special Intention
Thurs., Dec. 4 (12:10 p.m.) - ✠ Bob Harvey
Fri., Dec. 5 (12:10 p.m.) - ✠ Clint Fuller
Sat., Dec. 6 (4:00 p.m.) - ✠ Donna & ✠ Cody Carik
Sun., Dec. 7 (8:30 a.m.) - ✠ Fritz Twardoski
 (10:45 a.m.) - Pro Populo
 (5:30 p.m.) - ✠ Kelsey Rusch



December 6 & 7

No Mask Required Room

Both the Community Room & Parish Hall will be used for Knights of Columbus activities for their State meetings.

December 8

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation ~ Monday, 12:10 p.m. Mass

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Important: The Sunday evening (December 7) 5:30 p.m. Mass fulfills the obligation for the 2nd Sunday of Advent, not the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

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There will only be one Mass at Corpus Christi for the Immaculate Conception Holy Day.

The Parish Office will be closed for the Holy Day.

2026 Calendars ~

Available at the Church entrances.

Thank you, Bismarck Funeral Home for sponsoring the calendars!



Retirement Fund for the Religious

The Retirement Fund for the Religious collection is December 13 & 14. Please help those who have given a lifetime to the Catholic Church.

Envelopes and an insert will be in the December 7 bulletin.

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| CONTRIBUTIONS (General Fund) - (2,470 households) | |
| Adult Envelopes (249 Envelopes) | \$18,637.34 |
| Youth Envelopes | \$311.75 |
| Total Received (Nov. 23) | \$18,949.09 |
| 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 | \$16,271.19 |
| Online Giving Week (Nov 3-9) | \$7,270.00 |
| 3 rd Sunday Nov 16 | \$16,747.98 |
| Online Giving Week (Nov 10-16) | \$6,910.00 |
| Electronic Contributions (Nov 20) | \$10,610.68 |
| 4 th Sunday Nov 23 | \$18,949.09 |
| Online Giving Week (Nov 17-23) | \$3,760.00 |
| 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!

Stewardship Thought: "At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come," says today's Gospel. Good stewards know that they are accountable to God for all they have and are and strive to live in readiness for His coming. Do for others with no desire of returned favors. We all should plant some trees we'll never sit under.

Making an End of Year gift? All 2025 donations must be dated/postmarked no later than December 31 and received by January 6. Thank you for your generosity!



Food for the Soul

Tuesday, December 2

5:30 p.m., Community Room

Cooking and eating alone after the loss of a spouse can be called the "6th Stage of Grief." *Food for the Soul* is a once-a-month gathering/potluck meal for those who have lost a spouse. For more information, please contact Tammy Schafer at 701-255-4600. No RSVP is needed.

KC Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, November 30

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

Everyone is invited!



Does life seem overwhelming sometimes? Need time for quiet to focus on your prayer life? Jesus awaits in the Blessed Sacrament!

We are in need of additional Adorers

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is every Tuesday, immediately following the 12:10 p.m. Mass until Benediction at 7:00 pm.
- Sign up for a 30-minute slot. For a "Holy Hour," sign up for two consecutive slots.
- Please call Tracy Kraft at the Parish Office, 975-9803, to commit to an Adoration time.

Corpus Christi Youth Ministry presenting...

IN BETHLEHEM INN

A Dinner Theater, retelling the night Jesus was born, from inside the Inn.

Free Will Offering

All proceeds go to students attending the Mission Trip and Steubenville Conference.



Scan QR to reserve a table!

2nd Annual performance of "In Bethlehem Inn"

Join us for this dinner theater retelling the story of the night Jesus was born, from inside the inn. During your time, you will be served a three-course meal while the inn keeper and his family take you on a journey of the night Jesus is born.

Three showings with limited seating:

Friday, December 19 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 20 ~ 12:30 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Scan the QR code to RSVP your entire group of people. There is no cost to attend the event, but a free will offering will be taken up at the end of each show. Proceeds will benefit the Mission Trip and Steubenville Conference. Please join us and invite your friends and family to this truly one-of-a-kind event!

Contact Cole Jones in the parish office at (701) 975-9804 with questions.

Christmas Carols are a form of oral tradition, and many of the carols sung at Christmas have origins dating back hundreds of years. Carols were a method of teaching hundreds of years ago, and the carols have deep spiritual meaning.



Join the Corpus Christi Choir, under the direction of Sebastian Haboczki, various guest musicians, and Msgr. Schumacher, Fr. Gardner & Fr. Rebera~

A Night of Carols with the Corpus Christi Choir

Don't miss this fun, informative, interactive & festive event!

Friday, December 12 ~ 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

To end the evening, all are invited for fellowship and refreshments.



Christmas Flowers: You are invited to participate in the Christmas Flower Offering to enhance our worship environment while honoring or remembering a loved one. Monetary donations will fund flowers and decorations for the Christmas Season. To donate: fill out your Christmas Flower Envelope that you received in your monthly envelope mailing, pick up an envelope at one of the entrances, or scan the QR Code. All donations received by January 1 will be included in a special insert in a bulletin in the New Year featuring the list of memorials and honorariums. ****Monetary donations only. Do not donate a poinsettia plant.**



What's Going on at Corpus Christi this Week

- Sun. 11/30** KC Breakfast, 9:00-12:15 p.m., Parish Hall
SNAC, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Room 140
- Tues. 12/2** Caring Hearts Quilters, 9:00 a.m., Community Room
Eucharistic Adoration, 12:45-7:00 p.m., Church
Food for the Soul, 5:30 p.m., Community Room
Dinner Theater Rehearsal, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Parish Hall
- Wed. 12/3** Family Table, 4:45-5:30 p.m., Parish Hall
Faith Formation **Group C**, 5:30-6:45 p.m.
Faith Formation Reconciliation, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m., Choir Room
Middle School Faith Formation (**6-7-8**), 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Faith Formation Reconciliation, 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Sat. 12/6** Caramel Roll Sale after Mass, Lower Gathering Space
- Sun. 12/7** Caramel Roll Sale after Masses, Lower Gathering Space
Faith Formation Reconciliation, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
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. 30: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Topic: Food Pantry Sorting

Middle School (Grades 6-7-8)

Next Youth Ministry Night: December 10

Children's Liturgy of the Word

December 14 - 10:45 a.m. Mass

Lessons are geared for preK - 2nd Grade.

No registration required.



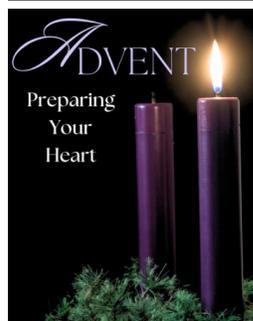
children's program



Children's Christmas Eve Program

Program is on December 24 at 3:30 p.m.

The practice times are scheduled for December 15 & 22 from 3:30-4:45 p.m. Children must be able to attend **both** practices. To sign up, scan the QR Code. Sign up deadline is **Friday, December 10. No late registrations will be accepted.** For more information call Melanie at 701-975-9809.



Regular Confessions:

Monday-Friday ~ 11:30 a.m. - Noon

Saturday ~ 3:00-3:45 p.m.

Additional Advent Confessions:

December 19 ~ 11:00 a.m. - Noon

December 22 ~ 11:00 a.m. - Noon

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

December 23 ~ 11:00 a.m. - Noon

Advent Confessions are available throughout Bismarck/Mandan.

See the bulletin board for the complete list.



Plan to Help!

Christmas Outreach: December 6 - 21

Many ways to help to gift the Spirit of Christmas!

1. Christmas Dinner Food Basket Sponsorship

\$15 / Family of 1
\$30 / Family of 2
\$45 / Family of 3
\$60 / Family of 4



\$75 / Family of 5
\$90 / Family of 6
\$120 / Family of 8
\$150 / Family of 10

Sponsorship forms will be in the Upper & Lower Gathering Spaces or scan the QR Code above to donate online.

2. Gifts for Children (18 & under)

Gift tags will be in the Upper & Lower Gathering Space beginning December 6

- All gifts need to be returned **NO LATER THAN** Sunday, December 21 for the distribution on Monday, December 22.
- Gifts are to be new, wrapped, and have the original Christmas Outreach Tag securely taped to the outside of the package.
- If you have more than one gift for the person you selected, please enclose the gifts in one wrapped box/gift bag that is securely closed. Or, if this is difficult, gifts need to be securely attached together. This greatly helps our volunteer team on distribution day!
- Gifts may be returned to the Christmas Outreach Table or the Parish Office.

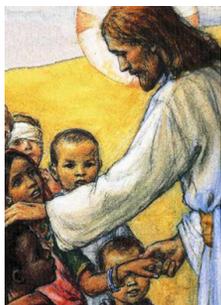
3. Gift Certificates (Minimum \$20)

Please only donate the following gift cards:

- Walmart • Target • Cashwise • Family Fare • Gas • Visa

This year, due to the increased need, gift requests will be taken for children 18 & under only. These Gift Certificates will be given to adults/households to provide holiday cheer to those over 18.

4. Monetary Donations are welcome any time!



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."**

St. Mary's Carnival

January 30 - 31 & February 1, 2026

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.

Catholic Charities North Dakota is participating in Giving Tuesday on December 2, 2025. Giving Tuesday is a global generosity movement that encourages people to give back and make a difference in their community. This special day kicks off the holiday season with a focus on kindness and philanthropy. *Donate now or on Giving Tuesday at <https://app.theauxilia.com/pay/givingtuesday2025>.*

All are welcome to attend an *Oblate Advent Day of Reflection "Silence, Solitude and Prayer,"* at Annunciation Monastery, Bismarck. Sunday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Eucharistic Liturgy at 11:00 a.m., lunch and refreshments provided. No cost. *For more information, or for additional reading resources, contact Sister Rosemary at: oblates@annunciationmonastery.org Claudia Dietrich, ObISB, will lead the day of reflection.*

Young Adult (Ages 21+) **Winter Swing Dance** on December 5, 6:00-11:00 p.m., at St. Joseph School Gym, Mandan. Dance lessons, 6:00-7:00 p.m., and an open dance to follow until 11:00 p.m. Contact Stephen Tan, 701-989-9117, with questions.

Bismarck Catholic Daughters will meet on Tuesday, December 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cathedral. Wear your favorite or ugly Christmas sweater and bring a treat to share. Invite a friend! Call Karen for more information at 701-527-4203.

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!



Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass and Celebration

Friday, December 12

Pro-Cathedral of St. Mary, Bismarck

6:00 p.m. Mass in Spanish, followed by a meal of authentic Mexican food (free-will offering). Everyone is invited!

The Catholic Church must be exemplary: clergy, employees - *whether diocesan, parish or Catholic school* - and volunteers are held accountable for their behavior. To enable the highest level of accountability, there must be a clear and unambiguous definition of appropriate behavior. To this end, this *Code of Conduct* (bismarckdiocese.com/safe-environment-program) is defined for the Bismarck Diocese and it provides a foundation for implementing effective and enforceable standards for all clergy, educators, employees, and volunteers in contact with children and youth. A copy of the Code of Conduct is located in the lower Gathering Space Literature Rack.

Sunday, Nov 30, 2025

Expect the unexpected

It may seem strange to talk about Christ's Second Coming when we're just starting to prepare for the celebration of his first. But that's exactly what the scripture readings for the first two Sundays of Advent do; it's not until the third and fourth Sundays that we get to the Incarnation part. "You . . . must be prepared," we hear, "for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." What gives? Why speak of the End at the Beginning? Because in both cases Jesus becomes present to the world. Our task is to be ready to receive that presence, at the beginning and the end and all the time in between.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44 (1). *"Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed."*

Monday, Dec 01, 2025

An inspiration for the centuries

To become a Roman centurion, a soldier had to be literate, come highly recommended, be at least 30 years of age, and have already served some time in the Roman army. This was no cushy job. Centurions suffered heavy casualties in battle because they led their "century" of troops from the front. However, their brave example inspired courage in the soldiers who followed behind them. One well-known centurion also became an inspiration of faith for centuries of Christians when he asks that Jesus "only say the word" to heal his ailing servant. Do you have such faith in Jesus' healing power in your own life?

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Isaiah 4:2-6; Matthew 8:5-11 (175). *"Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith."*

Tuesday, Dec 02, 2025

Living Christmas

'Tis the season when scenes of peace and serenity start arriving in our mailboxes daily. Every Christmas card is a bid for a more hopeful world. A star shines against the darkness of a fearful nation. A child is born into a culture sadly given over to ways of death and destruction. Wild animals learn to live together as people never do. Even Saint Nick brings gifts through a spirit of generosity as wide as his belly. This year let's bring those Christmas scenes to life, so that, in the words of Saint Teresa of Calcutta, "When Christ comes to you in Christmas, He may find in you a warm home, warm love like that of a heartfelt of love."

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Isaiah 11:1-10; Luke 10:21-24 (176). *"Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid."*

Wednesday, Dec 03, 2025

How to build a fire

One of the founding members of the Jesuits, Saint Francis Xavier (1506-52) is considered to have been one of the greatest missionaries since the apostles. Appointed to re-evangelize portions of the Far East, Francis placed himself with the lowest castes, preaching to the sick and dying at hospitals and orphans and slaves in the street. He understood that if the fire of Christianity were to spread through the East, the kindling must begin at the base of society. Rather than arriving like a royal ambassador, Francis clothed himself with rags and made his home in the lowliest shelters. Francis' humble appearance proved to be the greatest tool for bringing the message of Christ to others. "It is not the actual

physical exertion that counts towards one's progress," Francis explains, "nor the nature of the task, but by the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken." Gather a spirit of faith as you set out on your own daily missions.

MEMORIAL OF FRANCIS XAVIER, PRIEST

Isaiah 25:6-10a; Matthew 15:29-37 (177). *"My heart is moved with pity for the crowd."*

Thursday, Dec 04, 2025

Spoken through the prophets

Historically speaking, the various deities revered by tribes and cultures around the world usually did little more than reinforce the position of those in power. From the Egyptians to the Aztecs, civilizations usually were led by a religious elite who controlled the resources, made the decisions, and "spoke for the gods." That is what makes the testimony of the Jewish prophets so remarkable. They regularly took the rich and powerful to task while advocating for the poor and marginalized. Anyone who doubts the authenticity of biblical literature should pause to consider the striking originality of the prophetic testimony. Surely that testimony would not have survived the censorship of the Jewish elites unless a Higher Power was calling the shots! Take time to read the divinely inspired scriptures that are foundational to our faith.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Isaiah 26:1-6; Matthew 7:21, 24-27 (178). *"The LORD is an eternal Rock. He humbles those in high places."*

Friday, Dec 05, 2025

Do you understand?

At First Sight is a movie that tells the true story of a blind man who, at the urging of a friend, undergoes experimental surgery to restore his sight. The operation is successful; his retina works and he can see. Or at least his eyes function. But he finds he must still finger objects to "know" what they are. He can "see" a cheese grater, for example, but he doesn't know what it is until he has felt it with his hands. Seeing is a function of light striking the retina, but it takes the mind to interpret what we are looking at. Sight is one thing; understanding what we see is another. Take time today to consider the meaning behind the glory of God's creation.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Isaiah 29:17-24; Matthew 9:27-31 (179). *"Out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see."*

Saturday, Dec 06, 2025

The cure for what ails us

As Jesus sent out the 12 apostles after empowering them to proclaim God's kingdom and heal the sick, he admonished them not to charge for their services: "You received without payment; give without payment." As the nation struggles with difficult questions of effective, affordable, and universal healthcare, it is good to take a step back from the heat of the debate and look at larger principles. The U.S. Bishops recently stated in a letter to Congress: "We firmly believe that all people have the right to those necessities needed to live, found a family, and flourish. It is in this reality that we recognize that the right to healthcare is a fundamental necessity for the preservation of life and human flourishing." And for Jesus such care was a way of proclaiming the kingdom of God. Lend a healing hand to others and help build up God's kingdom.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Isaiah 30:19-21, 23-26; Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 (180). *"The LORD binds up the wounds of his people."*

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



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2025 Advent Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
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| <p>30 November</p> <p>Light the first violet candle on the Advent wreath, symbolizing Hope. Reflect on the source of your hope in Christ and what it means in your life.</p> | <p>1 December</p> <p>Be intentional. As soon as your alarm goes off, rise and kneel before a crucifix. Offer your day—and this entire season—to God with purpose and reverence.</p> | <p>2</p> <p>Decide how you will draw closer to Christ this Advent—through intentional prayer, acts of penance, charitable giving, or participation in the Sacraments.</p> | <p>3</p> <p>Read Luke 1:26-38, where Mary's "Yes" made way for the coming of Christ. Ask for the grace to respond with your own "Yes" to God's will in your life.</p> | <p>4</p> <p>Set out your empty nativity scene as a sign of anticipation of the coming of the King. Gradually add the remaining figures throughout the Advent season.</p> | <p>5</p> <p>Attend First Friday Mass, in honor of Jesus' Sacred Heart. "O Sacred Heart of Jesus, make my heart like yours." And He will.</p> | <p>6</p> <p>St. Nicholas of Myra Call or visit your parish office and ask who needs help this Christmas. Then do something about it — quietly, as St. Nicholas did.</p> |
| <p>7</p> <p>Light the second violet candle for Peace. Pray for the "peace which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7) for yourself and whoever needs it most.</p> | <p>8 Immaculate Conception</p> <p>God preserved Mary from sin so that she could be the mother of Jesus. Attend Mass and pray for our country. It is a holy day of obligation.</p> | <p>9</p> <p>Make a small sacrifice today, offered solely to God. It is even more meaningful if it's done in secret, as encouraged in Matthew 6:18.</p> | <p>10</p> <p>Prepare your heart and soul to welcome the King. Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and encounter the mercy of God.</p> | <p>11</p> <p>Advent is a busy season for parishes. Consider calling or emailing your parish office to ask how you can offer your time and support.</p> | <p>12 Our Lady of Guadalupe</p> <p>Mary's miraculous image reveals a profound mystery of Christmas (John 1:14). Take time today to pray for expectant mothers and the gift of new life.</p> | <p>13</p> <p>"If you have two shirts in your closet, one belongs to you and the other to the man with no shirt" (St. Basil the Great). Donate gently used clothing you don't need.</p> |
| <p>14</p> <p><i>Gaudete Sunday</i></p> <p>Light the rose candle for Joy to mark the halfway point to Christmas.</p> | <p>15</p> <p>Offer the alms of patience when you're irritated, a smile when you're weary, and a kind word in place of judgment. You will touch hearts in ways you'll never fully realize.</p> | <p>16</p> <p>Harboring unforgiveness burdens the heart and disrupts inner peace. Pray for the grace to let go, so you can move forward in freedom and healing.</p> | <p>17</p> <p>Only nine days remain until Christmas. Place a lamp or candle in a window as a sign of welcome for the Christ Child.</p> | <p>18</p> <p>Visit the Blessed Sacrament, where Jesus fulfills His promise to remain with us (Matthew 28:20). Take this time to renew your faith in His unwavering love.</p> | <p>19</p> <p>Today, refrain from recreational screen use between 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Offer this sacrifice for those who struggle with screen-related addictions.</p> | <p>20</p> <p>Share the joy of the Gospel—gather a group of friends and go caroling to bring the Good News to others through song.</p> |
| <p>21</p> <p>Light the final violet candle, symbolizing Love—awaiting the coming of Christ, the ultimate expression of the Father's love (John 3:16).</p> | <p>22</p> <p>The King is coming—prepare to welcome Him. Take time to ready your home as a reflection of the joy and reverence in your heart.</p> | <p>23</p> <p>Discern which Advent practices you feel called to carry beyond Christmas. Which ones deepened your relationship with God? Which ones strengthened your capacity for charity?</p> | <p>24</p> <p><i>Rejoice!</i></p> <p>Tonight, place the Christ Child in the manger and rejoice!</p> | <p>25</p> <p>"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:1-7).</p> | <p>26</p> <p>Share the joy of the Gospel—gather a group of friends and go caroling to bring the Good News to others through song.</p> | <p>27</p> <p>Share the joy of the Gospel—gather a group of friends and go caroling to bring the Good News to others through song.</p> |



One Minute Meditations

St. Lucy

St. Lucy was born into 4th century pagan Syracuse, Sicily, and is one of the most famous martyrs of the early Church. Her family arranged for her to marry a pagan, but since she had consecrated her virginity to Christ, St. Lucy refused him. Offended, he betrayed her to the authorities for her Faith. She was questioned and tortured, but all attempts to discourage her failed. She was finally executed. She is the patron saint against eye problems.

The three comings of Christ

This season of Advent, we celebrate the three comings of Christ: in glory at the end of time, in time when He was born in Bethlehem, and His coming in our own lives and hearts. Advent is a time of "busy stillness," of preparing and waiting, like Mary certainly did, for the arrival of the Savior. This Christmas, let's renew our "Yes" to God's request to dwell in our hearts and be "born" in the daily living of our lives.

"The King comes as a helpless infant, born of insignificant parents in a small town of a distant outpost of the Roman Empire. He will conquer through the finally irresistible power of love, the same power with which he made the universe." Most Reverend Robert E. Barron

Find peace before Christmas by slowing down

The busyness leading up to Christmas can be exhausting, but the Advent season holds a better path. It's a time to breathe, reset, and prepare our hearts for the coming of the King. Advent is a built-in gift, a chance to slow the pace and lift our eyes to what matters most.

Renew a sense of the holy: Advent is a chance to wake up the soul. When we lean into our Faith with intention, the season stops feeling rushed and starts feeling radiant. Light the Advent Wreath and let its glow steady your heart. Go to Confession and feel the weight lift as mercy takes over. Spend a few quiet minutes before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and let His presence ground you. Pray the Joyful Mysteries, the "Christmas mysteries" that still speak powerfully to our lives today.

Tune out the noise: Advent becomes richer when we clear space for God to speak. The world buzzes with distractions, but your soul needs room to breathe. Build small pockets of

silence into your day and let stillness sharpen your awareness of God's presence. Reach for a spiritual book instead of a scroll through your feed. Cut back on the constant stream of news that crowds the mind. When the noise quiets, the Holy Spirit has space

"Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).

to guide, steady, and renew you.

Streamline and prioritize: Choose what draws you closer to Christ. When your heart is ordered toward what matters, even the cooking, decorating, singing, and gift-giving gain a deeper beauty. You may decide to attend fewer events, keep the décor simple, or choose more modest gifts. Far from taking away joy, this clears space for it. You move through the season with more peace, more purpose, and a heart in step with Jesus.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics believe Jesus is God?

Every Christmas, we remember that Jesus, the Son of God, took on our humanity without losing His divinity. It is a mystery, yet we hold it with confidence because God, who is Truth, has revealed it.

During His earthly life, Jesus spoke and acted with divine authority. He

said, "The Father and I are one" (John 10:30). He forgave sins, clarified the Law, and worked miracles. His Resurrection stands as the clearest confirmation of His identity, showing that His claim to be God was real. As man, He could suffer and die. As God, He rose and conquered death.

The most meaningful gifts of Christmas aren't wrapped

We know that the most valuable gifts are often the ones we cannot wrap. Alongside whatever you give your loved ones this year, do not let Christmas pass without offering these gifts as well:

Your time: Being present with the people we love is one of the simplest and strongest ways to show care. A short visit, an unhurried coffee, or an evening without phones can mean more than any item we put under a tree. When we give someone our attention, we affirm their worth.

Your forgiveness: Forgiveness does not excuse the hurt. It frees you from the weight of anger and resentment. It

also gives the other person room to grow and seek healing. Letting go is often the first step toward real peace. In many ways, forgiveness is a gift you give yourself.

Your gratitude: Giving thanks to God at Christmas is more than a warm sentiment. It is a heartfelt response to the depth of His love.

Look at the Crucifix, the Nativity, or the Eucharist and consider the humility behind such a gift. Our gratitude matters to God (see Luke 17:17-18). So after attending Mass on Christmas Day, take a moment to say, "Thank you." It is a small act that carries real meaning.

from **S**cripture

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23, Obedience is trust in action

By the time Mary gave birth to Jesus, Saint Joseph had already formed a habit of steady obedience to God. So when the angel spoke to him in a dream and instructed him to flee to Egypt, Joseph acted without delay. He trusted that God would care for him and for the family entrusted to him.

This trust is even more striking when we consider the circumstances of Jesus' birth. Mary and Joseph had traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem during the final stages of her pregnancy. Whether by foot or by donkey, the trip would have been long, uncomfortable, and

exhausting. When they finally arrived, they found no suitable place to stay and settled among animals. Soon after, they faced the threat against Jesus' life and fled to Egypt, living for years in a foreign land without the support of relatives or friends. Through every hardship, Joseph relied on God to protect his family.

The Holy Family was perfect in love, yet not spared from difficulty. Mary and Joseph met each challenge with faith and allowed God's Word to guide them. We can follow the same path.

Q & A

Why is it said that Mass brings us closer to God than anything else?

At every Mass, Jesus is really and truly present in the Eucharist in His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1374). In this moment, the Sacrifice of Christ is made present to us in a mysterious but real way. His self-giving is the greatest act of love, and our participation at Mass is our strongest response, our way of saying, "I love you, too."

Worshipping together also strengthens our faith in the God who is everywhere yet unseen. Faith grows in community. It grows through the physical actions of the Mass as well. When we sit, stand, bow, and kneel, we express with our bodies what we believe in our hearts.

Finally, the Real Presence of Jesus on the altar draws us into a closeness to God that we cannot find anywhere else in this life. Nowhere do we meet Him more directly than when He feeds us with His very life. In the Eucharist, He is as present to us as He was to Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem and to His apostles in the Upper Room.

Feasts & Celebrations

December 6 – St. Nicholas of Myra (4th century). St. Nicholas had a very generous heart and always gave to the poor. He is credited with saving three girls from being sold to pay their father's debt. St. Nicholas is also the patron saint of children.

December 8 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We commemorate that Mary was conceived in St. Anne's womb without original sin, preparing Mary to be the Mother of God. Though given to Mary, this special grace was for our sake. Pope Pius IX declared this doctrine in 1854. This year, it's considered a holy day of obligation.

December 9 – St. Juan Diego (1548). St. Juan Diego was visited by Our Lady at Tepeyac Hill, Mexico. She requested a chapel be built and sent him with roses to the bishop as a sign. When St. Juan emptied the roses before the bishop, his cloak retained the image of the Blessed Mother.

December 29 – St. Thomas Becket (1170). Thomas enjoyed power and riches as a close friend of England's King Henry II, who appointed him chancellor of England. In 1162, King Henry had St. Thomas named Archbishop of Canterbury. St. Thomas refused to allow the King to regulate Church matters and was exiled. He fled to France for safety. Thomas returned to England and was martyred.

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To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

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