

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)



December 7, 2025

SACRAMENTS

Reconciliation - Reconciliation is offered, behind a screen, weekdays from 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and from 3:00-3:30 p.m. on Saturdays or by appointment by calling the parish office at 701-975-9803. No Reconciliation prior to Communion Services. Schedule may change on Holy Days or Special Liturgies.

Baptism - The Baptism Preparation Program and Schedule are by arrangement. Please call the office at 701-255-4600 to register or do so online at corpuschristibismarck.com/baptism prior to your delivery date and the program coordinator will return your call. Parents must be registered at Corpus Christi or have permission from their parish.

Marriage - Couples planning to be married should contact the parish office at 701-975-9805 at least **12 months** in advance for completion of Diocesan requirements.

Natural Family Planning Classes are offered by the Bismarck Diocese. The methods offered are Billings Ovulation Method, Creighton Model Fertility Care System, Marquette Model and Sympto-Thermal Methods. If you have questions about NFP please contact the Bismarck Diocese at 701-222-3035 or www.bismarckdiocese.com/nfp.

OCIA Classes - Persons wishing to learn more about the Catholic faith may call Tracy Kraft at 701-975-9803.



CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH REGISTRATION

To become a registered member, stop by the Parish Office or scan this QR Code.



CORPUS CHRISTI APP (MyParish APP):

Download the app for any smart device.
Text the word *App* to 55321.
Or scan the QR Code.

From the Desk of Msgr. Patrick A. Schumacher, S.T.L., Pastor



Thank you for your kind comments on my homily from last weekend. As promised, I'll share the image here and a quick reminder of what it represents. Fr. Mark Link said that Christians come in three "models" - rafts, sailboats, and tugboats. We all have been each of these models at some point! A raft represents the Christian that follows our Lord when pulled or pushed by another. A sailboat is the Christian that follows our Lord when the conditions are right. In Matthew 24, which we read the first Sunday of Advent, we learn that Jesus is returning, but we don't know when and we must prepare. We need to be tugboat Christians - followers of our Lord regardless of outside forces or the conditions in which we live. We need to be followers of Jesus under our own power and control.

Advent is moving along quickly; there are a couple of weeks before the Nativity of our Lord. Don't miss the upcoming events we have planned for you. The festive caroling, entertaining dinner theater by our Youth Group, and annual Children's Program celebrate the joy that Christ brings. Our Christmas Outreach directs our service and gift giving to our neighbors in need, offering us a way to embrace Christ by caring for others. Reconciliation prepares our hearts to welcome the Christ-child and enter into God's love and plan for redemption. And every Mass reminds us of the "reason for the season." As I mentioned in my homilies this weekend, we should strive to be people of enthusiasm, which means, "God Within" - from the Latin *EN*, "in, within" and *THEOS*, "God." John the Baptist was enthusiastic, and it could be said the proper mood for Advent is enthusiasm. Enthusiasm is not an emotion or feeling as much as a commitment. Our Church needs enthusiastic followers of Jesus Christ. Let's lead the way here at Corpus Christi!

Lastly, a quick note regarding the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Because the Holy Day falls on a Monday, there is not a vigil Mass the evening prior as any Mass offered on Sunday fulfills the Sunday Obligation (typically, we would offer a 5:30 p.m. vigil Mass). Therefore, we will offer the 12:10 p.m. regularly scheduled Mass for the Holy Day. While I understand the desire to attend Mass at your own parish, the priests and parishes in the area do a great job at offering a wide variety of Mass times (beginning as early as 6:45 a.m. and ending with a 7:00 p.m. Mass) - to assist the faithful in fulfilling the obligation for the Holy Day. Our 12:10 p.m. Mass at Corpus Christi compliments the variety of Masses in the city, and is very popular.

~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 13-14	December 13, 2025		December 14, 2025		December 14, 2025		December 14, 2025	
	4:00 PM		8:30 AM		10:45 AM		5:30 PM	
Hospitality	1	Mary Ann Grossman	1	Jason Krebsbach	1	Rita Mastel	1	Mary Nelson
	2	Evelyn Spangler	2	Abbie Krebsbach	2		2	
	3		3	Kort Krebsbach	3		3	
	4		4		4		4	
Ushers	1	Helen Berger*	1	George Simek	1	Chuck Holzer*	1	Tim Rivinius
	2	Sam Theurer	2	Pius Ternes	2	Bernie Holzer	2	Bernie Rivinius
	3	Derek Theurer	3	John Saiki	3	Dennis Mastel	3	
	4		4		4	Nancy Haunz	4	
Lectors	1	Heather Lundeen	1	Brennan Quintus	1	Christine Elzenga	1	Christopher Knudson
	2	Nikki Ferderer	2		2	Rose Kruckenberg	2	Bob Willenbring
Servers	1	Chloe Lundeen	1	Elsa Brash	1	Ben Miller	1	Joelle Knudson
	2	Olivia Lundeen	2	Carsten Schmidt	2	Jake Miller	2	Kyan Knudson
Eucharistic Min	BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST	
	R-1	Carol Thompson	R-1	Bill Knudson	R-1	Gary Feist	R-1	Jackie Buckley
	2	Father	2	Father	2	Father	2	Father
	3	Bob Clooten	3	Kathy Knudson	3	LaVerne Kaufman	3	Margie Schiff
	4	Sandy Wald-Clooten	4	Jerome Werlinger	4	Steven Mittelsteadt	4	Mary Nelson
	5	Clare Auble	5	Gerard Mathern	5	Kathryn Feist	5	
	6	Heather Lundeen	6	Pam Mathern	6	Karen Stahl	6	
	7	Deacon	7	Deacon	7	Deacon	7	Deacon
	8		8	Tammy Heick	8	Cec Reetz	8	
	9		11		9		11	
	10		12		10		12	
	11				11			
Mask Room at 4	D12				12			
	LG		LG	Danell Becker	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. 8 (12:10 p.m.) - **Immaculate Conception**

✠Feliks Gorzelzak

Tues., Dec. 9 (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Richard Hartzel

Wed., Dec. 10 - Collective Intention

(12:10 p.m.) - ✠Ed Selensky

✠John Novak

✠Anastasia & ✠John Miller

Thurs., Dec. 11 (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Shirley Kurtz

Fri., Dec. 12 (12:10 p.m.) - ✠Martin & ✠Margaret Deibert

Sat., Dec. 13 (4:00 p.m.) - ✠Lucretia Silbernagel

Sun., Dec. 14 (8:30 a.m.) - ✠Tillie Becker

(10:45 a.m.) - ✠Jim Kosteletzky

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

Monday, December 8

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation

Mass at 12:10 p.m.

The Parish Office will be closed for the Holy Day.

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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 are various times at the Bismarck/Mandan parishes to assist the faithful in fulfilling the obligation.



Update on End of Year gifts -

Per the IRS, if a donor would like to claim a contribution for the calendar year, 2025, all donations must be postmarked or dropped off at the parish office no later than **December 31**.

Thank you for your generosity to Corpus Christi!

2026 Calendars ~

Available at the Church entrances.

Thank you, Bismarck Funeral Home for sponsoring the calendars!



CONTRIBUTIONS (General Fund) - (2,470 households)	
Adult Envelopes (203 Envelopes)	\$15,050.84
Youth Envelopes	\$419.86
Total Received (Nov. 30)	\$15,470.70
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
Thanksgiving (Collection for "Special Needs")	\$3,152.00
5 th Sunday Nov 30	\$15,470.70
Online Giving Week (Nov 24-30)	\$3,328.15

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you for your support!
Christmas Outreach: December 6 - 21

Christmas Dinner Sponsorship



\$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

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



Gifts for Children (18 & under)

Gift tags will be available in the Upper & Lower Gathering Space beginning December 6 - You choose a tag!

- All gifts need to be returned **NO LATER THAN** Sunday, December 21. Gifts may be returned to the Christmas Outreach Table or the Parish Office.
- 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!

Gift Certificates (Minimum \$20)

Please donate the following ~



- | | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Walmart | Target |
| Cashwise | Family Fare |
| Gas Station | Visa Gift Card |

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.



Monetary Donations (Any amount)

Whether it is \$5 or \$5,000 ~ every dollar helps as we reach out to our neighbors in need.

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.



A Night of Carols with the Corpus Christi Choir

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

Guest musicians will include Msgr. Schumacher & Fr. Gardner!

Refreshments immediately following.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

December 14 - 10:45 a.m. Mass

Lessons are geared for preK - 2nd Grade.

No registration required.



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. 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
- Mon. 12/8**  Immaculate Conception
Confessions, 11:30 a.m.
Holy Day Mass, 12:10 p.m.
Parish Office Closed
- Tues. 12/9** Caring Hearts Quilters, 9:00 a.m., Community Room
Eucharistic Adoration, 12:45-7:00 p.m., Church
Dinner Theater Rehearsal, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Parish Hall
KC Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Community Room
- Wed. 12/10** Environment Committee, 12:45 p.m.
Family Table, 4:45-5:30 p.m., Parish Hall
Faith Formation **Group E**, 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 Youth Ministry (**Oasis**), 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- Fri. 12/12** A Night of Carols, 6:00 p.m., Church
- Sun. 12/14** Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10:45 a.m. Mass
Faith Formation Reconciliation, 9:30-10:30 a.m.
Faith Formation **Group D**, 9:30-10:45 a.m.
SNAC, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Room 140

High School SNAC (Grades 9-12)

Sunday, December 7: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Topic: Giving Tree

Middle School (Grades 6-7-8)

Wednesday, December 10: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Topic: Advent

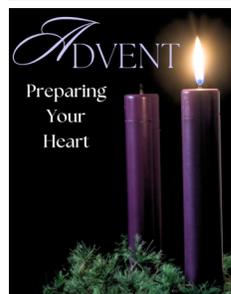
children's program



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 **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

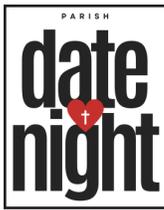
Saturday ~ 3:00-3:45 p.m.

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



Parish Date Night

• For couples of all ages

- Dating - Engaged - Married yesterday or 50 years ago!
- 3 Parish Date Night Events (Fall - Winter - Spring) • 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- Delicious food, great conversation, and quality time together.
- Registration (\$10/couple) is required for food preparation.
- Questions or want to help? Contact Melanie Konieczka, 975-9809.



Don't miss it!

Friday, January 9 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Register by January 7 - Scan the QR Code.
Kick off 2026 with a great night as a couple!



Emmaus Young Adults

Friday, January 9

Open to anyone ages 21-39.

8:00 p.m. Praise & Adoration

8:45 p.m. Late Night

The Bismarck Diocese has an opening for an **As-Needed Cook** (average 12/month) at Emmaus Place, a priest retirement facility in Bismarck. This position offers a competitive wage and is on an as-needed basis when there are scheduling conflicts with our full-time and part-time cooks. Job duties include grocery shopping, preparing, and serving meals for the residents, and clean-up. Must possess a valid driver's license and be able to lift and carry 20 pounds. Prior cooking knowledge and experience is desirable. All offers of employment are pending a clear background check and reference check. If interested, please contact Kim Kleinknecht, the coordinator of Priest Services for Emmaus Place: kkleinknecht@bismarckdiocese.com or 701-258-2618.

Knights of Columbus News & Events:



Caramel Roll Sale

*December 6 & 7, after all Masses
Lower Gathering Space*



Council Meeting

*Tuesday, December 9
7:00 p.m., Community Room*



Free Throw Championship

*Boys and girls ages 9-14
Saturday, December 20
St. Mary Grade School Gym*

Set up begins at 10:30 a.m., open shoot at 11:00 a.m., and competition starts at 11:30 a.m. Contestants compete within their own gender and age group. Please bring a copy of the contestant's birth certificate. If you have questions, contact Mark Gaydos, 701-214-0777 or marksgaydos@midco.net.



St. Mary's Carnival

January 30 - 31 & February 1, 2026

• **Corpus Christi Carnival Parish Representatives Needed!** Parish Representatives work with the Midway Chair and other Parish Reps on setup, volunteer direction, and smooth operation of the Carnival

from Wednesday - Sunday. We encourage multiple reps per parish! Splitting the duties significantly reduces the time needed from any single individual, making the total commitment manageable and enjoyable. Thank you for considering this opportunity to represent our parish! *For questions or more details, please contact Tammy Heick: 701.226.7069 or tammyheick@gmail.com.*

• **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@lightofchristschools.org.*



*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.



Retirement Fund for the Religious

December 13 & 14

Please help those who have given a lifetime to the Catholic Church. Envelopes are included in this bulletin.



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!

Men's Group Breakfast

Wednesday, December 17

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

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

Corpus Christi Men's Group



Corpus Christi Women's Group

No meeting in December

Next meeting: January 28, 2026

Sunday, Dec 07, 2025

Put aside your to-do list

Advent can seem like a wintery Lent—purple decor, sober worship, scripture about the end times. While it is about focusing on our inner life, it's not from the perspective of repentance but a passionate desire for God. Unfortunately, a quiet time like Advent is easily shouted down by the madness of a jump-started Christmas. Advent is not a to-do list; it's a gift tied in purple velvet ribbon. Unwrap it—it's "just what you always wanted!" Confront your use and abuse of time. Create and jealously guard little pockets of quiet. Go for a walk in the crisp air. Sit with your address book; picture, pray for, and bless each person you cherish. Turn off the TV, listen to the first part of Handel's *Messiah* and bask in its beauty. Be still. Know God.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12 (4). *"The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD."*

Monday, Dec 08, 2025

Have a grace-full day

What is grace? One way to think of it is anything that comes from God. We can think of it in terms of what we give to God: prayer and worship, service to others, doing God's will. Or what God sends to us: the gift of creation, love, inspiration, consolation, help, and much more. Mary had grace in abundance—both what she gave and received. Make today a day of prayer to her to intercede for us and inspire us to give and receive God's grace. Here is a simple prayer from Saint Teresa of Calcutta to get you started: "Mary, give me your Heart: so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate; your Heart so full of love and humility that I may be able to receive Jesus in the Bread of Life and love Him as you love Him and serve Him in the distressing guise of the poor."

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Genesis 3:9-15, 20; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12; Luke 1:26-38 (689). *"The angel Gabriel was sent ... And coming to her, he said, 'Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.'"*

Tuesday, Dec 09, 2025

Patron of new beginnings

When Juan Diego (1474-1548) was canonized in 2002, he became the first indigenous saint from the Americas. The farmer and mat weaver was in his 40s when Hernán Cortés led the conquest of Spain in 1521, and within three years the first wave of Franciscan monks arrived near Juan's village. Juan and his wife were among the first of the indigenous residents to accept Baptism. Despite their age, the couple opened their hearts to a new beginning and readily uprooted themselves to move closer to the missionaries in Mexico City. Pray to Juan Diego, patron of immigrants and indigenous people, to inspire each of us to redouble our efforts to stand with those seeking a better life in a new land.

MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN

Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 18:12-14 (182). *"Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God."*

Wednesday, Dec 10, 2025

A song to lift your heart

Asked what liturgical song most fostered and nourished their spiritual life, the majority of respondents in any given online poll will cite "On Eagle's Wings" by Father Michael Joncas. The song, inspired by Isaiah's prophecy and Psalm 91, contains the beautifully crafted refrain: "And He will raise you up on eagle's

wings, Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the palm of His Hand." Remember those words of solace whenever your burden feels too great.

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 11:28-30 (183). *"They that hope in the LORD will . . . soar as with eagles' wings."*

Thursday, Dec 11, 2025

Found in translation

The pontificate of Damasus (366-384) occurred during a tumultuous period in the Early Church, with schisms and heresies on all sides. Perhaps Damasus' greatest contribution was his insight that a standardized version of the Bible was desperately needed. In 382 he commissioned a highly respected scholar named Jerome to revise the Bible into a more accurate and updated Latin version, working directly from the original Greek (New Testament) and Hebrew (Old Testament) versions. Saint Jerome's monumental effort came to be known as the Vulgate, meaning "translated into a native language." Even though Latin long ago stopped being a language of everyday use, the Vulgate still holds an honored position in the church. Take time for a little scripture reading today.

MEMORIAL OF DAMASUS I, POPE

Isaiah 41:13-20; Matthew 11:11-15 (184). *"I, the LORD, will answer them; . . . That all may see and know."*

Friday, Dec 12, 2025

A labor of love

Artist J. Michael Walker produced his Virgin of Guadalupe series of paintings and sketches from 1995-2020. One of the most memorable portraits in the series is *Ironing, Thinking*, where we see Mary with a slightly careworn expression on her face as she irons her famous cloak of stars while balancing her crown on her head with simple dignity. In trying to capture the spirit of Mexico on canvas, Walker said, "It is only natural that I should have fallen under the spell—along with millions of other devotees—of the Virgin of Guadalupe, whom I portray as a real Mexican woman of Indian descent, going about the myriad tasks by which women hold the world together." Let the Virgin of Guadalupe inspire us to support the dignity of all who labor.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Zechariah 2:14-17 or Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Luke 1:26-38 (690A). *"A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars."*

Saturday, Dec 13, 2025

Adjust your vision of Christmas

One quality that many saints share is the capacity to look beyond the sometimes horrific circumstances of their lives and see the presence of God. They see with their hearts. Saint Lucy is certainly among those saints with this ability. Tradition tells us that she was raped then tortured and murdered for being a Christian, but she remained steadfast in her faith until the end. Her feast day comes at a good time. Now, midway through Advent, we might be feeling the pressure to conjure up the "perfect Christmas." Today take a moment to pause, adjust your spiritual lenses, and focus on the love that came into the world and continues to sustain us all through the darkest moments into the light.

MEMORIAL OF LUCY, MARTYR

Sirach 48:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:9a, 10-13 (186). *"Blessed is he who shall have seen you."*

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



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“Donors like you have made it possible for me—and religious like me—to continue our mission in spirit and in prayer. Thank you for helping us live with dignity and peace.”

Sister Maria Cigolini, MSCS, 86, center

Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Our senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help. They have spent decades caring for those in need, but years of service for little or no pay have left many religious communities without sufficient retirement savings. Today, over 20,500 elderly religious depend on the Retirement Fund for Religious to help cover their rising health care costs, medication, and daily living expenses. Your gift can help ensure they receive the care they deserve. Please give back to those who have given a lifetime.

From left:
Brother Jordan Coonen, OP, 84;
Sister Maria Cigolini, MSCS, 86;
Sister Sharon Glumb, SLW, 76.
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