

# CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI

1919 North 2nd Street, Bismarck, ND 58501-1735  
email: [info@corpuschristibismarck.com](mailto:info@corpuschristibismarck.com)  
website: [www.corpuschristibismarck.com](http://www.corpuschristibismarck.com)  
facebook: [www.facebook.com/CorpusBismarck](http://www.facebook.com/CorpusBismarck)

Parish Office .....255-4600  
Parish Fax..... 255-4616  
Food Pantry.....255-3104

### Parish Office 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](mailto:info@corpuschristibismarck.com))



**December 21, 2025**

*Merry Christmas!*

**Liturgy Schedule Inside - Join us!**

### SACRAMENTS

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

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

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

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

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



### CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH REGISTRATION

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



### CORPUS CHRISTI APP (MyParish APP):

Download the app for any smart device.

Text the word *App* to 55321.

Or scan the QR Code.

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

December 21 is the 4th Sunday of Advent, the beginning of Winter, and the start of Christmas week, when we remind ourselves of the meaning of Christmas, the gift that it is in our lives and what our response to that gift should be. Christmas is a wonderful feast day that just always sparkles with mystery and wonder. Its sparkle is never exhausted or wears out because it is based on God's endless love for us. What is our response to the gift of Jesus Christ? I attended our Youth Group's "In Bethlehem Inn" dinner theater this weekend which beautifully portrayed the response from the inn in Bethlehem. Monday will be the distribution of 250 Christmas meal food baskets and 606 gifts, which is our continued, impressive response of the work and dedication of our food pantry. Confessions will be offered Monday evening which is always a vivid response that we are all sinners, that we cannot save ourselves and need a savior. Our five Christmas Masses are the center and heart of our response to worship Jesus, the newborn Son of God and Son of Man. The singing of Christmas carols is also a response that cannot be underestimated. As I said at the choir concert on December 12, Christmas carols not only unite us with Christians around the world but with generations of faithful Catholics - our own ancestors - who have sung these same melodies in churches, homes, and monasteries for hundreds of years. And our regular giving and year-end giving of treasure is a motivated response to the entire life of this wonderful parish of Corpus Christi which we are all fortunate to be a part of - we rely on your stewardship gifts! I wish you all a great Christmas week and I'm grateful for your response at Corpus Christi which is truly second to none.

~Have a great week! Msgr. Patrick A. Schumacher



*Christmas Blessings  
from the Clergy & Staff  
of Corpus Christi Church!*

### 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 27-28	December 27, 2025		December 28, 2025		December 28, 2025		December 28, 2025	
	4:00 PM		8:30 AM		10:45 AM		5:30 PM	
<b>Hospitality</b>	1		1		1		1	
	2		2		2		2	
	3		3		3		3	
	4		4		4		4	
	5		5		5		5	
<b>Ushers</b>	1	Gisele Thorson*	1	Jim Volk	1	Donald Williams	1	Darcy Neigum*
	2	Bob Clooten	2	Jerome Werlinger	2		2	
	3	Joyce Hinman	3	Travis Heick	3		3	
	4	Mary Barbere	4	Tammy Heick	4		4	
	5		5		5			
	6		6		6			
<b>Lectors</b>	1	Jackie Mrachek	1	Dustin Fritel	1	Devin Cunningham	1	Gerri Weisgerber
	2		2	Brennan Quintus	2	Jane Link	2	
<b>Servers</b>	1		1	Kasen Fitterer	1	Christine Cunningham	1	Evan Hinnenkamp
	2		2	Kanin Fitterer	2	Kennedy Cunningham	2	
<b>Eucharistic Min</b>		<b>BODY OF CHRIST</b>						
	R-1	Bill Kopp	R-1	Gerard Mathern	R-1	Rita Mastel	R-1	Darcy Neigum
	2	Father	2	Father	2	Father	2	Father
	3	Vicki Conner	3	Pam Mathern	3	Rachelle Massemo	3	
	4	Curtis Carik	4	Carl Jackson	4	Elizabeth Cunningham	4	
	5	Mary Winbauer	5	Catherine Williams	5	Craig Schaaf	5	
	6	Judy Kopp	6	Bess Deutsch	6	Lynde Pesirla	6	
	7	Deacon	7	Deacon	7	Deacon	7	Deacon
	8	Evelyn Spangler	8	Tammy Heick	8	Kay Williams	8	
	9		11		9	Cec Reetz	11	
	10		12		10	Justin Reisenauer	12	
	11				11	Kathy Erhardt		
<b>Mask Room at 4</b>	D12				12	Brilee Erhardt		
	LG		LG	Andrea Jackson	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. 22** (12:10 p.m.) - *†Dean Schmaltz*

**Tues., Dec. 23** (12:10 p.m.) - *†Angie Geiger*

**Wed., Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve**

(4:00 p.m.) - *†Bud, †Joan & †Carl Winbauer*

(6:00 p.m.) - *Pro Populo*

(10:00 p.m.) - *†Jacob Allan Neigum*

**Thurs., Dec. 25 - Christmas Day**

(8:30 a.m.) - *†Anna M. Feist*

(10:45 a.m.) - *†Eugene Volk*

**Fri., Dec. 26** (12:10 p.m.) - *†Orvin & †Bernadette Engelhard*

**Sat., Dec. 27** (4:00 p.m.) - *†Myron Schell*

**Sun., Dec. 28** (8:30 a.m.) - *†Bobbie Schauer*

(10:45 a.m.) - *†Mary Helen Holliman*

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

### Regular Confessions:

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

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

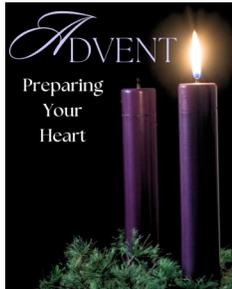
### Additional Advent Confessions:

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

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

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

No Confessions on December 24 or 25



*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.



### 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!

CONTRIBUTIONS (General Fund) - (2,470 households)	
Adult Envelopes (273 Envelopes) . . . . .	\$24,449.61
Youth Envelopes . . . . .	\$393.46
Total Received (Dec. 14) . . . . .	\$24,843.07
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Dec. 7 . . . . .	\$17,569.85
Online Giving Week (Dec. 1-7) . . . . .	\$8,440.00
Immaculate Conception - Holy Day . . . . .	\$2,889.55
Electronic Contributions (Dec. 5) . . . . .	\$13,073.68
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Dec. 14 . . . . .	\$24,843.07
Online Giving Week (Dec. 8-14) . . . . .	\$5,255.00
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Dec. 21 . . . . .	\$0.00
Online Giving Week (Dec. 15-21) . . . . .	\$0.00
Electronic Contributions (Dec. 20) . . . . .	\$0.00
Nativity of our Lord Jesus - Christmas . . . . .	\$0.00
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Dec. 28 . . . . .	\$0.00
Online Giving Week (Dec. 22-28) . . . . .	\$0.00



Thank you for supporting the Church of Corpus Christi ~ your generosity and stewardship gifts are appreciated!

### Stewardship Thoughts:

When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit! "Happiness lies more in giving than in receiving." (Acts 20:35)

*Thank you for your support!*

### Christmas Outreach

#### 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

Scan the QR Code to donate.

#### Gifts for Children (18 & under)

Please return your wrapped gift, with original tag securely attached, by December 21!



#### Gift Certificates (Minimum \$20)

Please donate the following ~

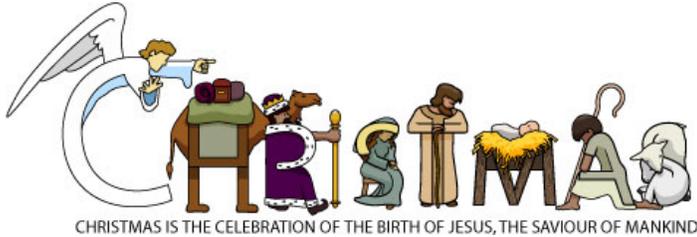
- |             |                |
|-------------|----------------|
| Walmart     | Target         |
| Cashwise    | Family Fare    |
| Gas Station | Visa Gift Card |

Please donate gift certificates by December 21.



#### Monetary Donations (Any amount)

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



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

*O Come, Let us Adore Him!*

**The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ**

**December 24 - 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.**

\* Children's Christmas Program at 3:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve

**December 25 - 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.**

\* Mask Room available at 6:00 p.m.

\* Livestream: 4:00 p.m. (including the Children's Program) & 10:45 a.m.

\* Confessions will not be available at any time on December 24 or 25.

\* There will not be a 12:10 p.m. Mass on December 24 or 25.

Liturgical Ministry sign up sheets in the Usher Room.

The Parish Office will be closed December 24, 25 & 26.

The building will be open for Masses.

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**Mary, Mother of God: Holy Day of Obligation**

**Wednesday, December 31 ~ 5:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, January 1 ~ 12:10 p.m.**

Liturgical Ministry sign up sheets in the Usher Room.

The Parish Office will be closed December 31 - January 1 & 2.

The building will be open for Masses.

**2026 Calendars ~**

Available at the Church entrances.

*Thank you, Bismarck Funeral Home  
for sponsoring the calendars!*



**Join the Corpus Christi Music Ministry Team!**

Choir rehearsals are held on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. New members are welcome! For information about the Music Ministry program, contact Sebastian Haboczki, 945-9806.



**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. 12/21** No SNAC  
*Christmas Outreach gifts due by 6:30 p.m.*
- Mon. 12/22** Environment Committee, 8:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.  
Advent Confessions, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (2 priests)  
Children's Christmas Program Practice, 3:30 p.m.  
Advent Confessions, 5:00-7:00 p.m. (3 priests)
- Tues. 12/23** Environment Committee, 8:00 a.m.  
Caring Hearts Quilters, 9:00 a.m., Community Room  
Advent Confessions, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (2 priests)  
Eucharistic Adoration, 12:45-7:00 p.m., Church



**Wed. 12/24** *Christmas Eve*  
*Parish Office Closed*  
*No Confessions*  
3:30 p.m. Children's Program  
4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass  
6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass  
10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass

**Thurs. 12/25** *Christmas Day*  
*Parish Office Closed*  
*No Confessions*  
8:30 a.m. Christmas Day Mass  
10:45 a.m. Christmas Day Mass

**Fri. 12/26** *Parish Office Closed (Building open 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)*  
11:30 a.m. Confessions  
12:10 p.m. Daily Mass

**Sun. 12/21** No SNAC

High School Youth Ministry  
and Middle School Youth Ministry  
will not meet until January.



*Merry Christmas!*



**Children's Christmas Eve Program**  
*December 24 ~ 3:30 p.m.*

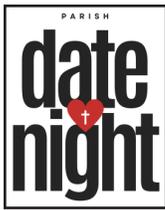
*The program will be livestreamed.*

Thank you to Melanie Konieczka, the parent volunteers, and the children for their hard work in offering the annual Christmas Eve Program!



**Bring your Baby Jesus to Mass**

During the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass, children will be invited to come forward to receive a blessing over the baby Jesus from your home Nativity scene.



### 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](mailto:kkleinknecht@bismarckdiocese.com) or 701-258-2618.

*All are welcome in this place!*

### We welcome you to Corpus Christi!

To become a registered member, stop by the parish office, visit the "About" tab at [www.corpuschristibismarck.com](http://www.corpuschristibismarck.com), or scan the QR Code.



**Are you a registered parishioner and recently changed your contact information?** Registered members are asked to notify the parish office of contact updates so we can maintain our records. Thank you!



*Dear Lord, we pray for our parishioners who cannot attend Mass and celebrate Christmas with their parish family. May they know the joy that only YOU can bring!*



### 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](mailto: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](mailto:jherold@lightofchristschools.org).*

### Gospel PraiSing Fiesta

Nourish your soul & body!

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

**Mayas Mexican Restaurant ~ 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. ~ December 21**

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

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

**Fearless Documentary:** The Encounter School of Ministry Bismarck Campus invites you to a free public showing of the documentary *Fearless*, which highlights the power of the Holy Spirit in the life of disciples, on Wednesday, January 8 at the Heritage Center Auditorium. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the film begins at 7:00 p.m. (*Runtime is 1 hour 13 minutes.*) All are welcome. Please RSVP at <https://forms.gle/Zw6xeZmpbTLofUkD6>. For more information about the Bismarck Campus, visit [www.encounterschool.org/bismarck](http://www.encounterschool.org/bismarck).

### Did you know...

- There are hearing aid devices available to use during Mass.
  - Low gluten Communion is available.
- MagnifiKid worship aids are available every weekend.

Please contact a hospitality minister at Mass to assist you.

### YOUTH CHRISTMAS CONTESTS & PROGRAMS:

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting several Christmas youth program contests to put our faith in action. The program contests include: **Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest**, **Culture of Life Poster Contest**, **Christmas Coloring Contest**, the **State Council Youth Essay Contest** and **State Council Scholarship**. Contest deadline is **January 12**. Each contest includes awards at the Council and State level ranging from certificates to monetary awards. Information for each contest is available on the Corpus Christi website, at the Knights of Columbus page link at <https://corpuschristibismarck.com/knights-of-columbus>. Contact Mark Gaydos, 701-214-0777 with any questions.

## Sunday, Dec 21, 2025

### Oh, what a beautiful morning!

Today we name the Messiah “O Radiant Dawn, Sun of Justice, Splendor of Eternal Light!” Anyone whose morning commute includes a sunrise or who has risen early to watch the sun come up knows why primitive peoples and even our oh-so-sophisticated selves find godliness in a sunrise. At the Easter Vigil we sang “May the Morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning!” While Christmas lights have been shining for weeks, today we can think of them explicitly as a reminder of God’s gift of Light to the waiting world. We remember poet Gerard Manley Hopkins’ wonderful “Oh!” at the sight of “God’s grandeur” and this great renewal: “Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs / Because the Holy Ghost over the bent / World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.”

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (O RADIANT DAWN)  
Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24 (10). “*O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness.*”

## Monday, Dec 22, 2025

### A real superpower

Remember when we were kids and we used to play king of the hill? It was an important part of our social learning that the strongest among us would dominate. The same game is played out in world politics as nations rise and fall. The story of Christmas reminds us that Jesus is the world’s only real superpower, though the nations play their games of supremacy for a time. History reduces all empires to dust, but the reign of God endures forever. “Christ has dominion over all creatures,” says Doctor of the Church Saint Cyril of Alexandria, “a dominion not seized by violence nor usurped but His, by essence and by nature.” Pay homage to the King of All by humbly serving others as he would.

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O KING OF ALL NATIONS)  
1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56 (198). “*O King of all nations and keystone of the Church; come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!*”

## Tuesday, Dec 23, 2025

### Embrace the gift of love

We end our observance of the O Antiphons today with praise for Emmanuel, our savior. “God is not distant: he is ‘Emmanuel,’ God-with-us. He is no stranger: he has a face, the face of Jesus,” proclaims Pope Benedict XVI in his 2010 Christmas address. “This message is ever new, ever surprising, for it surpasses even our most daring hope.” The one who is to come satisfies all of our greatest longings. We need look no further. All our fretting and straining for answers comes to an end with the birth of Christ. Are we ready for such good news? Can we let go of all the things we often think will bring us happiness—money, recognition, power, beauty, health—and embrace the simple, searing gift of love?

ADVENT WEEKDAY (O EMMANUEL)  
Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24; Luke 1:57-66 (199). “*O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!*”

## Wednesday, Dec 24, 2025

### Final preparations

It is no accident that scripture references the birth of John the Baptist on the day before we commemorate the birth of Jesus. John represents the culmination of Jewish prophetic hope for the Messiah, and his birth offers a fitting climax to the Advent season. John’s father, Zechariah, sings praises on the occasion of his son’s

birth. Zechariah’s song, or canticle, is recited daily during the morning prayer of the church’s Liturgy of the Hours. It serves as a lovely closing refrain to the Advent season, our time to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Have you made yourself ready to be guided by God’s compassion “into the way of peace”?

ADVENT WEEKDAY

Morning: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67-79 (200).  
“*You will go before the Lord to prepare his way.*”

## Thursday, Dec 25, 2025

### Live in the moment of Christmas

Today we celebrate the day God entered God’s own creation by becoming human. How can we authentically honor this day? One way is to notice and truly relish our own experience of being human. So often we hurry through the hours, heedless of the many sensations to be enjoyed. This Christmas may we wake up appreciating the delicious warmth of our beds, the sparkle of our decorations, the aroma of our holiday meals, the laughter of family and friends gathered, the words and music of Christmas liturgy, the taste of the Word made flesh, the glory of the child in the manger, the everlasting embrace of love. At the end of the day, we will know something of what Emily Dickinson meant when she wrote, “To live is so startling it leaves little time for anything else.”

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
(CHRISTMAS)

Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14 (16).  
“*Today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord.*”

## Friday, Dec 26, 2025

### The power and the glory

Saint Stephen’s Day, commemorating the first Christian martyr, is celebrated the day after Christmas, serving as a reminder that just as the naked cross looms above the empty tomb, so also its shadow falls across the crib—Jesus’ and our own. It is into human experience that the Christ is born, an experience that knows death, violence, and cruelty but a humanity also capable of love so true as to lay down life for a friend. Stephen was “filled with grace and power.” It was a power we often forget we possess. It is the power of love, our greatest gift, that gives us the wisdom and strength to endure the worst that life can bring. How will you use your power in the coming year?

FEAST OF STEPHEN, FIRST MARTYR

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696). “*Stephen, fillea with grace and power, was working great wonders and signs among the people.*”

## Saturday, Dec 27, 2025

### Lend an ear

When we receive a piece of news, often our first impulse is to think, “I can’t wait to tell ...!” We are social creatures, hardwired to live in community with other people, sharing our sorrows and our joys. Moreover, sharing has mathematical properties: It divides and multiplies. When we share bad news, our burden is lessened, and when we share good news, our happiness increases. Of course, the reverse is also true: When we don’t have someone with whom to share our stories, sorrows increase and joys are diminished. As Saint Teresa of Calcutta once observed, “Loneliness is the most terrible poverty.” Who do you know to be lonely? Take time to listen to their good news.

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST

1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). “*We are writing this so that our joy may be complete.*”

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



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