

# 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 28, 2025

## SACRAMENTS

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

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

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

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

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



## CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH REGISTRATION

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



## CORPUS CHRISTI APP (MyParish APP):

Download the app for any smart device.

Text the word *App* to 55321.

Or scan the QR Code.

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

We began all of our Christmas Masses with *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* which presents the Incarnation in stunning theological poetry: "Veiled in flesh the Godhead see. Hail the Incarnate Deity." These lines express true poetic 'music as catechesis' and the heart of Catholic belief that in Jesus, God truly takes on human nature for our salvation. And this weekend, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we are reminded that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us in a family. The Word - that baby - that very human being - is God. I spoke in my Christmas homilies how this miracle is absolutely amazing. I said how that God, the Lamb of God, offering His own Body and Blood on the Cross to take away the sins of the world is doubly amazing. And, I also added to not forget that He daily serves us that same Body and Blood in the Eucharist, hidden under appearances of bread and wine. You could call that a Catholic *hat trick* - triply amazing! That is why we are the most fortunate people of all to belong to the Catholic Church. Again, in my homilies, I said that is why Christmas is not any ordinary birthday, because it IS the reason we have something to look forward to, something to live for, and someone to hope in. Here, as promised, are my Christmas homily quotes. I'll also include a comic that a friend sent me around the time I was writing this article - enjoy!

*"Always have something to look forward to." +Bishop John Kinney*

*"The mystery of human existence lies not in just staying alive, but in finding something to life for."*

*Dostoyevsky, The Brothers Karamazov*

*"Without hope, we begin to die." +Pope Saint John Paul II*



Before I share my New Year's greetings and blessings, please remember to join us for the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, a Holy Day of Obligation:

- Wednesday, December 31 ~ 5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass
- Thursday, January 01 ~ 12:10 p.m. Holy Day Mass

*Happy New Year, 2026*

*May your year be filled with health & happiness*

*Msgr. Patrick A. Schumacher and Romeo & Titus*

### 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: Jan 3-4		January 3, 2026 4:00 PM		January 4, 2026 8:30 AM		January 4, 2026 10:45 AM		January 4, 2026 5:30 PM	
<b>Hospitality</b>	1		1	Brian Steffi	1	Kathy Howe	1	Kathleen Fettig	
	2		2	Heather Steffi	2	Maryam Abdo	2		
	3		3	Catherine Williams	3		3		
	4		4	Francis Williams	4		4		
<b>Ushers</b>	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		
<b>Lectors</b>	1	Lisa Frank	1	John Saiki	1	Rodger Wetzel	1	Todd Van Orman	
	2	Janet Elkin	2	John Kambetz	2	Mandi Hetletved	2		
<b>Servers</b>	1	Teigyn Saylor	1	Brooklyn Barnhardt	1	Madisyn Lowe	1	Evan Hinnenkamp	
	2		2	Leo Scholand	2	Ella Weigel	2	Sophia Schlinger	
<b>Eucharistic Min</b>		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST		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				
<b>At 4:00*</b>	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. 29** (12:10 p.m.) - ☩Bernie Haman

**Tues., Dec. 30** (12:10 p.m.) - ☩Jerry & Judy Feist

**Wed., Dec. 31** (12:10 p.m.) - **Collective Intention**

☩Ed & ☩Ethel Dietz

☩Kay Sehn

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

**Thurs., Jan. 1** **Mary, Mother of God** Holy Day of Obligation

(12:10 p.m.) - ☩Donna Lacher

**Fri., Jan. 2** (12:10 p.m.) - ☩Delores Welle

**Sat., Jan 3** (4:00 p.m.) - ☩Jacob Neigum

**Sun., Jan 4** (8:30 a.m.) - ☩Anna M. Feist

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

(5:30 p.m.) - ☩Veronica Jahner

## 5 Ideas for Spiritual Growth in the New Year:

"Resolutions" do not have to be challenging.

Aim for goals that are practical, doable, and affirm your faith!

1. Do a daily spiritual meditation
2. Pray the Rosary (Prayed 30 min. before Mass: M-F and Sat.)
3. Attend daily Mass once a week
4. Visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament (Adoration)
5. Share your stewardship gifts (Time, Talent, Treasure)

## 2026 Calendars ~

Available at the Church entrances.

Thank you, Bismarck Funeral Home  
for sponsoring the calendars!



## 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!



**Christmas Flowers:** All donations received by January 1 will be included in a special insert in an upcoming bulletin featuring the list of memorials and honorariums.



CONTRIBUTIONS (General Fund) - (2,470 households)	
Adult Envelopes (259 Envelopes) . . . . .	\$18,088.16
Youth Envelopes . . . . .	\$245.46
Total Received (Dec. 21) . . . . .	\$18,333.62
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 . . . . .	\$18,333.62
Online Giving Week (Dec. 8-14) . . . . .	\$0.00
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!

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

## Stewardship Thoughts:

Joseph's obedience to God was not a one-time thing. His attention to the angel's warning kept Jesus from being murdered by Herod and led to the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would be a Nazorean. Fidelity to God's will assures the best use of my talents, too! In our daily lives we manage our family and work responsibilities. But to become occupied with these important matters to the exclusion of the need of others outside our home or work is a mistake we could carry into eternity.

## KC Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, January 4

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

Everyone is invited!



## This week's Food Pantry Needs:

- 1 lb bag of rice • Peanut Butter • Instant Potatoes



## Christmas Outreach:

Thank you for supporting the 2025 Corpus Christi Christmas Outreach Program! 234 Christmas Food Baskets & 606 Christmas Gifts were distributed on December 22. We are very grateful for your generosity!



**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.



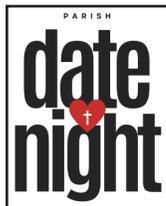
*Jesus awaits in the Blessed Sacrament!*

**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.

The Church is concerned for those who are ill and near the end of life. To request an Anointing of the Sick, call the parish office, 701-255-4600.

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



**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

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

- Sun. 12/28** No SNAC
- Tues. 12/30** No Caring Hearts Quilters  
Eucharistic Adoration, 12:45-7:00 p.m., Church
- Wed. 12/31** *Parish Office Closed*  
11:30 a.m. Confessions  
12:10 p.m. Daily Mass  
5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass for **Mary, Mother of God**

**Thurs. 1/1**



**Mary, Mother of God - Holy Day of Obligation**  
*Parish Office Closed*  
 11:30 a.m. Confessions  
 12:10 p.m. Mass for **Mary, Mother of God**

**Fri. 1/2**

*Parish Office Closed*  
 11:30 a.m. Confessions  
 12:10 p.m. Daily Mass  
 5:00 p.m. Rite of Matrimony

**Sun. 1/4**

KC Breakfast, 9:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.  
 SNAC, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Room 140



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

Sunday, December 28: NO SNAC  
 Sunday, January 4: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

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

Next meeting ~ Wednesday, January 14

**Children's Liturgy of the Word**

**January 11 & 25 - 10:45 a.m. Mass**

Lessons are geared for preK - 2nd Grade.

No registration required.



**Search for Christian Maturity** is a weekend retreat experience which provides youth an opportunity to dive deeper into their faith. The weekends are for high school or college age persons at least 15 years old. The program is both rooted in the Catholic faith and open to young people of any denomination or creed. Search weekends are held at the Badlands Ministries Camp, south of Medora. Cost for the weekend is \$75. Partial scholarships are available. Upcoming weekends are:

**2026 ~ January 16-18, March 6-8, April 17-19.**

Register at [bismarckdiocese.com/search1](http://bismarckdiocese.com/search1).

Corpus Christi will assist with the registration cost for *registered parish members* attending their *first* Search weekend. Contact Tracy Kraft at the Parish Office when you register.



**Food for the Soul**

**Tuesday, January 6**

**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.

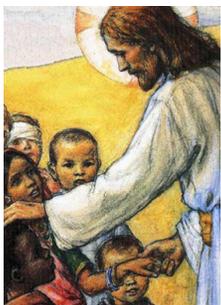
## YOUTH CHRISTMAS CONTESTS & PROGRAMS:

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.

**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).

## Do you like to cook? Diocesan Job Opportunity

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.



## 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**

### • **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).*

• **Raffle Tickets have been mailed!** *Please support the annual raffle!*

There's a variety of ways you can help with the Carnival:

• **Volunteer!** [lightofchristschools.org/carnival](http://lightofchristschools.org/carnival)

• **Saints Hair & Jewelry Boutique:** New or gently used jewelry or purses may be dropped off at St. Mary's Academy (Door 4) or Ascension Parish Office. Contact: Rita Ritter, 701-226-2882.

• **Auction Items:** Donate NEW merchandise, certificates, gift baskets. Contact: John Herold, 701-226-1236. Live auction items (concert/game tickets, getaways, etc.) are also appreciated. Contact: Kate Bleth, 701-354-1226

• **Baked Goods:** Breads, pies, muffins, bars, cookies, fudge, caramels, snack mixes can be dropped off in Room 201 beginning Friday, Jan. 30 at noon and throughout the weekend.

• **Cake Walk:** Cakes and cupcakes can be dropped off in the Cake Walk Room (Room 202) starting at noon on Friday, Jan 30 and throughout the weekend.

• **Used Books:** Beginning Sunday, January 25, there will be a trailer in the St. Mary's Academy lower parking lot for the drop-off of books throughout the week.

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

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

*Configuration IV: Deacon Colton Steiner*

*Configuration III: Joseph Richter*

*Configuration II: Joseph Schon*

*Pastoral Year: Ben Weigum*

*Discipleship IV: Aaron Ripplinger & Dominic Schaeffbauer*

*Discipleship III: Griffin Schaeffer & Alex Wilson*

*Discipleship II: Brady Hendrickson & Thomas Kraljic*

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

**Sunday, Dec 28, 2025**

### **Take notice of the poor among us**

On the walls of the North American headquarters of the Divine Word Missionaries there is a painting from China that depicts the Holy Family living as Chinese peasants. What's especially interesting is that the painting shows them to be *poor*. In their small hut some paint is peeling from the walls, clothes are patched, and the table has seen better days. While Saint Joseph was probably not desperately poor, he and his family belonged to the vast majority of people who were outside the small elite who controlled most of the wealth and pulled the strings in ancient Palestine. So when Jesus talked about bringing Good News to the poor, he was talking about a whole lot of people, including his own family. What can you do to uplift the poor in your own family and beyond?

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23 (17). *"Whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus."*

**Monday, Dec 29, 2025**

### **Boundaries will set us free**

The Russian composer Igor Stravinsky once wrote, "The more constraints one imposes, the more one frees one's self." It may sound paradoxical, but boundaries are necessary in life as well as in art. They provide a structure, a space in which we can most fully explore what it means to live and work and create. Far from restricting our freedom, limits actually give us our freedom. How is this so? Recall a time when you gave yourself unlimited time to finish a project. Did you? Our loving creator gave us commandments for this very reason. They are the constraints that allow us to learn fully who we are—and who God is.

FIFTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). *"The way we may be sure that we know Jesus is to keep his commandments."*

**Tuesday, Dec 30, 2025**

### **A matter of importance**

"The world and its enticement are passing away." These words from scripture evoke the dualism so much favored by certain New Testament writers, reflecting a mode of thought in which there continues a never-ending battle between good and evil, the world of darkness and the world of light. Christians believe that the battle is won, the world is redeemed. Yet anyone who has lived long enough knows that redeemed as "the world" may be, it is foolish to expect that worldly things provide us with all we need. This is what Saint Paul means when he speaks of the "things that really matter." We, too, in moments of clarity—after a close call with illness or death—come to recognize what is most important to us. And they are rarely the things that occupy most of our time, energy, or worry. Take time today to reflect on what truly matters in your life.

SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203). *"Do not love the world or the things of the world. ... the world and its enticement are passing away."*

**Wednesday, Dec 31, 2025**

### **In with the new**

Just before midnight most people will be awake and anticipating the end of one year and the beginning of a new one. But when

scripture talks about endings and beginnings, it means more than putting up a new calendar. The last hour means a new world is about to begin. God has done something new in Jesus. We are reborn to new life through him. "Consider all the past as nothing," says Saint Francis de Sales, "and say, like David; 'Now I begin to love my God.'" How will you begin to love your God tonight, tomorrow, and every day?

SEVENTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18 (204). *"It is the last hour."*

**Thursday, Jan 01, 2026**

### **Peace offering**

In a world torn by hateful discourse, violence, and war, we have been given the Prince of Peace to show us how to live in harmony. God's peace begins within us and then extends to our families, workplaces, schools, churches, marketplaces, and halls of government. We can begin spreading peace with a simple prayer, like the one found in the Book of Numbers: "The LORD bless you and keep you! The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!" With our hearts set on God's peace we can begin to take steps to resolve the small and large conflicts in our lives. What a welcome gift that would be at the start of this new year.

OCTAVE DAY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD; SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21 (18). *"When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son,"*

**Friday, Jan 02, 2026**

### **Divine revelations**

In sin we reject part of our humanity—the humanity of the Garden of Eden, where there is no shame or guilt but an open acceptance of God's love. Fortunately for us, God meets our rejection by continually offering to restore our humanity and share in his divinity. As Saint Basil the Great points out, "It did not suffice God merely to call us back to life, but he has also granted us the dignity of His Godhead." The love God holds for us is so unchangeable it not only brings us back from death and sin but also shows us a path to sharing in God's divinity. That is a truth worth remembering.

MEMORIAL OF BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN, BISHOPS, DOCTORS OF THE CHURCH

1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28 (205). *"Let what you heard from the beginning remain in you."*

**Saturday, Jan 03, 2026**

### **What's in a name?**

In the gospels the name of Jesus carries lots of weight. God gave Jesus his name, which means "salvation," before Jesus was conceived. People healed in the name of Jesus. Jesus was present to those who gathered in his name. For his disciples their mission was to proclaim his name to all nations and bring the love of Christ to the world. Thus, living in the name said who you were, what you believed, and what you were to do. "Jesus is the way that you must walk, and the truth that you must believe, and the life that you must live," says Saint John Eudes. Consider what you can do each day to live more fully in the name of Jesus.

MEMORIAL OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

1 John 2:29-3:6; John 1:29-34 (206). *"Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God."*

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



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# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith.

January 2026

Church of Corpus Christi

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Genevieve of Paris

Born in 422, in Nanterre, France, St. Genevieve consecrated herself to God when she was fifteen. She became known for her charity and gift of prophecy. She predicted Paris would be spared from attack by the Huns and led the people in fasting and prayer. Paris was spared. When King Childeric and his son Clovis I conquered Paris, Genevieve convinced Childeric to release his captives. She became a trusted advisor to Clovis, who converted to Christianity.

### The Jesus Prayer

January is dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Jesus, reminding the faithful of the power and reverence due to His Name: *"At the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth"* (Phil 2:10). A fitting prayer for this month is the Jesus Prayer, long cherished in Eastern Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions: *"Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner."* Simple yet profound, this prayer can be repeated throughout the day. Prayed attentively, it deepens love and reverence for Christ, invokes His saving grace, and helps cultivate a steady spirit of prayer, humility, and interior peace.

*"The things that we love tell us what we are."* St. Thomas Aquinas

## Turning our hearts back to God

Converting our hearts back to God begins with an honest pause – not a dramatic moment, but a decision to look at our lives as they really are. What shapes our days? What gets our best energy, our first thoughts, our deepest trust? Whatever holds that place is, in practice, what we put first.

**Putting God first starts with intention.** We make room for Him by removing what crowds Him out. A few minutes of prayer before reaching for a phone. A short passage of Scripture read slowly instead of rushed. These small choices retrain the heart. They remind us to whom we belong.

**Repentance is part of the return,** but it is not about shame. It is about direction. To repent means to turn. We admit where we've drifted and choose a better path. God does not demand perfection before welcoming us back. He asks for honesty and willingness.

**Trust follows close behind.** Many of us profess trust in God but still rely

on our own control. Putting Him first means surrendering outcomes we cannot manage anyway. It means praying not only for help, but for guidance, even when the answer may change our plans.

**Faith moves us to action.** When we

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*"Do not let the past disturb you. Just leave everything in the Sacred Heart and begin again with joy."* St. Teresa of Calcutta

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align our choices with God's teachings, our hearts follow. Faith leads to action. Forgiving when necessary. Serving when it is inconvenient. Giving when it feels risky. These actions reshape our priorities.

**Community matters.** Worship, shared prayer, and accountability keep our hearts oriented toward God when we are tempted to drift.

Turning back to God is rarely instantaneous. It is daily, deliberate, and deeply personal. Each step taken toward Him strengthens the heart's true center.

**Why Do Catholics Do That?**

**Why do Catholics bless themselves with holy water?**

Blessing ourselves with holy water when entering a Catholic church recalls the ritual washings of the Old Testament, through which the Jews purified themselves before approaching God in the Temple. St. John the Baptist built on this tradition by using water as a sign of repentance and conversion.

Today, this gesture reminds us of our Baptism and renews our commitment to live the Faith. As a sacramental, holy water disposes us to receive God's grace, strengthens us against temptation, and, with proper repentance, helps remit venial sins.

# New Year, new habits build change that lasts

Starting and maintaining New Year’s resolutions can be difficult for the same reason cultivating virtue is difficult: both require forming new habits. Perseverance rarely comes from sheer willpower alone. Practical strategies, supported by grace, make growth more sustainable.

**Begin with achievable goals.** Set yourself up for early success by practicing self-denial in small, manageable ways. Learning to say no in minor matters builds the discipline needed to resist greater temptations later.

**Replace, rather than simply remove.** It is often easier to abandon an unhealthy habit when it is substituted with a better one. Just as swapping potato chips for pretzels can make dietary

changes more attainable, uprooting vice is aided by cultivating the opposing virtue. Greed is weakened by generosity.

**Seek accountability.** A trusted friend, exercise partner, or prayer companion can provide encouragement and consistency for change. Knowing someone is watching makes it more difficult to give up when motivation fades.

**Above all, rely on grace.** God invites us to call upon Him, especially in moments of weakness, often marked by anger or anxiety, fatigue, hunger, or sadness. In those moments, turn to the Holy Spirit for strength and consolation, trusting the Lord’s promise: *“The Lord will fight for you; you have only to keep still”* (Exodus 14:14).

## from **S**cripture

### Matthew 4:12-23, Discipleship is the greatest adventure

This Gospel passage recounts the call of the first disciples. They may not have known Jesus personally at first, but they knew about Him through John the Baptist (John 1:35-42). Hearing the invitation to know Jesus better and follow Him closely, the men dropped what they were doing “at once” and left everything behind.

Under Christ’s leadership, the disciples went on to do amazing deeds. They worked miracles, brought the Gospel to distant lands, won countless souls for Heaven, and suffered many

hardships, even martyrdom. The secret of their success was their relationship with Christ as their God, Savior, Teacher, and Friend who promised to be with them always (Matthew 28:20).

All of us are called to be saints – friends of God. Jesus Christ invites each of us, in particular, to know and follow Him. While few of us are called to leave everything behind, we can still offer everything we have to God’s service. We can still give our “Yes.” Pursuing authentic holiness isn’t boring but a great adventure!

## Feasts & Celebrations

**January 1 – Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.** When we celebrate this feast, we honor Mary, but also acknowledge Jesus as true God and true Man. Mary’s title highlights God’s humility, in that God chose to come to us through Mary, as a vulnerable newborn. This year, it is a holy day of obligation.

**January 5 – St. John Neumann (1860).** The first American bishop to be canonized was born in the present-day Czech Republic in 1811. St. John traveled to New York as a missionary before becoming bishop of Philadelphia. He built up the Catholic school system and established diocesan

schools. He also built more than 89 churches, several hospitals and orphanages.

**January 11 – The Baptism of the Lord (1st Century).** Jesus began His public ministry by getting baptized by St. John the Baptist. Jesus was to be baptized to “*fulfill all righteousness*” (Matthew 3:15). This was also when God reveals Jesus as His “*beloved Son*” (Matthew 3:17).

**January 13 – St. Hilary of Poitiers (367).** St. Hilary converted to Christianity as a young man and was elected bishop around 350. St. Hilary spent most of his office battling the Arian heresy, which denied the Divinity of Christ. He was exiled to Phrygia. He spent his four-year exile writing and teaching against Arianism until the emperor begged him to return home.

## Q & A Why is the feast of the Epiphany important?

The Feast of the Epiphany, celebrated this year on January 4, is important because it celebrates the public revelation of Jesus Christ as Savior of the whole world. The word epiphany means “manifestation” or “revealing.”

Originally, the feast commemorated the visit of the Magi, wise men from the East, who followed the star to Bethlehem. In honoring the Magi, the Church proclaims that salvation is universal and that Gentiles are fully included in God’s plan.

Traditionally, Epiphany also encompasses two other key moments of revelation: Jesus’ Baptism in the Jordan and His first miracle at the wedding at Cana. At His Baptism, the Father’s voice and the descent of the Holy Spirit reveal Jesus as God’s Son. At Cana, Jesus manifests His divine power publicly for the first time. Together, these events reveal who Jesus truly is.

Epiphany calls us to respond as the Magi did: to seek Christ, to worship Him, and to offer Him our lives. It reminds us that faith is not meant to be hidden, but proclaimed.

### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

Success Publishing & Media, LLC

Publishers of *Growing in Faith™* and *Partners in Faith™*

(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax

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(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)