

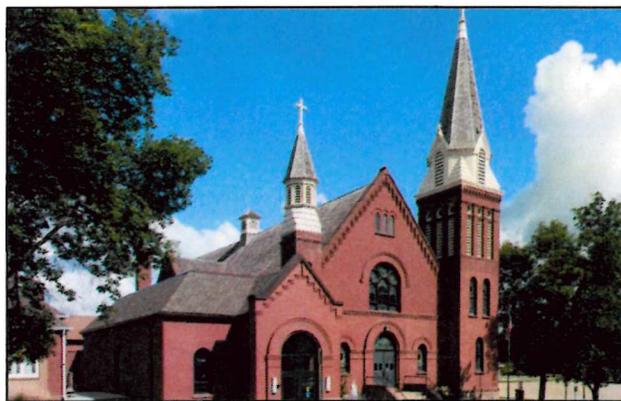
St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish

540 3rd Ave NE - Valley City, ND 58072

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 7, 2025

www.catherineofalexandria.org



MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday - Friday 8:00 am

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am & 10:30 am

RECONCILIATION:

Monday - Friday 7:30 -7:50 am

Tuesday 8:15 -9:30 pm

Saturday - 4:00-4:45 pm

Sunday - 7:30-8:00 am

Parish Office Hours:

Monday: 8:00am - 3:00pm

Tuesday - Friday: 8:00am - 4:30pm

Closed from 12:00 - 12:30pm everyday

September Serving Information:

Temporary Chairperson:

Margaret Doyle: 701-840-0142; No activities planned at this time.



OCIA



Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

- For: Those unbaptized and baptized Christians who are interested in learning about the Catholic faith and perhaps joining the Catholic Church community
- When: Thursdays at 7:00pm, beginning September 11th
- Contact Fr. Duchscherer for more information and questions

Knights of Columbus Breakfast



KC's will be serving breakfast

Sunday, September 14th

from 9:00am to Noon in the Parish Hall.

Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, Sausage

Links and Smokies, with Sunny-D.

*** FREE WILL OFFERING ***

Proceeds to support the George Judd Christmas Movie



St. Catherine Parish Picnic



Save the Date!!!

Sunday, September 21st

Dacotah Pavilion - Chautauqua Park

Noon to 1:30 pm



September Calendar of Events

SUN 7	Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 7:55am Rosary 8:30am Mass 10:10am Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:30am Mass
MON 8	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 6:10pm CDA Rosary and Meeting
TUE 9	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 8:30am -10:00pm Adoration 8:30am Tuesday Movie 6:30pm Ed Board Meeting
WED 10	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 5:00pm Nearly Nu Meeting 6:30pm RE Class 7:00pm Youth Group
THU 11	10:30am Mass - All School 12:00pm CDA Blood Drive - Parish Hall 1:00pm Quilters 6:30pm Quilters 7:00pm OCIA Begins
FRI 12	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 2:00pm Mass - St Raphael
SAT 13	10:00am Mass – Mercy Hospital 4:25pm Rosary 5:00pm Mass
SUN 14	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross 7:55am Rosary 8:30am Mass 9:00am - Noon KC Breakfast 10:10am Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:30am Mass

EXTRA GARDEN PRODUCE???

St. Catherine School cafeteria would love to take any extra produce you may have, please NO tomatoes.

Please **rinse** and **date** your donation when you drop it off.

Mrs. Kennedy, our students and staff

Thank You for your donations!!

TODAYS READINGS

First Reading — Wis 9:13-18b

Second Reading — Phlm 9-10, 12-17

Gospel — Lk 14:25-33

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30;

Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

Tuesday: Col 2:6-15; Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday: Col 3:1-11; Lk 6:20-26

Thursday: Col 3:12-17; Lk 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Lk 6:39-42

Saturday: 1 Tm 1:15-17; Lk 6:43-49

Sunday: Nm 21:4b-9; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

PRAYER NETWORK

Remember in your prayers our parishioners and friends who are ill or are in need of our prayers:

Warren Ventch

Larry Doyle

Lucille Winkler

Donna Hammond

Jerry Sand

Krystal Lemer

Linda Hesch

Shawn Olason

Renita Westerhausen

Shelly Differding

Mary Elmore

Katie Anderson

Maryjo Randle

Daniel Gonzalez

Allen Kunze

John Snodgrass

Bill Cook

MASS INTENTIONS September 8 - 14

M 8:00am Judy Kohout

T 8:00am † TJ McGough

W 8:00am † Larry Lindemann

Th 8:00am † Billie Kunert

F 8:00am Anna Calkins

2:00pm † Nellie Nelson

Sa 5:00pm † Carol Doyle

Su 8:30am † Travis Robinson

10:30am People of the Parish

Grant Them Eternal Rest

Please remember in your prayers the repose of the soul of **Larry Robinson**, husband of Mary Lee Robinson, who recently passed away. May he rest forever in God's Loving care.

Pastor's Page

COMING HOME

There's nothing like coming home, right?

Of course we all enjoy leaving - for example, heading out on a trip, going to visit family/friends on holiday weekends, heading out of town on a volunteer endeavor to help someone in need - but there's something special when that moment comes that you turn yourself around and start heading home.

I love heading out on trips out West to go hiking/exploring. I look forward to them. But even on the best of trips - as even this summer when I headed out to Washington and Mt. Rainier and Olympic National Parks and had a marvelous time - when the day come after almost two wonderful weeks of adventures, it was great to pack up, turn the car on, and starting heading back east to home. And seeing Valley City and St. Catherine's - and sleeping in my own bed! - was a real treat - because it's "home."

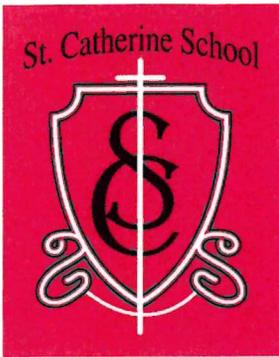
Even the *region* one lives in can be a kind of "home." For me, a North Dakota native, the Great Plains are home. Oh, I can grouse as much as anybody about the long winters and the cold, and the seemingly endless boring flat landscapes - but then after spending days/weeks out in the arid West, where the predominant colors are browns and tans and greys with rocks and sagebrush and seemingly endless desolate landscapes, North Dakota in the summer is like coming to the Garden of Eden - green and lush and full of life, both plant and animal and the many small towns that dot the landscape. As much as I enjoy those arid wastes and canyons and mountains one finds out West, I still always enjoy immensely coming back to my home, the plains of Dakota. There's nothing like coming home.

That being the case, there's a "homecoming" in store for us that will blow away any other kind of that experience we will ever have in this life. The day will come when Our Lord will come to "bring us home" - and that means His coming to bring us through the passage from this life to the next, and that is to bring us home. For all that it sounds like a cliché, heaven is our true and eternal home. And of course, the funny thing about that home is that unlike any other home we've ever had or will have, we will have never been there or seen it before we arrive. But unlike here, where one could hardly call any place "home" that they had never been to or even seen, heaven will immediately upon entering it give to us the most "homey" experience we will ever have. Why?

Because we were made for that place. We were created to live there forever - not here. This life is a pilgrimage to somewhere else - this life is the adventure of being out and about and experiencing a kind of life in which we are to love and serve, and to prepare ourselves for returning "home." And unlike our homes here, in which almost as soon as we return we look forward to the next time we can get away because we soon tire of the same old "home" here - our home in heaven will never become tiring or boring or the same-old, same-old . . .

Think about it like this: home is *where we are from* - that is the source of its power over us. Going home is going back to our very roots. It's part of our sub-conscious, let's say. But *the Lord God is where we are from*. We are from Him. And He - and His place which we call heaven - is in our sub-conscious, too. There - with Him - we are "home." And that brings a joy. There's nothing like coming home.

Fr Duchscher
Pastor



Principal's Page

Save the Date – Fall Auction

Mark your calendars! Our **Fall Auction** will be held on **Friday, November 7th**.

- **Silent Auction & Bake Sale** begins at **5:00 PM**
- **Live Auction** begins at **6:30 PM**

All proceeds support **St. Catherine School** and our mission of *inspiring excellence through faith, learning, and service*.

The theme this year is: **“Clearing the Way for a Bright Future.”** I love this theme because it aligns so beautifully with our mission. Some days, we must clear away the clutter, the challenges, or the obstacles to see the bright future ahead truly. For us as Christians, our ultimate and most hopeful future is eternity with our Lord and Savior. For our school, our bright future is found in the daily work of faith-filled teachers, joyful children, and a community that never ceases to support us.

Each year brings its own crosses to bear, but each year I am amazed at the generosity and faithfulness of our parish and school family. God works through people—through *you*—and I believe He will work through us once again this year to **clear the way for a bright future** at St. Catherine School.

Please consider how you can support this mission at our Fall Auction. Whether you are donating, bidding, baking, or simply showing up to share in the night, you are helping us continue a legacy of Catholic education in Valley City.

It's always a fun evening—whether you come for the bake sale, the silent auction, or the live auction. And it's more than fun—it's a celebration of who we are as a parish and school. Many of you are alumni, or have sent children or grandchildren here, or have encountered our students at parish events. Trust me when I say: this school changes lives. It has changed the trajectory of my own life and my family's, and I am so thankful for your ever-present and constant support.

Together, with God leading us, we can clear the way for a bright future.

Nick Lee

Principal, St. Catherine School

St. Catherine's Parish Team

Parish Office 845-0354

Regular Hours:

Monday 8:00am - 3:00pm
Tuesday - Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm
Closed 12:00 - 12:30pm Everyday

Pastor: Very Rev. Paul Duchschere
e-mail: paul.duchschere@fargodiocese.org

Deacons

Rev. Mr. Joe Leitner Rev. Mr. Tom Vanorny

Parish Office Administrator: Jessica (Jess) Storhoff
e-mail: stcatherinesparishoffice@gmail.com

Liturgy Coordinator:
e-mail: st.catherine.liturgy.schedule@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education: Carol Jabs
e-mail: stcatherine.dre.vc@gmail.com

Lay Directors: Jeff Bopp & Rhonda Fairfield

Parish Council:

Steve Jorissen Doran Chandler
Larissa Musgrave Mark Oberlander
Joe Zubrod

St. Catherine School 845-1453

Principal: Nick Lee

Office Assistant: Terra Giesen

Little Saints Childcare 490-3800

Director: Beth Nadelin

Sexton: Deacon Joe Leitner 840-7429

Cemetery Gate Hours: 7:00am to 9:00pm

Rectory 845-0725

Fax 845-0556

Nearly Nu Store 845-1022

Baptisms: Contact the Parish Office.

Marriage: Contact the Pastor at least 7 months prior to the wedding.

Home Bound Eucharist: Darlene Kerzman,
701-721-1899

Bulletin Deadline: 3 PM on Wednesdays

If you have an announcement for the bulletin, please email Jess:
stcatherinesparishoffice@gmail.com

Newcomers: WELCOME! Please register at the Parish Office or use the registration form on our website.

FINANCIAL REPORT: August 31, 2025

Regular Parish Income

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Last Week	\$4,774.75	\$10,434.62	(\$5,659.87)
Year to Date	\$72,002.85	\$93,911.58	(\$21,908.73)

Registered Families 464

Adult Envelopes			\$4,193.00
Children			\$5.25
Plate			\$484.50
Votive			\$92.00

Total Collection \$4,774.75

Thank you for your generous gifts!!

Online Giving Available @

www.catherineofalexandria.org

Prayer Quilts/Shawls Available

Some of our parishioners may be dealing with some very challenging physical, mental, spiritual or emotional situations/needs (a terminal illness, treatments, an accident, severe depression, a miscarriage) To convey the prayers & support of our parish family, Prayer Quilts/Shawls are available for all parishioners who will need them. To request a Prayer Quilt/Shawl contact: Georgia, 840-2737 or Lela, 840-8352.



Our Lord wishes for us to be whole, body, mind and soul. To be healed, to be complete. There is a group of individuals from the deanery

that are offering to pray with you, for healing. We would be willing to come to pray with you as an individual, at your home or parish church. Confidentiality is assured. The St. Catherine's Healing Prayer Group meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 PM in the Church our next prayer meeting is Monday, September 22, 2025. We are also asking for individuals who would like to be involved in this healing ministry from around the deanery to join us. We have gotten permission from the priests in the deanery so please visit with your pastor. If you are interested, please contact one of the individuals listed below for more information.

Doran Chandler 701-840-1257

Deacon Jim McAllister 701-840-1473

**St. Catherine's Religious Education
Grades K-8, 6:30 pm**



Wednesday, September 10: K-8 RE Classes in School Building at 6:30pm.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact DRE Carol Jabs at stcatherine.dre.vc@gmail.com

*"Life with Christ is a wonderful adventure."
St. John Paul II*

St. John Paul II, pray for us.

**St Catherine's Teen Corner
Grades 9-12, 7:00 pm**

September 10: COME HUNGRY!! Opening Year Potluck Picnic. Brats and Hamburgers furnished. Please bring a dish, dessert or chips to share.

September 17: "The Kind of People He Invites"

September 24: "THE Invitation"

Classes will be from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m., unless noted in teen corner. All youth, grades 9-12 are invited to come, have fun and learn about their Catholic faith. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Deacon Tom Vanorny 701-210-0640.

Tuesday Morning Movies

Please join the Tuesday Morning Movie Group, each Tuesday morning after the 8:00am Mass in the Sacred Heart Room for a movie, muffins and mighty good fellowship. Showing this week: "Kateri" The Story of St. Kateri Tekawitha, our nation's first Native American Saint. All are welcome!

**Prayer - Fellowship - Quilting
Join the Fun!**



St. Catherine Quilters make quilts for those in need in our area every



Thursday 1-4:30pm & 6:30-9pm next to the school cafeteria.

Everyone is welcome for any length of time. No experience necessary & supplies provided.

Questions call:

Christine, 840-2580 or Lela, 840-8352.

We are Hiring

Store Cashier/Clerk needed

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays,
10:00am to 5:00pm

Please stop in the store to inquire about this position or to apply.

Store hours are 10:00am to 5:00pm

Monday - Saturday

Phone Number 845-1022

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St.
Gerard # 2518**



Meet Monthly 2nd Monday

September 8: 6:00pm CDA Potluck and Meeting - Committee Room off the Kitchen. Please bring a dish to share and your white binder.

We invite the Parish Family to join us **September 11th** to donate blood – appointments available from 1:30pm to 6:00pm.

Please call Sue Judd-Dyrness 701-840-8816 or Mary Hollinshead 701-840-2878 to set up an appoint or Click the link below to schedule your appointment!

<https://donors.vitalant.org/dwp/portal/dwa/appointments/guest/phl/timeSlotsExtr?token=E1t7R2OZW%2B8IeYvx0m36NrY02uUYh%2FDaQvaLSjXEZRc%3D>

Thank you for saving the Our Family Bar codes over the summer. Please drop them off in the boxes under the stairway or in the CDA Corner on the lower level.

Hello everyone,

A little note from me about an upcoming absence from the Parish Office. I will be out of the office for six to eight weeks to recover from a procedure I am having on Friday, September 12th. I have wonderful volunteers that will be covering the office while I am out so please don't hesitate to call or stop in and they will help you. Thank you for all your support and kindness, I love being a part of this parish and enjoy my job very much! God Bless you all, Jess

Fall Suppers/Festivals

St. Boniface Catholic Church of Wimbledon, ND will be hosting a Fall Festival Supper on **Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025 from 4:00-7:00PM** in their newly remodeled dining room. They will be serving a freewill offering meal of turkey & roast beef with all the trimmings along with homemade pies for dessert. Also featuring a bazaar, farmers market, bounce house & live music for all ages to enjoy. Takeouts are also available by calling (701)435-2310. Come & enjoy a night out!

* * * *

St. Agatha's Catholic Church of Hope, ND will have its Fall Supper on **Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025 from 4:30-7:00pm** at the Hope American Legion. They will be serving Turkey, dressing, meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, squash, coleslaw and a variety of pies.

Cost: Adults (12 & Up) \$15, Youth (6-11) \$10, Preschool (3-5) \$5.

To-Go Meals are available.

Holy Hour for Life – Respect Life Sunday – Oct. 5, 2025

Bishop Folda invites all the faithful of the diocese to join him in a Mass and Holy Hour for Life on Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 5. It will be held at St. Mary's Cathedral in Fargo. There will be Mass at noon followed by a Holy Hour for Life starting at approximately 1:15. A lunch will be served in the social hall following the Holy Hour.

9th Annual Fargo Diocese Parish Musicians Workshop:

"Salvation through Song: Meeting the Mystery of God in Music." Keynote Speaker: Christopher Carstens. **October 24-25, 2025 St. Paul's Newman Center, Fargo** Includes time for prayer and Mass, music rehearsal, singing in choir for Mass, breakout sessions. For more information and to register by October 17th go to www.fargodiocese.org/sacredmusic \$50 registration: includes food and materials. Students are free.

Bible Study

For those that signed up for the Luke Bible study the books are in and can be picked up at the Parish Office. For more information call Marian 701-370-9859 or Sophya 701-490-2024.

**FREE
A1C TESTING**
in September

No Doctors. No Insurance. Just Answers.



Give Blood in September for FREE Diabetes Screening

For a limited time, every donation in September comes with a free hemoglobin A1C test,* which helps inform you of your risk for prediabetes or diabetes. Discover important health information about yourself while helping others. Schedule today!

Make an appointment at vitalant.org or call 877-25-VITAL

Use blood drive code: Search by zip code.

VALLEY CITY COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Location: St. Catherines Catholic Church

Date: Thursday, September 11

Time: 1:30pm to 6:00pm

To make an appointment please scan QR Code and sign up online!

Sponsored by: ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS

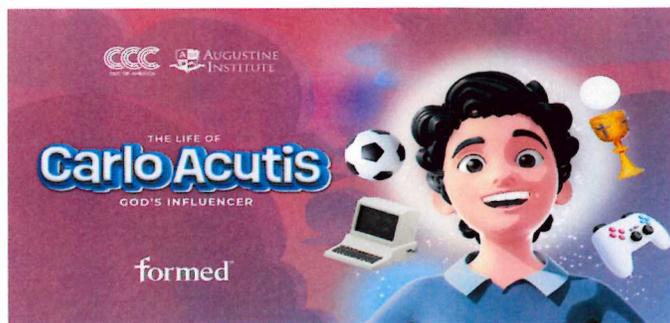
*Terms and condition apply; see vitalant.org/A1CTesting.

Find us @vitalant:

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formed
Forming Catholics for Life.



Carlo Acutis: God's Influencer

"Carlo Acutis: God's Influencer" is a beautifully animated film that brings to life the inspiring story of Carlo Acutis, a modern teenager who used his passion for technology to share the Catholic faith with the world.

Our parish has a Formed subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the Formed app to your phone.



An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATORS ADVANCING CHRISTIAN HERITAGE (REACH)

Please remember REACH in your prayers and as a meaningful option for charitable giving.

Did you know that . . .

- Individuals can secure an annual REACH membership for as little as \$50 per year
- Individuals who have contributed \$500 or more to REACH over the year gain a permanent lifetime REACH membership
- every REACH membership dollar and every memorial donation made to REACH is used exclusively for the benefit of St. Catherine School
- REACH has established an endowment, managed through the Diocese, to maximize the value of every gift made to our organization for the benefit of our school and our children

ANNUAL REACH MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Saint Elizabeth
Ann Seton Level
\$50 - \$99**

Saint John Bosco
Level
\$100 - \$499**

Saint Thomas
Aquinas Level
\$500 - \$999**

Saint Catherine of
Alexandria Level
\$1000+**

**All
Memberships
have option for
Memorial



St. Catherine Church
Very Rev. Paul Duchschere

One Minute Meditations

St. Lawrence Justinian

Born into a noble Venetian family, St. Lawrence Justinian desired sanctity from an early age. He entered the Order of the Augustinian Canons Regular of St. George, where he became known for his zeal, penitential lifestyle, and deep charity—especially toward the poor. He eventually became the general of the order. Recognized for his holiness, he was appointed Bishop, and later Patriarch, of Venice by the pope. He served faithfully until his death at the age of seventy-five.

Jesus turns sorrow into joy

Each September, the Church celebrates the Exaltation of the Holy Cross—not because we glorify suffering, but because the Cross reveals a Love that is total, faithful, and fearless. Christ embraced suffering, rejection, and death—and triumphed over them. His Cross is the ultimate sign that love is stronger than pain. When we bring our trials and sorrows to Jesus, He transforms them—through a kind of divine alchemy—into strength, healing, joy, and even glory. In Him, suffering is never the end of the story.

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

Holiness in everyday life

Pier Giorgio Frassati — to be canonized on September 7 — was known for blending intense spirituality with fun—he loved mountain climbing, practical jokes, and friendship. He taught that holiness can be simple, joyful, and practical, woven into daily life. In a 1923 address to young people, he summed up the Christian life: "Our religion is based on charity, which is nothing other than the most perfect Love." He proposed three ways to live that love: by example, through compassion, and by joyful invitation.

By example: Blessed Pier believed that our lives should reflect our faith without needing words. "We Catholics must strive to have our whole life guided by Christian moral law," he said. That includes building our schedules around the Eucharist, practicing reverence, treating others with dignity, and living generously. These everyday choices silently proclaim who we are—and whose we are.

With compassion: Blessed Pier encouraged personal, thoughtful acts of

love: visiting the lonely, offering a kind word, or putting others first. He reminded us that holiness begins with small, intentional acts of compassion.

By joyful invitation: Blessed Pier's faith was magnetic, marked by laughter,

"Jesus is with me. I have nothing to fear."

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

adventure, and prayer. He urged others to draw people to Christ with warmth and sincerity: "Persuade [those who are far from the Church] to follow the ways of God." A quiet chapel visit or simple prayer can be a powerful invitation to grace.

He urged Catholics to stay rooted in the Eucharist: "Approach the Eucharistic Table as often as possible... from which you will draw strength." His life reminds us that sainthood is not about perfection, but about choosing love—daily, faithfully, and joyfully.

Why Do Catholics Do That? Why do Catholics believe in angels?

In the Nicene Creed, professed at every Sunday Mass and solemnity, we affirm belief in "all things visible and invisible"—a direct reference to spiritual beings, including angels. Throughout Scripture, angels appear as messengers, protectors, and servants of God's will. Jesus' words in Matthew 18:10,

referencing angels who "behold the face of [His] Father"—form the basis for the Church's belief in guardian angels. These faithful spirits, who remained loyal to God, continue to watch over and guide us. Belief in angels is not optional but a vital part of Catholic teaching and tradition.

Hearing God's voice in the everyday

Discernment isn't limited to religious vocations—it's a way of seeking God's will in all areas of life. Whether you're considering a marriage, a job change, or a move to a new city, discernment helps you respond to God's loving plan with clarity and peace. Here are three tips to avoid common pitfalls:

Learn to recognize His voice: It's difficult to discern God's will if we don't know His character. A healthy relationship with God—nurtured through prayer and Scripture, especially the Gospels—helps us become familiar with His voice. The more time we spend with Him, the easier it becomes to distinguish His promptings from fear, pressure, or personal bias.

Take a practical step: Discernment requires action. You can't always think your way to clarity. Take the interview, visit the new city, introduce your intended to your family. These steps don't commit you for life—they give you real-world experience that sharpens your perspective and brings peace to your decision-making.

Narrow your focus: Too many options can paralyze progress. At some point, discernment involves commitment and trust. Begin by eliminating options that clearly don't fit. The path may shift as you go, but each step—taken prayerfully—leads you closer to the right destination. God's guidance is often gradual but unmistakable.

from **S**cripture

Luke 16:19-31, Doing the good we ought to do

In this Gospel passage, Jesus tells a parable aimed at those who are indifferent to the suffering around them. A rich man enjoys daily luxury while Lazarus, a poor and sick man, lies just outside his gate, starving and ignored. Though the rich man likely passed by Lazarus often—and even knew his name—he offered no help.

After death, their roles are reversed. Lazarus is carried to the side of Abraham, a place of comfort and honor. The rich man finds himself in torment and pleads for relief. He asks Abraham to send Lazarus with water,

and later to warn his brothers. Both requests are denied.

Jesus' parable does not condemn wealth but the failure to love. The rich man's sin was not what he did, but what he refused to do. He saw suffering and remained unmoved.

This passage challenges us to examine our own hearts. Do we see those in need and look away?

True Christian living means turning prayer into mercy, and faith into action. When we love as Christ commands, the reward is eternal joy.

Feasts & Celebrations

September 12 – The Holy Name of Mary. Mary has many titles. Begun in Spain in 1513, this feast celebrates her as the Blessed Virgin and is the counterpart to the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. Pope Innocent XI extended this feast to the entire Church after the King of Poland, with Mary's protection, defeated an advancing Muslim army in Vienna in 1683.

September 14 – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (c. 326). St. Helena (mother of Emperor Constantine) discovered what is believed to be the True Cross while on pilgrimage in Jerusalem. On that site, Constantine built the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher.

September 16 – Saints Cornelius and Cyprian (c. 253). A renowned theologian and orator, he was ordained a priest and served as the bishop of Carthage. He helped Pope St. Cornelius defend the Church against the Novatian heretics. Pope Cornelius was exiled and died from harsh treatment in 253. Cyprian was arrested for refusing to worship idols. He was exiled and subsequently beheaded.

September 19 – St. Januarius (c. 305). Not much is known about this saint, except that he was the Bishop of Benevento, Italy, and that he was martyred with six companions under the Diocletian persecutions. For reasons unknown, a vial of his blood has miraculously liquified annually, several times a year, since at least 1389.

Q & A Why do Catholics display crucifixes instead of crosses?

Jesus is risen in glory, having conquered sin and death. Yet we, though united to Him in Baptism, remain on our earthly journey, still vulnerable to temptation and suffering. The Crucifix stands as a powerful reminder of the cost of sin and the price of our redemption.

More than a symbol of pain, the Crucifix reveals the depth of God's mercy and love: *"God so loved the world that He gave His only Son"* (John 3:16). It reminds us that Jesus is *"a compassionate high priest"* (Hebrews 4:15) who knows human suffering firsthand—rejection, sorrow, and even death (cf. Psalm 22:14; 69:20).

In every Catholic church, the Crucifix also points to the reality of the Eucharist. The sacrifice of the Mass is not separate from Calvary—it is the same sacrifice, made present to us (*Catechism*, 1545). Christ offers Himself to the Father, and we receive the fruits of that offering: grace, healing, and strength.

The Crucifix is not just a symbol—it is the visual proclamation of love that saves, heals, and invites us into deeper communion with Christ.

Our Mission

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