

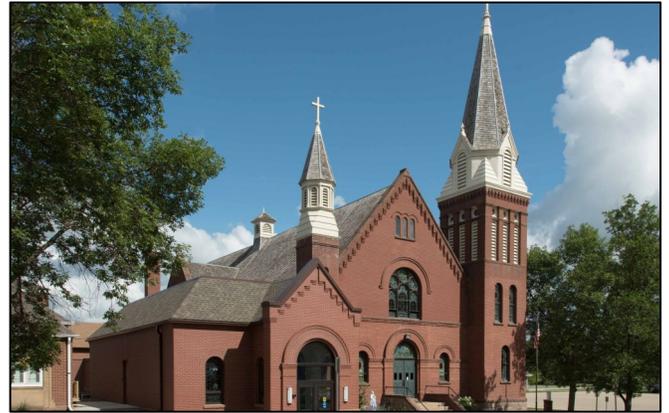
St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish

540 3rd Ave NE - Valley City, ND 58072

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 5, 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

October Serving Events:

October 5: Coffee, rolls and breakfast treats will be served after the 8:30 Mass.

Chairpersons:

Rayma Feigen, 701-490-1224

Diane Nolte, 701-840-8573



Sunday
October 5, 2025
2:00-3:00 pm

2025

Every year since 1987, on the first Sunday of October, Life Chains form in cities nationwide to make a public, prayerful, peaceful stand for life.

Valley City will join over 1500 cities in the U.S. and Canada for Life Chain 2025, which will be held Sunday, **October 5, 2025**, from **2:00 to 3:00 PM**.

Life Chain **IS NOT** political or confrontational. Life Chain **IS** a silent prayer vigil by Christians to communicate their opposition to abortion. Participants prayerfully display uniform signs which state the truth about abortion. It is an opportunity for local churches to unite in prayer and stand up for the rights of the unborn. Everyone who believes in the protection of unborn children and their mothers is invited to participate.

Bring your whole family! Rain or Shine!

~ Water, lawn chairs, & strollers are welcome

~ Signs will be provided

~ Participants stand 20--50 feet apart and pray.

*** Receive your signs at the Valley Meat parking lot or just east of the flood wall across from Bank Forward.

2 Chronicles 7:14 ~ "If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

A Stewardship Moment

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control." 2 Timothy 1:7

Many of us compartmentalize our Faith, we bring it out only when we attend Mass or when we attend a parish event. Being a good steward requires discipline and striving to put God first in everything – all the time. The next time you are at a neighborhood party or at work or out shopping, would your words and actions signal to others that you are a good and faithful servant of our Lord?

Coast to Coast Rosary

Sunday October 5, 2-4 PM

Please join the Catholic Daughters for all or part of the 20-decade Rosary for our country.

October Calendar of Events

SUN 5	Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Respect Life Sunday 7:55am Rosary 8:30am Mass 9:30am Coffee and rolls 10:10am Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:30am Mass 2:00pm Coast to Coast Rosary
	NO MASS 1:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm Bible Study
	NO MASS 8:30am -10:00pm Adoration 8:30am Tuesday Movie 6:40pm KC Rosary & Meeting
	NO MASS 5:00pm Nearly Nu Meeting 6:30pm RE Class 7:00pm Youth Group
	NO MASS 1:00pm Quilters 6:30pm Quilters
	NO MASS 2:00pm Mass - St Raphael
SAT 11	10:00am Mass – Mercy Hospital 4:25pm Rosary 5:00pm Mass
SUN 12	Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time 7:55am Rosary 8:30am Mass 10:10am Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:30am Mass

TODAYS READINGS

First Reading — Hb 1:2-3, 2:2-4
Second Reading — 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14
Gospel — Lk 17:5-10

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jon 1:1-2:2,11; Lk 10:25-37
Tuesday: Jon 3:1-10; Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday: Jon 4:1-11; Lk 11:1-4
Thursday: Mal 3:13-20b; Lk 11:5-13
Friday: Jl 1:13-15, 2:1-2; Lk 11:15-26
Saturday: Jl 4:12-21; Lk 11:27-28
Sunday: 2 Kgs 5:14-17; 2 Tm 2:8-13;
 Lk 17:11-19

PRAYER NETWORK

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

Warren Ventch	Renita Westerhausen
Larry Doyle	Shelly Differding
Lucille Winkler	Mary Elmore
Donna Hammond	Katie Anderson
Jerry Sand	Maryjo Randle
Krystal Lemer	Daniel Gonzalez
Linda Hesch	John Snodgrass
Shawn Olauson	Bill Cook
Jessica (Jess) Storhoff	Bob Wuolu
John Kunert	Laine Schwehr
David Hayen	

MASS INTENTIONS October 6 - 12

M	8:00am	NO Mass
T	8:00am	NO Mass
W	8:00am	NO Mass
Th	8:00am	NO Mass
F	8:00am	NO Mass
	2:00pm	† Kevin Winkler
Sa	5:00pm	† George Thilmony
Su	8:30am	People of the Parish
	10:30am	† Holy Souls in Purgatory

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!!

Pastor's Page

IS THERE A DECORATOR OUT THERE?

So . . . Christmas is now less than three months away. (Don't groan - there's a reason I'm going this direction.) Which means the parish's annual wonderful tradition of the Christmas Eve Dinner is less than three months away. Now - we do have the "chair" of the Christmas Eve Dinner effort - Deacon Tom and Sharon Vanorny will once again take on that job - *thank you* to them! But there has always been a second part of that Christmas Eve Dinner extravaganza: the decorations in the parish hall.

For many years, Bernie Nelson took on that effort - and with her friends set a standard of decoration that might be hard to match. But we need to try - because after many years Bernie has decided to step back and invite someone else to take up the banner. (And a *huge* public thank you to Bernie for doing this for us, and for setting that kind of standard.)

So . . . Advent is now only two months away, and that's when the decorating needs to begin so it will be ready for the Christmas Eve Dinner. The trees and decorations are all boxed away and labeled and ready to go - our parish now needs a volunteer (and probably some helpers) to head up this all-important effort that adds so much atmosphere and panache to our Christmas Eve Dinner. And - it doesn't need to exactly correspond to what has been in the past - there are new ways and new ideas that can be incorporated.

So . . . if you have a knack for Christmas decorating, and you are interested in taking on this fun and worthwhile effort, contact me. We can visit about this. If nothing else, I can do something if no one else will come forward - (is that a promise or a threat?) - it may be like the "Charlie Brown Christmas tree" but it will get done . . .

Let me know if you are interested.

* * *

Bishop Folda recently sent this e-mail message to all the priests. Please take a moment to read what is below - Bishop Folda's message and an excerpt from a message from Archbishop Timothy Broglio:

(Bishop Folda) "At the request of Archbishop Timothy Broglio, President of USCCB, and on behalf of our brothers and sisters suffering in Gaza, I am asking you to take up a special collection the weekend of October 4-5. I know there is never a good time to add another collection, but the need is real and growing more urgent.

This should not be construed as taking sides in the military conflict, but only reaching out to assist those who are innocent and suffering."

- - -

(Archbishop Broglio) *Our Church mourns the terrible suffering of Christians and other innocent victims of violence in Gaza and surrounding areas who are struggling to survive, protect their children, and live with dignity in dire conditions. The Holy Father continues to call for a cease fire and for aid to enter the territory, noting with great sorrow that "Gaza is starving". Please consider a donation that will be used by our international Catholic organizations Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS) that are working to provide food, shelter, and care.*

If you wish to donate to this relief effort, **please put your donation in an envelope marked: "Gaza Collection"** - we will then know and forward it on to the diocese. Bishop Folda told the priests that this collection is being handled through the Bishop Patriarch of Jerusalem, and so we can be assured the money will get to those in need and not be "hijacked" by either side in that conflict.

As Bishop Folda mentioned, there is "never a good time to add another collection", but offer what you wish and I'm sure with all your brothers and sisters in the diocese we will be able to send on a bit of ourselves in terms of the help it will provide. And, as always, a prayer for those folks would be much appreciated by Our Lord and by them.

* * *

You'll note in the weekly calendar section of this bulletin there are no daily Masses this week (except at St Raphael's on Friday). This week will be my last-gasp chance to get away and take some days off until next April - so I'm going to. Note that Adoration will still take place on Tuesday - and Fr Kyle Metzger will once again be here for next weekend's Masses. Welcome him!

Fr Duchscher
Pastor

Principal's Page



Dear St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish Family,

As we move through October, our focus in chapel and classrooms has been on the **Theological Virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity**. Faith and Hope can feel abstract—the “why” and the “how” of following Christ. **Charity (Christian love) is the action—the “what.”** It’s what we are called and what we are made to do.

This past week, our students gave us living examples. We recognized three children who spent their recess picking up litter around our playground—unprompted, simply because it was an act of love. I also witnessed a 6th grader **lead by example in chapel—she shared openly when asked about tough questions of faith**. Her foundation is strong, and her witness encouraged all of us. At our October All School Mass on the **Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels**, we were reminded that God does not leave us alone; His angels accompany, guide, and protect us—often in ways we only recognize in hindsight.

Looking ahead, I would like to highlight an evening when **Charity becomes visible in action**: our **53rd Annual Fall Auction on Friday, November 7th**. It’s a night where volunteers give countless hours, parishioners and friends give generously (through cash gifts or **new** auction items), and prayers lift the entire effort. Please consider how you might participate—by donating, volunteering, praying, or simply being present.

For over a century, St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish has carried the ministry of Catholic education through our parish school. We have faced challenges and obstacles, and yet we remain—because this is not only *your* parish school; it is **His** parish school. Built on **Faith, Hope, and Charity**, it endures as a testament to God’s providence.

Our theme this year is “**Clearing the Way for a Bright Future.**” Let’s live our Charity in action and continue clearing that way—together.

In Christ,
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: September 28, 2025

	Regular Parish Income		
	Actual	Budget	Difference
Last Week	\$8,481.50	\$10,434.62	(\$1,953.12)
Year to Date	\$107,464.25	\$135,650.06	(\$28,185.81)
Registered Families	464		
Adult Envelopes			\$7,971.00
Children			\$10.00
Plate			\$465.50
Utility Fund			\$35.00
Total Collection			\$8,481.50

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, October 27, 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, October 8: K-8 RE Classes in the School Building at 6:30.

October 8: Circle of Grace Class

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

“Jesus, help me to simplify my life by learning what you want me to be – and becoming that person.”
St. Thérèse of Lisieux

St. Therese of Lisieux, pray for us.

**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

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

October 8: “Roundabouts of Elegance”

October 12: Steubenville: 11:30 a.m. (following the 10:30 a.m. Mass). On Sunday, the 12th, there will be a meeting of any and all high school youth along with their parents to discuss the Steubenville Youth Conferences to be held in the summer of 2026. Dates and places will be discussed as to which conference and when next summer we will attend. If you cannot be there and may be interested or need more information, please contact Deacon Thomas Vanorny or Jen Eberle. The registration deadline is fast approaching, and these conferences fill up quickly, some within 24 hours of being opened. “*One Weekend. Eternal Impact*”

October 15: No Class, NDEA Break

October 22: “What is Kerygma?”

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.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Gerard # 2518



Meet Monthly 2nd Monday

Oct. 5 CDA leads Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:10 AM
CDA leads 20 Decade Rosaries 2-4 PM

Coast to Coast Rosary

Oct. 6 Bible Study 1:30 PM or 6:30PM

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: “Staircase” An inspirational, life-affirming drama of hope and faith and a miraculous staircase built in Santa Fe at the Sisters of Loretto Chapel. All are welcome!

Fall Suppers/Festivals

St. Mary's Fall Supper will be held from 4-7 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, at **St. Mary's Catholic Church, located 6 miles east of Dazey, North Dakota.** The supper will include homemade turkey dinner with all the fixings, including homemade sauerkraut, dessert and coffee. The cost of the meal is \$15 adults, \$6 for children ages 6-12 and free for children 5 and younger. Takeout is also available. There will be gift baskets for sale and Oliver's Pumpkin Patch.

* * * *

Holy Trinity Catholic Church of Fingal, ND will have its Turkey Dinner and Bake Sale on **Sunday, October 12, 2025 from 11:00am - 1:30pm.** Menu is Turkey, potatoes, gravy, dressing, cranberries, corn, buns, pickles, coleslaw, dessert and beverage. Price is Adults \$15, Grades K-6 \$7, Pre-school Free. All Welcome! See you there!

* * * *

St. Agnes Catholic Church 102 1st Street East Hunter, ND will have their Turkey Dinner on **October 12, 2025, serving 11AM - 2PM.** Prices are Adults \$15, Children 12 and under \$10. Take out is \$1 extra. All are welcome!!

Diocese Job Posting 09-16-2025

FT Communications Assistant/Assistant Editor

The Diocese of Fargo is seeking a full-time Communications Assistant/Assistant Editor to provide professional support for the diocesan magazine and other communications. This person writes, edits, proofs, and designs layout for New Earth as well as managing advertising, website, and social media. Responsibilities include afternoon receptionist three afternoons a week. The ideal candidate is detail-oriented, organized, and skilled at multitasking in a professional environment. Proficiency with Microsoft Office and Adobe products including InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator preferred. A Bachelor's degree in Communications, a related field or sufficient experience is required. To apply email cover letter, resume and three references to Barbara.augdahl@fargodiocese.org Position open until filled.

Job Posting 09-30-2025

JPII Catholic Schools Open Positions: To apply visit <https://www.jp2schools.org/careers/> or call 701-893-3231 for more information.

- Substitute Teachers
- Assistant Cook – Shanley High School/Sacred Heart Middle School
- Head Girls Softball Coach (Spring 2026)

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.

Pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey

Join Bishop Folda on a pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey as we walk in the footsteps of St. Paul. We will visit the holy sites of Corinth, Philippi, Thessaloniki, Ephesus, Meteora, Athens and Istanbul - places forever marked by the Apostle's mission and witness. Dates: **October 5-17, 2026**
Price per person sharing a room: \$5,990
Please see the Fargo Diocese website for more information and a link to registration:
<https://www.fargodiocese.org/pilgrimages-greece>

Calling all High School Youth

October 12: Steubenville: 11:30 a.m. (following the 10:30 a.m. Mass). On Sunday, the 12th, there will be a meeting of any and all high school youth along with their parents to discuss the Steubenville Youth Conferences to be held in the summer of 2026. Dates and places will be discussed as to which conference and when next summer we will attend. If you cannot be there and may be interested or need more information, please contact Deacon Thomas Vanorny or Jen Eberle. The registration deadline is fast approaching, and these conferences fill up quickly, some within 24 hours of being opened. *"One Weekend. Eternal Impact"*

Thank you!!! Thank you!!! Thank you!!!

Thank you to Sheila Larson and Dawn and Scott Dieterle who so graciously grilled and served the RE opening high school youth group potluck picnic a few weeks ago. The burgers and brats were great. Thanks also for setting up and taking down afterward.

From the teachers and students in RE grades 9-12.



HELP SAVE LIVES IN MOORHEAD!

You can protect mothers and children by joining this worldwide mobilization to pray and fast for an end to abortion!

Through prayer and fasting, peaceful vigils and community outreach, 40 Days for Life has inspired 1,000,000+ volunteers!

With God's help, here are the proven results in 30 coordinated campaigns:

- Over 25,000 saved babies
- More than 170 closed facilities
- More than 270 converted workers

Here's how to take part in 40 Days for Life in our community:

Vigil location: Outside the Red River Women's Clinic 302 Highway 75 N, Moorhead, MN 56560

Vigil hours: 7 am to 7 pm daily

Local contact: Bonnie Spies, 701-241-9574
Bonnie.Spies@rlam.org

Learn more ... get involved ... and sign up for prayer times by visiting our campaign at the web address shown below!

40daysforlife.com/moorhead

• ST. CATHERINE SCHOOL 53RD ANNUAL AUCTION •

Save the Date!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2025

Clearing the Way for a Bright Future!

VALLEY CITY EAGLES CLUB

345 12TH AVE. NE, VALLEY CITY, ND

SILENT AUCTION & BAKE SALE 5:00 P.M.

LIVE AUCTION 6:30 P.M.

If you would like to donate an item to or financially support the auction, please drop off at the school office by October 24!



 SCHOLASTIC

BOOK FAIR THIS WEEK!



St. Catherine School
Oct. 6-10
8:00 - 4:00 M-F

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St. Catherine Church
Very Rev. Paul Duchschere

One Minute Meditations

St. Paul of the Cross

Born in seventeenth-century Ovada, Italy, to a noble Catholic family, Paul Francis Danei had a great devotion to the Cross of Christ since he was young. He turned down a respectable marriage to devote his life to prayer, penance, preaching, and works of charity. In 1720, he was called to found an order honoring Jesus' Passion. The Passionist Order received papal approval. The order elected St. Paul as their superior general until his death in 1775.

Celebrating All Hallows Eve

Halloween is a Catholic holy day — it's the vigil of All Saints Day. It even has its own liturgical prayers! One way to recapture a sense of the sacred on this holy vigil is to pray Evening Prayer (Vespers) in the Liturgy of the Hours. It is easily found online and takes about 15 minutes. It's a beautiful, deeply liturgical way to celebrate All Hallows Eve with the Church. Because solemnities "start" the evening before, after Vespers, the party can start!

"If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next... Aim at Heaven and you will get earth 'thrown in': aim at earth and you will get neither" C.S. Lewis.

Simple ways to stay rooted in God's love every day

God meets us in powerful ways through the Sacraments, especially at Sunday Mass. But we're not meant to leave His presence at the church door. Our souls need daily contact with His love—through small, intentional acts that anchor us in grace, even during busy or chaotic days.

Start with a Morning Offering. This short prayer dedicates everything you do — your work, joys, and struggles — to God. It turns your entire day into an offering, a prayer in motion. Even when events feel out of control, you've already placed them in His hands. That changes how you carry each moment.

Wearing a crucifix, saint medal, or carrying a Rosary is another way to stay grounded. These sacramentals aren't lucky charms—they're signs of faith and reminders that we belong to God. When worn or used with devotion, they offer quiet strength and speak to the world, even without words.

Next, carry a line of Scripture with you. Choose a verse that speaks to your heart and keep it where you'll see it—on your phone, dashboard, or mirror. Reflect on it throughout the day. God's Word is alive and personal. Even a single verse can give light when your path feels dim.

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105).

Lastly, surround yourself with sacred art. A holy card in your wallet, an image of Christ in your kitchen—these aren't just decorative. They teach, inspire, and prompt prayer. They gently turn your attention toward Heaven in the middle of daily routines.

None of these habits takes much time, but over time, they shape your heart. They help you live with peace, stay open to grace, and remember: God is near, always ready to meet us where we are.

Why Do Catholics Do That? Why does the Catholic Our Father have a different ending?

Many Protestant versions of the Our Father include the doxology: "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever." While this line is theologically rich and spiritually uplifting, it was not part of the original prayer Jesus gave His disciples. It does not appear in the earliest and most reliable Gospel manuscripts. Scholars believe it began as a marginal note—

possibly added for liturgical use—that was later copied into the text. Its inclusion in the King James Bible helped establish it in Protestant tradition, where it remains a beloved conclusion. Though not found in the original biblical text, the doxology reflects the heart of Christian praise and continues to express the glory of God in worship across many denominations.

Holy Hospitality - let love lead during the holidays

We may not have to host the Messiah and twelve hungry disciples on short notice, but the stress St. Martha felt is all too familiar during the holiday season. The good news? Grace can do what we cannot.

To find peace amid pressure, Pope Leo XIII said to begin with silence. Even a few moments of quiet prayer each day can create the space needed for God to work in your heart. Then, he offered two essential practices:

Focus on what matters most. Jesus' friend, Martha, was "anxious and troubled about many things," but Jesus reminded her of the "one thing... necessary" (Luke 10:41-42). Hospitality isn't about perfection—it's about presence. Pope Leo encourages us to make space for real human connection:

to care, to listen, and to truly see those around us. Resist the urge to multitask. And yes—put the phone away.

Choose understanding over offense. The holidays can magnify tensions, but they also offer a sacred opportunity for growth. "It takes effort," Pope Leo admitted, "to understand one another in disagreements, and to forgive when mistakes are made." Approach family gatherings with humility and grace. Assume the best. Be patient, flexible, and quick to forgive. Small acts of mercy often go unseen—but "your Father who sees in secret will reward you" (Matthew 6:18).

This season, let love—not logistics—lead. That's the heart of holy hospitality.

from Scripture

Luke 18:9-14, Divine mercy responds to humility

In this Gospel passage, Jesus contrasts two prayers: one from a respected Pharisee, the other from a despised tax collector—a comparison that would have shocked His audience.

In first-century Jewish society, Pharisees were seen as models of religious observance, while tax collectors were viewed as collaborators with the Roman occupiers and often as corrupt and dishonest.

The Pharisee confidently takes a prominent place in the temple and offers what appears to be a prayer—but it's really a self-congratulatory speech. He thanks God not for grace

received, but for his own perceived righteousness. In contrast, the tax collector stands at a distance, won't even lift his eyes, and offers a single, sincere plea: "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

Jesus tells us it was the tax collector—not the Pharisee—who went home justified before God

This parable reminds us that true prayer begins with humility. God isn't impressed by performance or flowery words. He desires contrition, honesty, and a heart open to grace. He already knows us, loves us, and simply asks for our love in return.

Q & A Why do Catholics have different types of Masses?

Liturgical diversity has always been part of the Church's life. Today, when people refer to "different Masses," they may be referring to the different forms, such as the Traditional Latin Mass (also called the Extraordinary Form) and the more familiar post-Vatican II Mass (Novus Ordo, or Ordinary Form).

The Traditional Latin Mass, shaped over centuries, is known for its reverence, use of Latin and chant, and the priest facing ad orientem—toward the altar along with the people. It fosters an atmosphere of silence and awe.

The Novus Ordo emerged after the Second Vatican Council, which called for a renewed, simplified liturgy that would be more accessible and participatory. At that time, Latin was no longer widely taught or understood.

Both forms are authentic expressions of the same Eucharistic mystery—the meeting of Heaven and Earth at the altar. When celebrated reverently, each reveals the beauty and depth of the Church's liturgical tradition in distinct but complementary ways.

Feasts & Celebrations

October 7 – Our Lady of the Rosary (1571). This feast was originally named, "Our Lady of Victory" by Pope Pius V, on the victory of the Battle of Lepanto, when the Christians won a critical victory against the Ottomans after praying the Rosary. Pope Gregory XIII later renamed this feast in recognition of this powerful prayer.

October 10 – St. Francis Borgia (1572). St. Francis was a nobleman who served in the Spanish imperial court. After the death of his wife, he gave away all his possessions and joined the Jesuits. He proved to be a good administrator, and as superior

general of the Jesuits, he helped to spread their presence all over Spain and Portugal.

October 14 – St. Callixtus I (222). Born a slave in a Roman household, Callixtus was ordained a deacon by Pope Zephyrinus, whom he later succeeded. Callixtus's election caused an eighteen-year schismatic movement. He fought against heresy and showed tolerance toward sinners. In a time of trial and confusion, he re-opened the Church to all. He was later martyred.

October 28 – Saints Simon and Jude (1st century). St. Simon was a Zealot – Jews who believed the Messiah would free them from political oppression. St. Jude was a fisherman. After following Jesus, they eventually traveled to Persia where they preached the Gospel until they were martyred.

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