

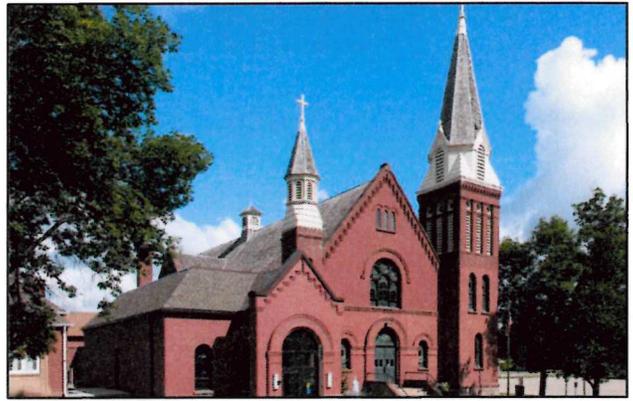
# St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish

540 3rd Ave NE - Valley City, ND 58072

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 9, 2025

[www.catherineofalexandria.org](http://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

## Knights of Columbus Breakfast



KC's will be serving breakfast  
Sunday



from 9:00am to Noon in the Parish Hall.  
Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes, Sausage  
Links and Smokies.

\*\*\* FREE WILL OFFERING \*\*\*  
Proceeds to support the Barnes County  
Food Pantry.

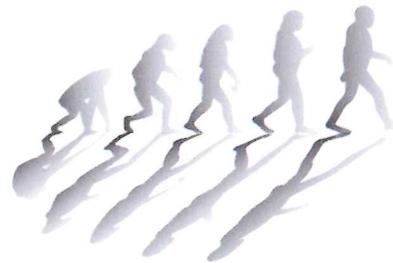
## Monthly Adult Catechesis

### CREATION

by God



### EVOLUTION



What's a Catholic to think?

When: Sunday, November 16, at 6:30 pm  
Where: Church Basement/Parish Hall  
Presented by: Fr. Paul Duchscher

## November Calendar of Events

<b>SUN 9</b>	<b>Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 7:55am Rosary 8:30am Mass <b>9:00am - 12:00pm KC Breakfast</b> 10:10am Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:30am Mass
<b>MON 10</b>	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 6:00pm CDA Prayer and Meeting
<b>TUE 11</b>	<b>VETERAN'S DAY NO SCHOOL/PARISH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 8:30am - 10:00pm Adoration 8:30am Tuesday Movie 5:30pm Ed Board Meeting
<b>WED 12</b>	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 5:00pm Nearly Nu Meeting 6:30pm RE Class 7:00pm Youth Group
<b>THU 13</b>	<b>10:30am All School Mass</b> 1:00pm Quilters 6:30pm Quilters
<b>FRI 14</b>	7:25am Rosary 8:00am Mass 2:00pm Mass - St Raphael
<b>SAT 15</b>	<b>9:00am Reconciliation Retreat NO MASS AT MERCY HOSPITAL</b> 4:25pm Rosary 5:00pm Mass
<b>SUN 16</b>	<b>Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 7:55am Rosary 8:30am Mass 10:10am Divine Mercy Chaplet 10:30am Mass <b>6:30pm Adult Catechesis</b>

### November Serving Information:

Ina Thomsen is the chairperson for November.  
No activities are planned.

## TODAYS READINGS

**First Reading** — Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

**Second Reading** — 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17

**Gospel** — Jn 2:13-22

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Wis 1:1-7; Lk 17:1-6

**Tuesday:** Wis 2:23-3:9; Lk 17:7-10

**Wednesday:** Wis 6:1-11; Lk 17:11-19

**Thursday:** Wis 7:22b-8:1; Lk 17:20-25

**Friday:** Wis 13:1-9; Lk 17:26-37

**Saturday:** Wis 18:14-16, 19:6-9; Lk 18:1-8

**Sunday:** Mal 3:19-20a; 2 Thes 3:7-12;  
Lk 21:5-19

### 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
John Kunert	Bob Wuolu
Holly Oesterle	Laine Schwehr
Liz Byrne	David Hayen

## MASS INTENTIONS November 10 - 16

M 8:00am	Sam Ihry
T 8:00am	Janet & Mike Green
W 8:00am	Cristine Deaver
Th 8:00am	† Paul Louis Jabs
F 8:00am	Amara Judd-Drake
2:00pm	† Kevin Winkler
Sa 5:00pm	† TJ McGough
Su 8:30am	People of the Parish
10:30am	† Lynne Jacobson

## ATTENTION

**November 15<sup>th</sup>**

There will be **NO MASS** at 8:00am out at Maryvale or 10:00am Mass at Mercy Hospital

# Pastor's Page

## WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO US?

Think about this: what do we spend our money on? That tells us a lot about what we think is important. Of course, every individual has their own particular "important things" that they spend their money on, but what would be some of those universal things that all of us think are important enough to spend our money on?

Seems to me most of those universal recipients of our funds go to things concerning our bodies:

- food
- clothing
- shelter
- safeguards (e.g., insurance)
- other necessities (e.g., toiletries)

And there some universal extras - that if we have extra monies we would certainly not be unwilling to fork over some cash for them:

- vacations
- hobbies
- pleasurable pursuits (e.g., the latest technological gadgets, books)

And this is all good - for in fact our bodies are, as Our Lord tells us, temples of the Holy Spirit - we should take care of them and use them for godly pursuits.

Now . . . what about *His Body*, the Church? What does the Lord God "spend" His grace on as important - the things He gives us and the things He wants us to cooperate with Him to provide for His Body, the Church?

- food -----> the Eucharist
- clothing -----> the garment of grace we received first in baptism  
and are to live in this life and the next
- shelter -----> the church building we build as His house
- safeguards -----> the sacraments/the teachings
- necessities -----> all the aids for our salvation that He provides

Then - some extras - for His Body:

- parish events
- particular devotional opportunities
- parish groups - for service/social

"Follow the money" is a truism that in many ways indicates what is important to the person or the group. "Look at His Church" is also a truism that in many ways indicates what the Lord God sees as important for us.

This is no official teaching from the Church - just some ruminations I've had that provide an interesting parallel. Don't ever be surprised by how "down to earth" and "needy" the Church is - every *body* has its own needs and desires some nice extras.

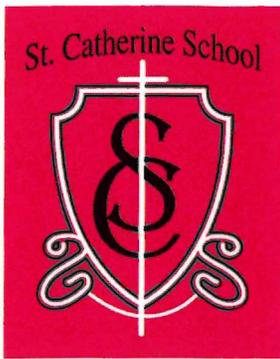
\* \* \*

When I first arrived at St Catherine's in 2022, the parish was subscribing to the "Our Sunday Visitor" tabloid publication that came out weekly. About a year ago the weekly publication was changed to an "Our Sunday Visitor" that had morphed into a monthly magazine. Now I was just informed that the October issue of that magazine would be its last. So - the "Our Sunday Visitor" publications that have been available for many years will be no more.

Our Sunday Visitor has made an agreement with the "Liguorian", another Catholic periodical. The Liguorian, which comes out bi-monthly, will come to us for the remaining period of the subscription year that we have already paid for, so you will see it on the table in the narthex of the church when it comes out - the first issue for November/December is there this weekend. Frankly, I'm not sure how many issues of that we will receive before our subscription period runs out. And we'll have to see if our parish wishes to renew the subscription for that - perhaps if anyone has any feedback on the value of continuing to receive "Liguorian" you can let me know.

But that's why the Our Sunday Visitor will no longer appear, and the Liguorian will now be showing up. The business world of even Catholic periodicals moves on . . .

Fr Duchscher



# Principal's Page

**St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish Family,**

I want to publicly *thank* the many people who helped with the Fall Auction in so many ways. Full disclaimer—there will be things and thank-yous that are forgotten—so let me begin by saying, *if you were involved in any way, big or small, thank you.*

Alison Kasowski did a tremendous job as Auction Chair, and Patricia Buck (and her husband, Brad) ensured the decorations were fitting for such an essential and meaningful annual event. Thank you to the school staff and volunteers who put in countless hours before, during, and after the auction to make everything run smoothly. To our parishioners, alumni, community members, and businesses who contributed items, cash, and prayers—thank you. To everyone who attended the Fall Auction Kickoff Breakfast, and a special thank-you to the Knights of Columbus for making that event a continued success—thank you. And to every person who sold or bought raffle tickets, your support means more than you know.

Throughout this past week, several people asked me, “*Are you nervous?*” I’d be lying if I said there wasn’t a small part of me that wasn’t nervous about how everything would go. But my answer each time was, “*It’s in God’s hands now.*” And it really was (I know I am writing this before the auction).

I must be honest—the first year that I was principal, I wasn’t entirely *sold* on St. Catherine School. What truly “sealed the deal” for me (besides the Holy Spirit working in my heart) was experiencing the genuine love and outpouring of support at the Fall Auction that first year. Whether someone bids \$5,000 for a bottle of “Red-Eye” or \$20 for a silent auction basket, it all means the world.

There is nothing more important than ensuring young people have the formation they need to grow as *whole persons*—in faith, physically, academically, socially, and emotionally. This world is broken in many ways, but St. Catherine School—with its more than 100-year history—is a small, bright sliver of goodness. **His** goodness.

Even as I write this before the auction, I know that once again our parish and community will have shown up in remarkable ways. Thank you—from the bottom of my heart—for being present, for giving, for praying, and for loving this school. We are called to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ, and sometimes that service is as simple as *showing up*.

Our weekly virtue is **Docility**—showing a willingness to learn. I have learned from this parish that God calls us to holiness through service—with our hearts, our prayers, our hands, and yes, sometimes even with our checkbooks. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your principal and to witness the goodness of this community each day.

With gratitude,

**Nicholas 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 Duchscher  
e-mail: paul.duchscher@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: 8:00am to 5:00pm**

**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: November 2, 2025

### Regular Parish Income

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Last Week	\$25,353.44	\$10,434.62	\$14,918.82
Year to Date	\$173,860.33	\$187,823.16	(\$13,962.83)
Registered Families .....	464		
Adult Envelopes			\$18,809.94
Children			\$8.00
Plate			\$829.50
All Saints Collection			\$556.00
October Online Giving			\$5,150.00
Total Collection			\$25,353.44

Thank you for your generous gifts!!

Online Giving Available @

[www.catherineofalexandria.org](http://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, November 24, 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, November 12:** K-8 RE Classes in the School Building at 6:30pm

**1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation Retreat:** Saturday, November 15 from 9 am until noon. Prayer cards for the 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation Children are in the entry of the church.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact DRE Carol Jabs at [stcatherine.dre.vc@gmail.com](mailto:stcatherine.dre.vc@gmail.com)

*"Each generation is converted by the saint who contradicts it most." - G.K. Chesterton*

*All You Holy Men and Women, pray for us.*

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

**November 12:** "How High Is Too High"

**November 19:** "What is Stopping You From Following Jesus More Fully?"

**November 26:** No Class, Happy Thanksgiving

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

**November 10<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm Prayer and Snack,  
6:30 pm Meeting:**  
*Celebration of Life of Loved Ones Lost*

**November 17<sup>th</sup> 1:30 or 6:00 pm Bible Study**

**November 25<sup>th</sup> Feast of St. Catherine of Alexandria**

**November 27<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day**



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

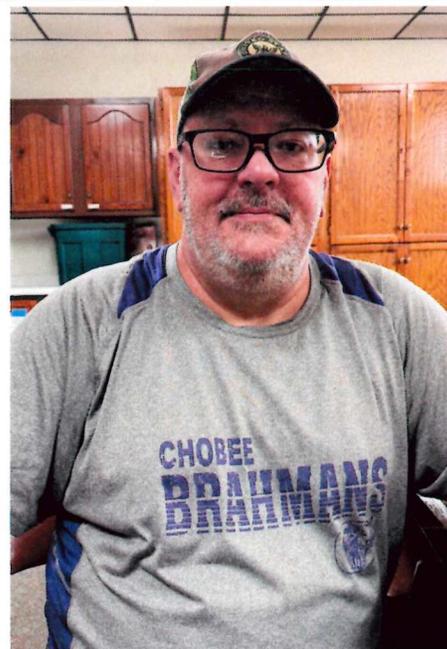
St. Catherine Quilters make quilts for those in need in our area every Thursday 1-4:30pm & 6:30-9pm next to the school cafeteria. Everyone is welcome for any length of time. No experience necessary & supplies provided.

Questions call:  
Christine, 840-2580 or Lela, 840-8352.



**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: "Sanctity within Reach" the life and spirituality of Pier Giorgio Frassati. All are welcome!



We welcome Russell Marker to St. Catherine's Parish. Russell has lived in Florida in the past but now in Valley City.

Russell is employed as the Custodian/Maintenance person at our St. Catherine's School here in Valley City.

Russell is a Veteran and served in the Navy.

He stays busy with his three grandchildren that live in town by attending ball games, fishing and going to the zoo.

Welcome Russell!

### 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>



## Knights of Columbus Council #6438 Invitation to Join

We welcome Catholic men over the age of 18 who are members of St. Catherine's to consider joining our Council. The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization with 1.7 million members. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, their communities, families and young people. For more information about the Knights of Columbus contact Financial Secretary Joe Sykora at 701-890-7178 ([jhsykora@gmail.com](mailto:jhsykora@gmail.com)).



*Thank you* from the bottom of our hearts for your support for the 53rd Annual St. Catherine School Fall Auction. "Clearing the Way for a Bright Future" We are blessed to be on this journey with a generous parish and community. The success of the auction would not be possible without all the bids, donated items, monetary donations, volunteer hours, and most importantly your prayers. Our school family will continue to pray for its parish and community family. St. Catherine School holds a special place in many hearts and its mission of inspiring excellence through faith, learning and service would not be possible without all your support!

An extra shout-out to the Knights of Columbus for the delicious Kick-Off breakfast!

St. Catherine School



Mark your calendar and join us for the  
54<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Auction on November 6, 2026!

*God is Good-All the Time!*

## Upcoming Retreats at Maryvale

You may register for any of these events by going to [www.maryvalend.org](http://www.maryvalend.org)



**The Pillars of Maryvale**  
*Winter Gala*  
with Guest Speaker, Very Rev. Paul Duchschere

**December 5, 2025**  
TICKETS: \$50 per person

### December 5, 2025, 6:00-8:00pm

Come and enjoy an evening with a 5-course served meal, guest speaker Very Rev. Paul Duchschere (Pastor of St. Catherine's in Valley City) and learn how you can become a vital part of laying the foundation at Maryvale by becoming a Pillar. Register early as there is limited seating available.



**Baking with St. Nicholas**  
at Maryvale Retreat Center

**December 6, 2025**  
**1-4pm**

### December 6, 2025, 1:00-4:00pm

We are delighted to offer you - Baking with St. Nicholas. This fun family event will give you the opportunity to make and bake sugar cookies and then use your creativity to decorate the cookies. Will also be teaching how to make 5-ingredient peanut butter cookies and Christmas

Mints. Suggested Donation is \$50 per family which includes 2-dozen cookies to take home.



*Annual Women's  
Holiday Tea Expo*  
Maryvale Retreat Center in Valley City

### December 13, 2025, 1:00-4:00pm

Come to Maryvale in your Sunday best and fancy hats to explore various teas, sandwiches, scones and cakes! There will also be a concert and a silent auction. Suggested donation is \$30 per

person, with a discount of purchase two tickets get the third at no charge!



**HEALING RETREAT**  
AT MARYVALE RETREAT CENTER  
JANUARY 16-18, 2026  
WITH FR. SAM MEDLEY, SOLT

"Do you want to be healed?" John 5:6

### January 16-18, 2026

Do you want to be healed? We all need to have healing in our relationships with God, with our neighbors, with creation, and even that healing within the depths of ourselves. Fr. Sam Medley, SOLT will dive into healing and the road blocks

that deprive us from being whole, and to be holy, healthy and happy. Suggested Donation is \$275



**St. Catherine Church**  
Very Rev. Paul Duchschere

## One Minute Meditations

### St. Albert the Great

Possibly one of the Church's greatest intellectuals, St. Albert was the eldest son of a powerful German military official. Despite opposition from his family, he joined the Dominican Order. Being well educated, St. Albert desired to make all the learning of the East available to the Latin-speaking West. He earned his doctorate at the University of Paris in 1245 and taught at Paris and Cologne. He is best known as the master of St. Thomas Aquinas.

### Praying for the dead

Catholics see Purgatory as an expression of God's mercy — a place where souls who die in His grace, but need further purification, are prepared for Heaven. This month, we pray for our departed loved ones, asking God to bring them quickly into His presence.

One tradition is to request a Mass on the anniversary of a loved one's death. If that soul is already in Heaven, the graces benefit others still in need. In God's mercy, nothing is ever wasted.

"Forgiveness comes...through the soul's desire to be united to me [i.e., to God], the infinite Good, according to the measure of love attained by the recipient's desire and prayer. A person receives as much of my goodness as he gives to me." St. Catherine of Siena, *The Dialogue*

## Christ as King of our hearts

When we proclaim, "Christ is King," we're not making a poetic or symbolic statement. We're declaring a truth that shapes every part of our lives. To live under Christ's rule is to give Him authority over what we believe, how we worship, how we act, and how we spend our time.

**What we believe:** At the center of our faith is a relationship. Knowing Jesus personally — through the Gospels, through prayer, through the lives of the saints — transforms abstract belief into living faith. When someone asks, "Why are you Catholic?" our answer should come from experience, not just theology.

**How we worship:** Imagine a king hosting a free, lavish banquet every week for all his subjects. Every Sunday, we're invited to a banquet — not of food, but of grace. To say, "Christ is King" is to obey His words: "*Do this in remembrance of me*" (Luke 22:19). The

Mass is not just a weekly routine; it's a divine encounter.

**How we act:** Our actions, especially the small ones, speak volumes. Reverence, patience, honesty, integrity,

*"You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth."*  
John 18:37

and generosity are everyday ways of making Christ visible through us. These aren't just virtues — they're signs of loyalty to our true King.

**How we spend our time:** Daily prayer proclaims that Christ reigns not only over Sunday, but over our entire lives. Whether prayer feels powerful or dry, it anchors us in Him. No time given to Christ is ever wasted.

To say "Christ is King" is to surrender everything to Him. It's a declaration that He reigns not just in Heaven, but here, now, in us.

## Why Do Catholics Do That? Why does the Church offer indulgences?

An indulgence is "the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*). This "temporal punishment" refers to the purification the soul undergoes before entering Heaven.

The power of indulgences flows from Christ's sacrifice and is applied through

the merits of the saints and prayers of the Church. Indulgences are not shortcuts to Heaven or "free passes"; they require repentance and conversion of heart.

To obtain an indulgence, conditions must be met: sacramental Confession, reception of Holy Communion, prayer for the Holy Father's intentions, and performance of the indulgenced act.

## “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21)

There’s a common lesson in driver’s education: “Your vehicle goes where your eyes go.” Spiritually, the same is true — our lives follow what we focus on. What we treasure most lays claim to our hearts. The challenge is to set our hearts on what truly lasts.

“You cannot serve two masters” (Matthew 6:24). What treasure do you set your heart on? A desire for holiness requires us to examine how we live day to day. Are we cultivating trust in God, or grasping for control? Realignment often begins with small, intentional acts: spending time in prayer instead of mindless scrolling; reading the Gospel before the news; choosing simplicity over indulgence and

giving generously to those in need. These are daily decisions that reflect where our heart truly lies.

**Trust instead of worrying.** Jesus does not condemn wealth, hard work, or responsible planning. Instead, He calls us to live as sons and daughters of God. That means trusting His love, accepting His timing, and offering our lives in service to His Kingdom. Ask yourself: Do I invite God into my decisions, or do I act alone? Am I content to wait on His timing, or do I insist on my own?

When we prioritize the things of God, we invest in a treasure that does not fade — one that shapes who we are now, and endures into eternity.

### from **S**cripture

### Matthew 24:37-44, Preparing hearts for Christ’s coming

In this Gospel reading, Jesus reminds us that we do not know the day or the hour when He will come for us. “*At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.*” His message is clear: live each day prepared to meet Him.

Next month, we celebrate His first coming at Christmas. But Christ will come again — at our death, and at the end of time. Advent invites us to ask: “What must I do to be ready?”

Begin by striving to remain in a state of grace. If you are aware of having committed mortal sin, seek God’s mercy without delay through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Even if you are not conscious of serious sin,

aim to go to Confession regularly — every four to six weeks, if possible. Examine your conscience honestly, and choose one or two areas of sin to actively work on.

Attend Sunday Mass faithfully, make more time for prayer, and look for opportunities to serve others with love and humility. These practices not only prepare us to welcome Christ when we finally meet Him face-to-face, but they also draw us closer to Him now.

When Christmas arrives, may you greet the Lord not with fear, but with joy — knowing your heart is open, your hands are ready, and your soul is at peace.

### Feasts & Celebrations

**November 2 – All Souls Day.** On this day we pray for the dead, especially our loved ones and the souls in Purgatory. Our prayers and sacrifices can help them get to Heaven faster.

**November 4 – St. Charles Borromeo (1584).** Born into a wealthy family in 1538 in Lombardy, Italy, St. Charles was chosen for the priesthood to follow in the footsteps of his uncle, Giovanni Angelo de Medici, the future Pope Pius IV. After earning doctorates in civil and canon law by the age of 21, Charles was named cardinal and bishop of Milan. He worked to reform his diocese of

corruption and cared for the poor and sick when a plague struck Milan.

**November 23 – Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King.** God promised his people a king who would be triumphant over their enemies. Jesus is our King, who triumphed over the enemies of sin and death. In Baptism and Confirmation, we are brought under His kingship.

**November 30 – 1st Sunday of Advent.** During this four-week season, we anticipate the Messiah’s birth, remembering the time when He was awaited. During Advent we also look forward to Christ’s reign and His coming on the Last Day. We light candles in an Advent wreath each night of the season to signal the coming of the true light of Christ.

### **Q** Do Catholics practice & tithing? **A**

Tithing is the practice of giving ten percent of your income to the Church. In fact, the word itself comes from an Old English word meaning, “one-tenth.” It was based on Jewish tradition in the Old Testament and its first recorded practice was Abraham’s offering of a tenth of all he had as a “thank offering” to God for his victory in battle (Genesis 14:18-20). It’s still practiced by the Mormon Church.

The Catholic Church does not require tithing; there is no “fixed sum” that God requires of us. Catholics are, however, required to support the material needs of the Church (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #2043). How much — or little — is between you and God and in light of the needs of your state in life.

Money isn’t the only way to support your parish, diocese, or the Church. Giving of your time to volunteer in your parish, donating some of what you don’t need to the poor, and even devoting prayers specifically for the needs of your parish priests are all praiseworthy ways to give back.

#### 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  
<http://www.infaithpublishing.com>  
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible - Revised)

# 2025 Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>30</b> November</p> <p>Light the first violet candle on the Advent wreath, symbolizing Hope. Reflect on the source of your hope in Christ and what it means in your life.</p>	<p><b>1</b> December</p> <p>Be intentional. As soon as your alarm goes off, rise and kneel before a crucifix. Offer your day—and this entire season—to God with purpose and reverence.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Decide how you will draw closer to Christ this Advent—through intentional prayer, acts of penance, charitable giving, or participation in the Sacraments.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Read Luke 1:26-38, where Mary's "Yes" made way for the coming of Christ. Ask for the grace to respond with your own "Yes" to God's will in your life.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Set out your empty nativity scene as a sign of anticipation of the coming of the King. Gradually add the remaining figures throughout the Advent season.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Attend First Friday Mass, in honor of Jesus' Sacred Heart. "O Sacred Heart of Jesus, make my heart like yours." And He will.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>St. Nicholas of Myra Call or visit your parish office and ask who needs help this Christmas. Then do something about it — quietly, as St. Nicholas did.</p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Light the second violet candle for Peace. Pray for the "peace which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7) for yourself and whoever needs it most.</p>	<p><b>8</b> Immaculate Conception</p> <p>God preserved Mary from sin so that she could be the mother of Jesus. Attend Mass and pray for our country. It is a holy day of obligation.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Make a small sacrifice today, offered solely to God. It is even more meaningful if it's done in secret, as encouraged in Matthew 6:18.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Prepare your heart and soul to welcome the King. Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and encounter the mercy of God.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Advent is a busy season for parishes. Consider calling or emailing your parish office to ask how you can offer your time and support.</p>	<p><b>12</b> Our Lady of Guadalupe</p> <p>Mary's miraculous image reveals a profound mystery of Christmas (John 1:14). Take time today to pray for expectant mothers and the gift of new life.</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>"If you have two shirts in your closet, one belongs to you and the other to the man with no shirt" (St. Basil the Great). Donate gently used clothing you don't need.</p>
<p><b>14</b></p> <p><i>Gaudete Sunday</i></p> <p>Light the rose candle for Joy to mark the halfway point to Christmas.</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Offer the alms of patience when you're irritated, a smile when you're weary, and a kind word in place of judgment. You will touch hearts in ways you'll never fully realize.</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Harboring unforgiveness burdens the heart and disrupts inner peace. Pray for the grace to let go, so you can move forward in freedom and healing.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Only nine days remain until Christmas. Place a lamp or candle in a window as a sign of welcome for the Christ Child.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Visit the Blessed Sacrament, where Jesus fulfills His promise to remain with us (Matthew 28:20). Take this time to renew your faith in His unwavering love.</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Today, refrain from recreational screen use between 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Offer this sacrifice for those who struggle with screen-related addictions.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Share the joy of the Gospel—gather a group of friends and go caroling to bring the Good News to others through song.</p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Light the final violet candle, symbolizing Love—awaiting the coming of Christ, the ultimate expression of the Father's love (John 3:16).</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>The King is coming—prepare to welcome Him. Take time to ready your home as a reflection of the joy and reverence in your heart.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Discern which Advent practices you feel called to carry beyond Christmas. Which ones deepened your relationship with God? Which ones strengthened your capacity for charity?</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><i>Rejoice!</i></p> <p>Tonight, place the Christ Child in the manger and rejoice!</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Today, refrain from recreational screen use between 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Offer this sacrifice for those who struggle with screen-related addictions.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Share the joy of the Gospel—gather a group of friends and go caroling to bring the Good News to others through song.</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Light the final violet candle, symbolizing Love—awaiting the coming of Christ, the ultimate expression of the Father's love (John 3:16).</p>
<p><i>"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:1-7).</i></p>						