

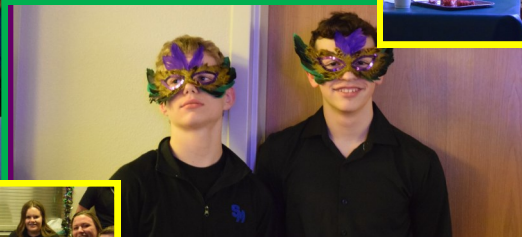


Faithful Footsteps

Walking Together in Faith on a Lifelong Journey

Let the Good Times Roll!

Bismarck's Church of St. Anne's Mardi Gras Trivia Night was a HUGE success! They had an amazing turnout, plenty of laughs, and some friendly competition — all while raising funds to support the Saint Anne's Youth Group! Thank you to everyone who came out, donated, and made the night so special. Your generosity helps us continue to grow our Youth Ministry!



Walking Together in Faith to these

UPCOMING EVENTS



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I training

Part A: May 29-31 and June 2-4, 2025, Part B: May 28-30 and June 1-3, 2026

Trinity Schools Early Childhood Center, Dickinson

Part A: July 14-19, 2025, and Part B: July 13-18, 2026,

Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Minot, ND.



Registration is now open and filling fast! bismarckdiocese.com/goodshepherd

HOLY THURSDAY LOCK-IN

SCAN QR TO RSVP

GOD OF PROMISES

Though the mountains fall away and the hills be shaken, my love shall never fall away from you nor my covenant of peace be shaken, says the LORD, who has mercy on you. *Isaiah 54:10*

CORPUS CHRISTI

APRIL 17/18

GRADES 9-12

COST \$25

CONTACT COLE JONES WITH QUESTIONS (701) 975-9804 cole.jones@corpuschristibismarck.com

ccym corpus christi youth ministry

You are invited!!!
Check out these opportunities for your youth coming up!

COR CHRISTI INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARY

July 7-11 or July 14-18, 2025

Cor Christi ("The Heart of Christ") invites high school students to a living encounter with Jesus and the foundational teachings and practices of the Catholic faith. This initiative is born from the desire of a group of young priests and other dedicated believers to offer a new generation—through an intensive summer experience—the basics of the adventure of faith.

SEARCH Retreat Weekend Student Director April 25-27 directed by Leah Nauman

SEARCH for Christian Maturity is a weekend retreat experience sponsored by the Diocese of Bismarck. The weekends are for any high school or college age person at least 15 years old. The program is rooted in the Catholic faith and open to young people of any denomination or creed. Search weekends are held at the Badlands Ministries Camp in Medora. SEARCH provides an opportunity to think, talk, question and wonder about life and faith in an accepting and challenging environment. It is an opportunity to experience God and God's family in a personal and real way. The weekend is youth and peer orientated and all under the guidance of a team of adult mentors. Cost for the weekend is \$75 all inclusive. There is a scholarship available for those in need to cover this cost. Come and experience a great weekend with us and see what God has in store for you. Registration can be found at [SEARCH for Christian Maturity](http://SEARCHforChristianMaturity.com) | [Bismarck Diocese](http://BismarckDiocese.com) | [Bismarck, ND](http://BismarckND.com)

*** Due to some record numbers on recent weekends the adult leadership team has put a cap on upcoming weekends to ensure enough room for new SEARCHERS. The first 75 returning SEARCHERS will be guaranteed a spot with a waiting list for those who register at #76 or more. Be sure to get your registration in for the January and March weekends as soon as possible.

Do you have a past event you would like to highlight or an upcoming event you would like to share? Email Diane at dhuck@bismarckdiocese.com with all the information, photos, quotations and more to be including in the upcoming issues of Faithful Footsteps.

Ending the Year on a Good Note

[Shannon Chisholm](#)

[Leading a Parish Program](#)[Ending the Year on a Good Note - Catechist's Journey](#)



When we approach the end of faith formation classes for the year, we can be overwhelmed by a flurry of activity. During this period, our highest priorities are the celebration of the sacraments, planning for the final classes, end-of-year meetings, and looking forward to the next year. Amidst all these priorities—as well as tying up any loose ends—we can easily forget to take a step back and reflect on some of the gifts that are present at this time of the year.

The [end of the faith formation year](#) is a great time to share the memories you have made with your students and with one another. I encourage

my catechists to close the year with their students by reflecting on everything that they did in their class. It's amazing to look back at all the discussions, games, skits, projects, and other activities. I do a similar reflection with my catechists at our end-of-year meeting, and I am equally entertained and awed by the vignettes they share from their classrooms. It is a great gift to look back at the ways that God has been present in our parish this year and see God's grace from other perspectives.

As you share the memories of the year that was, take time to show gratitude. The students, parents, catechists, and pastors all deserve a special thanks for the work they did to support the parish's faith formation program. Catechists who went the extra mile—as well as those students who begrudgingly came to class—deserve to be thanked for their contributions to discussions, prayers, and activities. While my budget doesn't allow for me to purchase gifts for everyone who shared their time and talents with the faith formation program, I have found that sending out personalized thank-you notes is a great way to show my gratitude to the people who helped make it a successful year of faith formation. These simple tokens are always appreciated by the recipients.

This is also a great time to get excited about what is to come. I provide each catechist with a link to a YouTube video to share with their students. This video gives them a hint about the theme for their classes next year. The first graders' eyes light up when they watch short clips like [Sophia SketchPad: The Eucharist](#), and they realize that they are only a year away from their [First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion](#). Likewise, my fourth graders are entranced by [The Seven Sacraments](#), which introduces them to the sacraments they'll be studying next year. I share with my catechists the details of what I am planning on adding to our program next year, as well my excitement in our ability to better reach our students and families. These cliffhangers serve as both a hook to bring people back and a way to help ease anxieties about the unknown that they will face in the fall.

The spring can be hectic and exhausting, but it can also be an exciting and hopeful time. Revel in the excitement while it lasts, and thank God for the gifts that he has provided you with this year. The peaceful days of summer are almost upon us. I will continue to pray for you and your program as we all work toward the common goal of forming disciples.

What tips do you have for closing the faith formation year?

LOOK WHO'S WALKIN'

Celebrating fun and educational events in our Diocese that are spreading the Love of Jesus!

Bowman Youth Host Annual Event

The juniors and seniors of St. Charles Parish in Bowman put on their Annual Widow's Supper on February 23rd. Women in the parish who have lost their husband's due to death are invited and the students are in charge of decorating the space for the anticipated event. They also enjoy greeting the attendees, serving them their meal and sitting with them to share stories and wisdom. A delicious meal was prepared by Home Cooked Catering. Jackson Fischer entertained the group with his guitar playing and singing. The Widow's Dinner was started in 2014. Covid year was a bust, but the students made cards and purchased houseplants and delivered them to each widow.

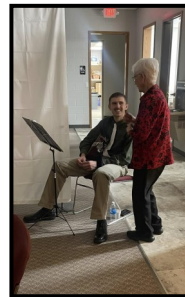


There were 11 students this year who started planning in January by: setting a date, having an invitation created by our church secretary, addressed and mailed out invitations, visited with a local decorator (who also is a Faith Formation catechist) and asked for her expertise, talked with a local caterer and came up with a menu, and waited for the RSVPs to come in. The students took down tables and chairs in the church dining hall and filled the space with the round tables and chairs, the decorator supplied MANY materials and directed the students where to place them, this was done after Mass on Sunday and within 2-3 hours the church dining hall was completely transformed. The caterers prepared Chicken Alfredo, Green Salad, and Better than Anything Cake. Students returned at 4 in their dressy attire and completed the place settings on the tables. Young men acted as taxi drivers and picked up the ladies who chose not to drive. The meal was placed on church china and then taken to the Widow at her table. They were treated like QUEENS. Ladies were presented a flower during their Grand March escorted by one of the young men. After all the ladies were served, students got their dinner and joined a table. Conversations between the 2 generations took place during their dinner. Music entertainment was provided by one of the students. The meal began at 5 and by 6:30 taxi drivers again helped out and the other students took down the decorated hall and returned the tables and chairs to its original setup. It's the best time for these ladies and is the students' favorite Service Project. 14 Ladies were invited, 11 were served, 3 ended up with illness. It is a wonderful event for all who are involved: a highly awaited gathering each year! Submitted by Kathy Pauley, DRE



"... supper is a great experience where we are able to give back... These women ... it is great to be able to sit down and learn from them in how their faith has impacted their lives." - Harley

"The widow's supper is a special time to give back and connect. These women have incredible stories of faith and resilience and sharing a meal with them is a change to learn, listen and be inspired." - Arianna



INVITING YOUNG ADULTS
to join our bible study group

JOURNEYMEN

Join us as journeymen saints, studying the Sunday readings, diving deeper into scripture, discerning God's will, and growing closer in fellowship with each other.

adults ages 21-35, please join us
EVERY SUNDAY AT 4PM
IN THE SPIRIT OF LIFE LIBRARY

Questions? Reach out to Kendra at 701-202-3582

JOURNEYMEN is a group of young adults between the ages of 21 and 35. Their mission is to push each other as journeymen saints to listen closer to the voice of Jesus in prayer, follow his word in their daily lives, and grow in faith as they pursue His truth.

This group has been meeting once a week since the fall of 2022. They have gone through several bible studies from FOCUS and studied scripture alongside the first two seasons of The Chosen. Journeymen are currently studying the Sunday readings, diving deeper into the scriptures, learning the history and context of the stories, and relating them to their lives today.

Journeymen is a small, intimate, group but would love to expand! They meet in the Spirit of Life (Mandan) library every Sunday at 4 p.m. CT. Going forward, they plan to do a Study by Ascension Press called **Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life.**



If you have any questions, please reach out to Kendra at 701-202-3582.