

# CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI

1919 North 2nd Street, Bismarck, ND 58501-1735  
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website: [www.corpuschristibismarck.com](http://www.corpuschristibismarck.com)  
facebook: [www.facebook.com/CorpusBismarck](http://www.facebook.com/CorpusBismarck)

Parish Office .....255-4600  
Parish Center .....255-3104  
Parish Fax..... 255-4616

## WEEKLY LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday (Vigil of Sunday) .....4:00 p.m.  
Sunday ..... 8:30 & 10:45 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
**Spanish Mass (3rd Sunday) ..... 1:00 p.m.**  
Monday .....12:10 p.m.  
Tuesday ..... 12:10 & 5:30 p.m.  
Wednesday-Friday ..... 7:00 a.m. & 12:10 p.m.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesdays (12:45-3:15 p.m.); Thursdays (7:00 p.m.)

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

***As disciples of Jesus, we live our faith through Word, Sacrament, and Service.***

Rev. Paul D. Becker, Pastor ..... 255-4600 (ext. 203)  
Rev. Raphael Obotama, Parochial Vicar 255-4600 (ext. 211)  
Rev. Terry Wipf, Parochial Vicar.....255-4600 (ext. 218)  
Tracy Kraft, Parish Manager.....255-4600 (ext. 212)

## **PASTORAL MINISTERS**

Cindy Anderst, Pastoral Care.....255-4600 (ext. 205)  
Jennifer Braun, Music Ministry.....255-4600 (ext. 209)  
Mariah Conner, Faith Formation .....255-4600 (ext. 219)  
Mary Janusz, Pastoral Care .....255-4600 (ext. 220)  
Sr. Ivo Schoch, Outreach Ministry .....255-4600 (ext. 208)

**DEACONS:** Michael Fix, Lonnie Grabowska, Rex McDowall

## **PARISH SUPPORT STAFF**

Loretta Arntz, Bookkeeper ..... 255-4600 (ext. 201)  
Jane Bosch, Kitchen Manager..... 255-4600  
Viola Bullert, Janitress ..... 255-4600  
Niel Heinze, Maintenance Technician ..... 255-4600  
Bridget Johnson, Administrative Secretary ..... 255-4600



## February 18, 2018

### **SACRAMENTS**

**Reconciliation** is offered:

*Saturdays: 3:00-3:30 p.m.*

*Mondays - Fridays: 11:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.*

*Tuesdays: 5:05-5:20 p.m.*

*Wednesdays-Fridays: 6:35-6:50 a.m.*

Two Priests available Saturday afternoon & Wednesday before the 12:10 p.m. Mass. If you are unable to make these times, you can call the pastor at 701-255-4600 for an appointment.

**Baptism** - The Baptism Preparation Program and Schedule are by arrangement. Please call the office at 255-4600 to register prior to your delivery date and the program director will return your call. Parents must be registered at Corpus Christi or have permission from their parish.

**Marriage** - Couples planning to be married should call the parish office at 255-4600 at least **9 months** in advance. Completion of required paperwork and taking the FOCCUS premarital inventory is also needed this early. ***There will be no FOCCUS in February, the next FOCCUS will be March 22<sup>nd</sup>.***

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

Persons wishing to learn more about the Catholic faith may call Tracy Kraft at 255-4600.

**PARISH BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Articles must be received by noon on Wednesdays (*typed format*).

**PRAYER TREE:** 255-4600

**Stewardship Thoughts:** Christian stewardship provides a spirituality that you can take home from church, exercise at work, and express through personal involvement in the community and the Church.

**Vocation Views:** In order to hear a call from the Lord, our hearts must be opened to receive His Word. Lent begins with a call to repent so that all which clouds our ears might be stripped away to hear His voice clearly. (Mark 1:12-15)

**Weekly Mass Intentions**

- Monday, Feb. 19- ☩Anton Glatt (7:00 a.m.)  
☩Phillip & Frances Wanner (12:10 p.m.)*
- Tuesday, Feb. 20- ☩Fr. Skurla (7:00 a.m.)  
☩Kenneth Paulus (12:10 p.m.)  
☩George & Annastasia Lauinger (5:30 p.m.)*
- Wednesday, Feb. 21- ☩Rosemary Schmaltz (7:00 a.m.)  
Phyllis Lentz (12:10 p.m.)*
- Thursday, Feb. 22- ☩Daniel Feist (7:00 a.m.)  
☩Fr. Thomas Dignan (12:10 p.m.)*
- Friday, Feb. 23- ☩Rose Gustin (7:00 a.m.)  
Reegan Martian (12:10 p.m.)*
- Saturday, Feb. 24- ☩Ryan Schaner (4:00 p.m.)*
- Sunday, Feb. 25- ☩Johnny (Vic) Mears (8:30 a.m.)  
☩A.J. Klein (10:45 a.m.)*

**Corpus Christi Environment Committee**

We are looking for volunteers to help with decorating our church for the various seasons. No experience necessary. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Mary Janusz at 701-255-4600 or email her at [mary.janusz@corpuschristibismarck.com](mailto:mary.janusz@corpuschristibismarck.com).



**SPANISH MASS**

Please join us to celebrate the Sacred Mass in Spanish.

**Sunday, February 18  
1:00 p.m.**

**DAILY SCHEDULE DURING LENT**

Monday-Friday: Mass 7:00 a.m. & 12:10 p.m.  
(The 12:10 p.m. mass is followed by lunch)  
Tuesday: Mass - 5:30 p.m.

**Stations of the Cross**

Thursday - 7:00 p.m. (with Adoration)  
Friday - 5:30 p.m. (followed by a fish fry)

*Please call Tracy at the Parish office to help with readings, lights or the carrying of the cross.*

CONTRIBUTIONS (GENERAL FUND) - (2,278 households)	
Adult Envelopes (370) . . . . .	\$17,921.47
Youth Envelopes . . . . .	\$ 128.61
TOTAL RECEIVED (February 11) . . . . .	\$18,050.08
1st Sunday . . . . .	\$19,430.13
Electronic Contributions (146) . . . . .	\$14,112.68
2nd Sunday . . . . .	\$18,050.08
3rd Sunday . . . . .	\$ 0
Electronic Contributions . . . . .	\$ 0
Spanish Mass . . . . .	\$ 0
4th Sunday . . . . .	\$ 0

*We appreciate your generosity which is part of being faithful stewards of Corpus Christi.*

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION.** Tuesdays 12:45-3:15 p.m. (private, quiet time, incense free) with the chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3:00 p.m. All are welcome to spend time in Jesus' awesome Eucharistic presence. Eucharistic Adoration (Benediction, rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy) is also available Thursdays with Father Terry from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

**Your stepping stones back into life...**

**LOTUS (Looking Onward To Understanding & Serenity)** is a support group for men, women and young adults who have experienced a death. **SOS (Sounds of Silence)** is a suicide support group which provides compassionate support and grief education with the hope that family members and friends will find guidance on the path of healing. There will be a **Combined LOTUS & SOS** session on February 27th at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The topic will be **"Grief or Depression?"** with Dr. James Link.

Sign up for **Best Lent Ever**, a **FREE**, video-based email program featuring internationally acclaimed speaker and New York Times bestselling author Matthew Kelly. From Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, Matthew will join you on your journey this Lent. Are you ready for your best Lent ever? **Be Bold.....Be Catholic!!** To sign up go to [www.dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever](http://www.dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever).

**Marriage Moments:** Ways to Turn Your Beloved Off #10 - Let your body language show disdain or contempt. Rolling your eyes, a scowl, ignoring a request by walking away can speak louder than a yell. Check out any belittling mannerisms you may have that hurt your spouse.

**Parenting Pointers:** February 16<sup>th</sup> began the 2018 Chinese New Year. This year the featured animal is the dog. Help your children learn about another culture - unless of course you are Chinese. Do you know anyone who is Chinese? Talk with them. Eat Chinese food today. (Susan Vogt....[www.SusanVogt.net](http://www.SusanVogt.net))

**Fish Fries** began **Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>** and will be every Friday through **March 23<sup>rd</sup>**. This is an excellent fundraiser for our youth ministry programs and is also a great way to participate in meaningful ministry for the parish. Sign-up sheets for working Fish Fries are located on the table in the lower gathering space of the church. Shifts are usually 5:00-8:00 p.m. each Friday. The cost is: **Adults \$9, Children \$5, Family \$30.** All are welcome.

**Fish Fry Meals for the Homebound.** Each Lent, the Corpus Christi Youth Group joins together with our homebound ministry program to offer Fish Fry deliveries to our parishioners that are no longer able to leave their homes and come to church. If you participate in our homebound ministry programs, and you would like to have a fish fry meal delivered to your home on **March 2<sup>nd</sup>** or **March 23<sup>rd</sup>**, please call the parish office at 255-4600 so that we can add you to the list.

**LENTEN MISSION**  
**Fr. Paul Fagan**  
**"The Challenge of Faith"**  
**FEBRUARY 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>**




**LENT**

**MEALS ON WHEELS**

A special Thank You to the 30 volunteers that delivered MEALS on WHEELS to 529 people this past January. Your service in the ministry is so welcomed. At every door and at every table you served, you made a difference in someone's life.

**K.C. Breakfast at Corpus Christi**  
 Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>  
 (9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.)  
 Serving pancakes, sausage and eggs.  
*Proceeds will go to:*  
**Special Olympics and Home on the Range**





**LENTEN ALMSGIVING 2018**

Participate in almsgiving this Lent by bringing food to help fill the shelves of the food pantry. Your donations can be placed in the upper and lower gathering spaces or on the tables in the center of the church.

**ESSENTIAL ITEMS NEEDED ARE:**

**Week 1: Pancake Mix and Syrup**

**What's Going on Here This Week**

- Mon. 2/19      Lenten Lunch, 12:40 p.m., Parish Hall  
 Lenten Mission Talks, 1:15 & 7:00 p.m., Church
- Tues. 2/20      Quilting, 9:00 a.m., Community Room  
 Lenten Lunch, 12:40 p.m., Parish Hall  
 Eucharistic Adoration, 12:45-3:15 p.m., Chapel  
 Lenten Mission Talks, 1:15 & 7:00 p.m., Church
- Wed. 2/21      Lenten Lunch, 12:40 p.m., Parish Hall  
 Lenten Mission Talk, 1:15 p.m., Church  
 Faith Formation (A), 3:30-5:00 p.m.  
 Children's Choir, 4:30 p.m., Choir Room  
 Faith Formation (A), 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
 Confirmation (1), 6:30 p.m., Conference Room  
 Pre-Confirmation (1), 7:00 p.m., Community Room  
 Lenten Mission Talk, 7:00 p.m., Church  
 Middle School Youth Ministry, 7:00 p.m.,  
 Room 140  
 Confirmation (2), 7:30 p.m., Conference Room
- Thurs. 2/22      Toastmasters, 6:30 a.m., Community Room  
 Lenten Lunch, 12:40 p.m., Parish Hall  
 Bell Choir Practice, 6:30 p.m., Choir Room  
 Eucharistic Adoration, 7:00 p.m., Church
- Fri. 2/23      Lenten Lunch, 12:40 p.m., Parish Hall  
 Fish Fry, 5:00-7:00 p.m., Parish Hall  
 Stations of the Cross, 5:30-6:00 p.m., Church
- Sun. 2/25      Faith Formation, 8:30-9:30 a.m.  
 Faith Formation, 9:40-10:40 a.m.  
 Children's Liturgy, 10:45 a.m., Community Room

**Bismarck-Mandan Catholic Young Adults Group**

Please join the Bis-Man Catholic Young Adults Group for the second of its seven-part series on the Seven Principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Nick Emmel will be speaking on the 1<sup>st</sup> Principle: **"The Life & Dignity of the Human Person"** on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. For more information on this group, please visit the Facebook Page - *Catholic Young Adults*, or contact Bri Weisbeck at 701-426-0456.

**Stewardship Opportunities**

Corpus Christi is in need of volunteers to help out with some duties around the church. Please call the office at 255-4600 if you are interested in giving of your time to serve Corpus Christi.

**Sacristy Linen Care:** A volunteer to wash and care for the Sacristy linens once a week for the month of February. They can be taken home.

*The Holy Father Speaks...* Be watchful, every day, so that you don't end up far from the Lord. David is a saint, even if he was a sinner; the great and wise Solomon, on the other hand, was rejected by the Lord because he was corrupt. We have heard about something a bit strange, the heart of Solomon was not entirely with the Lord, his God, as the heart of David, his father, had been. It was strange because we do not know that Solomon, who had been praised by the Lord for seeking wisdom rather than riches, that his heart was "turned away from the Lord." How can we explain this? It is because David, knowing that he had sinned, always asked for forgiveness, while Solomon, who was praised throughout the world, distanced himself from the Lord to follow other Gods, but did not recognize his fault. Here is the problem of "weakness of heart." When the heart begins to weaken, it is not like a situation of sin: you commit a sin, and you realize it immediately. "I have committed this sin"; it's clear. Weakness of the heart is a slow journey, that slides along step by step, step by step, step by step... And Solomon, adorned in his glory, in his fame, began to take this road. Paradoxically, the clarity of a sin is better than weakness of the heart. The great King Solomon wound up corrupted: tranquilly corrupt, because his heart was weakened. And a man and a woman with weak hearts, or weakened hearts, is a defeated woman, a defeated man. This is the process of many Christians, of many of us. No, I haven't committed grave sins. But how is your heart? Is it strong? Does it stay faithful to the Lord, or is it slowly sliding away? The drama of the weakness of the heart can happen to all of us in life. Be watchful. Guard your heart. Every day, be careful about what is happening in your heart. David was a saint. He was a sinner. A sinner, and he became a saint. Solomon was rejected because he was corrupt. Someone who is corrupt cannot become a saint. And one becomes corrupt by following the path of weakness of the heart. Vigilance! Guard your heart at all times. Enjoy the beauty and the joy of fidelity.

Welcome! Thank you for choosing to worship with us today and we hope you will return often. If you do not belong to a parish, please consider choosing Corpus Christi as your church home. You may call the parish office at 255-4600 to register.

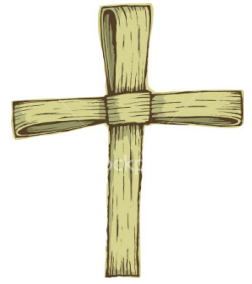
Date: Feb 24-25	February 24, 2017 4:00 PM		February 25, 2017 8:30 AM		February 25, 2017 10:45 AM		February 25, 2017 6:30 PM	
<b>Hospitality</b>	1	Kayla Klein	1	Helen Werlinger	1	Donna Howe	1	Doug Kostuck
	2		2	Donna Schauer	2	Mary Siverson	2	
	3		3		3	Bonnie Ziemann	3	
	4		4		4	Sarah Zainhofsky	4	
	5		5		5	Laverne Kaufman	5	
	6		6		6		6	
<b>Ushers</b>	1	Bob Clooten	1	Jerome Werlinger	1	Rick Kaufman*	1	Darcy Neigum
	2	Joyce Hinman	2	Jim Volk	2	Donald Williams	2	Freddie-Leigh Geiger
	3	Gisele Thorson	3	Robert Schauer	3	Blaine Zainhofsky	3	
	4		4		4	Trenton Zainhofsky	4	
	5		5		5			
	6		6		6			
<b>Lectors</b>	1		1		1	Heather Bullinger	1	Gerri Weisgerber
	2		2		2	Jane Link	2	Freddie-Leigh Geiger
<b>Servers</b>	1		1	Alex Brady	1	Christian Wolf	1	Braden Roehrl
	2		2	Emma Vallie	2	Aurora Zainhofsky	2	
<b>Eucharistic Min</b>		<b>BODY OF CHRIST</b>		<b>BODY OF CHRIST</b>		<b>BODY OF CHRIST</b>		<b>BODY OF CHRIST</b>
	R-1	William Kopp	R-1	Coralie Fix	R-1	Shonda Wild	R-1	Darcy Neigum
	2	Curtis Carik	2	Danell Becker	2	Nathan Kraft	2	Veronica Fernow
	3	Barb Carter	3	Joseph Becker	3	Pat Hermanson	3	
	4	Lorraine Hoffman	4	Norita Kress	4	Phyllis Lentz	4	
	5	Phyllis Lentz	5	Patty Kuntz	5		5	
	6	Judith Kopp	6	Tim Kuntz	6		6	
	7		7	Bess Deutsch	7		7	Father Paul
	8		8		8		8	
	9	Father Raphael	9	Father Paul	9	Father Terry		
	10		10		10			
	11				11			
	12				12			
	LG		LG		LG		LG	
		<b>BLOOD OF CHRIST</b>		<b>BLOOD OF CHRIST</b>		<b>BLOOD OF CHRIST</b>		<b>BLOOD OF CHRIST</b>
	1	Sharleen Pulver	1	Wayne Triska	1	Kathy Wood	1	Cheryl Nieuwsma
	2	Alvin Nagel	2	Francis Williams	2	Kay Williams	2	Blaine Nelson
	3	Evelyn Spangler	3	Catherine Williams	3	Paul Biemek	3	
	4	Gary Yantzer	4	Gerald Mathern	4	Leilani Biemek	4	
	5	Joyce Yantzer	5	Pamela Mathern	5		5	
	6		6		6		6	
	7	Deacon	7	Deacon	7	Deacon	7	Deacon
	8		8		8		8	
	9		9		9			
	10		10		10			
	11				11			
	12				12			

Can you help? The blank spaces mean we need more help in that ministry. Please come to the ushers room and sign in on the schedule to help. Thank You.



## PALM WEAVING/RESURRECTION GARDEN

One of the fascinating traditions families do for Palm Sunday is to create decorative designs using palms. We are looking for some palm weavers who would be interested in helping teach palm weaving. We are also adding a new project which is a Resurrection Garden. Palm weaving and Resurrection Garden classes will be held at Corpus Christi on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the parish hall. Please call Mary Janusz at 255-4600 if you are able to help with the palm weaving, or if you would like to attend one of the classes. All are welcome.



## OPERATION RICE BOWL



In Iraq, we encounter Majd and his family, people forced to flee violence, searching for stability. How are we called to welcome the stranger in our midst? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more.

\$1 a day for 40 days of Lent helps provide:

- 1 month of food for a family
- 2 years of seed for a farmer
- 1 emergency kit for refugees

## LENTEN RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE:

Lenten resources are available at each of the entrances of the church. Please stop by and pick up the **Word Among Us** or the **Little Black Book** for daily readings or reflections. We also have **Lenten Keytags** and the **2017 Living Lent** daily activity calendar for children. We have prepared a **Lenten Calendar** filled with wonderful Lenten experiences. This calendar includes Lenten and Holy Week Mass schedules as well as the Penance Service schedule.

This weekend our parish will take up the **135<sup>th</sup> Annual National Black and Indian Mission Collection**. Our support of this collection helps grow the Church in African, American, Native American, and Alaska Native communities from coast to coast. There are envelopes in the pews for your convenience.



**FLU SEASON.** With the recent announcement by the area care centers regarding this being the flu season, we pray a prayer of blessing for all in our community. We encourage you to remain healthy at this time by taking the following precautions:

- Stay home if you are feeling ill.
- Use the hand sanitizer that is available at all Church entrances.
- During the Sign of Peace do what you feel comfortable with.
- If you have cold symptoms, refrain from drinking from the Cup.
- The parish staff will be suspending our daily hospital visits with parishioners.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD



**CHILDREN'S**  
Liturgy of the Word

Who is this for? Children in **Preschool through second grade** (lessons are geared for this age group specifically). No registration necessary. You can come when you are able.

After second graders have received their First Eucharist, they are to stay in mass. The **Magnifikid** is a wonderful resource to aid them in this transition. You can pick these up at the entrances of the Church.



We are also looking for help with this program. All the lesson plans are written up for you. There is a rotating schedule with the commitment of one Sunday every few months. Please contact Mariah Conner with any questions at 255-4600.

## Sunday, Feb 18, 2018

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

### Get outside your comfort zone this Lent

The desert's a great place to encounter the Holy, as a long tradition of desert fathers and mothers attests. But the desert's a traditional place to make intimate acquaintance with your demons as well—which is another reason Jesus, and generations of his followers, made friends with cacti. It's also why we symbolically enter the Lenten desert each year, fasting, praying, and giving alms. We allow the normal lifestyle padding to wear a little thinner and feel our vulnerable spots with more clarity. Make a commitment this Lent to explore your limits. Bring an extra supply of humility!

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 9:8-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15 (23).  
"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained [there] . . . tempted by Satan."

## Monday, Feb 19, 2018

LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Root yourself in solidarity

Jesus' core message—that we are one—is surely one of the great mysteries of existence. This truth is so hard to accept because our senses tell a different story: We are separate, different, and alone. We need an image to help us realize what our senses cannot. Picture the giant redwood trees of California: Did you know they only grow in groves? Moreover, each tree's roots extend and grasp the roots of the surrounding trees, forming a strong, interconnecting network that serves to nourish and sustain all of them equally. The next time you are tempted to think of someone as "the other," remember the redwood trees and their invisible, interlocking roots.

TODAY'S READINGS: Leviticus 19:1-2, 11-18; Matthew 25:31-46 (224).  
"Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me."

## Tuesday, Feb 20, 2018

LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Turn it over

One of the many advantages of memorized prayers such as the "Our Father" is that we can say them when we have no words of our own; we don't have to think. That's also one of their disadvantages: We don't have to think. In fact, we may have forgotten exactly what we are saying when we pray the "Our Father." For example, do we really mean, "Thy will be done?" or are there unspoken conditions attached: "Thy will be done—as long as it doesn't interfere with my carefully laid plans for my life"? To turn everything over to God is truly the only way to live without fear. It's what Jesus did; it's what we are called to do as well.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 6:7-15 (225). "This is how you are to pray: 'Our Father who art in heaven.'"

## Wednesday, Feb 21, 2018

MEMORIAL OF PETER DAMIEN, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

### Stick with what is priceless

Peter Damien (1007-72) was a generous giver. But simony—the practice of buying spiritual offices or spiritual authority—was one kind of giving he detested. The activity was widespread in the medieval church and did great damage to the church's moral standing, so much so that Dante condemned those who practiced simony to the eighth circle of hell. Perhaps the venue largely has shifted from church to state—where we find corporate lobbyists and other influence-peddlers with lots of cash—but the sin remains

the same. Damien would not be amused to see simony persist in any form, and neither should we.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jonah 3:1-10; Luke 11:29-32 (226). "Just as Jonah became a sign to the Ninevites, so will the Son of Man be to this generation."

## Thursday, Feb 22, 2018

FEAST OF THE CHAIR OF PETER THE APOSTLE

### Pull up a seat

The Latin word for "chair" is *cathedra*, and a *cathedra*—you see where this is going—is the "seat" of a bishop, thus making the bishop's church a *cathedral*. Today's feast, however, commemorates a particular "chair": that of Saint Peter and the authority Jesus gave him to be the primary leader of the early church. Peter was martyred in Rome, and so the "see" (*sedes*—"a place to sit") of Peter became the Holy See, the seat of the pope as the first among bishops and the leader of the Roman Catholic Church. As the Liturgy of the Hours says, the Feast of the Chair of Peter the Apostle is a day to celebrate the "unity of the church founded upon that apostle."

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19 (535). "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church."

## Friday, Feb 23, 2018

MEMORIAL OF POLYCARP, BISHOP AND MARTYR; DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE

### Be fruitful in faith

Polycarp died around the year 155 at the age of 87, so he was a very early Christian who lived while some of the original apostles were still alive. The apostle John appointed Polycarp bishop of the city of Smyrna (now Izmir in Turkey), where Polycarp faced many challenges during his long years in office. Christians were a persecuted minority, while most of the population still worshipped the Roman gods. During one persecution, Polycarp was captured and, even though very advanced in age, sentenced to be burned at the stake. But tradition has it that the flames would not burn him, so he was stabbed to death. His remains are entombed with honor in the church of St. Ambrose in Rome, and his long life of service to the early church is remembered each year on this day. The name Polycarp means "many fruits." May all of our lives be as fruitful!

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 18:21-28; Matthew 5:20-26 (228). "Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court."

## Saturday, Feb 24, 2018

LENTEN WEEKDAY

### Less is more

The phrase "less is more" catches our attention because at first glance it seems illogical. How can less be more? They're opposites, and of the two, "more" is often regarded as better. But taken in a different light, the phrase makes good sense. Maybe we exercise restraint during a tense meeting with a coworker, saying only what is needed instead of saying something further in order to "win" an argument. Maybe we forgive someone who has hurt us with a lie instead of reminding them over and over that our pain is their fault. With less, we become more—more peaceful, more caring, more Christ-like.

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Matthew 5:43-48 (229). "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

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



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