

# CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI

1919 North 2nd Street, Bismarck, ND 58501-1735  
email: [info@corpuschristibismarck.com](mailto:info@corpuschristibismarck.com)  
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  
Colleen Reinhardt, Receptionist ..... 255-4600



## December 24, 2017

### **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.*

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 Baptism Schedule are by arrangement. Please call the parish 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. **December FOCCUS will be on Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

**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

**Come Lord Jesus!** We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into our darkness. With the coming of this light there is joy, joy that is ours not only at Christmas but always.

**Her name was Mary.** When Gabriel approached Mary; he called her "favored one." She was precisely that, wasn't she? She was favored, out of all the women on earth, to bear the Christ child. No one has ever been more greatly honored. But why Mary? Could it be that she was chosen because God felt comfortable with her? She knew God intimately: person to Person. God knew her intimately: Person to person. God knew that Mary could be counted on. She was a person of faith, obedient to God. She accepted God's will. And this great faith showed as Mary said, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word. Mary accepted Christ in her body and her heart. In a sense she was the first Christian. She was one who could always sing, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior." The question is: Can we do the same?



**The blessing of the Christmas Tree.** Each Christmas season, as we decorate our tree, we honor the past, remembering with each ornament the years before. And we also make a promise to the future, when this year's tree will be a memory. We circle the tree as a family and weigh its branches with our hopes and dreams. How much more special it will be if we bring our Lord to share this time with us, unifying us in His love, as well as our own. Try for example this simple Christmas tree blessing:

When the family is gathered, start with a simple prayer of thanks for the family members gathered, the roof over your heads, the joy of the season. Then before the decorating is finished have each person hold back one ornament. Have each person hang their ornament saying "**May this Christmas tree bring the blessing of...**", choosing a blessing they desire for the home or the world. Now turn on the lights and sing a verse of "O Come, O come, Emmanuel" or "O Christmas Tree."

### Your stepping stones back into life....

**SOS (Sounds of Silence)** is a support group that meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. for those who have experienced the suicide of a loved one. **After a suicide...there are people who understand.**

**SOS** will meet on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> at Parkway Funeral Service. The topic will be "**Dealing with guilt and regrets.**"

CONTRIBUTIONS (GENERAL FUND) - (2,277 households)	
Adult Envelopes (427) . . . . .	\$22,232.10
Spanish Mass . . . . .	\$ 164.00
Youth Envelopes . . . . .	\$ 328.28
<b>TOTAL RECEIVED (December 17) . . . . .</b>	<b>\$22,734.38</b>
<i>1st Sunday . . . . .</i>	<i>\$23,150.26</i>
<i>Electronic Contributions (148) . . . . .</i>	<i>\$14,347.68</i>
<i>2nd Sunday . . . . .</i>	<i>\$22,333.46</i>
<i>3rd Sunday . . . . .</i>	<i>\$22,724.38</i>
<i>Electronic Contributions (98) . . . . .</i>	<i>\$ 9,239.68</i>
<i>Spanish Mass . . . . .</i>	<i>\$ 164.00</i>
<i>4th Sunday . . . . .</i>	<i>\$ 0</i>

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

**EUCCHARISTIC 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.

**Marriage Moments:** Christmas. The birth of a baby reminds us of our past ("Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is 14 generations" Mt. 1) and into our future (What will this child become?) Today, ponder the lives of your ancestors and your unknown future together.

**Parenting Pointers:** It's getting close. The temptation is to hurry Christmas. Although we can't control how our culture celebrates the time before Christmas, we can keep Advent in our own home by teaching our children the value of delayed gratification. Wait for the party, to light the tree, to open a present. (*Susan Vogt....www.SusanVogt.net*)

### Weekly Mass Intentions

<i>Monday, Dec. 25-</i>	<i>†Helen Fischer (10:45 a.m.)</i>
<i>Tuesday, Dec. 26-</i>	<i>†Ole Johnson (12:10 p.m.)</i> <i>†Dolores Barta (5:30 p.m.)</i>
<i>Wednesday, Dec. 27-</i>	<i>†Marcia K. Schmidt (7:00 a.m.)</i> <i>†Lillian &amp; Peter Welder (12:10 p.m.)</i>
<i>Thursday, Dec. 28-</i>	<i>†Richard Naumann (7:00 a.m.)</i> <i>†Leona Werlinger (12:10 p.m.)</i>
<i>Friday, Dec. 29-</i>	<i>†August Vetter (7:00 a.m.)</i> <i>†Ryan Schaner (12:10 p.m.)</i>
<i>Saturday, Dec. 30-</i>	<i>†Raymond Wehrman (4:00 p.m.)</i>
<i>Sunday, Dec. 31-</i>	<i>†Loren Schaner (8:30 a.m.)</i> <i>†Gordon Lonning (10:45 a.m.)</i>

Volunteers are needed twice a month to help aid in our Faith Formation Classrooms from 3:30-5:00 p.m. For more information, contact Mariah Conner at 701-255-4600.



**HOLIDAY SOLEMNITIES THIS SEASON**

This church year represents the shortest possible Advent season as the Fourth Sunday of Advent occurs on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> followed by Christmas Day on Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>. As Catholics, we are called to attend mass each weekend as well as on Christmas which is one of the holy days of obligation in the church. Therefore, Corpus Christi will offer masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent on December 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m. and on on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. Then, later that day, we will offer our Christmas Eve masses at 4:00, 6:00 and 10:00 p.m. followed by Christmas Morning Masses at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.

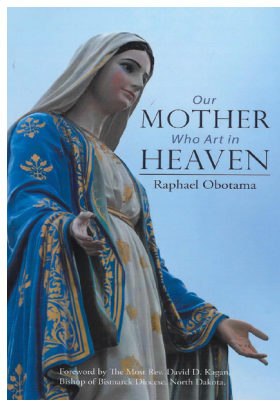
The Feast of the Solemnity of Mary is abrogated this year since it falls on a Monday. Therefore, there is no obligation to attend mass that day. However, Corpus Christi will still offer a 7:00 a.m. and 12:10 p.m. mass on Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> for those who wish to attend.

Please stop by the entrances to pick up your 2018 Church Calendar

**OUR MOTHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN**

*By Raphael Obotama*

A reflection on Mary’s activities as described in the Bible and her messages during her apparitions on earth. This book is written by Fr. Raphael Obotama, a priest at Corpus Christi, and is for sale in the Parish Office for \$14.



**What’s Going on Here This Week**

- Tues. 12/26 Quilting, 9:00 a.m., Community Room  
Eucharistic Adoration, 12:45-3:15 p.m., Chapel
- Thurs. 12/28 Toastmasters, 6:30 a.m., Community Room  
Eucharistic Adoration, 7:00 p.m., Chapel

**FOCCUS.** Is your marriage a gift? Would you like to help engaged couples in our parish who are getting ready to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony? We are looking for sponsor couples to work with engaged couples to go through their pre-marital inventory. We offer training and support. The next training session will be Monday, February 19, at 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Mary Janusz in the parish office at 255-4600 or by emailing [mary.janusz@corpuschristibismarck.com](mailto:mary.janusz@corpuschristibismarck.com).

The Parish Office will be closed to observe the Christmas Holiday on Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and the New Year’s Holiday on Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Stewardship Thoughts:** God will never be outdone in generosity. No one is ever poorer for giving to our God who is so rich in love, mercy and goodness.

**Vocation Views:** Mary was called to be open to the extraordinary. What do you need to say “let it be” in response to God’s call to you? Trust that the Lord is with you and will guide you always. (Luke 1:26-38)

God speaks to us through His Son, the Heir of all things. To be a priest or religious is to be drawn into a deeper relationship with the Son, so that we might also draw others closer to Christ (Heb 1:1-6)

**EVANGELIZATION AND THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

This ten part video series will run Mondays from January 8 - March 19. Dr. Mary Healy, a passionate, prayerful Catholic teacher combines insightful biblical study with Church teaching and practical advice. She explores topics such as the call of Jesus to evangelize, the power of the Sacraments, techniques from St. Paul for reaching a secular culture, and more. Contact Cindy Anderst in the Parish Office at 255-4600 to register.

**CORPUS CHRISTI OUTREACH**



Thank You for your generosity with the stocking stuffers, purchasing of Christmas Food baskets and presents for needy families in the area. We were able help out **112** families in some capacity this past week!!

*The Holy Father Speaks...* The tenderness of God, as His defining trait, was the theme taken from the first reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah and the psalm where God says of Himself: "...his tenderness expands over all creatures". The image presented by Isaiah is that of a God who speaks to us as a father with His child, imitating his voice to make it as similar as possible to his. And first of all he reassures him by caressing him: "Do not be afraid, I will come to your aid". It seems that our God wants to sing us a lullaby. Our God is gifted at this. His tenderness is this: he is a father and a mother. Many times he said "But if a mother forgets her son, I will not forget you." He carries us in his deep within. He is the God who with this dialogue makes himself small to make us understand, to make us trust in him and we can tell him with the courage of Paul who changes the word and says: "Abba Father". Father...it's the tenderness of God. It is true, sometimes God raps us over the knuckles, He is great, but with His tenderness He approaches us and saves us. And this is a mystery and one of the most beautiful things: "He is the great God who makes Himself small and in His smallness He does not stop being great. And in this great dialect He is small: there is the tenderness of God. The great that makes himself small and the small that is great. Christmas helps us to understand this: in that manger... the little God. God not only helps us, but He also makes us promises of joy, of a great harvest, to help us move forward. God is not just father but a Dad.

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: Dec 30-31	December 30, 2017		December 31, 2017		December 31, 2017		December 31, 2017	
	4:00 PM		8:30 AM		10:45 AM		6:30 PM	
Hospitality	1		1	Donna Schauer	1	Rita Mastel	1	Doug Kostuck
	2		2	Helen Werlinger	2	Laverne Kaufman	2	
	3		3		3		3	
	4		4		4		4	
	5		5		5		5	
	6		6		6		6	
					7			
Ushers	1	Helen Berger	1	Jim Volk	1	Donald Williams	1	Gene Rivinius
	2	Bob Clooten	2	Jerome Werlinger	2	Rick Kaufman	2	Bev Rivinius
	3	Joyce Hinman	3	Linda Feist	3	Dennis Mastel	3	
	4	Larry Thelen	4	Charles Jaskowiak	4	Lonnie Zahn	4	
	5		5		5			
	6		6		6			
	7		7		7			
Lectors	1	Lisa Frank	1	Dale Kasowski	1	Rodger Wetzel	1	Jim Luptak
	2	Sandy Wald Clooten	2	Mary Kasowski	2	Mary LaDuke	2	Jane Greer
Servers	1	Meghan Friese	1	Alex Brady	1	Nathan Kraft	1	Zachary Brackin
	2		2	Jackson Uhler	2		2	Mikayla Brackin
Eucharistic Min		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST		BODY OF CHRIST
	R-1	Carol Thompson	R-1	Mike Uhler	R-1	Yvonne Richter	R-1	Jackie Buckley
	2	Clyde Thompson	2	Danell Becker	2	Christopher Knudson	2	Darcy Neigum
	3	Jan Eiseman	3	Joseph Becker	3	Pat Hermanson	3	Jim Luptak
	4	Lorraine Hoffman	4	Norita Kress	4	Phyllis Lentz	4	Jane Greer
	5	Phyllis Lentz	5	Brenda Bergan	5	Sherry Wangler	5	
	6		6		6	Steve Wangler	6	
	7		7		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	
		BLOOD OF CHRIST		BLOOD OF CHRIST		BLOOD OF CHRIST		BLOOD OF CHRIST
	1	Alvin Nagel	1	Catherine Williams	1	Kay Williams	1	Clara Butland
	2	Sandy Wald Clooten	2	Francis Williams	2	Kathleen Wood	2	
	3	Evelyn Spangler	3	Jim Rudnick	3	Shonda Wild	3	
	4	Gary Yantzer	4	Dana Rudnick	4	Kathy Zahn	4	
	5	Joyce Yantzer	5	Wayne Triska	5		5	
	6		6		6		6	
	7	Deacon	7	Deacon	7	Deacon	7	Deacon
	8		8		8	Cindy Wetzel	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.

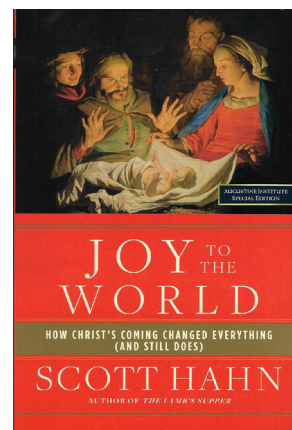
## JOY TO THE WORLD

### How Christ's Coming Changed Everything (and still does)

By Dr. Scott Hahn

"There are many reasons that we love the celebrations of Christmas, but two stand out: it is a time for joy and it is a time for family. We rejoice in the birth of Jesus Christ and the salvation He came to bring us, and we take time to be with our families during this special season. In this wonderful book, Scott Hahn beautifully explains that the Christmas story is foremost a family story. You will learn about the deep Scriptural meaning of the Nativity of Jesus Christ and come to more fully appreciate the unique role played by the figures we know so well from the Gospel's accounts. From Mary and Joseph to the Magi and shepherds, this book will help you discover anew the joy of Christmas!"

*(Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, Archbishop of New York)*



This book and others can be found on the book rack downstairs in the lower gathering space.  
A \$4.00 donation is suggested for each book to help us continue this program.

## AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES WITH A SAINT

Join us for popcorn and the next movie in Bishop Robert Barron's Catholicism - The Pivotal Players series. We will watch "St. Thomas Aquinas" on Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the Community Room. All are welcome.

The relationship of faith and reason is under intense scrutiny in this age where fundamentalism and secularism are so prevalent. St. Thomas Aquinas anticipated these objections and trends, and demonstrated that to believe is to think, and the life of the mind is integral to life in Christ. Join us in this thought provoking movie about St. Thomas Aquinas, the theologian. If you have questions, please contact Cindy Anderst at 255-4600.



## SEA GLASS

### SUPPORT FOR GRIEVING CHILDREN AND TEENS

While any support is important, it is essential to realize that children, tweens and teens face numerous social and emotional challenges in the best of times during their developing years. Adding the pain of loss and the ongoing journey of grief during this time can be overwhelming.

The purpose of the Sea Glass support group is to help children, tweens and teens learn their own ways of smoothing out their grief.

The meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Parkway Funeral Service, 2330 Tyler Parkway in Bismarck. For more information, call Brenda at 701-223-7322.



**PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN.** The Diocese of Bismarck is firmly committed to the health and protection of our children, young people and vulnerable adults. With the hope of healing the pain and suffering from sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, we encourage anyone who has suffered from this abuse to please come forward and let us know. To report allegations of sexual abuse, please contact: Dale Eberle, Chancellor, Diocese of Bismarck, PO Box 1575, Bismarck, ND 58502-1575 or call 701-223-1347. The complaint form and policies can be found on the diocesan website at [www.bismarckdiocese.com](http://www.bismarckdiocese.com).

## Sunday, Dec 24, 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, CHRISTMAS EVE

### Yes, yes, yes!

2017 can seem like a litany of bad news. Floods, famine, and earthquakes. Conflicts, threats, and shootings. Headlines fixed our gaze on horror, relentless as it was real. Our personal lives may be just as anxious, logging illnesses, financial upsets, imperiled relationships. While it's natural to recall difficult events in blazing detail, it takes more effort to compose a litany of good news that's just as true. Give yourself a present that will last all year. Begin a grace box, jotting down something wonderful you hear, see, or receive every day. You'll have 365 reasons to be merry next year!

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38 (11). *"And coming to her, the angel said, 'Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.'"*

## Monday, Dec 25, 2017

SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)

### Word is spreading!

Words are powerful things. They encourage love, underscore hate, and kindle fear. Words create reality because what we speak does take on flesh and live with us. Have you not wished for the chance to say what was left unsaid, in a moment that is gone forever? When God spoke a word into being in Genesis, the whole world resulted. Later, God spoke Divinity into Mary's body and the world was saved from itself. This Christmas, give voice to your heart and say what needs to be said to those you love.

TODAY'S READINGS: Vigil: Isaiah 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Matthew 1:1-25 (13); Night: Isaiah 9:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (14); Dawn: Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20 (15); Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Hebrews 1:1-6; John 1:1-18 (16). *"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory."*

## Tuesday, Dec 26, 2017

FEAST OF STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

### Follow Stephen's lead

Some things, we feel sure, are impossible to forgive. But then we reluctantly recall that Jesus forgave his crucifiers, and Stephen, the first martyr of the church, forgave his murders in faithful imitation of his Lord. Believe it or not, today Stephen (d. 35) is known as the patron saint of masons and bricklayers—a strange role for a man who was stoned to death! Yet, why not? We are all pledged to bless those who curse us. What better way to do that than to take up the cause of your old enemy? Pray for your persecutors today.

TODAY'S READINGS: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 (696). *"You will be dragged before governors and kings because of me."*

## Wednesday, Dec 27, 2017

FEAST OF JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

### Time to see the light

Today is a day to celebrate the unique perspective on Jesus the writings of John have to offer. In particular, light and darkness. John sees Jesus as the light of the world, and so it is customary to light candles on this day. As the evening falls today, light a candle and say a favorite prayer in honor of the One who said, "I have come as light into the world" (John 12:46).

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:1a, 2-8 (697). *"The life was made manifest, and we saw it, and testify to it."*

## Thursday, Dec 28, 2017

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS

### Stand up for the least of these

No sooner do we celebrate the birth of one baby when the Bible recalls the slaughter of other babies. Like the infant Moses before him, the Messiah escapes to Egypt with his family. Let's not look the other way as this reading comes up each year, but let it be a reminder: Children still are victimized by adults who abuse their power—personally, professionally, or politically. Let's change that. What can you do today to be an advocate for children?

Check out [childrensdefense.org](http://childrensdefense.org) for some ideas.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 1:5—2:2; Matthew 2:13-18 (698). *"Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt."*

## Friday, Dec 29, 2017

MEMORIAL OF THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP, MARTYR

### Get your priorities straight

In the 12th century, Thomas Becket, the archbishop of Canterbury, stood firm against King Henry II in the latter's efforts to establish himself as absolute ruler over everything in his kingdom, including the church. Becket's refusal to submit to the king's ultimate authority cost him his life. The stakes are not always that high in the tensions between church and state, but people of faith must prepare themselves for difficult choices. Be clear about which of your loyalties are temporal—finite and fleeting—and which are eternal—everlasting and true for all time.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35 (202). *"This child is destined to be a sign that will be opposed so the inner thoughts of many will be revealed."*

## Saturday, Dec 30, 2017

SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

### We all have a role to play

Anna is one of nine female prophets noted in the Bible. She was also a widow who spent most of her life in the work of worship and proclamation at the temple. This was unusual, because in Hebrew tradition, widows were more often looked upon as problems: Who would marry them, support their children, and feed them? In the early church, the fortunes of widows were reversed. The holy office of widows became an honored station in life. Those formally consecrated as widows became ministers of charity, freed from accountability to men as they used their own wealth, traveled, and played a vital public role in the community. How might your station in life be "consecrated"?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 John 2:12-17; Luke 2:36-40 (203). *"There was also a prophet, Anna, who never left the temple."*

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



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