

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET GRETNA, NE 68028



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



John wore clothing made of camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. - Mt 3:4

DECEMBER 4, 2022



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

Welcome

We invite you to become involved
in our parish community!

There are many opportunities for
experiencing the peace and joy of our loving
God in liturgy, education, prayer and service.

If you would like to join our parish
family, please visit our website or
the Parish Office for a registration form.

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours.....M-F 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Phone.....402-332-4444
Fax.....402-332-5107
Website.....stpatricksgretna.org
Facebook.....@stpatgretnane
E-mail.....stpatrick.gre@archomaha.org
Flocknote.....text STPATGRETNA to 84576

MASS AND HOLY EUCHARIST

Saturday.....5:00 PM
Sunday.....8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, & Noon
Monday.....No Mass or Communion Service
Tuesday.....6:00 PM
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.....7:30 AM
Holy Days.....7:30 AM & 6:00 PM
Holidays (on weekdays)9:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday.....4:00 PM - 4:40 PM
Or call the parish office for an appointment.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Parishioners registered for a minimum of one
year are eligible to marry here. Six months of
marriage preparation prior to your wedding is
required by the Archdiocese. Contact the Parish
Office to schedule a wedding date and marriage
preparation instruction.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms take place on the first and third Sundays
of each month after the Noon Mass. A baptismal
date will not be set until you become a registered
parishioner and both the parents and Godparents
attend the baptismal class for their first child.
Classes are held at 7:00 PM on the second
Monday of each month in the Fr. Hitch Room.
Please call the Parish Office if you will be
attending a specific class.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

If you, a relative or friend are hospitalized or shut
in, short or long term, and would like a visit from
the Pastor, Deacon or Pastoral Minister, please
call the Parish Office. For emergencies or if facing
danger or death, call 402-332-4428.

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Access the Adoration Chapel through the Church
from 6 AM to 7 PM or contact the office for an
access card to the back door. To sign up for an
hour, contact Jean Hlavacek at 402-504-4222.

REFLECT AND RESPOND

2nd Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING (Is 11:1-10)

About two hundred years after the death of King David, the prophet Isaiah in around 760 BC prophesied the arrival of a new and ideal 'King David' ("a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse") that would bring about peace among people and animals. How can any of us today help make this promised future a reality?

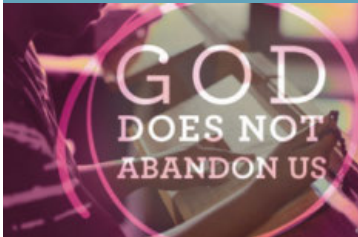
SECOND READING (ROM 15:4-9)

Paul taught the Roman Christians that being a welcoming and unified community of Jewish and Gentile believers was one way to glorify God. Do you think your group of friends are welcoming to others?

GOSPEL (MT 3:1-12)

John the Baptist taught the people that repenting of sins and producing "good fruit" was essential for preparing for the kingdom of Heaven. What good works are you doing for your family and friends as we continue through the season of Advent?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



At sixty years of age, Maria and Paul had a beautiful life. High school sweethearts, they had four children, five grandchildren, a successful business, good friends and a fabulous beach house. They felt very blessed. Their strong faith in God saw them through some difficult challenges. Without warning, Paul died suddenly. Maria was devastated. Why did God do this? Why did God allow this to happen? An indescribable depth of sadness weighed heavily upon

her heart. She felt betrayed by the God she thought was looking out for her. She was overwhelmed by despair. Have you ever experienced such incredible and deafening sadness? Where is God in all of the pain?

We often want God to fix things or intervene and change nature's course. When He doesn't act as we desire, it shakes our faith. We do not always understand or appreciate why things happen as they do. There is much that is beyond our control. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus and Jesus is the way to God. There is something more going on in life than what we can see with human eyes. We are on a sacred path, and God is with us. God is with us in our confusion, suffering, doubts, and intense sadness. Jesus announced God's vision for humanity and taught people to see God and themselves for who they are. There is a way through and beyond all hardship and suffering. God does not abandon us.

God has a clear vision for the future, both for us individually and for our world. It is a vision of harmony and gentleness where all will live as one and the "wolf shall be a guest of the lamb." God is not indifferent. He is the God of "endurance and encouragement." In God, we see what we may be, what may come, and who we can become. When Maria opened herself to God's creative presence, she learned to trust. She began to realize that she could endure more than she had imagined. She also discovered a spark of encouragement, bringing her through the sadness to where she could be. In retrospect, Maria knew that God's reassuring presence was with her.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

Why do Catholics make the sign of the cross?

ANSWER:

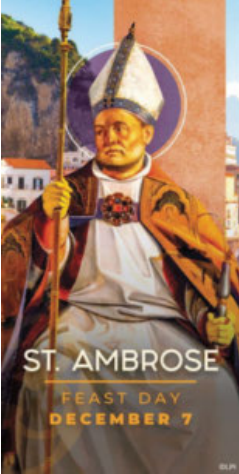
The sign of the cross is a devotional practice that dates back to the first Apostles. When making the sign of the cross, we remember Jesus Christ who died for us and also bear witness to the fact that we belong to Him and are called to share the Good News to all the world. At our Baptism, we were signed with a cross and marked for Christ. That mark remains on us throughout the entirety of our lives. We remind ourselves of that mark every time we make the same gesture over our bodies. We also remind ourselves that to be a Christian means we are to "put on Christ" and be Christ for a world that needs to know Him. In a way, this devotional gesture covers us with Christ so that others may see Him in us.



Catholics are not the only ones who make the sign of the cross. Orthodox, Lutheran, and Anglicans are examples of other Christians who maintain this same ancient tradition.

ST. AMBROSE

Bishop and Doctor of the Church



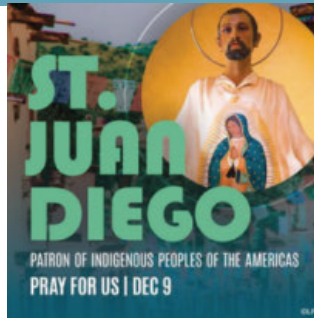
St. Ambrose was born to an aristocratic Roman Christian family in 339 in what is now Trier, Germany. One popular legend tells of a swarm of bees alighting on the infant Ambrose's face and leaving behind a drop of honey which his father took as a sign that Ambrose would be an eloquent speaker with a 'honeyed tongue.' Ambrose was educated in law and rhetoric in Rome. Like his father, he went into public service and was made governor of Liguria and Emilia about 373. In the second year of his governorship, he went to moderate the election of the bishop of Milan because the heretical Arians were challenging the succession. Unbaptized and untrained in theology, Ambrose was called by popular acclamation to be bishop. Though he attempted to flee, he was found and within a week he was baptized, ordained, and consecrated bishop on December 7, 374. As bishop Ambrose studied scripture and the writings of Church fathers, he gave his property and wealth to the poor, and became an impactful orator, hymn writer, and renowned teacher. He highly praised consecrated virginity, likely influenced by his sister who

took the veil. A contemporary with St. Martin of Tours, he also defended the faith against the Arian heresy (which questioned Christ's divinity), and against the state. Ambrose required Emperor Theodosius do public penance after the massacre of Thessalonica. His classic education contributed to his writing and sermons which attracted and converted St. Augustine of Hippo who St. Ambrose baptized. St. Ambrose is one of four original doctors of the Church. He died in 397 in Milan, Italy. His remains can be seen today at the Basilica di Sant' Ambrogio, where he lays with St. Gervasus and St. Protasus.

ST. JUAN DIEGO CUAUHTLATOATZIN

Religious

St. Juan Diego (1474–1548) was a poor and humble peasant of the lowest class of Aztec Indians living in what is today Mexico. His native name was Cuahtlatoatzin, meaning, "eagle that talks." He was baptized at the age of fifty by a Franciscan missionary priest and received the Christian name of Juan Diego. It was he to whom Our Lady appeared as a pregnant Aztec princess on December 9, 1531—at that time the feast of the Immaculate Conception—on the hill of Tepeyac, in present-day Mexico City, as he was on his way to Mass. To help Juan Diego prove to the bishop that she had truly appeared, the Virgin Mary miraculously left her image on his tilma. This image is now famously known as Our Lady of Guadalupe. St. Juan Diego's tilma still bears the image of Our Lady (miraculously, as the plant fibers normally disintegrate in 15-20 years) and it hangs in one of the most famous Catholic pilgrimage sites of the world, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Juan Diego was canonized in 2002 by Pope St. John Paul II as the first indigenous saint from the Americas.



ST. DAMASUS I

Pope



Pope St. Damasus I (306-384 A.D.) was born into a Christian family in Rome. He became a deacon and served at the Basilica of St. Lawrence in Rome where his father served as a priest. After the death of Pope Liberius, Damasus was elected Pope in the year 366 A.D. Violence broke out as a rival pope was also elected, and the two factions fought to enforce their candidate. Damasus was confirmed as the rightful pope by the Roman Emperor, and the anti-pope was banished from the city. Pope Damasus chose the scripture scholar St. Jerome as his personal secretary, to whom he commissioned the translation of the Bible into Latin (the Latin Vulgate). It was during Damasus' reign that Christianity was declared the religion of the Roman state. Pope Damasus also called the Council of Rome in 382 A.D. to clarify the canon of Sacred Scripture. He opposed heresy, worked to preserve the catacombs, and advocated for devotion to the Christians martyred under the Roman persecutions. His feast day is December 11.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Lk 5:17-26
TUESDAY: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14
WEDNESDAY: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
THURSDAY: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
FRIDAY: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19
SATURDAY: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
NEXT SUNDAY: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

TUESDAY: St. Nicholas, Bishop
WEDNESDAY: St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
THURSDAY: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
FRIDAY: St. Juan Diego Cuahtlatoatzin
SATURDAY: Our Lady of Loreto
SUNDAY: 3rd Sunday of Advent; St. Damasus I, Pope





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL
Please Give Generously

Throughout Advent, we enter a period of waiting, preparing our hearts and minds for the gift of Christ at Christmas. But this kind of preparation is not simply for the weeks before Christmas. Christ will come again—are our hearts ready to receive Him? This Advent, let's focus on true readiness to receive the Lord, both at Christmas and throughout the year. May we ponder all the Lord has given us. To date, 129 have committed \$36,705 towards our goal of \$121,503. Please help us reach our participation goal of 30% of our parish.



NOVENA FOR ARCHDIOCESE
December 3-12



Beginning Saturday, December 3, join the Archdiocese in praying a novena for the intentions of the Archdiocese of

Omaha. Follow the Archdiocese on Facebook, @ArchdioceseofOmaha for updates. Daily emails for the novena will also go out from the Archdiocese, if you don't receive them visit <https://archomaha.flocknote.com/> to sign up.

SEMINARIAN PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for our Seminarians as they prepare for God's holy priesthood.

This week let us pray for **Nicholas Seier** (Theology II at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary) from Sacred Heart in Norfolk.



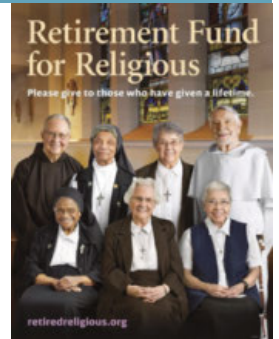
Are you called to be "A herald's voice in the desert" preparing the way of the Lord in the hearts of His people? If you are considering a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, contact Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.

"PRAY ALWAYS AND DO NOT LOSE HEART."

Pray for our Seminarians

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION
Please Give to Those Who Have Given a Lifetime

Next weekend, December 11, we will have a second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Thousands of elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in ministries—such as Catholic schools, parishes, and hospitals—often for little or no pay. Today, many religious communities do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your donation helps provide medications, nursing care, and more. An abbot writes, "Your gift helps ease our worldly burdens and allows us to continue living out our mission of seeking God and serving the Church." Please give generously. Visit retiredreligious.org to learn how your gift supports elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.



INTERESTED IN ALTAR SERVING?
Now Welcoming 3rd and 4th Grade Altar Servers



Calling all third and fourth grade students!! The Altar Server Ministry is a very special group of young people in our parish who have answered God's call to ministry. As an Altar Server, you are one of the liturgical ministers with an important role during the Mass or other liturgical services. It is a privilege to minister as an Altar Server at Mass. Servers assist the priest at the altar and help the church community worship in the best possible way. We invite you to share this special privilege of becoming an active altar server in the parish. Anyone third grade through senior in high school may sign up to be an Altar Server.

Altar Servers must have a strong desire to serve at the Altar of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. You must know how to genuflect, make the sign of the cross, be willing to pray aloud, and know the appropriate responses during Mass. It is most important as a server to be attentive, sit quietly during Mass, and show reverence at the Altar of the Lord. You must be willing to attend Mass regularly and serve on Sundays. For more information, contact Jonathan Wotipka at jjwotipka@archomaha.org.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING:

Training will begin after the new year, check the parish website for training dates and sign up to be an Altar Server!

ADVENT BLESSING BOXES—LEAST OF MY BRETHREN
Provide Food for a Family in Need This Christmas

Each day from November 27 through December 24, place one non-perishable food item in your Blessing Box. There will be a truck from Least of My Brethren parked at St. Patrick during the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Or you can drop off your Blessing box in the parish library/coat room before Christmas if necessary. Thank you for your generosity feeding the hungry this Christmas!



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| November | 4. Pasta Sauce | 15. Biscuit mix |
| 27. Canned corn | 5. Pancake mix | 16. Baking mix (requires only water) |
| 28. Applesauce (jars, pouches, or individual cups) | 6. Canned tuna | 17. Boxed meal (requires only water) |
| 29. Canned fruit | 7. Canned chicken | 18. Spaghetti |
| 30. Instant potatoes | 8. Canned beef stew | 19. Spaghetti sauce |
| December | 9. Peanut butter | 20. Rice |
| 1. Canned soup | 10. Jelly | 21. Spices (salt, pepper, garlic, etc.) |
| 2. Canned green beans | 11. Macaroni & cheese | 22. Pancake syrup |
| 3. Pasta | 12. Cereal | 23. Canned pork and beans |
| | 13. Instant Oatmeal | 24. Pudding cups |
| | 14. Granola bars | |

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES
Plan Ahead and Attend Christmas Mass



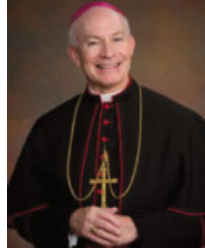
* Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24: 4 PM and 6 PM
* Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25: 8 AM and 10 AM
There will be NO Saturday evening confessions at 4 PM on Christmas Eve, please plan accordingly. Because New Year's Day is on Sunday, our Sunday Mass schedule will be normal on Sunday, January 1.

LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP LUCAS

Moving Forward in the Journey of Faith

Dear friends in Christ,

I write to you at an important moment in our Journey of Faith process. Teams have been working for months in families of parishes across the archdiocese. They have been imagining how to shape a vibrant future for our parishes while respecting the blessings of the past and recognizing current realities.



For decades we have experienced significant shifts in where people choose to live. Within parishes large and small, family members and neighbors are choosing not to participate in parish life in growing numbers. Also, the segment of Nebraskans who claim no religious affiliation is growing. The number of priests available to serve in parishes has been shrinking and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

Understandably, we want to maintain what we are used to in our parishes, no matter their size. That will simply not be possible, nor is it a prudent response to the command of Jesus to share the gospel in every time and place.

As we receive the plans from families of parishes, I plan to review them carefully. I will consider the schedule and administrative changes necessary to meet our planning parameters. I know that this has involved difficult choices for rural parishes particularly. It is likely that Sunday Mass will no longer be offered in several churches in the future, although it will be available nearby. I know that this means a painful loss for faithful parishioners, but I do not see another way to meet our goal of establishing stable pastoral structures for the next ten years.

Beyond structural and administrative changes, I will be anxious to see how families of parishes imagine a way forward in Christ. Our parishes must become missional communities or face continued diminishment. The task for us now is to deepen our relationship with Jesus and learn how to evangelize our neighbors so that they, too, can have life in Jesus. As our parishes begin to work together, rooted in prayer, we will find that the gifts of the Holy Spirit needed for this task are abundant and powerful.

I ask for the support of your prayers as I review the plans and offer any needed revisions. Pray, too, that as the plans are communicated to parishioners in the coming weeks, there will be an openness to receive them thoughtfully so that implementation can begin in mid-2023.

Jesus has promised to be with us in the church until the end of time. He is with us now. He has plans for abundant life for us and for those who do not yet hear His voice. May all of our trust and all of our hope be in Him.

With my prayers for a blessed Advent, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend George J. Lucas
Archbishop of Omaha



Stewardship Report

Nov. 16-22, 2022

General Contributions	Nov. 16-22	Fiscal YTD thru Nov. 22
Sunday's Offering - Nov. 19-20	\$13,325.47	\$450,614.81
Other Contributions	\$989.25	\$24,352.72
Total General Contributions	\$14,314.72	\$474,967.53 *
Surplus/Deficit	(\$10,435.28)	(\$20,032.47)
Fiscal Year-to-Date Income		\$516,436.64
Fiscal Year-to-Date Expenses		\$442,496.35
Fiscal Year-to-Date Net Income		\$73,940.29 ***

* Our budget requires an average weekly income of \$24,750.

'Other Contributions' include Holy Days, Maintenance & Repairs, and other Special Collections.

*** Current Fiscal Year - July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

THE
KNIGHT'S
CORNER



DECEMBER KNIGHTS BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the Brother Knights Celebrating a birthday in the Month of December!

- December 1—Robert Davis
- December 2—Steve Huber
- December 3—Jerry Wendlin
- December 4—Louis Ferraguti and Dennis Grace
- December 7—Wayne Gundvaldson and Trevor Leiting
- December 8—Gerald Beach, Nathan Fibich, and Joseph Krajicek III
- December 9—Joshua Westra
- December 10—Rodney Lighthipe
- December 13—Michael Evans and James Hain
- December 14—Terry Langholdt and Larry Votruba
- December 15—John C. Hawkins
- December 16—Patrick Shurtliff
- December 19—Randy Kersten
- December 20—Shawn Campbell
- December 22—Richard Staudenmaier
- December 24—John Hawkins and Paul Hubert
- December 25—Richard Lehan
- December 27—John Bosco and Alexander Rockwell
- December 29—Matthew Henry
- December 30—Kenneth Merkel and Adam Noonan
- December 31—Andrew Pajeda, Gerald Snell, Marty Stednitz, and Gary Stegman

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS PARISH BREAKFAST



A special thanks to Shane Fagan for encouraging the Confirmation students to volunteer during the monthly parish breakfast in



November. We had several youth show up to volunteer at this event. Join us next week, December 11, for our next parish breakfast from 9 AM to Noon.

Knights of Columbus

- Grand Knight, Joe Krajicek.....402-616-9612
- Deputy Grand Knight, John Schaffert ..402-672-7903
- Financial Secretary, Marty Stednitz.....402-332-3840
- Chancellor & Membership Director, Randy Meerian
.....402-981-6471



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

MASS INTENTIONS

An individual may ask a Priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday or if they are ill), or, as is most common, for the repose of the soul of one who has died (†). To request a Mass intention, stop by the Parish Office to schedule. A minimum of \$10 per Mass is requested.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

No Communion Service or Mass

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

6:00 PM † James and Kathy Grace

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

7:30 AM † Don Frederick

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

7:30 AM † Lucas Sawyer
6:00 PM Living and Deceased Members of the Weier Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

7:30 AM † Mary Jo Novak

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

5:00 PM † Frank and Rose Trihy

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

8:00 AM † Charlie Wear
10:00 AM For Our Parishioners
12:00 PM † Bee and Sally Buras

LITURGICAL VESTMENT COLORS

- **White**—JOY—Christmas, Easter, Mary, Saints
- **Red**—LOVE—The Passion, Holy Spirit, Martyrs
- **Green**—HOPE—Ordinary Time
- **Violet**—HUMILITY—Advent, Lent
- **Rose**—JOY—Gaudete, Laetare Sundays



Let us pray for all those affected by COVID-19. Pray for Tom Hottovy (brother of Jim), Chris Wheeler (cousin of Mary Pajeda), Logan Naro (grandson of Jean Hlavacek), Jo Anne Lyons (mom of Theresa Gulizia), Marolyn, Lil Herbstritt, Brad, and Deacon David Medeiros. Pray for Mike (son of Cleo Nienaber), Kathy Fitzpatrick, Pete and Judy Bartman, Julie Pohar (sister of Jodi Rupiper), Nolan Schultz, Mike Petersen, and Reece Bittner (grandson of Bruce Jefferies). Pray also for all our parishioners who are homebound, hospitalized, and in nursing homes, and for all our parishioners and loved ones who have recently passed away.

To add a loved one to the prayer line, please call Corliss Lovstad at 402-968-5877 or email her at clovstad@gmail.com.

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4TH—2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM Religious Education Classes—RE Classrooms, Basement Commons
12:00 PM to 3:00 PM Private Event—Parish Center C
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary and Narthex
3:00 PM to 7:00 PM Private Event—Parish Center AB and Kitchen

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM Funeral Mass—Sanctuary and Narthex
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM Funeral Luncheon—Parish Center AB and Kitchen
4:00 PM to 8:30 PM Visitation and Rosary—Narthex and Sanctuary
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Women's CRHP—Father Hitch Room
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Trail Life—Basement Commons

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM Funeral Mass—Sanctuary and Narthex
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM Funeral Luncheon—Parish Center AB and Kitchen
5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus Holy Hour of Prayer—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 6:40 PM Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion (after Mass)—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Knights of Columbus Meeting—Parish Center AB

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
8:00 AM to 8:15 AM Liturgy of the Hours—By the Tabernacle
9:00 AM to 10:30 AM Faith Connection—Father Hitch Room
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM Religious Education Classes—RE Classrooms, Basement Commons
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM RE Christmas Program Practice—Sanctuary, Basement Commons
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM RE Parent Bible Study—Father Hitch Room
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH—THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY—HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION—OFFICE CLOSED

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM RCIA—Parish Center C

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

6:30 AM to 7:30 AM Men's Faith Sharing—Father Hitch Room
7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Women's Faith Sharing—Father Hitch Room
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM Outreach Ministry—Parish Center

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

7:30 AM to 3:00 PM Outreach Ministry—Parish Center AB
4:00 PM to 4:40 PM Confession—Confessional
4:30 PM to 5:00 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 5:00 PM)—Sanctuary
6:00 PM to 10:00 PM Knights of Columbus Christmas Party—Parish Center and Kitchen

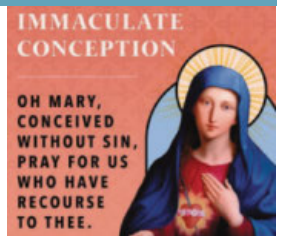
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH—3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM Religious Education Classes—RE Classrooms, Basement Commons
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM RE Christmas Program Practice—Basement Commons
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Parish Breakfast—Parish Center and Kitchen
2:00 PM to 10:00 PM Private Event—Parish Center and Kitchen

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Parish Office Closed for the Immaculate Conception of Mary

Join us for Mass on Thursday, December 8—a Holy Day of Obligation for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—at 7:30 AM or 6 PM here at St. Patrick. The parish office will be closed on Thursday in observance of this Holy Day. The Church began to celebrate the feast of Mary's conception in the early Middle Ages. In 1854, Pope Pius IX infallibly declared that Mary was free of original sin from the first moment of her conception.



LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

3rd Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 10TH 5:00 PM	DECEMBER 11TH 8:00 AM	DECEMBER 11TH 10:00 AM	DECEMBER 11TH NOON
Sacristan Larry Neppel	Sacristan Joan Ingram	Sacristan Mitch Wendlandt	Sacristan Linda Schriener
Lectors Crystal Schroeder <small>(Read the 1st Reading)</small>	Lectors Need Sub <small>(Read the 1st Reading)</small>	Lectors Michael Chatterson <small>(Read the 1st Reading)</small>	Lectors Eric Hittner <small>(Read Both 1st and 2nd Readings)</small>
Need Sub <small>(Read the 2nd Reading)</small>	Theresa Huttman <small>(Read the 2nd Reading)</small>	Jolene Jefferies <small>(Read the 2nd Reading)</small>	Kathy Broz <small>(Standby: if a Sub is Needed)</small>
EMHCs Sharleen Marik Wendy Neppel JoAnn Koch Bridget Blum	EMHCs Jerry Thoendel Laura Fischer Sandy Scheef Barb Applegate	EMHCs Carol Hoover Bridget Chatterson Rosie Stec Kathy Wendlandt Deacon Larry Heck	EMHCs Leann Otto Steve Otto Darcy Skrdla Delma Stoner Deacon Ken Broz
Ushers Chad Soupir Paul Staley Lisa Willert Jeff Wollenburg	Ushers Frank McEvo Paul Polt Tony Schultz Bob Sis	Ushers Clint Bollock Norris Hoover Bruce Jefferies John Schaffert	Ushers Linda Gardner Ron Kotrous Linda Schriener Mary Zeigler
Rosary Reciter Jayne Schram	Rosary Reciter Tim Gilligan	Rosary Reciter Kathleen Krantz	Rosary Reciter Norm Svoboda
Altar Servers Shailynn Gatewood Need Sub Need Sub	Altar Servers Need Sub Need Sub Need Sub	Altar Servers Need Sub Need Sub Need Sub	Altar Servers Need Sub Need Sub Need Sub
Greeters Chris Gatewood Need Sub	Hilcrest SR Mike Siegel Paula Siegel	Greeters Jim Hottovy David Hubert	Greeters Joann Dalley Jeanette Roy

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

Immaculate Conception

DECEMBER 8TH 7:30 AM			
Sacristan Need Sub	Nancy Arp Deacon Ken Broz	Carrie Hubert <small>(Read the 2nd Reading)</small>	Altar Servers Mitchell Hubert Paul Joseph Hubert Need Sub
Lectors Jolene Jefferies <small>(Read the 1st Reading)</small>	Ushers Need Sub Need Sub	EMHCs Gene Schwarting Paul Hubert Norm Svoboda	Greeters Need Sub Need Sub
Marty Stednitz <small>(Read the 2nd Reading)</small>	DECEMBER 8TH 6:00 PM	Dan Dauner Deacon Larry Heck	Vocations Crucifix Stephen Grandinetti
EMHCs Judy Weier Delma Stoner	Sacristan Need Sub	Ushers Ginny Giebelhaus Chris Lingbloom Need Sub Need Sub	
	Lectors Kathy Schwarting <small>(Read the 1st Reading)</small>		

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Gretna, Nebraska

PARISH STAFF

PASTOR	Fr. Gregory P. Baxter.....402-332-4444 gpbaxter@archomaha.org Residence.....402-332-4428 Emergencies (if facing danger or death), call: 402-332-4428
DEACONS	Deacon Ken Broz.....402-676-1025 Deacon Larry Heck.....402-572-1319
PARISH OFFICE	Jolene Jefferies, Parish Mgr.....402-332-4444, x203 jmjefferies@archomaha.org Megan Seamann, Communications Associate meseamann@archomaha.org..402-332-4444, x202 Judy Weier, Secretary.....402-332-4444, x201 jaweier@archomaha.org
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	Shane Fagan.....402-332-3454 smfagan@archomaha.org
DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION	Hannah Penson.....402-332-3050 hmpenson@archomaha.org
PASTORAL MINISTRY (LITURGY, YOUTH GROUP & FAITH FORM)	Jonathan Wotipka.....402-332-4444, x212 jjwotipka@archomaha.org
PASTORAL MINISTRY (ELDERLY, HOMEBOUND & FUNERALS)	Francesca Dammermann.....402-332-4444, x204 fdammermann@archomaha.org
MUSIC MINISTRY	Tracy Hoye.....402-618-8606 tmhoye@archomaha.org
PARISH CENTER COORDINATOR	Lezlie Thomas.....402-525-3098 lathomas@archomaha.org
FACILITY MANAGER	Judy Knight.....402-332-4444, x206 jaknight@archomaha.org
PASTORAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT	Mitch Wendlandt.....402-740-6179
FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN	Kevin Kaup.....402-525-1469
HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY	Jerry Thoendel.....402-332-3475
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS	Joe Krajicek402-616-9612 grandknight@kofc-gretna.org
AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROOP #NE-0508	Laura Lempke.....lauraannlempke@hotmail.com
TRAIL LIFE USA TROOP #NE-0508	Jon Thomas.....jdthomas1981@yahoo.com



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

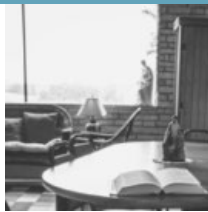
ADVENT GIVING TREE *Return Gifts by December 8*



Don'ts forget, if you took an ornament off of the Advent Giving Tree to bring your wrapped gifts back to the Church by Thursday, December 8. Thank you kindly for your contribution to reaching out to those in need this Christmas. Questions can be directed to Joan Ingram at 402-203-3604.

HOLY FAMILY SHRINE RETREAT *Get Your Tickets Today*

Come to the 20th Anniversary Holy Family Shrine Retreat on Saturday, December 10 from 8:30 AM to 4 PM. Tickets are \$50 a piece. Get away from it all, if only for a day... Learn how the Holy Spirit called the founders of the Shrine, attend Mass, join Hannah Keisling in praise and worship music, contemplate the Holy Spirit moving in your own life... But, don't miss it! Spots are limited! Buy tickets today at <https://holyfamilyshrine.com/schedule-reservations/retreat/>.



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GET CONNECTED WITH OTHER CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS



Scan the QR code to share your info. You'll be added to our newsletter list!



Scan this QR code to join the sports GroupMe.



The next PUBS (Pick-up Bible Study) will be at 7:00-8:30pm on December 1 at Christ the King Parish in the KC room.



Join us for VENI, a young adult holy hour and social, on December 9 at 7:30pm. Come early at 7:00pm in the parish center for a talk on prayer.

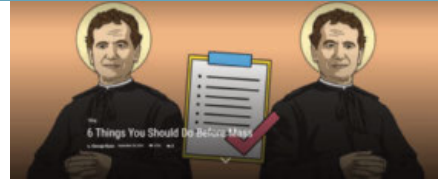


@ArchOYoungAdults
ArchOYoungAdults@gmail.com

FOR YOUNG ADULTS AGES 21-39 IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA

SIX THINGS YOU SHOULD DO BEFORE MASS *Tips From the "Father and Teacher of Youth"*

It's important to show proper reverence for Mass! Besides fasting, how are you preparing to best receive the Eucharist? Saint John Bosco, the "Father and Teacher of Youth," suggested six resolutions for Mass-goers:



1. Try to be early for Mass always. A few minutes spent in before Mass can open your soul to wonderful Graces.
2. When you enter or leave the church take Holy Water and sign yourself with the Sign of the Cross.
3. Always genuflect when you enter or leave your seat. This is an Act of Adoration to Almighty God, present in the tabernacle. So take time to genuflect reverently, facing the altar and saying "My Lord and My God" as your right knee touches the floor.
4. Don't talk in church unless absolutely necessary. Talk only to Jesus—it is Him you have come to visit. Don't talk as you leave either. Some people may still be praying.
5. Listen to the sermon. It is a message from God which could bear much fruit for you.
6. Don't start to leave church until the priest has returned to the Sacristy. Stay to thank God for the Graces you received from Him in the Mass.

With his suggestions, Bosco added a reminder that "every day we take a step closer to Heaven, that every act should be for the greater glory of God and that every morning we should renew our resolve to work for the Salvation of souls." Saint John Bosco, pray for us!

—Article from <https://ucatholic.com/blog/6-things-you-should-do-before-mass/>

VOLUNTEERY FOR LEAST OF MY BRETHREN *Scan the QR Code for More Information*

Volunteer for Least of my Brethren!



Least of my Brethren offers monthly breakfasts, clothes, and blessing bags to the homeless in Omaha. They also help recently homeless people furnish their new homes. This is after an approval process whereby the person has found a job and secured an apartment or home in which to live. Then, LoMB will help with furniture, kitchen and bathroom supplies, etc. to help them furnish their home. Help is needed from volunteers for all of these different parts of the ministry. Please check out the website, leastofmybrethren.org (or scan the QR code) to find ways that your group can get involved. Thank you for helping the

least of our brethren in our community! God bless!

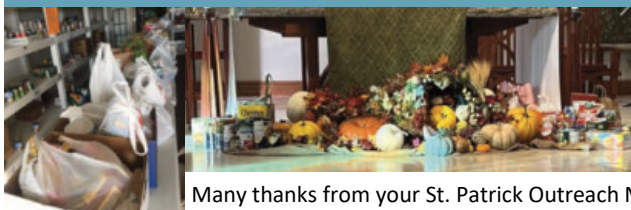
NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE *Thursday, December 8*

Unite in prayer with Catholics all across the country to ask Mary to establish a culture of life in America. The hours of 8 PM to Midnight, were chosen to coincide with Our Lady of Guadalupe's appearance to St. Juan Diego; uniting the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the feast of St. Juan Diego.

11 PM to Midnight, CST, is referred to as the "hour of unity," during which we will be united across the country in prayer to end abortion, and to restore God's blessings of life, liberty, the faith, and His peace in America and from here, the entire world. Prayer packets can be found in the Narthex to be able to join in prayer from home. Included are meditations by Dr. Edward Sri for each mystery of the Rosary.



THANKSGIVING GENEROSITY IS MUCH APPRECIATED *Many Donations Gathered for Gretna Neighbors*



Thank you for your food donations to the Gretna Neighbors Food Pantry at the Thanksgiving Day Mass. May God bless you for your generous ways.

Many thanks from your St. Patrick Outreach Ministry.

MAKE QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

Donate by December 31



WHAT IS A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD)?

Generally speaking, a QCD is a non-taxable distribution made directly from a traditional IRA (other than an ongoing SEP or Simple IRA) to a qualified charitable organization, such as St. Patrick Catholic Church of Gretna.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

QCDs reduce your adjusted gross income and potentially reduce your taxable income and the tax due. If you file a joint return, your spouse can also have a QCD. You Qualify if:

- You are over age 70 ½
- You are taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from a traditional IRA
- You are making charitable contributions
- The QCD is paid directly by the trustee of your IRA to the charitable institution

CAN A QCD SATISFY MY RMD FROM AN IRA?

Yes, your QCD can satisfy all or part of the amount of your RMD from your IRA. For example:

- If your 2021 RMD was \$10,000, and you made a \$10,000 QCD in 2021, you would have satisfied your 2021 RMD.
- If your 2021 RMD was \$10,000, and you made a \$5,000 QCD in 2021, you would have had to withdraw another \$5,000 to satisfy your 2021 RMD.

HOW TO MAKE A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION TO ST. PATRICK

1. Contact your IRA trustee or financial institution for its procedures for QCDs.
2. Determine the amount that you want to contribute (up to \$100,000) and advise your IRA trustee or financial institution.
3. Keep proof of your contributions such as a statement from the charitable institution and from the paying institution.

WHEN PREPARING YOUR TAX RETURN

1. Your 1099-R will likely show the full amount of the distribution as taxable income. Note: There may be exceptions that you will need to verify with your payor.
2. Tell your tax preparer the amount of the QCD. The taxable amount on the 1099-R will need to be *reduced* by this amount.
3. Only the reduced taxable amount will be included in your income.
4. Include proof of your contributions with tax documents for the year.
5. For more information, see IRS Publication 590-B, Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs).

Please consult with your tax advisor with any questions. Thank you for your support!

APPRECIATED STOCK DONATIONS

St. Patrick Has Our Own Edward Jones Brokerage Account

St. Patrick gratefully accepts stock donations. Did you know we have our own Edward Jones brokerage account for ease in gifting shares of stock directly from your brokerage account to our brokerage account? Before making such a gift, here are some simple questions and answers that will help you as you discern your gift.

Appreciated stock donations



1. If I gift stocks, will I still incur any capital gains taxes?

No. If the stock has appreciated in value, you can avoid paying the capital gains tax by giving the stock as a gift.

2. What methods are used to gift stocks?

If you hold the shares in a brokerage account, you can simply re-title the shares in the name of the organization—such as St. Patrick Catholic Church of Gretna—to whom you want to gift the stock. You can even set up regular gifts at predetermined intervals. Another way to gift stock is to transfer assets directly to your beneficiaries at the time of your death with a Transfer on Death Agreement (TOD).

3. What tax deduction can I get for gifting stocks to charitable groups?

If you donate appreciated stocks that you've held for more than a year to a "public" charity—such as a religious organization—you can typically take a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stocks, up to 50% of your adjusted gross income for that year.

So, as you can see, gifting stock is a great way to give to St. Patrick. Please consult your tax advisor for specifics.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

LAY LITURGICAL MINISTRY

Jonathan Wotipka.....402-332-4444, x212
jjwotipka@archomaha.org

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Sue Orosco.....402-332-3692

LEAST OF MY BRETHREN

Sign Up Genius link to volunteer.....[https://
https://www.signupgenius.com/
go/30e0a4ea8ab2aa6fd0-lomb9](https://https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a4ea8ab2aa6fd0-lomb9)

CHURCH CLEANING

Sign Up Genius link to volunteer.....[https://
www.signupgenius.com/
tabs/13576de05a0c8eccfa81-church](https://https://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/13576de05a0c8eccfa81-church)
Megan Seamann.....meseamann@archomaha.org

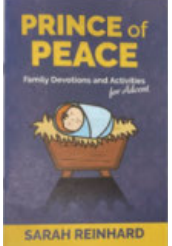
ADVERTISE FOR YOUR MINISTRY GROUP

Does your parish ministry group have opportunities for others to get involved? Contact Megan Seamann, meseamann@archomaha.org, about getting your parish ministry group opportunities advertised.

FREE ADVENT BOOKS

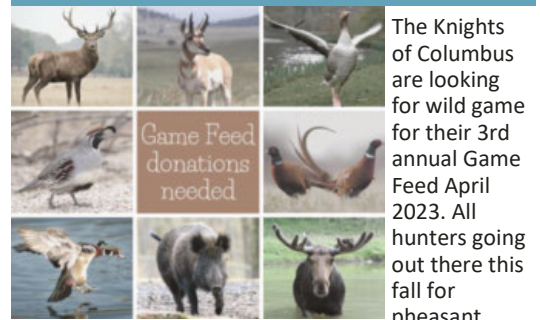
Devotions for the Family

St. Patrick is offering an Advent devotionals this year called *Prince of Peace Family Devotions and Activities for Advent*. This is a great devotional especially for families with young children that includes a brief reflection, prayer, and action to do as a family. You can pick up your family's copy in the narthex.



GAME FEED DONATIONS

3rd Annual Game Feed—April 2023



The Knights of Columbus are looking for wild game for their 3rd annual Game Feed April 2023. All hunters going out there this fall for pheasant, quail, duck, goose, deer, boar, elk, jerky, summer sausage, and antelope please keep us in mind for a donation. Please reach out to Bruce Jefferies at 402-521-4262 or bjefferies16117@gmail.com with your donations. Thank you.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- AL-ANON (ALCOHOLIC FAMILY SUPPORT—OMAHA)**
Phone.....402-553-5033
Website.....al-anon.org
- BOYS TOWN NATIONAL HOTLINE**
Phone.....1-800-448-3000
Website.....www.boystown.org
- CATHOLIC ANSWERS**
Phone.....1-888-318-7884
Website.....www.catholic.com
- CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**
Grief & Healing Counselor.....402-391-3711
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Gretna.....402-332-3475
- CATHOLIC CHARITIES—OMAHA**
Phone.....402-554-0520
Website.....ccomaha.org
- CATHOLIC VOICE ONLINE**
Website.....catholicvoiceomaha.com
- COURAGE (PASTORAL SUPPORT—SAME-SEX ATTRACTION)**
Phone.....402-557-5692
Website.....couragerc.org
- EWTN (GLOBAL CATHOLIC TELEVISION NETWORK)**
Phone.....1-800-447-3986
Website.....www.ewtn.com
- HOLY FAMILY SHRINE**
Phone.....402-332-4565
Website.....holyfamilyshrine.com
- LEAST OF MY BRETHREN (SUPPORT HOMELESS)**
Phone.....402-681-5424
Website.....leastofmybrethren.org
- MARRIAGE RESOURCES**
For Your Marriage.....www.foryourmarriage.org
Retrouvaille.....1-800-470-2230
Retrouvaille.....www.helpourmarriage.org
- MASS TIMES NATIONWIDE**
Phone.....1-858-207-6277
Website.....www.masstimes.org
- NEBRASKA HOMESCHOOL NETWORK**
Website.....nebraskahomeschool.org
- POPE PAUL VI INSTITUTE (FERTILITY HELP)**
Phone.....402-390-6600
Website.....www.popepaulvi.com
- RACHEL'S VINEYARD (ABORTION HEALING)**
Phone.....1-866-482-5433
Website.....www.rachelsvineyard.org
- SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO—FM 102.7**
Phone.....402-571-0200
Website.....www.spiritcatholicradio.com
- ST. BENEDICT CENTER (RETREATS IN SCHUYLER)**
Phone.....402-352-2177
Website.....christthekingpriory.com/sbcabout
- ST. JOHN PAUL II NEWMAN CENTER**
Phone.....402-557-5575
Website.....jpiiomaha.org
- STRIVE (BREAK FREE FROM PORNOGRAPHY)**
Phone.....989-720-8000
Website.....strive21.com
- WOMEN'S CENTER FOR ADVANCEMENT (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, ETC.)**
24/7 Hotline.....402-345-7273
Website.....wcaomaha.org

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

HEALING PRAYER—RESURRECTION CEMETERY, EVERY WEDNESDAY DURING ADVENT



The Catholic Cemeteries of the Archdiocese of Omaha invites those who have lost loved ones to join us each Wednesday of Advent at 6 PM in Holy Angels Mausoleum at Resurrection Cemetery (7800 W Center Rd, Omaha). We will pray for your peace and healing as we await the coming of the Christ Child. Come and leave your petitions at the Christmas Remembrance Tree. Your petitions will be offered in prayer during all of

Advent and presented silently during the January 2023 Memorial Mass. For further information, please contact Deacon Jim Tardy at 402-391-3711 or jtardy@catholiccem.com.

FAR HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM—ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR, DECEMBER 10

PARENTS: All teenagers should attend this event! Join us as Teresa Kenney of *The Hormone Genius Podcast* presents "How we ought to appreciate the genius of our God-given bodies" on Saturday, December 10 at St. Stephen the Martyr Parish Center (16701 S St, Omaha) from 7 to 8 PM. The Faith and Reason series, or F.A.R., is an opportunity for high school age students to learn about and discuss the Catholic teaching around tough cultural issues they're facing today. Registration is \$10. Parents attend free with registered teen. This program is presented by the Evangelium Institute.



IPF ADVENT MORNING OF REFLECTION—CHRIST THE KING, DECEMBER 10



Join the Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) for an Advent Morning of Reflection, Saturday, December 10 at Christ the King Church in Omaha. The morning begins with the 8:15 parish Mass, includes a continental breakfast, presentations by the IPF Staff, time for silent reflection, and concludes at noon. There is no charge for the event, however a

free will offering for the refreshments will be gratefully accepted. For planning purposes, please register online at www.priestlyformation.org or call Tina at 531-272-8490.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE—ROEDERS MORTUARY, DECEMBER 10

We realize that facing the holidays can be difficult, especially following the loss of a loved one during the trials of the past few years. We hope you can join us for a service featuring a message of comfort and hope, as well as special Christmas music and readings on Saturday, December 10 at 2 PM at Roeder Mortuary (110710 Standing Stone Dr, Gretna Chapel). Refreshments and cookies will be served, and grief information as well as a special ornament will also be provided.



HEART OF A CHILD CHRISTMAS FINE ART SHOW—ST. WENCESLAUS, DECEMBER 10, 11



You're invited to the 3rd Annual Heart of a Child Christmas Fine Art Show at St. Wenceslaus Parish (15353 Pacific Street, Omaha) on Saturday, December 10 after the 5 PM Mass or on Sunday, December 11 from 8AM to 2 PM. There will be 15 different artists showing and selling their artwork. Purchase beautiful Christmas gifts and support our

mission of changing the heart of the nation by showing the heart of the child. A portion of the proceeds benefit Heart of a Child Ministries.

CHRISTMAS WITH PEDER EIDE—RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH, DECEMBER 18

Hello from Resurrection Lutheran Church in Gretna (153 S. McKenna Ave)! We are inviting you to join us for Christmas with national touring Christian artist Peder Eide and his daughter Allison Eide on Sunday, December 18 at 7 PM. Find the event details and tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/b/ne-gretna/music/>. We hope to see you there! Questions, contact Beth Rippe at 402-681-6946.



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