

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET

GRETNA, NE 68028



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. - Mt 2:10-11a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPI

JANUARY 8, 2023



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.....@spatgretnane
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

The Epiphany of the Lord

FIRST READING (IS 60:1-6)

Nearly five hundred years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah foresaw a time when all the nations of the world would see the glory of the Lord shining upon the people of Israel. How do you think the birth of Jesus reveals to the world the glory of God?

SECOND READING (EPH 3:2-3A, 5-6)

Paul wrote of the “mystery” that was revealed to him, namely, the Gentiles and the Jews (all believers) were “coheirs” and “copartners,” equal members in the body of Christ. How can we celebrate this wonderful message of inclusivity with others?

GOSPEL (MT 2:1-12)

Matthew includes the story of the visit of the magi to teach us how the birth of Jesus fulfills the prophecies of Isaiah (first reading) and the prophecies of Micah (Mi 5:1), the prophetic text that Matthew quotes. Who are some people today you think need to hear about Jesus?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



A friend of mine is a young priest who teaches high school physics at a Catholic boys’ prep school. Like many today, the boys often think science and religion are enemies. So, he delights in their raised eyebrows when he reminds them his first full-time job as a priest was to be an astrophysicist. He cataloged the size, shape, and matter of distant stars. He tells them, “Science gave me more love for God, not less.”

The Magi were something like scientist-astronomers. Like today’s scientists, they employed disciplined methods of discovering dependable patterns in the world. Their rigorous commitment to the truth led them to the joy of discovering Jesus. Their love for knowledge leads them to worship the Source of all knowledge. Luke says of them, “They were overjoyed at seeing the star.”

We may see the universe as cold and empty and feel sad. But why should we do that? The Magi, like my priest-friend, show us there is another way to experience the world. We use our intelligence to discover the beautiful patterns in the world—in mathematics, physics, astronomy, biology, neuroscience, and so on—and allow this to lead us to greater love for God. So, my fellow Magi: the world needs us to be overjoyed at finding God in science and, finally and fully, in Jesus.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

How are the feasts of the baptism of Jesus and the account of the wedding feast of Cana related to the Epiphany celebration?

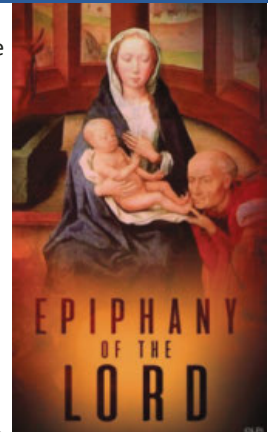
ANSWER:

The Epiphany season focuses on revealing Jesus to the world. Following the Christmas celebration, the liturgical year lays out a series of manifestation points in which Jesus is made publicly known. From its very beginning, the Christian community highlighted three events in the life of Jesus. These are the Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord, and the wedding feast at Cana.

The Epiphany discloses Jesus to the world of the Gentiles, represented by the magi from the East. The accounts of Jesus' baptism reveal His identity and mission, along with exposing Him to those to whom He was sent to minister. The miracle of turning water to wine at the wedding feast of Cana, unique to John's Gospel, is the first public sign that Jesus performs, thus manifesting His public identity and His powers.

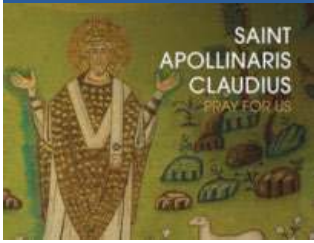
Today in the Roman Church, these are usually celebrated on three successive Sundays: Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord which is usually the next Sunday, and the wedding feast of Cana, which is proclaimed on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time in lectionary year C.

These feasts connect around the concept of epiphany, public manifestation of Jesus to the world. They help us get to know more intimately who Jesus is and what He is about. Spend some time delving more deeply into your understanding of who Jesus is. Continue to cultivate these "epiphany" moments in your life.



ST. APOLLINARIS CLAUDIUS

Bishop

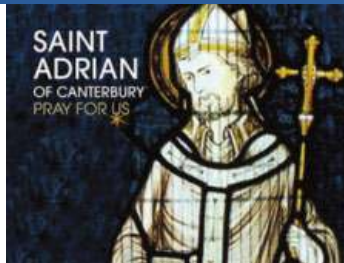


St. Apollinaris Claudius (2nd c.), also called St. Apollinaris of Hierapolis, was a bishop in what is today Turkey. He became famous for his polemical writings against the heretics of his day, showing that their theological errors were taken from the pagans. His most famous work was an Apologia for the Christians addressed to Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius in the year 177 A.D. In it he reminded the Emperor of a miracle he received because of the Christians: when his army was nearly defeated in an attempt to conquer the Germanic barbarians, it was the prayers of the Christians among his soldiers which obtained the needed relief and the military victory, even though Christianity was illegal. In light of this miracle, Apollinaris requested the Emperor's protection of Christians from persecution. St. Apollinaris' work earned him the moniker, "Apollinaris the Apologist." His writings are largely lost, and what we know of his work comes to us from other early Christian writers including Sts. Jerome and Eusebius. His feast day is January 8.

ST. ADRIAN OF CANTERBURY

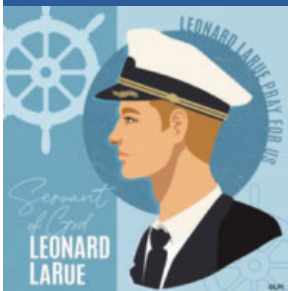
Abbot

St. Adrian of Canterbury (d. 710 A.D.), also known as St. Hadrian, was a native of North Africa who was sent to England to accompany his friend, Theodore of Tarsus, who was appointed to the prestigious archbishopric of Canterbury. St. Adrian was originally offered and turned down the ecclesiastical position, and instead was made abbot of St. Augustine's Abbey at Canterbury (originally called the Monastery of St. Peter). The monastic school grew and thrived under his leadership, and became an important center of learning where many future scholars, bishops, and abbots were educated in Latin, Greek, scripture, theology, Roman law, arithmetic, and other subjects. St. Adrian himself was well known for being a great teacher of religion, math, science, and literature. He also served as the Holy Father's assistant and adviser. During the lives of Adrian and Theodore, education and learning flourished in England. After his death, his tomb became famous for miracles. His feast day is January 9.



LEONARD LARUE

Servant of God



Leonard LaRue, or, Benedictine Brother Marinus LaRue O.S.B., had his cause officially opened for sainthood in June 2021. This incredible man was born in Philadelphia on January 14, 1914, and died on October 14, 2001, at the age of 87. While captaining the 7,600-ton U.S. Merchant Marine ship, the SS Meredith Victory, during the Korean war, Leonard led the largest humanitarian rescue operation by a single vessel in history, whether during war or civilian conditions. Under his leadership, his crew and he evacuated 14,000 Korean refugees, including women and children, to safety. To accomplish this, he swiftly unloaded all cargo from the

freighter and allowed as many refugees as could possibly fit into the five empty cargo spaces and onto the deck. Despite the extreme cold, lack of adequate food and water, the fact that the crew didn't know Korean, and the refugees didn't know English, communist submarines hunting for them, and constant shelling and fighting nearby, he managed to transport all 14,000 refugees 490 miles southeast to safety. They arrived at Geojje Island on Christmas day with no injuries along with 5 additional people added to their numbers as 5 women gave birth during the treacherous two-day ordeal. LaRue's successful deliverance of those under his protection spoke volumes of his bravery and love of those who were victims of war and violence. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration, his mission is remembered as a Christmas miracle and "One of the greatest marine rescues in the history of the world." Captain LaRue remained in command of the Meredith Victory until it was decommissioned in 1952. Inspired by the Benedictine monks, Leonard entered St. Paul Benedictine Abbey in New Jersey as a monk in 1954 shortly after the decommissioning of his ship. There, he lived out the rest of his life as Brother Marinus LaRue in prayer among the brothers of his religious community. He was the Abbey's dishwasher, bell ringer, and gift shop attendant.



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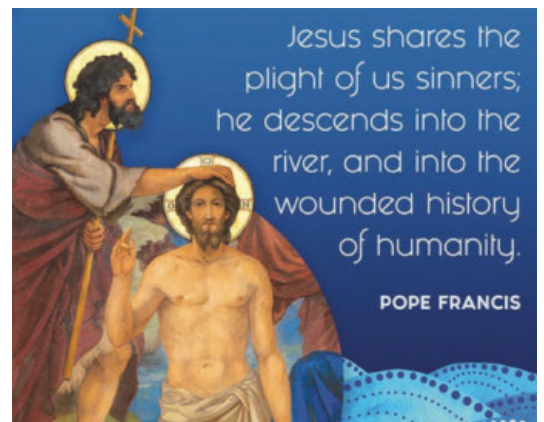
READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Acts 10:34-38/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 (11b)/Mt 3:13-17
TUESDAY: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:21-28 or Heb 1:1-6 and 2:5-12/Mk 1:14-20 and 1:21-28
WEDNESDAY: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9//Mk 1:29-39
THURSDAY: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/Mk 1:40-45
FRIDAY: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/Mk 2:1-12
SATURDAY: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17
NEXT SUNDAY: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

MONDAY: The Baptism of the Lord
FRIDAY: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
NEXT SUNDAY: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING
January 25, February 1, and 8

Altar Server Training will be on Wednesday evenings for three consecutive weeks starting January 25 and ending February 8. There will be TWO training sessions per day, the first being from 4 PM to 5 PM, and the second being from 5:15 PM to 6:15 PM. If they sign up for a training session during their scheduled RE class, they can attend one of the other RE classes before or after their usual class time. Please go to the parish website for more information and how to register!



CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH
Women's Weekend: February 25-26



Are you a busy mom looking for a break? Have you been away from the faith for awhile and want to get reconnected to Jesus? Maybe you're new to the parish and are looking for a way to get involved and meet new people? If you've answered yes to any or all of these questions, the Christ

Renews His Parish Renewal Weekend might be just the thing you're looking for. Enjoy a weekend away and focused on spiritual renewal and community building. Find out more and register now at stpatricksgretna.org.

SEMINARIAN PRAYER CORNER

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

This week let us pray for **Andrew Nigro** (Propaedeutic Year at St. Paul Seminary) from St. Gerald in Ralston.

"And after they came into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary; and they fell down and worshiped Him." God has chosen each person in Christ for a particular vocation. If He may be calling you to be holy and worship Him through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, contact Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.



PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

We, the community of St. Patrick, continue to pray for all our parishioners and their deceased family members and loved ones.



Name.....Date of Death.....Place of Burial

Irene Helen Wagner.....12/27/2022.....Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

Vincent "Vince" Burke.....12/31/2022.....Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

50TH ANNUAL NEBRASKA WALK FOR LIFE
Saturday, January 28



Join us at the 50th Annual Nebraska Walk for Life in Lincoln. St. Patrick is renting a 57 passenger bus to travel together. We will leave at 7 AM from the church parking lot on Saturday, January 28. We will attend Mass at St. Mary in Lincoln and then gather for the walk outside the State Capitol building where numerous leaders from our state will speak about ways we can make Nebraska more pro-life. The walk will lead us to the UNL Student Union where Dr. John Bruchalski will be the keynote speaker. Dr. John Bruchalski will describe how a return to his faith sparked a personal transformation from performing abortions to becoming a leading light in pro-life medicine. Located in Fairfax, Virginia, his Tepeyac OB/GYN is one of the largest pro-life medical practices in the nation and serves as a safe haven for women in unplanned pregnancies. His journey is described in his book, *Two Patients: My Conversion From Abortion to Life-Affirming Medicine*. There will be meals available for purchase in the Student Union or nearby fast food restaurant. Save your seat and RSVP on our parish website, stpatricksgretna.org. Questions can be directed to Duane Benes at 402-250-6612.

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING
20+C+M+B+23

You may have seen it before over the doorway of a Catholic friend: 20+C+M+B+22 chalked on the lintel. This means that your friend's house has been blessed with a very special, very old custom. The custom echoes the Passover, wherein the Jewish people would sprinkle lamb's blood over their doorways as an invocation of God's blessing for their household. The Epiphany Blessing is performed near the feast of the Epiphany, which commemorates the visit of the Three Wise Men. Blessed chalk is now used to mark the doorways for this Catholic blessing. It's a tradition that began in Eastern Europe. After Epiphany, the village priest went to every home in his parish with specially-blessed Epiphany water and chalk. Upon entering the home, he prayed special prayers and blessed every room in the house.



Bless, O Lord, almighty God, this home so that in it there may be health, chastity, victorious strength, humility, goodness and mildness, obedience to God's laws and acts of thanks to God the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, and may this Blessing remain upon this house and upon all who dwell in it. Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

After this the numbers of the year, enclosing the initials of the Magi (Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar) are written with the blessed chalk over the door. The Magi's initials also stand for a Latin house blessing: *Christus mansionem benedicat* (May Christ bless this house). Now that parishes have increased in size and priests are no longer able to visit every home, the head of the household is permitted to perform a basic Epiphany house blessing himself.

—Article Adapted From *The Catholic Company*

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS

6:30 PM on January 30 at St. John Paul II Newman Center



Join the Serra Club of West Omaha on Monday, January 30, for a beautiful *Holy Hour for Vocations* at the St. John Paul II Newman Center (1221 S. 71st St, Omaha) beginning with a brief meet-and-greet in the Karol Commons Student Center at 6:30 PM followed by the Holy Hour at 7 PM in the Chapel. The presiders will be Fr. Dan Andrews, Director of the JP II Newman Center, and Fr. Frank Baumert, Chaplain of the Serra Club of West Omaha. Together we will pray a Rosary for Vocations before the Blessed Sacrament, exposed in a special Serra traveling monstrance that was blessed by Pope St. John Paul II. We will also recite the Litany for Vocations and spend time in silent adoration as we pray for an increase in vocations throughout the Archdiocese of Omaha. Please show your support and invite your family, friends, and guests to join us! If you are interested in helping to build the Church locally through vocations support, contact Bruce Jefferies, Serra VP, at westomaha@serrainternational.org. Learn more at serrawestomaha.org and follow us on Facebook @serrawestomaha.

"The Eucharist is a priceless treasure: by not only celebrating it but also by praying before it outside of Mass we are enabled to make contact with the very wellspring of grace."
—Pope St. John Paul II

Stewardship Report

Dec. 14-20, 2022

General Contributions	Dec. 14-20	Fiscal YTD thru Dec. 20
Sunday's Offering - Dec. 17-18	\$55,379.15	\$573,361.19
Other Contributions	\$1,581.35	\$34,095.89
Total General Contributions	\$56,960.50	\$607,457.08 *
Surplus/Deficit	\$32,210.50	\$13,457.08
Fiscal Year-to-Date Income		\$657,216.85
Fiscal Year-to-Date Expenses		\$689,601.64
Fiscal Year-to-Date Net Income		(\$32,384.79) **

Dec. 21-27, 2022

General Contributions	Dec. 21-27	Fiscal YTD thru Dec. 27
Sunday's Offering - Dec. 24-25	\$17,412.00	\$589,318.19
Other Contributions	\$20,419.89	\$54,515.78
Total General Contributions	\$37,831.89	\$643,833.97 *
Surplus/Deficit	\$13,081.89	\$25,083.97
Fiscal Year-to-Date Income		\$693,593.74
Fiscal Year-to-Date Expenses		\$703,424.88
Fiscal Year-to-Date Net Income		(\$9,831.14) **

Dec. 28, 2022-Jan. 3, 2023

General Contributions	Dec. 28-Jan.3	Fiscal YTD thru Jan. 3
Sunday's Offering - Dec. 31-Jan. 1	\$49,759.96	\$639,078.15
Other Contributions	\$13,175.45	\$67,691.23
Total General Contributions	\$62,935.41	\$706,769.38 *
Surplus/Deficit	\$38,185.41	\$63,269.38
Fiscal Year-to-Date Income		\$757,729.15
Fiscal Year-to-Date Expenses		\$714,100.19
Fiscal Year-to-Date Net Income		\$43,628.96 **

* 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



KNIGHTS IN ACTION

A group of local St. Patrick Knights and their families helped parked cars for Christmas Eve Masses. Thank you to all who came out in the cold to help!



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 2022 AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to all the award winners! Thank you for your service to the Knights, our parish, and the community!



Knight of the Year—Marty Stednitz
Lady Knight of the Year—Jeanne Krajicek
Family of the Year—the Al and Karen Wilde Family
Rookie of the Year—Matt Henry
Knights Helping Hands Award—Hallie Schultz

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, JANUARY 9TH

No Communion Service or Mass

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10TH

6:00 PM † Agnes Stigge

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11TH

7:30 AM † Caryl Cooper Biel and
† Toni Cooper

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12TH

7:30 AM The Holy Souls in Purgatory

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13TH

7:30 AM † Marge Wagner

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH

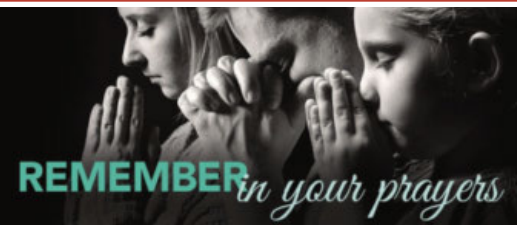
5:00 PM † Frank Roh

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH

8:00 AM For Our Parishioners
10:00 AM Marshall and Brianne Lane
12:00 PM † Jerry Lambert

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 Vince, Jo Anne Lyons (mom of Theresa Gulizia), Marolyn, Lil Herbstritt, Brad, and Deacon David Medeiros. Pray for 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, JANUARY 8TH—THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD—NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Parish Breakfast—Parish Center and Kitchen

MONDAY, JANUARY 9TH

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Women’s CRHP—Youth Group Room
6:30 PM to 8:15 PM American Heritage Girls—Basement Commons
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Baptism Class—Father Hitch Room

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10TH

5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM CRHP Team 13—Father Hitch Room
6:30 PM to 6:40 PM Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion (after Mass)—Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11TH

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
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM St. Rose Guild—Father Hitch Room
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, JANUARY 12TH

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13TH

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Least of My Brethren—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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH—THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary and Narthex

SECOND COLLECTION FOR OUR SEMINARIANS

This Weekend—January 7-8



This weekend, January 7-8, we will have a second collection in support of our Archdiocese of Omaha seminarians. The seminary collection, along with other gifts to the seminary fund, enables the Archdiocese of Omaha to cover educational costs and pay stipends for living expenses for its students in major and minor seminaries. A year’s seminary education averages nearly \$40,000. The Archdiocese of Omaha

doesn’t require seminarians to repay their costs if they fail to complete their studies all the way to ordination, unlike some Catholic dioceses. Please consider supporting our seminarians in prayer as well as financially. You can find more information about each of our seminarians at <https://archomaha.org/vocations/seminary-life/>.

Gracious God, bless our seminarians, may the Holy Spirit inspire and give them the courage and enthusiasm for their vocation. Guide them to become prayerful and holy priests, men with hearts like our Lord, prepared to serve the Church and give their lives for Christ. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

JANUARY 14TH 5:00 PM	JANUARY 15TH 8:00 AM	JANUARY 15TH 10:00 AM	JANUARY 15TH NOON
Sacristan Pat Gilmore	Sacristan Joan Ingram	Sacristan Andi Towey	Sacristan Ginny Giebelhaus
Lectors Jayne Schram (Read the 1st Reading)	Lectors Marty Stednitz (Read the 1st Reading)	Lectors David Burke (Read the 1st Reading)	Lectors Kelly Eby (Read Both 1st and 2nd Readings)
Need Sub (Read the 2nd Reading)	Claudia Perchal (Read the 2nd Reading)	Michael Chatterson (Read the 2nd Reading)	Stephanie Lampe (Standby: if a Sub is Needed)
EMHCs Bridget Blum Barb Applegate Sheri French Beth Hurd	EMHCs Duane Benes Deb Benes Jerry Thoendel Need Sub Deacon Larry Heck	EMHCs Bridget Chatterson Cleo Nienaber Dennis Cannon Phyllis Cannon	EMHCs Jennifer Loosvelt Delma Stoner Ginny Giebelhaus Norma Hintz Deacon Ken Broz
Ushers Ken Beckman Pat Calvert Don Garrison Chad Soupir	Ushers Paul Polt Larry Scheef Pat Shurtliff Bob Sis	Ushers Dan Dauner Kathy Dauner Tom Nienaber Andy Pearson	Ushers Linda Gardner Ginny Giebelhaus Carole Lisiecki Marty White
Rosary Reciter Ellie Clines	Rosary Reciter Theresa Huttman	Rosary Reciter Theresa Gulizia	Rosary Reciter Norm Svoboda
Altar Servers Need Sub Need Sub Need Sub	Altar Servers Andrew Kula Nick Kula Sarah Kula	Altar Servers Emmitt Dickes Owen Dickes Need Sub	Altar Servers Need Sub Need Sub Need Sub
Greeters Joe Krajicek Therese Nisbet	Greeters Steve Ingram Sally Stednitz	Greeters Jim Hottovy Andrew Urban	Greeters Joann Dalley Carole Lisiecki
	Hilcrest SR Gene Schwarting Kathy Schwarting		

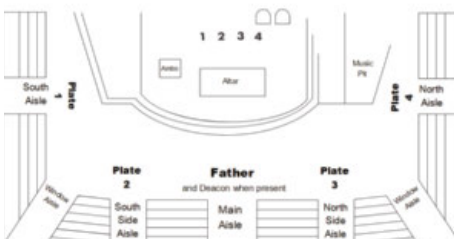


ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

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
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DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION	Hannah Penson.....402-332-3050 hmpenson@archomaha.org
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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

EMHC STATION MAP



EMHC Positions (see diagram above):

- 1) South Aisle
- 2) South Side Aisle
- 3) North Side Aisle
- 4) North Aisle
- 5) Main Aisle—Father and Deacon when present

If you are unable to serve at your assigned time, please find a substitute. The Parish Office greatly appreciates your help, support and patience as we work together in providing Mass to our parish family!

Vocations Crucifix
John Roll

The Vocations Crucifix can be picked up after any of the weekend Masses from the Sacristy, and should be returned before the following weekend.

EPIPHANY





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER *Tickets on Sale Now*



Join us for an evening of FOOD, FUN and FELLOWSHIP on Saturday, February 11! Our theme for this year's preschool fundraiser is "We Love our School". There will be a live auction, gift card runs, and fun games throughout the evening. Individual tickets are \$30 or you can purchase a table of eight for \$225. Tickets include a delicious meal prepared by Westra & Company, drinks, and entertainment. Purchase your tickets today at stpatricksgretna.org. Checks can be made payable to "St. Patrick Church" or pay by credit card in the office.

If you wish to sponsor the event with a cash donation or wish to donate a gift card of \$20 or more for our gift card run, please contact the Preschool office, Emily Ramm at emnahr@gmail.com, or Jackie Bauer at jaxr1219@yahoo.com.

VENI HOLY HOUR *Archomaha Young Adults*

All young adults in the archdiocese (ages 21-39) are invited to Veni, an evening of Adoration and fellowship at St. Cecilia Cathedral (701 N 40th St, Omaha) on Friday, January 13. Adoration begins at 7:30 PM in the Cathedral with a brief reflection from a priest and is followed by an after party in the parish center! Veni is held every second Friday of the month at the Cathedral. More information about getting involved in the Archdiocese Young Adult activities can be found at <https://www.archyoungadults.org>.



LOST AND FOUND *Does This Look Familiar to You?*



It doesn't take long for us to start accumulating lost items found around the Church. If anything here looks familiar, stop by the parish office during business hours to retrieve. You can also call the office, 402-332-4444, with any questions.

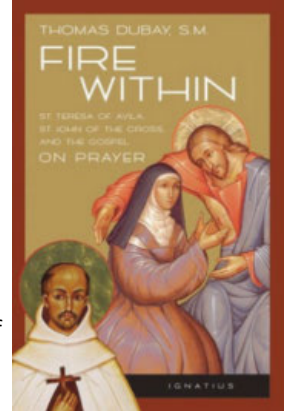


WHAT IS A "MYSTIC"?

A Term Often Associated with the Greatest of Saints

Mysticism is an intimidating word. We instinctively associate it with saints who had incredible supernatural experiences—such as St. John of the Cross; Padre Pio; Teresa of Ávila; Faustina Kowalska. These saints certainly were mystics. But what makes a mystic a *mystic*? Is it an inaccessible reality, something beyond us everyday mortals? Let's find out.

The word "mysticism" refers either to the tendency or the desire of a soul for union with the divine, or to a philosophical or religious system built upon that desire. Interestingly, mysticism is found not only in Christianity; other religions have an idea that the ultimate end of man is union with something divine. It seems that there is an innate mystical impulse in all of us—an impulse that must be very strong if it is found even in religions that don't possess the fullness of truth. Well, it "seems like" it's in our nature because it is. St. Augustine said: "Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee." The human heart longs (whether knowingly or unknowingly) for final union with God and the beatific vision consists in exactly that.



We can tap into mystical realities right here on earth through prayer, and we don't have to be great saints to do it. The saints themselves—especially St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Ávila—have taught us how to pray. While the higher levels of mystical prayer—such as "unitive" prayer—take time to acquire (and not everyone will achieve the same levels), the pathway is open to us all. We can embark on it and follow that impulse towards God which He has planted in all our hearts. But be careful. As said above, many religions and pseudo-religions talk about mysticism. Only the Catholic Church, however, has the full truth and can teach us how to seek it properly. Non-Catholic mysticism is spiritually dangerous. Ignite your love of true mystical prayer with the book *Fire Within*. In this highly-accessible guide, spiritual director and retreat master Father Thomas Dubay introduces you to the prayer and spirituality of St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Ávila. It's a perfect starting point for deepening your prayer and living a truly mystical life.

—Article by *The Catholic Company*

PRIESTLY UNIFORM: THE ROMAN COLLAR *We all Recognize Priests by this Special Vesture*



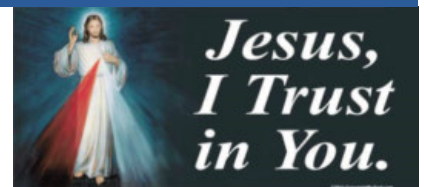
Priests began wearing the standard cassock about three or four hundred years before the iconic collar. In the interim, collars changed according to the times. Then, in 1624, the Church concluded that the time had come for clerical garb to have stricter guidelines. Why 1624? Well, collars had grown into major fashion statements by that time. No matter how plain or embellished the rest of the garb, the collar was the crown of it all. Linen was the most common material, but the high class could display impressive, filigree collars of lace. The fancier the collar, the wealthier the owner!

The Church, however, wished both the clergy and laity to always remember what a priest is: Christ's representative on earth, who is consecrated to God, and who embraces material poverty as did Our Lord. For a priest to wear collars of expensive materials was incongruous with this aspect of his calling. So Pope Urban VIII forbade ornamentation or lace and the Church regulated the fashionable collars to simple ones. Today, we are familiar with the most common form of this simple collar: the "Roman collar," with its simple white square.

—Article by *The Catholic Company*

DISTRUST IS TEARING AT MY INSIDES

"Jesus complained to me in these words, **Distrust on the part of souls is tearing at My insides. The distrust of a chosen soul causes Me even greater pain; despite My inexhaustible love for them they do not trust Me. Even My death is not enough for them. Woe to the soul that abuses these [gifts]** (St. Faustina's Diary, 50)."



**The words of Jesus appear in boldface type*

HOW DO I KNOW IF IT'S A MORTAL SIN?

Is it Wrong, Sinful, or Mortally Sinful—What's the Difference?

**REPENT
AND RESOLVE
TO SIN NO MORE!**



Everyone knows—or almost everyone does—that there are morally good actions and morally evil actions. But when is an action not only wrong, but sinful? And particularly mortally sinful? After all, as St. John says, “all wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin which is not mortal” just as “there is sin which is mortal” (1 John 5:16,17). A mortal sin is one that “destroys in us the charity without which eternal beatitude is impossible. Unrepented, it brings eternal death” (CCC 1874). That’s what makes it “mortal,” or deadly: it cuts us off from God forever, unless it is “redeemed by repentance and God’s forgiveness” (CCC 1861).

Thanks be to God, not every evil action is mortally sinful. So how do we know which is which? Just as there are three ingredients in evaluating a moral action (the object, intention, and circumstances), so there are three ingredients in a mortal sin: (1) “grave matter,” (2) “full knowledge,” and (3) “deliberate consent.” And the Catechism is clear that all “three conditions must together be met” (CCC 1857).

If all three are met, it’s mortally sinful. Otherwise, “one commits venial sin when, in a less serious matter, he does not observe the standard prescribed by the moral law, or when he disobeys the moral law in a grave matter, but without full knowledge or without complete consent” (CCC 1862). That’s still a problem, since venial sin “weakens charity” and “impedes the soul’s progress in the exercise of the virtues and the practice of the moral good,” and “deliberate and unrepented venial sin disposes us little by little to commit mortal sin,” but venial sin does not (of itself) “deprive the sinner of sanctifying grace, friendship with God, charity, and consequently eternal happiness” (CCC 1863).

What does “grave matter” mean? It means that the sin is serious. But how do we evaluate the seriousness of a sin? The Catechism is explicit about the grave nature of particular sins, including sacrilege (CCC 2120), blasphemy (CCC 2148), perjury (CCC 2152), deliberately avoiding Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation (2181), murder (2268), hatred of neighbor “when one deliberately desires him grave harm” (CCC 2303), prostitution (CCC 2355), sexual relations outside marriage (CCC 2390), and adulation that “makes one an accomplice in another’s vices or grave sins” (CCC 2480). St. Paul likewise gives lists in Galatians 5:19-21 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 of sins whose practitioners will not “inherit the kingdom of God.” But none of these lists is exhaustive.

More broadly, the Catechism says that “grave matter is specified by the Ten Commandments” (CCC 1858), pointing to Jesus’ words to the rich young man. When the man asks Him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”, Jesus answers, “You know the commandments: ‘Do not kill, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not defraud, honor your father and mother’” (Mark 10:17,19). Jesus’ clear implication seems to be that those who do commit adultery, steal, etc. shall not inherit eternal life.

Even here, there are two important caveats. On the one hand, not every violation of the Ten Commandments is a mortal sin. For instance, the person who steals a dollar is not necessarily damned. On the other hand, not every mortal sin is a direct and obvious violation of the Ten Commandments. St. Thomas Aquinas considers this objection directly in considering the sin of gluttony: “Every mortal sin is contrary to a precept of the Decalogue: and this, apparently, does not apply to gluttony.” Aquinas argues that gluttony is an indirect violation of the Third Commandment (keeping the Sabbath holy) by turning us away from holiness. That’s a strange answer, but he explains: “Mortal sins are not all directly opposed to the precepts of the Decalogue [Ten Commandments], but only those which contain injustice: because the precepts of the Decalogue pertain specially to justice and its parts.” In other words, the Ten Commandments lay out “the first principles” of the moral law; they’re not an exhaustive list of every serious sin. The right question is this: is this the kind of behavior that places something else above God or turns me away from God? If so, it’s grave matter.

In considering whether or not a sin is mortal, circumstances matter. For instance, the Catechism points out that “one must also take into account who is wronged: violence against parents is in itself graver than violence against a stranger” (CCC 1858). Likewise, stealing from the excess wealth of a millionaire is less evil than stealing the food of a starving man. Taking the example of lying, the Catechism explains how to determine the gravity of a sin: “The gravity of a lie is measured against the nature of the truth it deforms, the circumstances, the intentions of the one who lies, and the harm suffered by its victims. If a lie in itself only constitutes a venial sin, it becomes mortal when it does grave injury to the virtues of justice and charity” (CCC 2484).

—Article by Catholic Answers



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

LEAST OF MY BRETHREN

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go/30e0a4ea8ab2aa6fd0-lomb9](https://https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a4ea8ab2aa6fd0-lomb9)

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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.

THE CLOISTER ON THE PLATTE

Multiple Positions Available

The Cloisters on the Platte has multiple positions to fill at our retreat facility. We are hiring a full-time housekeeper, a full-time groundskeeper (that will also perform some security duties), and a part-time shuttle driver.

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HUMAN LIFE!



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ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

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- BOYS TOWN NATIONAL HOTLINE**
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- CATHOLIC ANSWERS**
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Website.....www.catholic.com
- CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**
Grief & Healing Counselor.....402-391-3711
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AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

HOLY HOUR FOR PRIESTS—OUR LADY OF LOURDES, JANUARY 12

Pope John Paul II said, "The world looks to the priest, because it looks to Jesus. No one can see Christ, but everyone sees the priest, and through him, they wish to catch a glimpse of the Lord. Immense is the Lord. Immense is the grandeur and dignity of the priest." Fr. Ralph O'Donnell will share his vocation story and lead prayers at 7 PM on Thursday, January 12 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church (2110 S 32nd Ave, Omaha). The Holy Hour includes adoration, benediction, communal and silent prayer, as well as music ministry. Invite young people and bring a friend.



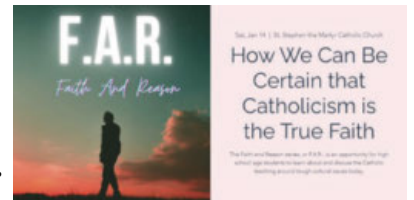
THE MIRACLE MEETING—ST. GERALD, JANUARY 13



Join us for a night of healing and life-changing revival at The Miracle Meeting at St. Gerald (9602 Q St, Ralston) on Friday, January 13 with worship by Ablaze at 6:30 PM and the healing service at 7 PM. Kris Kildosher has nearly two decades of experience as a traveling missionary, preacher, church planter, and ministry school founder. Having ministered in 22 nations face to face and in over 22 states to the Glory of God, Kris preaches with boldness and compassion for a generation to be made whole. Through Kris's ministry, mighty miracles of healing, great joy, and activation in the gifts of the Holy Spirit are poured out on God's people. Miracles happened through Jesus on earth, and they still happen today! Come and experience the healing power of God for you! Questions, email Jenny Wiswell at jwiswell@stgerald.org or call 402-331-1955.

HIGH SCHOOL FAITH AND REASON SERIES—ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR, JANUARY 14

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 today. Join us on Saturday, January 14 in the St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church (16701 S St, Omaha) parish center at 7 PM to hear Brandon Harvey present the topic: *How we can be certain that Catholicism is the true faith.*



Tickets are \$10 and can be found at <https://www.icatholic.org/upcoming-events>.

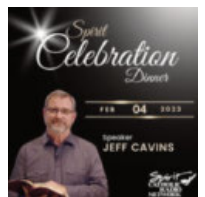
FIESTA SEÑOR—ST. CECILIA CATHEDRAL, JANUARY 15



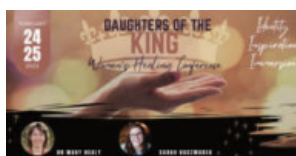
Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Michael Grewe, pastor of St. Cecilia Cathedral and Spiritual Director of the Cofradia del Santo Niño de Cebu of Greater Omaha, at St. Cecilia Cathedral (701 N 40th St, Omaha) at 11:30 AM on Sunday, January 15. Following Mass will be a procession inside the church. Don't forget to bring your Santo Niño statues for a blessing! A reception will follow afterwards in the St. Cecilia cafeteria. This Holy Mass will be live-streamed through St. Cecilia Cathedral website, <https://stceciliacathedral.org/>.

SPIRIT CELEBRATION DINNER—MIDAMERICA CENTER, COUNCIL BLUFFS, FEBRUARY 4

Attend the 2023 Spirit Celebration Dinner held Saturday evening, February 4 at the Mid America Center (1 Arena Way, Council Bluffs, IA)! This year, our special guest speaker will be Jeff Cavins. Reserve your seat by January 20 for \$50. We hope you will join your Spirit Catholic Radio family for a wonderful evening of faith and friendship! Reserve your seats at <https://spiritcatholicradio.com/dinner/>. Not familiar with Jeff Cavins? He is the host of our *Great Adventure Bible Study* series that can be heard on Spirit Catholic Radio multiple times during the week.



WOMEN'S HEALING CONFERENCE—ST. PATRICK, FREMONT, FEBRUARY 24-25



Attend the Daughters of the King Women's Healing Conference at St. Patrick (3400 E. 16th St, Fremont) on February 24-25. Answer the call to discover the identity you have in Christ's love with women all over the area! Open to women ages 14 and up (14-17 year olds must be with an adult). Find your identity by being immersed in the Life of the King with speakers Dr. Mary Healy—author, speaker, and Catholic Bible scholar—and Sarah Kaczmarek—Director of Pastoral Ministry for Encounter Ministries. For more information and to register visit, <https://www.stpatsfremont.org/conferences> or call 402-721-6611.

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