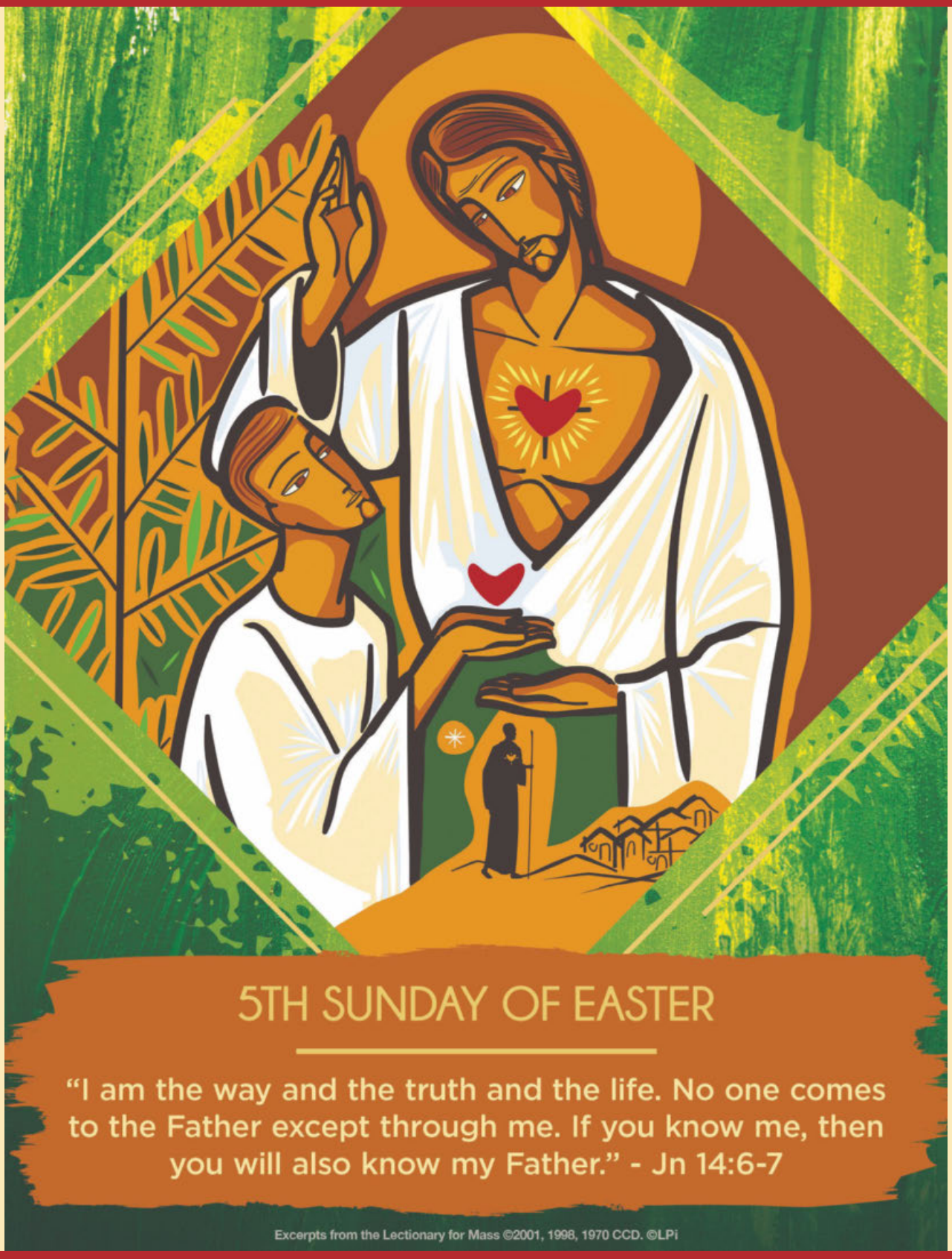
St. Patrick Catholic Church

508 W. Angus Street Gretna, NE 68028



May 7, 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.....@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
5th Sunday of Easter

First Reading (Acts 6:1-7)
We hear today of some of the practical problems (assisting widows) the early Christians faced with the growing Church in Jerusalem. They solved the problem with division of labor. Which of your co-workers or friends need your help this week to carry a burden?

Second Reading (1 Pt 2:4-9)
Peter contrasts those with faith who announce the praises of God to those without faith who disobey God's word. How do you react to family or friends who are without faith?

Gospel (Jn 14:1-12)
Jesus assured His disciples that "whoever believes in me will do the works that I do." How do you think you imitate Jesus?

Gospel Meditation

If you had to summarize the essential core of the Christian life, what would it be? Mercy, truth, or love, perhaps? The readings today suggest another word which may surprise you. That word is priesthood.

St. Peter says to us, "You are a 'chosen race, a royal priesthood…'" To be part of a priesthood is to offer a particular sacrifice in order for the community to survive and thrive. Jesus is the great high priest because He offers the one perfect sacrifice which heals and perfects the entire human race. Peter the Apostle wants us to know that all the baptized share in this priestly ministry. The whole of our lives, including every detail, is meant to become our acceptable offering to God.

The baptized exercise this priesthood in many ways, I'll mention three. At Sunday Mass, in private prayer, and in daily work. At Mass, we offer the sacrifice of our lives with that of the priest, who symbolizes Christ the Priest. In our prayer, a "morning offering" prayer is a great way to offer up all the joys and sufferings of the day to come. In our daily work, we sacrifice our time, comfort, money, and energy to do good for others. All this gives the deepest possible meaning to our lives: we share in the priesthood which saves the world. That's at the core of our faith.

Catholic Life Explained

Question:
Are Catholics obligated to attend Mass each Sunday, or receive Communion each Sunday?

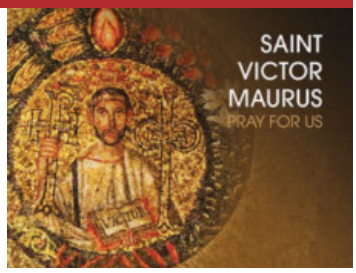
Answer:
The questions about Mass attendance and the reception of Holy Communion are clearly outlined in what are traditionally called the "Precepts" of the Church. These specific teachings are intended to stand alongside the Ten Commandments as fundamental practices for Catholics and are outlined in the Code of Canon Law. The obligations related to Mass attendance and receiving Communion are outlined in the first and third precepts, which we find quoted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (no. 2042):

The first precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor") requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honoring the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.

The third precept ("You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season") guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy.

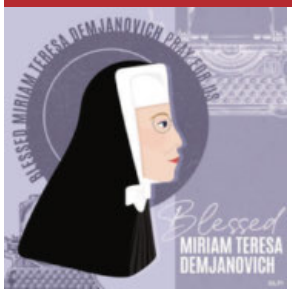
Rather than seeing these as obligations that are simply to be fulfilled out of a sense of duty, Pope Saint John Paul II reminds us of the grace that is made available to us when we gather for Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist: "Sunday is the day which is at the very heart of the Christian life… Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human" (Dies Domini, no. 7).

St. Victor Maurus
Martyr



St. Victor Maurus (d. 303 A.D.), also known as Victor the Moor and Victor of Milan, was born in Mauretania (North Africa) in a Christian household. He later relocated to Milan, Italy, as a soldier of the Praetorian Guard that served Roman Emperor Maximian during his persecution of Christians. Although Victor was a Christian since childhood, this fact was not widely known until he destroyed an altar to a pagan god. The Emperor, infuriated, had Victor imprisoned and starved for six days. The Emperor then gave him every chance to recant his faith, including offering him riches, but Victor refused each attempt. He was then tortured mercilessly, unless he would offer sacrifice to the gods, by being stretched on the rack and having molten lead poured over his body. Victor remained steadfast and boldly proclaimed his faith in Christ, declaring that the Roman gods were demons. Finally the saint was beheaded on May 8 in the year 303 A.D. The Emperor refused him burial so that wild beasts would consume his body. However, after six days the body was discovered untouched with two beasts guarding it at the head and foot. The local bishop then received permission to bury the body. A church was later erected over Victor's grave and many miracles occurred there. St. Victor's feast day is May 8.

Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich
Religious



Miriam Teresa Demjanovich was the seventh and youngest child of Ruthenian immigrants to the USA from what is now Eastern Slovakia. She grew up in Bayonne, New Jersey and, after graduating from high school, wanted to become a Carmelite sister. Instead, she stayed in the family home to care for her ailing mother who later died of the influenza epidemic of November 1918. Teresa then went on to graduate summa cum laude from the College of Saint Elizabeth at Convent Station, New Jersey with a degree in literature. After years of discernment and a novena specifically prayed to help her discover which congregation she was called to join, she entered the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth and received her religious habit as a novice on May 17, 1925. During her short time as a postulant and novice, before her death, Teresa taught at the Academy of St. Elizabeth in Convent Station where she was originally educated. Prompted by her spiritual director, she wrote a series of conferences on the spiritual life for use in the education of the other novices. These 26 conferences would later be published under the title *The Greater Perfection; A means of achieving union with God through prayer* and the book is still available to this day from the Sisters of Charity's online bookstore. Shortly into her second year in the congregation, Teresa became very ill. After a tonsillectomy, months of illness, and, eventually, an operation for appendicitis, she passed away on May 8, 1927. Before her passing, though, she made her profession of permeant religious vows from her hospital bed. Her funeral was held on May 11, and she was buried on the grounds of her congregation's motherhouse at the Holy Family Cemetery in Convent Station, New Jersey. Throughout her short life, Teresa was known for her contemplative and mystic relationship with God as well as her incredible compassion and selflessness toward others. While in college, her friends nicknamed her Treat and would seek her out for guidance, help, and support. She was very active in the community life of whatever school, church, or congregation she was involved in. She spent time helping with many different ministries, singing in choirs, and spending time with friends by going out on the town shopping and attending concerts. Despite all of these activities and a packed social schedule, she was known to always find time to go to the chapel to pray and could be frequently found there in-between classes and her social engagements. Her life mission resonates clearly throughout her writings—to educate people about the universal call to holiness. In the first of the conferences in *The Greater Perfection* she writes, "The saints did but one thing—the will of God: But they did it with all their might." Teresa, too, strived to do the will of God with all her might and, after the official recognition of a miracle through her intercession, Pope Francis declared her Blessed on October 4, 2014, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, New Jersey. This was the first ever beatification ceremony held in the United States.

St. Patrick Catholic Church
Gretna, Nebraska

Readings This Week

Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Jn 15:1-8
Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11
Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12/Jn 15:12-17
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21
Next Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 (1)/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21

Observances This Week

Wednesday: St. John of Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church; St. Damien de Veuster, Priest
Friday: Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr
Saturday: Our Lady of Fatima
Next Sunday: 6th Sunday of Easter; Mother's Day

LoMB Show Gratitude
Costco Gift Card Drive

The Least of My Brethren food pantry would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Costco gift card drive during Lent. Due to your generosity, we were able to provide hamburger, chicken, and hotdogs for approximately 725 meals! If you would like to continue to support the Least of My Brethren food pantry, please see our board located in the narthex. "Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40) God Bless, LoMB

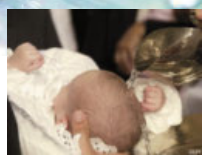
Spring Tea for Widows
And Their Daughters

St. Patrick Parish invites you to Spring Tea for Widows and their Daughters on Sunday, June 4 at 2 PM in the Parish Center. Com enjoy a lovely afternoon of fellowship and high tea refreshments. RSVP to Paula Penney at ppenney2@icloud.com or Kathy Hinderks at khinders@icloud.com.

Vocations Prayer Corner

O Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of the Church, to you we commend our young people, in particular those called to follow your Son as brothers, sisters, and priests. You know, O Mary, the struggles, doubts, and obstacles they must face. Assist them to answer yes to the divine call, as you did at the invitation of the angel. Draw them near to your heart so that they can understand the joy that awaits them when they answer your Son's call to be witnesses of His love in the world. Amen.

"If you know me, then you will also know my Father." Are you being called to do the work of the Lord as a priest, deacon, sister, or brother? If you are considering this possibility, contact Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.



Since our last update on April 9, one child has been baptized into the Body of Christ. We congratulate the parents and family members, and we welcome your little one into the Family of Faith! We are praying our Lord Jesus will bless, guide and inspire each of you in His love as you travel along your faith journey. Congratulations!

Name	*Date*
Lexi Jae Edwards	*4/30/2023*

Congratulations to Our Recent Newlyweds!

Last weekend, we were excited to host a wedding! Congratulations to the newlyweds as you share your life together! We will keep you in our prayers and wish you both the very best!

Couple	*Date*
Matthew Kienow and Jamie Goblirsch	*4/29/2023*

Congratulations to Our Confirmandi
8th Graders Confirmed This Weekend

We pray for blessings and abundant gifts from the Holy Spirit upon our Confirmandi, getting Confirmed this Sunday. May they recognize the Spirit dwelling within them and build confidence in hearing the Lord's voice when He speaks to them.

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Alisia Bernadette Aldana
Rylan Raphael Anderson
Hadley Anthony Babe
Jaxson Vitus Belitz
India Aloysius Biltoft
Caden Michael Campbell
Kailynn Louise Carlstedt
Camden Sebastian Cerone
MacKinzie Elizabeth Craven
Andrew Andrew Dearking
Levi Matthew Dorram
Adam Michael Eusterwiemann
Kade Peter Evans
Macie John Feyerabend
Kaylee Dymphna Frederick
Noah Patrick Galles
Lucas Sebastian Hack
Brooke Cecilia Hamele
John Michael Hauptman
Richard Patrick Hayes
Brodie Peter Heese
Libby Elizabeth Hegge
Henry Sebastian Hildebrand
Calvin Benedict Hoye
Abraham John Paul Isaacson
Jayden Christopher Jackson
Jayden Paul Janky
Jack Sebastian Johnson
Jackson Michael Kafonek
Parker Michael Kafonek
Layne Hubertus Kenealy
Mylee Vitus Kester
Claire Anne Kuzel
Ava Sebastian McArtor
Maggie Teresa Meis
Beau Francis Nienaber
Halle Constance Nienaber
Max Andrew Pearson
Aidric Teresa Pfeifer
Grady Michael Phillips
Joseph Hubertus Pottebaum
Elliet Elizabeth Ann Pritchard
Taelyn Sebastian Rupiper
Karissa Christina Ryan
Bennett Sebastian Salvatore
Hallie Mary Schultz
Sophia Elizabeth Schwabe
Breckin Robert Sliva
Brennen Patrick Sliva
Adeline Francis Slocum
Dominic Francis Smith
Owen Sebastian Staab
Paige Mary Stone
Anisten Cecilia Swanson
Adena Teresa Taylor
Samantha Therese Thiellen
Sara Catherine Thiellen
Nataleigh Teresa Vela
Ava Clare Waters
Anna Sebastian Weberg
Brianna Cecilia Wegner
Elizabeth Rita Wegner
Amanda Cecilia Weis
Kelsey Catherine Williams
Emersyn Lucy Wragge

For Heaven's Sake...A Miracle in Our Narthex

The Tree of Life

By Jolene Jefferies with assistance from Jonathan Wotipka and Megan Seamann

On Friday afternoon, April 21, as I was coming out of the restroom heading back to my office, I happened to notice leaves coming out of Jesus' cross in the Narthex. I thought to myself, "Now I know those leaves weren't there when the three crosses were initially erected in the Narthex." I wondered in my mind, "Well, aren't those ladies in the flower guild so creative! Did they drill small holes in Jesus' cross and insert fake leaves? Hmmm, how clever!"

So then I walked closer to Jesus' cross, getting right up to it, to check out the leaves to see if they were fake or real. As I was inspecting them, out walks Jonathan Wotipka, our Youth Group Leader and Liturgical Minister, from the Parish Office. He had a big 'ole grin on his face. I asked him, "Hey, Jonathan, I just noticed Jesus' cross and these leaves. Are they real?"

At that moment, Jonathan had made his way over to me and we were standing together in front of the crosses. Jonathan replied with that big 'ole grin still on his face, "Yep, Jolene, they are real."

"No way, I just can't believe it, how incredible!" I responded. "It's truly the Tree of Life, wow!"

"I know," Jonathan said, "Father Baxter noticed them yesterday and he believes it's a small miracle. He told me to look more closely at Dismas' cross. Father noticed his cross is also growing just a few small leaves from it too, but obviously they are much less noticeable. And see how the bad thief's cross is completely dead, no leaves are growing from that one. Isn't all of this just amazing? Father took some pictures and sent them to a couple of his priest buddies to share the miracle with them."

REFLECTION

Of course we know that when Jesus was crucified, two thieves were also crucified with him. The impenitent or bad thief, Gestas, was on the cross to the left of Jesus while Dismas, the good thief, was on the cross to the right of Jesus. Recall what happened in Luke 24:39-43…

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us." The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply, "Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation? And indeed, we have been condemned justly, for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes, but this man has done nothing criminal." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Two of the three crosses in our Narthex—those belonging to Jesus and Dismas—have life coming from them, signifying both Jesus and Dismas are still alive and in Paradise with our Heavenly Father! But the cross of poor Gestas has no life; unfortunately, he didn't make it to Heaven because he didn't believe Jesus truly is the Son of God.

Continued on page 8—>

Preschool Registration Open to the Community

2023-2024 School Year

Register early for the 2023-2024 St. Patrick Preschool school year. Registration is now open to the greater Gretna community. Registration is on a first come first serve basis to get in your preferred class schedule. Visit our parish website https://stpatricksgretna.org/education/preschool/ to view your class options, pick which one will work best for your child, and get them registered soon! If you have any questions or want to schedule a tour, please call the preschool office at 402-332-3050.

Stewardship Report

See Future Bulletin for Updated Report

We were unable to print this week's Stewardship Report. We apologize for any inconvenience and please know that we will publish this week's report in a future bulletin. Thank you for your patience.

St. Patrick Catholic Church
Gretna, Nebraska

THE KNIGHT'S CORNER

Knights May Birthdays

Happy birthday to the brother Knights celebrating a birthday in the month of May!

May 2—Douglas Clark and Robert Ostdiek
May 3—Anthony Schultz
May 6—Kenneth Dukat
May 7—Jeffrey Wollenburg
May 8—Deacon Kenneth Broz, Craig Johring, and Ron VanOeveren
May 9—Robert Olson
May 11—Matthew Sakowski
May 12—Weston Reiman
May 14—Anthony Lempke
May 15—Gabe Ronk
May 16—Carson Horst
May 18—James Barnes and John Engler
May 26—Edward Blankman, Myron Deterding, Dustin Stednitz, and Tony Tiefenthaler
May 28—Kenneth Glover, Martin Jonas, and Kevin Kaup
May 30—Zachary Weber

Gretna Knights Council #10047 Website

Check out our new updated council website for all our happenings and more: https://www.kofc-gretna.org/.

Now is the Time to Become a Knight

Catholic men 18 years of age can join the Fr. John V. Wallace Knights Council #10047 at St. Patrick here in Gretna and your dues will be taken care of while you are in school up to four years by the Council. This includes trade schools, community colleges, and universities. Any Catholic men that are interested in learning more about the Knights of Columbus, please contact our Chancellor / Membership Director, Randy Meerian at rmeerian@gmail.com or 402-981-6471.

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, May 8th
No Communion Service or Mass

Tuesday, May 9th
6:00 PM † DeDra Robb

Wednesday, May 10th
7:30 AM † Bill Kappius

Thursday, May 11th
7:30 AM † Vince Burke

Friday, May 12th
7:30 AM Deacon Ken Broz and Family

Saturday, May 13th
5:00 PM † Caryl Cooper Biel and † Toni Cooper

Sunday, May 14th
8:00 AM All Mothers of the Parish, Living and Deceased
10:00 AM All Mothers of the Parish, Living and Deceased
12:00 PM All Mothers of the Parish, Living and Deceased

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 Ronald Baxter (Fr. Baxter's dad), Jim, Michael Honke (brother of Vicke Hodge), Marty Stednitz, Leanne Robb, and John and Wanda Jonas. Pray for Sharon Doran, Chris Wheeler, Norm Wiemers, Ed, Barb McMahon, Ian McGovern (son of Mark and Pam), Jo Anne Lyons (mom of Theresa Gulizia), and Marolyn. Pray for Lil Herbstritt, Brad, Deacon David Medeiros, Kathy Fitzpatrick, 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, May 7th—5th Sunday of Easter
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 Religious Education May Crowning—Sanctuary, Mary's Courtyard
12:00 PM to 2:00 PM 8th Grade Confirmation Set-up and Pictures—Parish Center
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary and Narthex
2:00 PM to 3:30 PM 8th Grade Confirmation Mass—Sanctuary

Monday, May 8th
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, May 9th
5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 6:40 PM Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion (after Mass)—Sanctuary
6:35 PM to 8:30 PM Hospitality Team Meeting—Father Hitch Room
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Women's CRHP—Parish Center C

Wednesday, May 10th
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
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

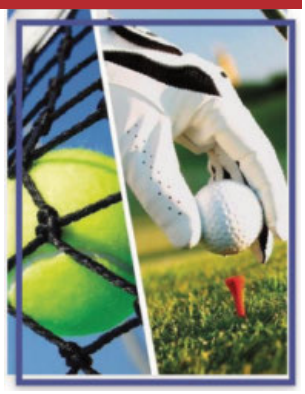
Thursday, May 11th
7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary

Friday, May 12th
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, May 13th
2:00 PM to 5:00 PM Private Event—Parish Center AB and Kitchen
4:00 PM to 4:40 PM Confession—Confessional
4:30 PM to 4:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 5:00 PM)—Sanctuary

Sunday, May 14th—6th Sunday of Easter—Mother's Day
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 Mother's Day Parish Breakfast—Parish Center and Kitchen
2:00 PM to 6:00 PM Private Event—Parish Center AB and Kitchen

Tee It Up For Vocations! Monday, June 5, 2023
Golf with Priests, Seminarians, and Consecrated Religious



The Serra Clubs of Omaha and West Omaha will host their ***Annual Golf & Tennis Outing***, followed by a cocktail hour, dinner, and awards at The Pines Country Club in Valley on Monday, June 5 (best ball format) with registration beginning at 11 AM. Tennis will be at the Miracle Hills Tennis Club at 3 PM. All proceeds received support the vital vocations programs of the Archdiocese of Omaha.

- Golf $125 (Includes box lunch and dinner)
- Foursome $500 (Includes box lunch and dinner)
- Tennis $75 (Includes dinner at The Pines)
- Dinner Only $40 (No golf or tennis)
- Sponsor a Priest, Seminarian, or Religious $125
- Hole Sponsor $250

To register as a player and/or a sponsor and to pay online, go to: https://serrawestomaha.org/golf/. If you wish to pay by check, go to the website to download the PDF Registration Form and mail your completed form and check per the instructions at the bottom of the form. For questions about golf, contact Joe Grier at 402-680-6654 or Greg Cismoski at 402-968-7996. For tennis, contact Vic Stevenart at 402-990-5556. Make this event one of your priorities this summer!

Lay Minister's Schedule
6th Sunday of Easter

May 13th 5:00 PM

Sacristan
Larry Neppl

Lectors
Gabe Ronk
(Read the 1st Reading)

Rebecca Campbell
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Nancy Arp
Tracy Wollenburg
Sheri French
Sharon Labenz
Deacon Larry Heck

Ushers
Chris Lingbloom
Chad Soupir
Larry Neppl
Jeff Wollenburg

Rosary Reciter
Jayne Schram

Altar Servers
Colin Lingbloom
Aslyn Ronk
Kenley Ronk

Greeters
Tim Kirkpatrick
Nancy Kirkpatrick

May 14th 8:00 AM

Sacristan
Joan Ingram

Lectors
Claudia Perchal
(Read the 1st Reading)

Carrie Hubert
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Randy Rosenthal
Paul Hubert
Joan Ingram
Kylie Karnish
Deacon Larry Heck

Ushers
Frank McEvoy
Larry Scheef
Bob Sis
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Theresa Huttmann

Altar Servers
Charlotte Garcia
Luke Hubert
Paul Joseph Hubert

Greeters
Mary Brown
Mary Maw

Hilcrest SR
Mike and Paula Siegel

May 14th 10:00 AM

Sacristan
Mitch Wendlandt

Lectors
Kelly Eby
(Read the 1st Reading)

Jolene Jefferies
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Dan Dauner
Kathy Wendlandt
Ashley Kassmeier
Jason Kassmeier
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Dan Dauner
Kathy Dauner
Bruce Jefferies
Tony Vanek

Rosary Reciter
Jim Hottovy

Altar Servers
Greyson Angell
Kalla Kassmeier
Scarlet McCord

Greeters
Andrew Urban
Need Sub

May 14th Noon

Sacristan
Linda Schriner

Lectors
Eric Hittner
(Read Both 1st and 2nd Readings)

Need Sub
(Standby: if a Sub is Needed)

EMHCs
Delma Stoner
Leann Otto
Steve Otto
Doris Williams
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Linda Gardner
Delma Stoner
Marty White
Doris Williams

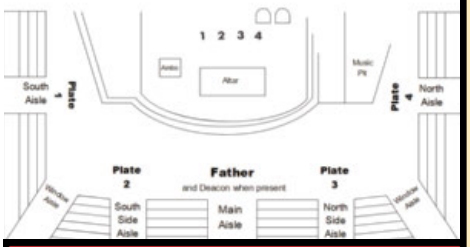
Rosary Reciter
Norm Svoboda

Altar Servers
Need Sub
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Eileen Jarosz
Marty White

Vocations Crucifix
Scott Kienow

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!

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

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
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Judy Weier, Secretary.....402-332-4444, x201
jaweier@archomaha.org

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Director of Preschool Education
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jjwotipka@archomaha.org

Pastoral Ministry (Elderly, Homebound & Funerals)
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fdammermann@archomaha.org

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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 Krajicek 402-616-9612
grandknight@kofc-gretna.org

American Heritage Girls Troop #NE-0508
Laura Lempke.....lauraannlempke@hotmail.com

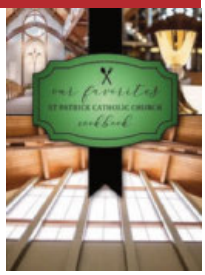
Trail Life USA Troop #NE-0508
Jon Thomas.....jdthomas1981@yahoo.com

St. Patrick Catholic Church
Gretna, Nebraska

Mother's Day Breakfast
Join Us Next Weekend!

Join us next week, Sunday, May 14 for our monthly parish breakfast—a special Mother's Day breakfast this month! Every second Sunday of the month, parishioners are invited to join us in the Parish Center from 9 AM to 12 PM for a delicious breakfast. Hope to see you there!

Parish Cookbooks for Sale
A Great Gift for Mother's Day

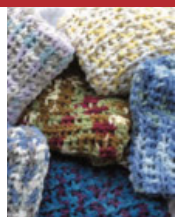


Purchase your copy of the parish cookbook during regular parish office hours for $25 (cash or check—checks can be made payable to St. Patrick Church). These cookbooks make great gifts for all occasions—Mother's Day, Graduation, etc. All proceeds benefit St. Patrick Preschool. Trust me, you won't want to miss the 700+ family favorite recipes!

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, May 12. 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.archoyoungadults.org.

Sick or Suffering?
Prayer Shawls in the Parish Office



Did you know that our church has blessed prayer shawl blankets, that can be shared with any of your family members or friends, who are sick and suffering physically, spiritually, emotionally? If you know of anyone who would benefit from this gift of comfort and prayer, please stop by the office Monday-Friday between 8 AM and 4:30 PM and choose a prayer shawl blanket for your loved one.

For Heaven's Sake...A Miracle in Our Narthex
Continued From Page 5

Stunned after talking with Jonathan, I returned to my office and noticed Father Baxter was in his office. I stepped in and said, "Father, I just noticed the Tree of Life in the Narthex, wow! Jonathan said you believe it's a miracle?"

"I sure do, it is indeed a small miracle right here at St. Patrick," commented Father Baxter with a familiar big 'ole grin on his face.

In the following days I began sharing this small miracle with many parishioners. Some of them asked me, "Jolene, how this could be? Were the branches cut from alive trees or from dead trees, and when were they cut? With no water, how is it possible that leaves are growing from the crosses of Jesus and Dismas?"

REFLECTION

> These questions had me wondering, but Jesus Himself said, *"For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible."* (Matthew 19:26)

At this point, I honestly didn't know what to say to all the questions. I did know, however, that Jonathan and his dad had cut the branches from some trees at Jonathan's grandpa's farm near Wahoo and, together, they made the three crosses for the Narthex.

Later, on Thursday, April 27, I asked Jonathan, "So people are asking me questions about the tree branches. Were they cut from fresh trees or dead trees, and how long were they cut before you and your dad made the crosses?"

Jonathan replied, "They were cut mostly from dead trees, Jolene, but only a few of the trees we cut at grandpa's place were alive. We had cut the trees about five to six weeks before we assembled the crosses."

Megan Seamann, our Communications Associate, had overheard me ask Jonathan for the earliest picture taken showing the leaves on the crosses. She jumped in and said, "On April 13, I was taking pictures of our Easter decorations to post on Facebook and share with Francesca to show the homebound how pretty the church looks. That's when I noticed the leaves on both Jesus' cross and Dismas' cross."

So the three of us began to compare dates and photos, and together we were able to figure out the timeline of this small miracle based on the evidence as seen in the photos:

February 16-23—Jonathan and his dad cut down some trees and branches.
Thursday, March 30—Jonathan and his dad assembled the crosses. No leaves were growing from any of the branches.
Holy Thursday, April 6—To commemorate the Last Supper, and the night Jesus would be betrayed by Judas, the crosses were arranged in the Narthex. Jesus' cross, still bare and showing no leaves, was decorated with a purple linen for Lent.
Good Friday, April 7—To commemorate the Passion of Jesus, the day He courageously shed blood and died on the cross for all of us, His cross was re-decorated with a red linen, the crown of thorns, three nails, and the whip. Again there is no sign of life growing from any of the crosses.
Holy Saturday, April 8—For the Easter Vigil, Jesus' cross was decorated with a white linen to prepare for His Resurrection on Easter Sunday and to celebrate His new and eternal life in Heaven. Still no leaves were growing from any of the crosses.
Easter Sunday, April 9—On the day of Christ's Resurrection, we are certain this is the day that leaves, while not yet noticeable, began to sprout out of Jesus' cross. Out of curiosity, I googled, "Can seeds germinate in 3 days?" Here is what Google rendered: "Within 3 days to a week, you'll have fully sprouted seeds. In a few more days, you'll see the leaves start to emerge."
Thursday, April 13—Megan Seamann was the first one from among the parish staff to notice some leaves growing out of both Jesus' and Dismas' cross and she took pictures. She shared the pictures and her amazement with Jonathan. When I razzed them both for not telling the rest of us in the parish office, Megan replied with a big smile on her face, "Well if you pay attention you'll notice small miracles all the time," as she and Jonathan laughed. The faith Megan and Jonathan have in their hearts is powerful and beautiful!
Thursday, April 20—Father Baxter noticed the leaves growing out of Jesus' cross and the few leaves growing out of Dismas' cross.
Friday, April 21—At the staff birthday luncheon, Father had mentioned to Jonathan that he noticed the life growing out of both Jesus' and Dismas' crosses, but not out of the bad thief's cross. He mentioned he believes this is a small miracle. Later that afternoon Jolene noticed the leaves as she was coming out of the restroom and Jonathan shared with her what Father had said. Jolene took photos and began to tell several parishioners about it. Later a few parishioners suggested we need to write an article and publish it in the bulletin.
Thursday, April 27—Jolene, Jonathan, and Megan began

Continued on next page—>

For Heaven's Sake...A Miracle in Our Narthex

Continued From Page 8

to discuss all of this and together developed this timeline. Jolene began writing this article to memorialize this small miracle and share it with our parish family.

For larger pictures, see our display boards in the Narthex.

REFLECTION

The cross is often associated with the image of the tree of life depicted in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. While the tree of life represented the knowledge of good and evil, so the cross represents this same knowledge for Christians. The tree of life in Genesis is a prefiguration of the Cross, which humanity could not partake of until after the incarnation, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus said that God's Heavenly presence was arriving on earth through Him and His mission. And He often likened this to a huge mustard tree, growing and spreading in surprising ways (Matthew 13:31-32). Jesus even claimed to be a Tree of Life, a vine that offers God's life to the world (John 15). But in a sad inversion, the leaders of Abraham's family killed Jesus on what they thought was a tree of death. Because of God's love, which is stronger than human evil, God transformed the cross into a Tree of Life. For us, the new Tree of Life serves as a reminder that God's purposes will not be thwarted. The tree that was lost will be replanted; the creation that was lost will be restored. Therefore, we can look to the future with great confidence and hope.

Praise God for the small miracle in our Narthex. Jesus lives! Hallelujah!

"I write these things to you so that you may know that you have eternal life, you who believe in the name of the Son of God."
1 John 5:13

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
Link to volunteer.....https://www.leastofmybrethren.org/linktree

Church Cleaning
Sign Up Genius link to volunteer.....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.

Successful EPS Campaign
Baby Bottle Campaign

Thank you St. Patrick for another very successful Baby Bottle Campaign for EPS (Essential Pregnancy Services)! We thank your wonderful and generous parish, especially Mr. Shane Fagan and his entire CCD Program! You raised over $1,821.70 in support of our mommies and their babies at EPS, supporting LIFE! Thank you and God bless you!

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GShaughnessy@4LPi.com

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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
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Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Gretna....402-332-3475

Catholic Charities—Omaha
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Website.....ccomaha.org

Catholic Voice Online
Website.....catholicvoiceomaha.com

Courage (Pastoral Support—Same-Sex Attraction)
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Website.....couragerc.org

EWTN (Global Catholic Television Network)
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Website.....www.ewtn.com

Holy Family Shrine
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Website.....holyfamilyshrine.com

Least of My Brethren (Support Homeless)
Phone.....402-681-5424
Website.....leastofmybrethren.org

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Retrouvaille.....1-800-470-2230
Retrouvaille.....www.helpourmarriage.org

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Website.....www.masstimes.org

Nebraska Homeschool Network
Website.....nebraskahomeschool.org

Pope Paul VI Institute (Fertility Help)
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Website.....www.popepaulvi.com

Rachel's Vineyard (Abortion Healing)
Phone.....1-866-482-5433
Website.....www.rachelsvineyard.org

Spirit Catholic Radio—FM 102.7
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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

Spring Art Show—Holy Family Shrine, April 28-May 29

Spring is in the air! Plan to visit the Holy Family Shrine (23132 Pflug Road, Gretna) between April 28 and May 29 to see and purchase beautiful art from local artists! The Opening Reception is Sunday, April 30, from noon to 5PM. The artists will generously donate 25% of their proceeds to support the Holy Family Shrine.

Sidewalk Advocates Training—Catholic Charities Education Room, May 20

Sidewalk Advocates FOR LIFE

Omaha Sidewalk Advocates For Life is a life-affirming sidewalk advocacy and prayer ministry devoted to helping women who are pregnant—standing with them, meeting them where they are, and empowering them to embrace both their children and their dreams. On Saturday, May 20, at the Catholic Charities education room (9223 Bedford Ave, Omaha), from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Sidewalk Advocates will be presenting its fourth training for a peaceful, prayerful, law-abiding approach in reaching out to women and men on the sidewalks of abortion facilities. This training is also open to those wishing to engage in prayer support on the sidewalk, which is vital to our mission. To register or get more information, please contact Michelle Witt Program Director at saflomaha2022@gmail.com. Cost is $20 per person to cover training materials and lunch.

Archdioceasan-wide Eucharistic Holy Hour—St. Cecilia, June 3

This year there will be no priests being ordained in the Archdiocese of Omaha. However, Archbishop Lucas is inviting the faithful to join together for a Eucharistic Holy Hour at St. Cecilia Cathedral (701 N 40th St, Omaha) on Saturday, June 3, from 10 AM to 11 AM. After the Holy Hour, there will be a cake and coffee reception.

Christians Encounter Christ Weekends—Columban Father's Retreat Center, June 9-11, June 23-25

Experience a Christians Encounter Christ (CEC) Summer 2023 weekend—Men's weekend, June 9-11 or Women's weekend, June 23 -25. It is a life-changing weekend with talks, new friends, conversation, reflection, worship, and a faith-filled community. CEC will be held at the Columban Fathers Retreat Center (1902 Calhoun St, Bellevue). Cost is $100 for food, lodging, and materials. Pre-registration is required. You owe it to yourself! Ask me about a CEC Weekend: Carol Hoover, 402-290-3619, or Mike and Jeanette Wojtalewicz, 402-850-0908, or find more info at www.cecomaha.org.

Fr. Mike Grewe's Retirment Celebration—St. Cecilia, Omaha, June 25

Join us for Fr. Grewe's Retirement social/celebration on Sunday, June 25, at St. Cecilia Cathedral (701 N 40th St, Omaha). If the weather cooperates, it will be outside in the area between the Cathedral and the Parish Hall and will commence after the 10:30 Mass—probably around 11:40 AM. Stop by and wish him well.

Encounter Summer Intensive—St. Gerald, July 25-28

The Summer Intensive Conference is an evening school that provides a survey of the content offered in the first four quarters of the Encounter School of Ministry over a fast four day period. We believe in the proclamation and demonstration of the supernatural life! Don't miss this amazing opportunity to taste Heaven! The content covered includes Identity and Transformation, Power and Healing, Hearing God and The Prophetic Gifts, Inner Healing and Freedom. Each night begins at 6 PM and ends at 9 PM at St. Gerald Catholic Church (9602 Q St, Ralston). Early bird registration ends July 1. For more information and to register visit, https://www.ablazeworship.org/encounter-school.html.

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