

# ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET

GRETN, NE 68028



## 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”  
- Mk 1:17

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

JANUARY 21, 2024



**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 & Instagram.....@stpatgretnane  
YouTube.....@StPatrickCatholicChurchNE  
E-mail.....stpatrick.gre@archomaha.org  
Flocknote.....text STPATGRETN 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 PM on the second Monday of each month in the Fr. Hitch Room. Please call the Parish Office if you will be attending the 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

### 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

### FIRST READING (JON 3:1-5, 10)

The people of Nineveh (the capital city of the Assyrian Empire and historic enemy of Israel) repented of their sins when they heard Jonah's warning of God's impending destruction of their city. What motivates you to repent?

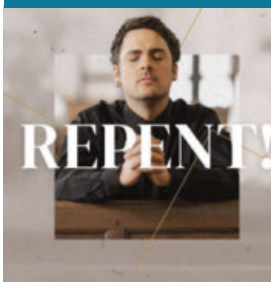
### SECOND READING (1 COR 7:29-31)

Paul encouraged the believers in Corinth to live with a sense of urgency and in a radically different way than before coming to faith in Jesus. In what way are you living counter-culturally as a person of faith?

### GOSPEL (MK 1:14-20)

This Sunday we hear the first words of Jesus in Mark's account of the call of the first disciples: "This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel." Jesus taught that the time had come for God to come and reclaim His world. What excites you about this message?

## GOSPEL MEDITATION



We start telling lies around the age of three, the experts tell us. It's understandable. Lying is a god-like power. Whatever I want, I need only say it, and the world rearranges itself accordingly. It's amazing at first. But soon reality snaps back and I'm faced with a dilemma. If I remain committed to my lie I start to fracture into pieces. My words and reality drift apart, and I find myself lost in a lonely world of further falsehoods and fear of being found out.

How marvelous, then, that Jesus begins His ministry by proclaiming: "Repent!" We tend to think it means "stop doing bad things" but it doesn't. It literally means "go beyond the mind you have." Think in a new way. It's painful to admit, but some portion of my mind is addicted to lie-telling, usually to protect my ego or make life easier. To repent means to admit this tendency, to say, "I'm done lying," and to move beyond my split mind into a complete commitment to the truth. Perhaps that's why at Mass we together proclaim, "I have sinned in my thoughts, and in my words..." Repentance and truth-telling work together.

Those who know the twelve-step process of addiction recovery know this process well. The fourth step requires radical truth-telling: listing our moral defects. This isn't being scrupulous. Rather it is freedom from falsehood, and entrance into the real world. This week, I invite you to join me in this practice. Get your phone or piece of paper. Answer the question: what are your true moral defects? Write them down. Remember, the Lord knows them already and loves you. We have a sacrament where this truth-telling is celebrated: Confession. Perhaps it is finally time to go beyond our childish lies.

## CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

### QUESTION:

Can a person (the mother, father, or provider) ever be forgiven for an abortion?

### ANSWER:

For people of faith, any conversation of human sinfulness should always lead us to reflect on God's loving mercy. Because God's mercy is greater than any sin, the Church is clear that even those involved in the sin of abortion can be reconciled with God and the Church. To help make this grace more available through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Pope Francis extended the permission to absolve someone of the sin of abortion to all priests in 2016.

Even with the grace and blessings of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the tragedy of abortion and the aftermath of abortion takes a toll on everyone involved. Ministries of outreach and support, such as Project Rachel, offer pastoral counseling, support groups, retreats, and other forms of care. As Christians, we are also called to help promote this healing and reconciliation in all its forms. To learn more, visit [www.hopeafterabortion.com](http://www.hopeafterabortion.com).



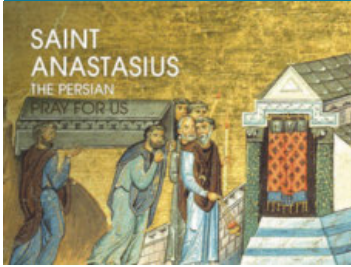
project rachel  
Peace starts here

**Dear Lord, visit our homes! Visit our families! Bring your goodness and light to every broken heart we've met on this journey of life. Your presence brings healing and rebirth. Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**



## SAINT ANASTASIUS THE PERSIAN

### *Religious and Martyr*



St. Anastasius the Persian (7th c.) was the son of a Persian sorcerer. He became a Zoroastrian soldier in the army of Khosrau II, the Persian monarch who absconded the True Cross of Christ from Jerusalem and took it to Persia in 614. St. Anastasius inquired about the mysterious Cross and the Christian religion and as a result soon converted to the true Faith, left the army, received baptism, and became a monk at a monastery in Jerusalem. He lived there seven years until he was called by God to martyrdom among his people. He

went to Caesarea to preach, which was then under Persian rule. He was captured and subject to cruel tortures. He was promised freedom and a high position in the kingdom if he would simply denounce his faith, which he refused. St. Anastasius was strangled and beheaded. His feast day is January 22.

## SAINT ANGELA MERICI

### *Religious*

St. Angela Merici (1474 – 1540) was born in the region of Lombardy, Italy. Her deep piety drew her to make a private vow of virginity at a young age. Her parents died when she was ten, and soon afterwards she lost her sister with whom she was very close. Angela went to live with her uncle, and, despite lacking a formal education, she grew in wisdom and virtue. She committed herself to prayer, penance, and serving the poor, eventually joining the Third Order of St. Francis at the age of fifteen. When her uncle died she returned to her

home, and, seeing a great need for the education of young girls in the Christian faith, began a school for girls in her house. She daily gathered all the little girls of her village and taught them the faith. St. Angela became known for her holiness, and soon she was invited to establish another school in a neighboring town. One day while in prayer she received a vision that she would start a religious order intended for the religious education of girls. This was realized when St. Angela founded the Ursulines under the patronage of St. Ursula. St. Angela Merici is the patron saint against illness, death of parents, and of the disabled and handicapped. Her feast day is January 27.



## SAINT JULIANA OF CORNILLON

### *Religious*



St. Juliana of Cornillon (1193-1258), also known as St. Juliana of Liège, was born near modern-day Liège, Belgium. When she was 5 years old, she and her twin sister became orphans. Following the deaths of their parents, the sisters were entrusted to the care of the Augustinian nuns at Mont-Cornillon. Growing up among the religious, Juliana's spiritual journey flourished. At age 13, she entered the order. Juliana's profound love for Christ in the Eucharist was ignited during her time at the convent. She regularly participated in Mass and spent hours in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. In her prayers, she often experienced mystical visions, reinforcing her belief in the real presence of Jesus in the

consecrated bread and wine. Driven by her desire to see a dedicated feast to honor Christ in the Eucharist, St. Juliana took it upon herself to promote the idea fervently. She eventually became the Prioress of the canonry and frequently confided in her mentor, Canon John of Lausanne, telling him about her visions and her hope for the feast. He shared her experiences with his contemporaries, including Pope Urban IV. Though Juliana died in 1258, her cause won over Pope Urban IV. In 1264 he issued the papal bill "Transiturus de hoc mundo" which instituted the Feast of Corpus Christi on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. The feast aimed to celebrate and affirm the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, emphasizing the significance of the Blessed Sacrament in the life of the Church. Juliana was canonized by Pope Pius IX in 1869 and is remembered not only for the pivotal role she played in establishing the Feast of Corpus Christi, but for her musical talents, teachings, and writings. St. Juliana of Cornillon, pray for us!



## ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

### READINGS THIS WEEK

**MONDAY:** 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26/  
Mk 3:22-30

**TUESDAY:** 2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/  
Mk 3:31-35

**WEDNESDAY:** 2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/  
Mk 4:1-20

**THURSDAY:** Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps  
117:1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18

**FRIDAY:** 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7-  
8a, 10/Mk 4:26-34

**SATURDAY:** 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-  
15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9  
(8)/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28



### OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

**MONDAY:** Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of  
Unborn Children

**TUESDAY:** St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; St.  
Marianne Cope, Virgin

**WEDNESDAY:** St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and  
Doctor of the Church

**THURSDAY:** The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

**FRIDAY:** Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops

**SATURDAY:** St. Angela Merici, Virgin

**NEXT SUNDAY:** 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time,  
Celebrate Catholic Schools Week





## ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

### PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION *Begins Soon*

Mark your calendars! Registration for the 2024-2025 Preschool year will begin on Monday, February 5 for all current families and parishioners of St. Patrick, St. Charles Borromeo, and St. Joseph. Registration will open on Monday, February 19 to the community. Go to [stpatricksgretna.org](http://stpatricksgretna.org) and register for your preferred class. Contact Amanda Scardina at 402-332-3050 with any questions.



### MASS INTENTIONS *Masses Available in 2024*



One of the greatest acts of charity is to pray for the living and the dead, and the

greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' redemption. You can schedule 3 Mass Intentions (one weekend and two weekdays) per calendar year for a minimum stipend of \$10 each. Contact the parish office, 402-332-4444, for more information and to offer such an incredible pray for a loved one—living or deceased.

### SEMINARIAN PRAYER CORNER

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

This week let us pray for **Caleb Kosch** (Theology I at St. Paul Seminary) from St. Anthony in Columbus.

"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Fishing is an active verb. If you are being called to strengthen Christ's Church through a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life, act. Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email [vocations@archomaha.org](mailto:vocations@archomaha.org).



**"PRAY ALWAYS AND DO NOT LOSE HEART."**

 *Pray for our Seminarians*

### 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*

*Catherine F "Kay" Schram.....1/9/2024.....At a Later Date*

### ANNUAL WALK FOR LIFE IN LINCOLN *Save Yourself a Free Bus Seat*



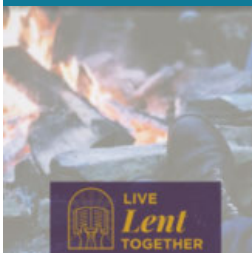
The Gretna Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a free bus ride to the Walk For Life Saturday, January 27 in Lincoln. We leave the St. Patrick parking lot at 7:15 AM and return at approximately 2:45 PM. We will attend the 9 AM Mass at St. Mary's in Lincoln, participate in the Walk For Life from the Capitol to the UNL Student Union, in the Union we will listen to pro-life speakers and then leave at approximately 2 PM. This event is open to all ages. What a great way to show your support for pro-life with thousands of like minded people! We have 56 seats available, so contact Duane Benes at 402-250-6612 to save your seat and answer any questions.

### ONE ROSE ONE LIFE *Second Collection This Weekend*

One Rose, One Life is a Knights of Columbus fundraising event where all the donations go to the State Culture of Life Foundation. The money supports Pro-life organizations and activities throughout Nebraska. To date, One Rose, One Life funds have supported the purchase of seven ultrasound machines at pregnancy centers in Nebraska. Thank you for your generosity! This collection falls on the weekend before the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children, January 22—the unfortunate anniversary of the court decision to Roe v. Wade. Let us continue to pray for the culture of life to reign supreme in our state, our country, and our world.



### PARTICIPATE IN BEING A MISSIONAL COMMUNITY *Live Lent Together in a Small Group*



St. Patrick is once again participating in Live Lent Together. It is our sincere hope that as many parishioners as possible will participate by joining a small group during the Lenten season. We also ask that you consider leading a small group. No experience is necessary, and training will be provided. Live Lent Together encourages the habits of prayer, compassion, and friendship. It is also an important step in our journey to be a more missional community, which the archbishop is asking of every parish in the archdiocese.

To learn more about Live Lent Together or to register for a training to be a small group leader, visit [archomaha.org/lent](http://archomaha.org/lent). Attending a training is not a commitment to lead a small group. However, if you feel the call to lead a small group this spring, know that there are plenty of resources to make leading simple and support for you all along the way. Thank you for considering! Be a friend, invite a friend, and receive many graces from our Lord!

**"Once I began to realize that sin is not just bad behavior but a refusal of God's love, and that confession is not just about forgiveness but about healing, everything changed. My [examination of conscience] now became more complicated—and much more fruitful...I had to look deeper into my daily life and ask myself some hard questions." —Vinny Flynn, 7 Secrets of Confession, p.46**



## TIPS FOR PICKING A PATRON SAINT FOR 2024

### *Holy Helpers to the Rescue*

Each year, January comes with a flood of resolutions and self-help guides. While some of these things are good and can be very beneficial, they can sometimes lead us to individualism, pressure, and pride. Part of what makes our faith so beautiful is that it reminds us that we can do nothing alone. We need God to heal us and act in us. Beyond that, Our Lord has given us hosts of Heavenly helpers: our friends, the saints!

Rather than insisting on a regimen of self-improvement this year, rely on the saints, those closest to Christ. Having a patron saint for the year can be a powerful way to invite Heavenly friendship and intercession into your year. However, because the Church has many wonderful saints, choosing one can be difficult! But with some guidance and prayer, it doesn't have to be overwhelming to find a great patron saint this year!



1. Think of specific virtues you hope to develop this year. Find saints that exemplified or spoke on those virtues. For patience, think of St. Monica and St. Bernadette. For honesty, consider Sts. Peter and Paul. If you want to be more disciplined, consider St. John Vianney and St. Josemaría Escrivá.
2. Look for saints who faced similar circumstances as you. Some wonderful married saints are Sts. Zélie and Louis Martin, St. Gianna Beretta Molla, and Sts. Anne and Joachim. If you're looking for a patron saint for single people, consider St. Andrew, St. Christopher, St. Agnes, and St. Thérèse of Lisieux.
3. Pray! Our Lord longs for us to join His saints in Heaven! Through prayer and discernment, He will help us come to know saints who will powerfully intercede for us.
4. Ask a priest or spiritual mentor. Many people have had powerful and unique experiences with saints and can provide personal insights into finding a patron saint!

—Article by The Catholic Company

### Stewardship Report

Jan 3-10, 2024

Current Fiscal Year - July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

General Contributions	Jan 3-10	Fiscal YTD thru Jan 10
Sunday Offering-Jan 3-10	\$27,200.25	\$696,514.14
Other Contributions	\$7,397.78	\$79,769.50
Total General Contributions	\$34,598.03	\$776,283.64 *
Surplus/Deficit	\$9,848.03	\$132,783.64
<b>Fiscal Year-to-Date Income</b>		\$985,299.70
<b>Fiscal Year-to-Date Expenses</b>		\$822,931.72
<b>Fiscal Year-to-Date Net Income</b>		\$162,367.98

Jan 11-15, 2024

Current Fiscal Year - July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024

General Contributions	Jan 11-15	Fiscal YTD thru Jan 15
Sunday Offering-Jan 11-15	\$9,786.00	\$706,300.14
Other Contributions	\$767.29	\$80,536.79
Total General Contributions	\$10,553.29	\$786,836.93 *
Surplus/Deficit	(\$14,196.71)	\$143,336.93
<b>Fiscal Year-to-Date Income</b>		\$997,887.99
<b>Fiscal Year-to-Date Expenses</b>		\$836,912.95
<b>Fiscal Year-to-Date Net Income</b>		\$160,975.04

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

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



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Gretna, Nebraska

### THE KNIGHT'S CORNER



#### BLOOD DRIVE

Did you know for every pint of blood donated 3 lives are saved! Since 2004 the Knights of Columbus and St. Patrick Church has hosted the Gretna Community Blood Drive, 1,944 pints collected translates into 5,832 lives saved. Sign up today and you can make a difference! The Knights of Columbus #10047 and St. Patrick Church will host a Gretna Community Blood Drive Monday, February 12, from 12:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Make your appointment: go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org). Search sponsor code GretnaNE or call Marty Stednitz at 402-332-3840.



#### WILD GAME FEED



The Knights of Columbus is hosting their 4th annual Wild Game Feed Saturday, April 13. They are asking for meat donations to help with the game feed: elk, deer, pheasant, and goose. They will come and process the meat. Please contact Larry Sibley for more information on donating meat 402-957-8770 or [LCSIB@centurylink.net](mailto:LCSIB@centurylink.net).

#### NOW IS THE TIME TO BECOME A KNIGHT!

For Catholic men that are 18 years of age you 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 4 years by the Council. This includes trade schools, community colleges, and universities. If interested please contact our Chancellor and Membership Director, Randy Meerian at [rmeerian@gmail.com](mailto:rmeerian@gmail.com) or 402-981-6471.



#### WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A KNIGHT

We are Catholic men who lead, serve, protect, and defend. We share a desire to be better husbands, fathers, sons, neighbors, and role models and to put charity and community first.

#### Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight, Bruce Jefferies.....402-521-4262  
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 22ND

No Communion Service or Mass

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 23RD

6:00 PM † Pete Burke

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24TH

7:30 AM The Deceased Members of the Rosie Stec Family

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 25TH

7:30 AM † Clarence Wattier

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 26TH

7:30 AM † Margaret Clayton

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 27TH

5:00 PM † Marlies Sieke

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 28TH

8:00 AM Carol Zeleny and Family  
10:00 AM The Weier and Andersen Family  
12:00 PM For Our Parishioners

### 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



Pray for the soul of Kay Schram. Let us pray for Richard Smith, Elaine Sedlacek, Joe Carney,

Deacon Steve Grandinetti, Nicole (daughter of Chris Christensen), Ronald Baxter (Fr. Baxter's dad), Paul Polt, and Leanne Robb. Pray for John and Wanda Jonas, Chris Wheeler, Norm Wiemers, Ed, Barb McMahon, Ian McGovern (son of Mark and Pam), and Jo Anne Lyons (mom of Theresa Gulizia). Pray for Marolyn, Lil Herbstritt, Brad, Deacon David Medeiros, 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](mailto:clovstad@gmail.com).

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST—3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary  
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary  
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM Pro-life Display—Narthex  
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM Religious Education Classes—RE classrooms, Basement Commons  
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM Religious Education Eucharistic Adoration—Sanctuary  
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary and Narthex

### MONDAY, JANUARY 22ND

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Project Linus—Basement Commons  
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Adult Ascension Bible Study—Parish Center A and Kitchen

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 23RD

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  
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM Knights of Columbus Meeting—Parish Center A

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24TH

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—Behind the Tabernacle  
9:00 AM to 10:30 AM Faith Connection—Father Hitch Room  
4:00 PM to 5:00 PM Religious Education Classes—Father Hitch Room  
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM Religious Education Classes—Basement Commons, RE Classrooms  
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 25TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary  
9:00 AM to 11:30 AM Private Event—Parish Center  
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM RCIA—Parish Center C

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 26TH

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 27TH

8:00 AM to 10:00 PM Least of My Brethren Event—Parish Center  
9:00 AM to 11:30 AM Private Service—Sanctuary and Narthex  
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, JANUARY 28TH—4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

## LEAST OF MY BRETHREN BLESSING BOXES

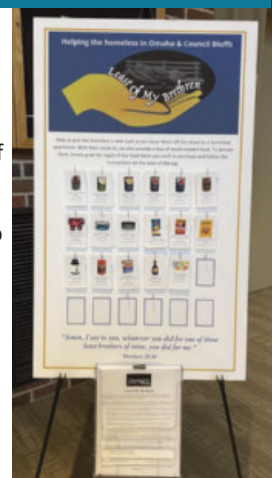
### *Thank You for Your Support*

Thank you to those who participated in the Least of My Brethren Blessing Box project during Advent! Your generous donation of 64 boxes helped us stock our shelves with food that will be sent out to many needy families in the Omaha area.

The success of our food pantry is dependent on the generosity of donors like you. If you would like to support this ministry on an ongoing basis, please see our board in the narthex. Each card indicates an item that we send out to needy families. Feel free to take one card or several!! Purchased items may then be placed on the shelves in the Church Library along with the card. (Note: The items on the top row are the ones in most need.) Thanks again for your support.

**"Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40)**

God Bless, Least of My Brethren Food Pantry



**Dear Jesus, when you call to me, help me to listen. Give me the courage to respond bravely and boldly to your invitation for my life. Amen.**

## LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

### 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**JANUARY 27TH**  
**5:00 PM**

**Sacristan**  
Linda Schriener

**Lectors**  
Donna Bruck  
(Read the 1st Reading)

Gabe Ronk  
(Read the 2nd Reading)

**EMHCs**  
Bridget Blum  
Sharleen Marik  
Nancy Arp  
Kevin Riley  
Deacon Ken Broz

**Ushers**  
Linda Schriener  
Chad Soupier  
Lisa Willert  
Jeff Wollenburg

**Rosary Reciter**  
Jayne Schram

**Altar Servers**  
Shailynn Gatewood  
Aslyn Ronk  
Kenley Ronk

**Greeters**  
Tim Kirkpatrick  
Nancy Kirkpatrick

**JANUARY 28TH**  
**8:00 AM**

**Sacristan**  
Joan Ingram

**Lectors**  
Sandy Scheef  
(Read the 1st Reading)

Claudia Perchal  
(Read the 2nd Reading)

**EMHCs**  
Tim Gilligan  
Cari Kaup  
Marilyn Havel  
Rob Polak  
Deacon Ken Broz

**Ushers**  
Kevin Kaup  
Larry Scheef  
Pat Shurtliff  
Bob Sis

**Rosary Reciter**  
Carol Zeleny

**Altar Servers**  
Ethan Kaup  
Will Kaup  
Carson Kaup

**Greeters**  
Mary Brown  
Mary Maw

**Hilcrest SR**  
Nancy Kruse  
Tim Kruse

**JANUARY 28TH**  
**10:00 AM**

**Sacristan**  
Andi Towey

**Lectors**  
Andy Pearson  
(Read the 1st Reading)

Phil Lenz  
(Read the 2nd Reading)

**EMHCs**  
Bruce Jefferies  
Jocelyn Pearson  
Tom Nienaber  
Cleo Nienaber  
Deacon Larry Heck

**Ushers**  
Clint Bollock  
Jim Hain  
John Schaffert  
Tony Vanek

**Rosary Reciter**  
Jolene Jefferies

**Altar Servers**  
Anderson Brei  
Harper Dicks  
Nev Dicks

**Greeters**  
Tony Tiefenthaler  
Andrew Urban

**JANUARY 28TH**  
**NOON**

**Sacristan**  
Ginny Giebelhaus

**Lectors**  
Stephanie Lampe  
(Read Both 1st and 2nd Readings)

Rebecca Campbell  
(Standby: if a Sub is Needed)

**EMHCs**  
Need Sub  
Need Sub  
Ginny Giebelhaus  
Norma Hintz  
Deacon Larry Heck

**Ushers**  
Ginny Giebelhaus  
Marty White  
Mary Zeigler  
Need Sub

**Rosary Reciter**  
Norm Svoboda

**Altar Servers**  
Need Sub  
Need Sub  
Need Sub

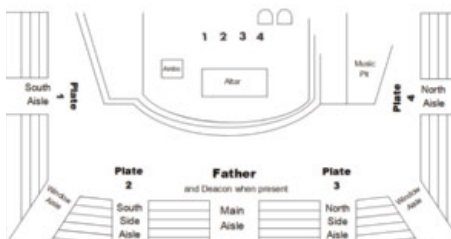
**Greeters**  
Jeanette Roy  
Mary Zeigler

**Vocations Crucifix**  
Merrill Neary

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

*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!*

**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

**3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



**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

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Deacon Larry Heck.....402-572-1319

### PARISH OFFICE

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jaknight@archomaha.org

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Matt Ramm.....402-416-0596

### FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Kevin Kaup.....402-525-1469

### HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY

Jerry Thoendel.....402-332-3475

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Bruce Jefferies.....402-521-4262  
bjefferies16117@gmail.com





**ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Gretna, Nebraska

## TOA 2024 NEEDS YOU

### *Silent Auction Baskets*

## SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISER

Taste of the Arts 2024 needs you! Help create a themed basket for the silent auction during our Taste of the Arts Preschool fundraiser on Saturday, February 10! Feature your business or products. Contact Amanda Scardina for more information at 402-332-3050 or [acscardina@archomaha.org](mailto:acscardina@archomaha.org).

## GET YOUR TOA TICKETS

### *Raise Funds for Technology*



Help our St. Patrick Preschool with getting new technology for our classrooms by attending our Taste of the Arts: Touchdowns and Tailgate Fundraiser on February 10 at 6 PM. This is the Preschool's only fundraiser and helps our Preschool maintain its excellence academically, socially, and spiritually. Enjoy a

night out with a delicious tailgate inspired meal of wings, sliders, drinks, and much more. Many silent and live auction items will be available to bid on. It is going to be a great time! To buy your tickets go to <https://stpatriksgretna.org/education/preschool/toa-2024> or call the Preschool office, 402-332-3050.

## PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

### *Sunday, February 4*

Do you have a child that will be preschool age for the 2024-2025 school year? Come meet the



teachers and see the classrooms at our Open House on Sunday, February 4 after the 10 AM Mass. We look forward to meeting our newest little ones!

**Dear Lord, with thanksgiving we entrust our year to you: whatever it holds, whoever we encounter, wherever we traverse. What you supply is gift. May our comings and goings be aligned with your will. Amen.**

## CENTURY CLUB CASH PRIZE WINNERS

### *Have You Paid Your 2024 Dues?*

Where did 2023 go and why did it go so fast!? I know, it was still 365 days. As I get older, the years go faster. Didn't go this fast when I was a kid, excitedly waiting for St. Nicholas (aka Santa Claus) to come. It took a whole year for Christmas to come! There are times I think how great it would be to go back to those younger years, but it would change who I am now, so thank you Lord, for who you guided me to become.

I pray everyone had an awesome 2023; and 2024 will bring you many blessings! In 2023, over \$5,500 was used to fund many projects and help those in need. The TV in the Fr. Hitch room, \$1,900 in scholarships, including \$400 to St. Patrick Preschool to help keep children in a Catholic learning environment, over \$1,600 to assist in medical assistance, help with mission trips, Rosary Guild, and of course, \$6,000 CASH PRIZE GIVE-AWAY! Membership dues replenish Century Club funds so we can continue to help our parish and those in it. Thank you everyone who already paid your 2024 Century Club dues. As you can see in our winners list below, not everyone has paid their 2024 dues. CASH prize funds have been set aside to pay these CASH prize winners, once dues have been collected. At the time I'm writing this, we have 147 paid members and 43 members that have not yet paid 2024 dues. I'm still trying to get to that elusive 200 members. If you're reading this, please spread the word that people can win CASH through the Century Club and help our parish! Late notices will be going out soon. If you have not yet paid, please save me the postage and get your dues in soon!

If you are new to Century Club, dues are pro-rated, meaning, since January is past, there are 11 drawings remaining. The cost to join before our February drawing is \$55, sent to Century Club, PO Box 177, Gretna, NE 68028. Existing members that have not paid your 2024 dues, the cost is \$60, as you were in the January drawing. Each member is assigned a number, written on a poker chip. A different person draws poker chips each month. Chris Lingbloom was our guest CASH prize winner drawing at our January Knights of Columbus meeting, held the first Tuesday of the month, at 7 PM in St. Patrick Parish Center. All Knights are encouraged to attend these meetings and help us shape our community!

CASH prize winners are (insert drum roll here):

\$150—Larry and Wendy Neppel  
\$100—Marty Stednitz  
\$75—Dues not paid  
\$50—David Simonin  
\$25—Kay Schram  
\$25—Caroline Fredrick  
\$25—Paul Staley  
\$25—Louis and Betty Feraguti  
\$25—Dues not paid

Thank you, happy 2024!

Jim Hottovy, Century Club Administrator



## PREPARE FOR LENT

### *Ask Jesus How He Desires to Walk With You*



It's hard to believe that Lent is just around the corner. Have you thought about what you will be doing to walk with Jesus on His journey to Calvary? Here are a few options that you can consider, but most importantly ask Jesus how He desires to deepen your relationship with Him this year.

- Live Lent Together—Lenten study resources as a small group, more information on Page 4 or at [stpatriksgretna.org/get-involved/live-lent-together/](https://stpatriksgretna.org/get-involved/live-lent-together/)
- Best Lent Ever—program by Dynamic Catholic, [www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent.html](https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent.html)
- Pause to Pray—daily email meditations by Marian priests, [forms.thedivinemeracy.org/ptpsignup/](https://forms.thedivinemeracy.org/ptpsignup/)
- Forty Days, Forty Items—a challenge to collect one item from your home, closet, or particular room each day to be donated at the end of Lent
- Exodus 90—a 90 day program for men to find freedom, <https://exodus90.com/>
- Revelation 90—a 90 day program where women take a deep dive into their wellness habits to reveal their healthiest, happiest selves, <https://www.revelation90.org/>
- Veil Challenge—women are challenged to wear a veil to Mass during Lent, <https://www.veilsbylily.com/>



## WHY DO I HAVE TO FAST ONE HOUR BEFORE MASS?

### *Our Need to be Hungry for the Eucharist*

The discipline of fasting before Mass highlights our need to be hungry for the Eucharistic bread we eat. Many Catholics from an older generation will remember the "midnight fast." It meant that one could not eat before Mass starting from the midnight before. For this reason Masses were generally celebrated at dawn and Masses in the evening were extremely rare. Few people wanted to fast all day long before attending Mass and receiving Holy Communion. This practice of fasting before Mass is an ancient discipline, present as early as the 2nd century. It remained in place until Pope Pius XII reduced the fast to three hours in 1957. The fast was further shortened in 1964 when Pope Paul VI lowered it to one hour before reception of Communion.



The current *Code of Canon Law* reflects this change and states, "A person who is to receive the Most Holy Eucharist is to abstain for at least one hour before holy communion from any food and drink, except for only water and medicine" (Canon 919 §1). However, in some cases those rules do not apply. "The elderly, the infirm, and those who care for them can receive the Most Holy Eucharist even if they have eaten something within the preceding hour" (Canon 919 §3).

But why? What does it matter if I ate a cheeseburger right before I walked into church on a day I intend to receive the Holy Eucharist? Pope Paul VI wrote concerning the power of spiritual discipline in his apostolic constitution *Paenitemini*: "Mortification aims at the liberation of man, who often finds himself, because of concupiscence, almost chained by his own senses. Through 'corporal fasting' man regains strength, and the wound inflicted on the dignity of our nature by intemperance is cured by the medicine of a salutary abstinence."

Jesus knew the power of fasting and went into the desert without food for 40 days before setting out on His public ministry. Furthermore, He taught His disciples that, "This kind [of demon] cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting" (Mark 9:29). Fasting builds up our spiritual strength, and the Church asks us to complete this simple task every time we receive Holy Communion for our own benefit. Just like any athlete we need to exercise discipline and fasting is great for building those spiritual muscles. Without fasting we are weak and our passions drive us to wherever the wind blows.

Additionally, Pope John Paul II lamented in *Dominicae Cenae* how modern Catholics possess a "lack of Eucharistic 'hunger' and 'thirst,' which is also a sign of lack of adequate sensitivity towards the great sacrament of love and a lack of understanding of its nature." We need to "hunger" and yearn for the Eucharistic before we can properly receive it. Our reception of Holy Communion needs to correspond to an inner hunger that is indicative of a soul that thirsts for God's love. If we don't have this hunger (brought to mind by our physical hunger during fasting), we might think of Holy Communion as something ordinary, not needing any preparation beforehand.

Last of all, fasting before Mass is an image of the Eucharistic stories in the Gospels, specifically the Feeding of the Five Thousand. After a long day the disciples urged Jesus to send the crowd away so that they could buy food for themselves to eat. Instead, Jesus multiplies the bread and fish, leaving everyone "satisfied" at the end of the meal. Just like the crowd on that day, when we approach the table of the Lord we must be hungry, or as the Psalmist proclaims, "As a hart longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for thee, O God" (Psalm 42:1).

—Article by Alethea

## SPEND TIME IN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION



"The most powerful thing we can do on this earth with our time is to spend it in Eucharistic adoration. Nothing can do more to change the world, to bring about peace, to convert hearts, to make reparation for the many evils committed. Spending time in prayer may seem, on the outside, to be a passive thing; however, it is anything but! Our world is in desperate need of hope, of renewal, of a 'turning back' to the things of God. By visiting Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, we take up the best weapon for the battles of our age and contribute to the healing of our culture. Cultivating a Eucharistic life of adoration also bears tremendous fruit in our own hearts and lives. We cannot spend time in the rays of His

Eucharistic Presence without receiving His grace, His love, His mercy, His peace. As we gaze upon Him Face to face, we are transformed little by little into a closer reflection of His divine image."

—Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration,  
*Manual for Eucharistic Adoration*, p. 37-38



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.

## JOIN MUSIC MINISTRY *Singers and Instrumentalists Needed*



Join our Music Ministry here at St. Patrick. There are many ways to participate:

- **Children's Choir** is available for grades 3-8.
- **Parish Choir** is open to adults and high school youth.
- **Knights Choir** is open to any men of the parish.
- **Cantors** are needed for Saturday 5 PM, Sunday 8 AM and 10 AM Masses. High school youth and adults are welcome to inquire about serving as a cantor.
- **Instrumental player** of string, woodwind, and brass can add variety to music for special occasions. High school youth and adults who have at least three years of instrumental study are welcome to inquire about opportunities to play.

To express interest or learn more, please contact Laura Rau at 402-332-4444 or lrau@archomaha.org.



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## ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

### HELPFUL RESOURCES

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

## AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

### MUSIC IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BENEFIT—ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON, FEBRUARY 2

Music in Catholic Schools (the Omaha Archdiocese 5th—8th grade band program) has one large fundraiser per year, and it is coming fast: Friday, February 2 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Center (5419 N 114th St, Omaha)! Doors open at 6 PM. We would love to have a full house—it is a fun night with music by the Swingtones. The cost is only \$15 per adult and \$10 per student or senior citizen age 65 and up. There are free dance lessons, snacks, drinks, desserts, and a silent auction. A fun and inexpensive evening! Please let Annette Wallace know if you have any questions. She can be contacted at 402-827-3724 or emailed amwallace@archomaha.org.



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>, 2024  
THE NEBRASKA WIND  
SYMPHONY  
**SWINGTONES**

### COME AND SEE EVENTS—IMMACULATA MONASTERY, NORFOLK, FEBRUARY 2-4



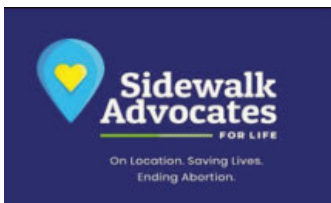
Young women are invited to join the Missionary Benedictine Sisters for a Monastic Come and See weekend Friday, February 2 thru Sunday, February 4 at the Immaculate Monastery and Spirituality Center (300 N 18th St, Norfolk). Register by January 24 at mbsmissionaries.org or contact the sisters at vocations@norfolk-osb.org or 402-750-2559. They will also have a special High School Monastic Come and See February 3-4. Registration for the High School Come and See by January 26 at mbsmissionaries.org or contact sr.sarahelizabeth@gmail.com or 402-992-7839.

### HOLY HOUR FOR PRIESTS AND VOCATIONS—OUR LADY OF LOURDES, FEBRUARY 8

Please come to the Holy Hour for Priests and Vocations at 7 PM on Thursday, February 8 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church (2110 S 32nd Ave, Omaha). Fr. Benjamin Boyd will share his vocation story and lead prayers, including adoration and benediction. It also includes communal and silent prayer and music ministry. St John Vianney said, "The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of Jesus Christ."



### SIDEWALK ADVOCATES TRAINING—CATHOLIC CHARITIES BUILDING, FEBRUARY 10



We need you in this important mission! Training will be offered for men and women desiring to help women through sidewalk advocacy or prayer support at local abortion facilities. This peaceful, prayerful, law abiding approach has saved over 20,000 babies in 239 cities. Attend our training and see how you can be a part of our team. Join us on Saturday, February 10 at Catholic Charities Building (9223 Bedford Ave) from 10 AM to 4

PM. A \$10 registration fee covers workbook, materials, and lunch. For information or to register go to lifesidewalk@gmail.com.

### THE WAY THROUGH GRIEF—CALVARY OFFICE, FEBRUARY 10 - MARCH 9

Catholic Cemeteries is offering a grief workshop called "The Way through Grief". This workshop consists of six-two-hour sessions beginning at 10:30 AM Saturday, February 10, running through March 9. Through prayerful reflection we learn to journey forward from grief to the life our Lord wishes for us. These sessions are in our Calvary Office (7710 West Center Rd, Omaha). To register or for more information contact Deacon Jim Tardy at 402-391-3711 or jtardy@catholiccem.com.



### FAR SERIES FOR TEENS—JPII NEWMAN CENTER, FEBRUARY 11

Why do I do the things I do? Why don't I do the things I don't do? Why do I really struggle with certain sins or situations but I do great with others? How do I understand the temperament God gave me? Get your tickets at <https://www.eicatholic.org/f-a-r> and join the conversation on Sunday, February 11 at the JPII Newman Center (1221 S 71st St, Omaha).

Dear Lord, here I am! Help me to know the path you would have me walk, to speak the words you would have me speak, to love and serve those you put in my path. Amen.



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