

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET

GRETNA, NE 68028



4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole
region of Galilee. - Mk 1:28

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

JANUARY 28, 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

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING (DT 18:15-20)

Moses taught the Israelites that God would raise up a prophet like him to teach them the
Lord's commands. But he also forewarned about false prophets. How can we avoid
listening to false prophetic voices?

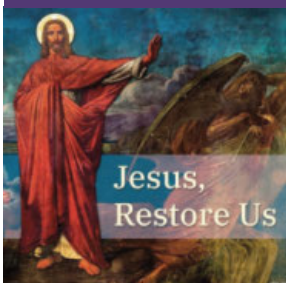
SECOND READING (1 COR 7:32-35)

Paul expresses his desire for the Corinthian believers to be free of anxiety so they can focus
their attention and energies on Jesus. What distracts you from the Lord?

GOSPEL (MK 1:21-28)

Mark informs us that early in Jesus's public ministry His "fame spread" quickly throughout
Galilee because of His powerful deeds, such as the healing of the demon-possessed man in
today's reading. Is there something or someone in your life that you pray Jesus would heal?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



I love movies about exorcisms. Apparently, so do many
others. The 2023 movie *Nefarious* features a possibly
possessed inmate on death row. Critics were not impressed,
but audiences scored it at 97% on the website *Rotten
Tomatoes*. Most people have an appreciation for the demonic
realm, even if cultural elites are generally embarrassed about
it. As is standard in exorcism movies, the afflicted person (in
this case, a man named Edward Brady) thinks and acts like
multiple persons. He is someone besides himself. We know
what that is like. We feel fake sometimes, not ourselves.

The same dynamic is on dramatic display this week in the Gospel. Jesus the Exorcist
approaches a possessed man who utters, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of
Nazareth?" Notice the plural, us. The basic effect of the demonic is division. The man's
identity is fractured, divided, and thus many. Jesus powerfully expels the spirit by saying,
"Quiet! Come out of him!" Jesus' word has the power to restore the man's singularity—him
—and indeed it does.

All this helps us to dismiss childish images of demons sporting red goat tails. Equally, it
overcomes the cultured aloofness that dreams demons are mere metaphors for evil. We
see instead that fallen angels are conscious and intelligent beings who orient their agency
toward division. They bring about schism where there should be unity, e.g., in persons,
families, communities, politics, and so on. Thankfully, Jesus commands demons to flee
from all these places to restore wholeness and peace. What if we made room for His word
where we need it?

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

I have a friend who receives communion,
but who I know for a fact is in a state of
mortal sin. Should I tell our priest? Is it my
responsibility to say something?



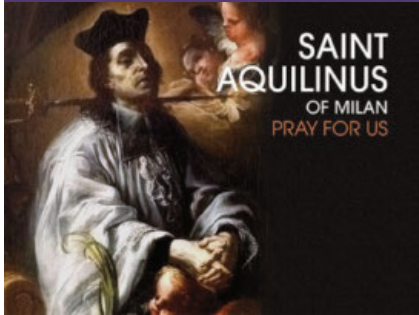
ANSWER:

While we may always want to do what is best for our friends and family members, we have
a responsibility to respect their privacy and their conscience. In its reflections on the Eighth
Commandment "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor", the Catechism of
the Catholic Church states, "Respect for the reputation of persons forbids every attitude
and word likely to cause them unjust injury. [One] becomes guilty: —of rash judgment who,
even tacitly, assumes as true, without sufficient foundation, the moral fault of a neighbor;
—of detraction who, without objectively valid reason, discloses another's faults and failings
to persons who do not know them; of calumny who, by remarks contrary to the truth,
harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning
them" (no. 2477).

We will never truly know what is in a person's mind, heart, and soul; only God knows those
things. We should, of course, take our concerns to God and entrust the person about
whom we are concerned to God's grace and mercy. If we have concerns about the spiritual
wellbeing of someone with whom we are close, we should go to the person themselves
and talk about our fears and concerns. Unless it is a case of abuse or endangerment (which
we have a moral and even legal responsibility to report to the appropriate authorities), we
ultimately do not have the freedom to share another's persons faults or sins, however
good we think our intentions might be.

SAINT AQUILINUS OF MILAN

Priest and Martyr



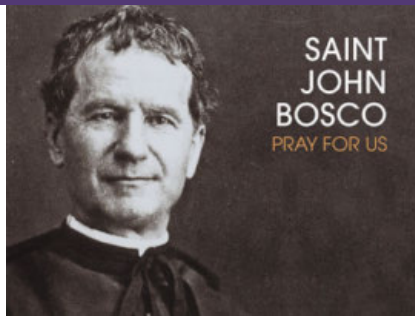
St. Aquilinus of Milan (d. 1015 A.D.), also known as St. Aquilinus of Cologne, was born to a noble family in Bavaria, Germany. He received his education in Cologne, Germany and was ordained to the priesthood. He was offered the bishopric of Cologne, but turned it down in order to be a missionary priest and itinerant preacher. He traveled through various European cities fighting against the dangerous and spreading heresies of the Cathars, Manichaeans, and Arians. He was also known to work miracles by healing people from disease,

especially during a cholera epidemic. He eventually settled in Milan, Italy, and was so effective in his preaching against the Arian heretics that they stabbed him to death and threw his body in the city sewer. His body was recovered and buried in the Basilica of San Lorenzo, in a chapel which now bears his name. His feast day is January 29.

SAINT JOHN BOSCO

Priest

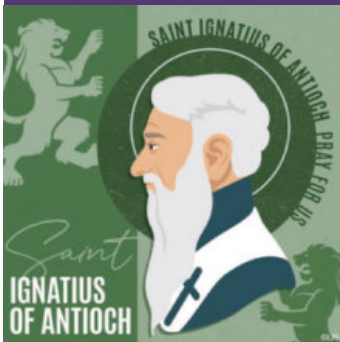
St. John Bosco (1815–1888) was born in Italy to a poor farming family. His father died when he was two, leaving his religious instruction to his pious mother. At the age of nine he had his first of many powerful visions which would come throughout his life. In it Jesus and the Virgin Mary showed him that he was to instruct poor, wayward boys and bring them back to God. John eventually joined the priesthood, paying his way through school with odd jobs. As a priest he began ministering to the poor and neglected boys of Turin, Italy, who were driven to



desperate conditions in the wake of the Industrial Revolution. Many of these street boys ended up in prison as teenagers. Don Bosco became a mentor and spiritual director to them, helping them to live a life of virtue and saving many from a future of crime and poverty. He met with them as a group—called the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales—and catechized them as a kindly spiritual father. He also established the Salesians of Don Bosco, priests and brothers who minister to and educate boys under the patronage of the great spiritual director, St. Francis de Sales. Don Bosco is the patron saint of boys, laborers, young people, students, and Mexican young people. His feast day is January 31.

SAINT IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH

Bishop and Martyr



St. Ignatius of Antioch (35-108) was a bishop of Antioch in the first century which, at the time, was the capital of Syria. One of the earliest bishops, he was a disciple of the apostle John and was a prolific writer and teacher of the early faith. Throughout his ministry, he emphasized the importance of the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine, considering the Eucharist as the "medicine of immortality" and "the flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ." His writings, particularly his seven epistles, passionately affirmed the significance of partaking in the Eucharistic celebration as a means to unite with Christ and fellow believers. He urged the faithful to hold fast to the teachings of the apostles and the sacraments passed

down through the generations. During the reign of Roman Emperor Trajan, St. Ignatius was arrested for his faith and condemned to be taken to Rome for execution. While in chains making the long journey with Roman soldiers from Syria to Rome, St. Ignatius was allowed to meet with many of the faithful and to write letters to neighboring Christian congregations. His seven epistles from this time and his conviction in the face of martyrdom served as an inspiration to many. His writings live on today as important teachings of the early Church, shedding a light into early Christian theology. St. Ignatius was martyred in Rome's Colosseum when he was thrown to the lions and devoured. He's remembered as the patron saint of Church unity, and the Eucharist. St. Ignatius of Antioch, pray for us!



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 5:1-20
TUESDAY: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43
WEDNESDAY: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6
THURSDAY: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13
FRIDAY: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
SATURDAY: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/Mk 6:30-34
NEXT SUNDAY: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (see 3a)/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY: St. John Bosco, Priest
FRIDAY: The Presentation of the Lord, World Day for Consecrated Life
SATURDAY: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop
NEXT SUNDAY: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time





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 and register for your preferred class. Contact Amanda Scardina at 402-332-3050 with any questions.



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!

SEMINARIAN PRAYER CORNER

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

This week let us pray for **Seth Conrad** (Pre-Theology II at St. Kenrick Glennon Seminary) from St. John the Baptist in Ft. Calhoun.



"I will raise up for them a prophet like you." If you think that you may be set apart by the Lord to serve Him as a priest or as a consecrated sister or brother, talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.

"PRAY ALWAYS AND DO NOT LOSE HEART."

 *Pray for our Seminarians*



Since our last update on December 31, 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

Wesley James Hubert.....1/21/2024

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 see below or visit stpatricksgretna.org/get-involved/live-lent-together/
- Best Lent Ever—program by Dynamic Catholic, www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent.html
- Pause to Pray—daily email meditations by Marian priests, forms.thedivinemercy.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/>

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. 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!

FIRST FRIDAY AFTERNOON MASS AND ANNOINTING *Gretna - Springfield Family of Parishes*



On First Fridays, St. Joseph (100 9th St, Springfield) has a 2 PM Mass with Anointing of the Sick available and confessions beforehand. This Mass is specially scheduled to accommodate older and limited mobility persons who may have difficulty attending an early morning Mass or sitting through an entire Sunday Mass. The church and parking are easily accessible. All are welcome.

PARISH UPDATE—ST. PATRICK

September 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

Includes a Summary Financial Report for the fiscal YTD from July 2—December 31, 2023.

Welcome, 2024! Together, let's make seeking truth a New Year's goal this year. "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire!" This favorite quote from St. Catherine of Siena prompts the question, "How do we know who God intended us to be?" It's through seeking truth! There is so much chaos and confusion in the world, and seeking Christian truth involves a journey of faith, prayer, study, and personal reflection. Ash Wednesday is February 14 this year, so to seek Christian truth, let us strive to deepen our personal relationship with Christ through daily prayer and the rosary, join a parish Bible Study, engage in a church group or volunteer activity, attend daily Mass when possible, and begin to experience a deeper growth in our faith. If everyone were to make seeking Christian truth a goal and followed through with it, imagine how the world would be at peace. Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us!

PARISH LIFE HIGHLIGHTS

Parish life continues to be active and fully alive as represented by these recent highlights:

- Currently, we have 1,521 registered families at St. Patrick.
- From September 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, we've had 22 baptisms, two funerals, and one wedding.
- Typically we reach between three to five thousand people in a month with the posts on our Facebook page, @stpatgretnane. However, in the month of December alone we reached over 15,000! Thank you for all the likes, shares, and comments as they truly make a difference.
- In the first six months of starting our Instagram account, @stpatgretnane, we already have 144 followers and an average of 50 to 100 views per post.
- After gaining attention with the posts of our weekly Fruitful Friday videos where we have been walking through the Mass, we began posting our abbreviated homily highlight videos that we call "Christ Within Me" on September 10. These minute long videos are posted on our Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube pages on Tuesday nights as a reminder to live the Gospel all week long.
- Each week we have been sending the seminarians the bulletin that corresponds to the Seminar Prayer Corner. They greatly appreciate the prayers as they continue on the path of discerning God's will for their vocation.
- RCIA—In September, we began another year of OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults). We currently have two candidates as well as two catechumens going through the class in order to learn more about the faith! We hope to welcome them with warm hearts into the Church at Easter.
- Youth Group—Since September, we have been meeting weekly on Wednesday nights for Youth Group here at St. Patrick Parish. We started off the year with an outdoor Mass at one of our parishioner's acreages. We began the year with a total of 34 students. At the end of the semester before Christmas break, we ended with 51 teens at Youth Group! Youth Group meets every Wednesday night at 7 PM.
- The Youth Group is currently preparing for Fish Fry's and other fundraisers in order to earn money to go on the annual Steubenville trip in Springfield, Missouri over the summer! Please support us with a donation.
- Preschool started in September and we have had a great school year so far. Our teachers have been busy with helping our students

Continued on page 8—>

Stewardship Report

Jan 16-22, 2024

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

General Contributions	Jan 16-22	Fiscal YTD thru Jan 22
Sunday Offering-Jan 16-22	\$29,544.95	\$726,749.09
Other Contributions	\$1,613.78	\$81,393.28
Total General Contributions	\$31,158.73	\$808,142.37 *
Surplus/Deficit	\$6,408.73	\$164,642.37
 Fiscal Year-to-Date Income		\$1,023,482.43
Fiscal Year-to-Date Expenses		\$908,911.72
Fiscal Year-to-Date Net Income		\$114,570.71

* 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



DECEMBER KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our Knight of the Month for December, Carson Horst. Thank you Carson for your service and contributions to our Knights of Columbus Council, our parish, and our community.

Pictured from left to right is Grand Knight, Bruce Jefferies presenting the Knight of the Month award to Carson Horst.



DECEMBER FAMILY OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to our Family of the Month for December, the Matt and Heather Henry family. Thank you to the Henry family for your service and contributions to our Knights of

Columbus Council, our parish, and our community. Pictured from left to right is Grand Knight, Bruce Jefferies presenting the Family of the Month Award to Matt Henry.

BLOOD DRIVE

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. Search sponsor code GretnaNE or call Marty Stednitz at 402-332-3840.



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 Meerian402-981-6471



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 29TH

No Communion Service or Mass

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30TH

6:00 PM The Deceased Members of the
Ingram and Bruck Families

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31ST

7:30 AM Carol Zeleny

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST

7:30 AM † Eldon Wesely and † Adam Wesely

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND

7:30 AM † Judy Mares

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

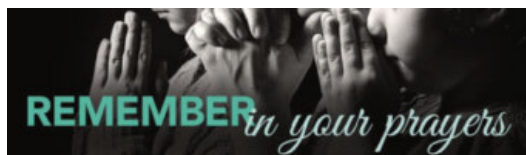
5:00 PM † Jerry Weier

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH

8:00 AM † Janet Block
10:00 AM † Jerry and Philamae Towey
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



Let us pray for 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.

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 29TH

8:30 AM to 10:00 AM Amazing Athletes with Preschool—Basement Commons
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Adult Ascension Bible Study—Parish Center A and Kitchen

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30TH

8:30 AM to 10:00 AM Amazing Athletes with Preschool—Basement Commons
10:00 AM to 3:30 PM Project Linus—Basement Commons
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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31ST

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, FEBRUARY 1ST

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM TOA Committee Meeting—Basement Commons
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM RCIA—Parish Center C

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND

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, FEBRUARY 3RD

8:00 AM to 9:30 AM Knights of Columbus Officer Meeting—Father Hitch Room
12:00 PM to 11:30 PM Private Event—Parish Cetner AB
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, FEBRUARY 4TH—5TH 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
12:00 PM to 2:00 PM Medjugorje Potluck and Pilgrim Meeting—Parish Center A
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary and Narthex

CLOISTERS IGNATIAN PRAYER APP/WEBSITE

Supports The Cloisters on the Platte

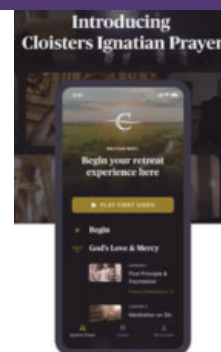
I want to thank you for supporting the Cloisters on the Platte. I hope you've enjoyed your Ignatian experience. The Cloisters remains a special place where people can step away from daily obligations and reconnect with their faith. Maybe you returned home and wondered how to extend the benefits of your retreat throughout the year.

That's why I'm pleased to share Cloisters Ignatian Prayer, a new digital app (<https://cloistersignatianprayer.org>) that lets you experience a retreat from your computer or mobile device. Wherever you are—at home or out enjoying nature—you'll have access to video lessons, prayers, and reflection exercises from spiritual leaders. You can take lessons on your own time and revisit the prayers and reflections you find meaningful. All you need is a quiet place to contemplate.

If you choose to subscribe, 100% of your subscription will be used to support The Cloisters on the Platte Foundation. I hope this can be one of many blessings in your life.

Joe Ricketts

Founder and CEO, The Cloisters on the Platte Foundation



"The life of the body is the soul; the life of the soul is God." —St. Anthony of Padua

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FEBRUARY 3RD 5:00 PM **FEBRUARY 4TH 8:00 AM** **FEBRUARY 4TH 10:00 AM** **FEBRUARY 4TH NOON**

Sacristan
Larry Neppi

Lectors
Karen Meyerott
(Read the 1st Reading)

Eric Hittner
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
JoAnn Koch
Julene Crockett
Sheri French
Larry Neppi

Ushers
Ken Beckman
Chris Lingbloom
Andy Pearson
Chad Soupir

Rosary Reciter
Ellie Clines

Altar Servers
Colin Lingbloom
Aslyn Ronk
Kenley Ronk

Greeters
Tim Kirkpatrick
Nancy Kirkpatrick

Sacristan
Joan Ingram

Lectors
Cari Kaup
(Read the 1st Reading)

Therese Huttman
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Kylie Karnish
Barb Applegate
Greg Jones
Therese Nisbet

Ushers
Kevin Kaup
Ron Kotrous
Larry Scheef
Bob Sis

Rosary Reciter
Kathy Schwarting

Altar Servers
Kaylee Frederick
Drew Garcia
Emersyn Pichler

Greeters
Mary Maw
Tony Schultz

Hilcrest SR
Marty Stednitz
Sally Stednitz

Sacristan
Mitch Wendlandt

Lectors
Kelly Eby
(Read the 1st Reading)

Theresa Gulizia
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Phyllis Cannon
Dennis Cannon
Abby Kenner
Kathy Wendlandt

Ushers
Dan Dauner
Kathy Dauner
Norris Hoover
Chris Reinig

Rosary Reciter
Tam Hottovy

Altar Servers
Kalla Kassmeier
Klayton Kassmeier
Kameron Kassmeier

Greeters
Tony Tiefenthaler
Andrew Urban

Sacristan
Linda Schriener

Lectors
Lori Wewel
(Read Both 1st and 2nd Readings)

Kathy Broz
(Standby: if a Sub is Needed)

EMHCs
Kathy Broz
Linda Schriener
Steve Otto
Leann Otto

Ushers
Linda Gardner
Linda Schriener
Doris Williams
Mary Zeigler

Rosary Reciter
Carol Zeleny

Altar Servers
James Janda
Thomas Janda
Need Sub

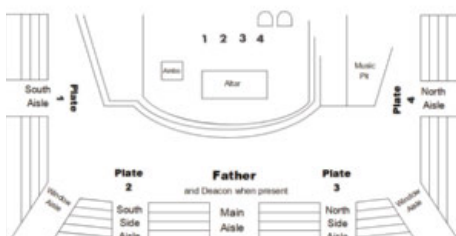
Greeters
Jeanette Roy
Mary Zeigler

Vocations Crucifix
John Roll

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.

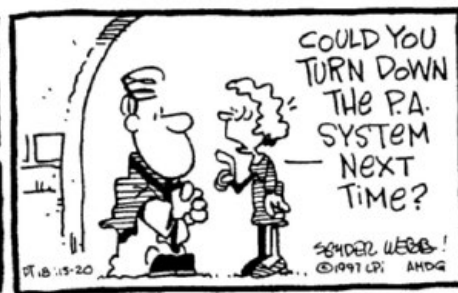
EMHC STATION MAP



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

4th 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

Deacon Ken Broz.....402-676-1025
Deacon Larry Heck.....402-572-1319

PARISH OFFICE

Jolene Jefferies, Parish Mgr.....402-332-4444, x203
jmjefferies@archomaha.org

Megan Seamann, Communications Associate

meseamann@archomaha.org..402-332-4444, x202

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

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Shane Fagan.....402-332-3454
smfagan@archomaha.org

DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

Amanda Scardina.....402-332-3050
acscardina@archomaha.org

PASTORAL MINISTRY (LITURGY, YOUTH GROUP & FAITH FORM)

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

PASTORAL MINISTRY (ELDERLY, HOMEBOUND & FUNERALS)

Francesca Dammermann.....402-332-4444, x204
fdammermann@archomaha.org

DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC

Laura Rau.....402-332-4444, x216
lrau@archomaha.org

PARISH CENTER COORDINATOR

Lezlie Thomas.....402-525-3098
lathomas@archomaha.org

FACILITY MANAGER

Judy Knight.....402-332-4444, x206
jaknight@archomaha.org

PASTORAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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.

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://stpatricksgretna.org/education/preschool/toa-2024> or call the Preschool office, 402-332-3050.

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Discount Tickets!

Eucharistic Revival



The 10th National Eucharistic Congress will be held July 17-21 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis and the Archdiocese of Omaha wants to help you make the trip. We are offering 30% off tickets for this historic, once-in-a-lifetime Eucharistic event. Already have tickets? Book your lodging in the Archdiocese's block of hotel rooms by tickets by January 31. Find out more at <https://archomaha.org/eucharistic-revival>.

PARISH UPDATE—ST. PATRICK

Continued From Page 5

grow academically, socially, and most of all spiritually. We took a couple field trips this fall, including Fontanelle Forest, Omaha Children's Museum, and Gifford Farms. In November and December we were busy practicing for our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas programs. We are preparing now for a new school year and registration will start in a couple of weeks.

- Religious Education (RE) classes began after Labor Day with a volunteer Catechist in every classroom. We have over 50 dedicated volunteers who help with RE every week.
- In September, as we have done the last few years, we had a prayer service dedicating ourselves and the new RE year to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary.
- Each year, we focus on one aspect of living the faith at home. This year's focus is on service and charity. Families are encouraged to practice this by praying for those in need, donating to the less fortunate, and giving time for others.
- This year we added a new initiative for "Biblical Literacy" in our 4th-8th grade RE classes. Instead of reading scripture stories or passages out of the textbook or children's Bible, most weeks they look them up in an actual Bible to give them regular practice using and reading the Bible.
- In October, we all gathered to say the Rosary for our prayer partners, babies and new moms, and an increase in vocations. Our prayer partners are elderly parishioners that we've paired with each class. They pray for each other, and sometimes send cards and notes back and forth, too.
- Our 8th graders attended a Confirmation Retreat at the parish in October. This half day of prayer, reflection, games, and group bonding allowed the candidates to think about how the Holy Spirit is active in their life through prayer, the Church, and those around them like family and friends.
- In November, our 62 second graders received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Congratulations!
- Our K-6th graders put on a Christmas program before Christmas break. To celebrate the true meaning of the season, we heard the story of Christmas while costumed players took the parts of the Biblical characters, and younger students sang some traditional carols.
- Laura Rau, our new Director of Sacred Music, has settled into her new position and has been working with the adult and children's choirs and our cantors. She has begun to recruit new choir members and cantors along with instrumental players—woodwinds, strings, and brass—to enhance the music at our Masses. Laura also plans the music for all the liturgical seasons and special liturgies.
- We recently kicked off a new parish mission in support of the Fr. Ssonko Missionary Fund to assist in the missionary work of Fr. John Baptist Ssonko, a priest of the Diocese of Lugazi in Uganda. The primary role of the fund is to raise money to support the operational and capital needs of St. Mary's Primary School in Busaabla, Uganda. The fund also supports Fr. Ssonko's missionary travels and helps Fr. Ssonko with his personal needs. We are pleased to report that for the first half of this fiscal year, we've received \$28,502 in contributions. Thank you for your incredible generosity! We look forward to continuing to support this important initiative.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Recently Completed Projects:

- Sanctuary Carpet—Estimated Cost \$68,818; Actual Cost \$66,972—Not only was the project under budget, but we were also able to complete the project a week earlier than anticipated. We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped move chairs in and out of the sanctuary so that Mass could continue to be held at St. Patrick and not be moved offsite while the carpet was being replaced. This was truly a team effort! We are so very blessed to have such a giving parish.
- Parish Center Lighting—Cost \$33,302—All can light fixtures in the Parish Center were replaced with LED fixtures. This not only eliminates costly repairs to the outdated fixtures but lowers the electrical expenses.
- Replacement of Other Light Fixtures—Cost \$7,451—In addition, we replaced several outdated fixtures in the cry room, restrooms, SE and east entrances into the Church with LED fixtures.
- Sanctuary Lights—Cost \$3,372—Ballasts on the hanging fixtures were replaced along with the arch lamps.
- Water Damage—Cost \$2,500 deductible—With the heavy rains in late August, we had water in the Youth Group room, classroom 9, sound room, and Parish Center. It took 5-7 days to determine where the water was coming in and make repairs. Contractors involved were Paul Davis Restoration, Mainelli Construction, Prime Secure, Pyramid Roofing, and Miller Electric.
- Music Area (Raised Floor)—Approximate Cost \$7,059—(We are still waiting on a final invoice from Electronic Sound.)—The music floor is now one level which allows for better utilization of the area.

Continued on next page—>

PARISH UPDATE—ST. PATRICK

Continued From Page 8

- Card Access Added to the North Transept—Cost \$965—This door is now accessible by contractors and staff. Prior to the installation the nearest access on the north side was the patio door on the lower level.
- Replacement Cameras Installed in the Sanctuary and SE Entrance—Cost \$2,525—The SE entry camera could not be repaired, and the sanctuary camera was obsolete. Therefore, both cameras were replaced.

Projects in Progress:

- Sanctuary Lights—We are still exploring options for converting the sanctuary lighting system to LED. Bids are currently being solicited.
- Stained Glass Windows Restoration—Additional windows will be repaired in 2024.
- Parking Lot Repairs—Once spring arrives, we will evaluate the parking lot and sidewalk repairs and proceed as needed.
- Parish Center Audio Visual—We are currently looking for a new contractor to work on the AV equipment. The system today is antiquated and needs to be updated.

As always, repairs and maintenance needs are being addressed as they arise. We deeply appreciate your help in bringing issues to our attention so they may be addressed as quickly and efficiently as possible. If you should have any questions about our facilities and building maintenance needs, please do not hesitate to contact either Father Baxter, Jolene Jefferies, or Judy Knight.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Below is a snapshot of our finances for the first six months of the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023, with a previous fiscal year comparison for this same time period. Our new fiscal year began on July 1, 2023.

St. Patricks Church of Gretna #7041

Profit & Loss

July through December 2023

	Jul - Dec 23	Jul - Dec 22	\$ Change	% Change
▼ Ordinary Income/Expense				
▶ Income	904,163.11	839,614.10	64,549.01	7.7%
Gross Profit	904,163.11	839,614.10	64,549.01	7.7%
▶ Expense	858,991.72	906,671.48	-47,679.76	-5.3%
Net Ordinary Income	45,171.39	-67,057.38	112,228.77	167.4%
▶ Other Income/Expense ▶	-2,366.59	45.45	-2,412.04	-5,307.0%
Net Income	42,804.80	-67,011.93	109,816.73	163.9%

Expenses—Overall expenses during this past fiscal year, ending June 30, 2023, were 5.3% less than this same time the previous fiscal year. Many of our building projects and ongoing maintenance needs represent the bulk of these expenses. The next priority project is to work on our sanctuary lighting and update the AV equipment in the Parish Center. Stay tuned for more details on these projects as we work on considering options and soliciting bids.

Income—Overall gross income this period increased by 163.9% compared to the past fiscal year. Contributions during the holiday months this year have helped in this regard. However, in the next half of this fiscal year, we will need additional financial support to complete all the necessary building projects and improvements to keep our parish in the proper condition for many years to come.

THE WAY AHEAD

We look forward to continuing our efforts in supporting the necessary capital building improvements. As we evaluate our options for some of the upcoming building projects and solicit bids, we will keep you updated on the projected expenses and what's next. We ask each parishioner to financially support these projects to the extent possible. We are deeply grateful for all your support and gifts that come in a variety of ways. Many thanks to each of you for all you do for St. Patrick!

If you should have any questions about this update, please do not hesitate to contact either Father Baxter or Jolene Jefferies, Parish Manager. Have a blessed and safe winter!

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with first fruits of all your produce."
Proverbs 3:9



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

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Sign Up Genius link to volunteer.....https://
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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

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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)**
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Website.....holyfamilyshrine.com
- LEAST OF MY BRETHREN (SUPPORT HOMELESS)**
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Website.....leastofmybrethren.org
- MARRIAGE RESOURCES**
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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
- SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO—FM 102.7**
Phone.....402-571-0200
Website.....www.spiritcatholicradio.com
- ST. BENEDICT CENTER (RETREATS IN SCHUYLER)**
Phone.....402-352-2177
Website.....christthekingpriory.com/sbcabout
- ST. JOHN PAUL II NEWMAN CENTER**
Phone.....402-557-5575
Website.....jpiiomaha.org
- STRIVE (BREAK FREE FROM PORNOGRAPHY)**
Phone.....989-720-8000
Website.....strive21.com
- WOMEN'S CENTER FOR ADVANCEMENT
(DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, ETC.)**
24/7 Hotline.....402-345-7273
Website.....wcaomaha.org

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

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.



BETHLEHEM HOUSE GALA—SCOTT CONFERENCE CENTER, UNO, FEBRUARY 17

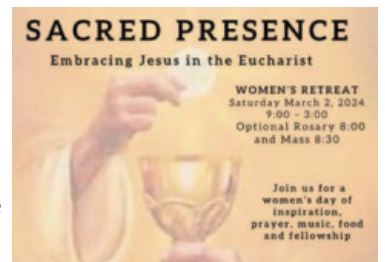


The mothers, families, board, and staff of Bethlehem House request the honor of your presence at Vita—an evening for Bethlehem House on Saturday, February 17 at 5:30 PM at the Scott Conference Center at UNO (6450 Pine St, Omaha). Join Mistress of Ceremonies, Jen Brown, and Executive

Director, Anne Rohling, for an evening of food, fellowship, and fundraising to support of our mission and the families we are blessed to serve. Bethlehem House has been serving under-supported pregnant women, showing them that every life is precious and worthy of love for 19 years! Single tickets are \$100 and tables of 10 are \$1,000. Find out more and register online at <https://one.bidpal.net/vita2024>. Thank you for your continued support of women choosing a new life—for their unborn children as well as themselves!

WOMEN'S RETREAT—ST. CHARLES BORROMEO, MARCH 2

Plan to join us for a women's day of inspiration, prayer, music, food, and fellowship on March 2 from 9 AM to 3 PM (optional Rosary at 8 AM and Mass at 8:30 AM at St. Charles Borromeo (7790 S 192nd St, Gretna). Our retreat will be themed around embracing Jesus in the Eucharist. Julie Carrick, author and Catholic recording artist will be our guest speaker. \$20 registration fee includes lunch. For more information or to register, go to stcharlesomaha.org/womensretreat or call Bertie at 402-651-1616.



GRIEVING WITH HOPE—ST. PATRICK, ELKHORN, MARCH 9



Join us for a Grief Retreat called Grieving with Hope on Saturday, March 9 from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, with Mass at 5 PM. This retreat is a faith-based retreat for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one. The day will include talks from Deacon Jim Tardy of Catholic Cemeteries, testimonies from those who are journeying through grief, Stations of the Cross for healing, creative activities, and small group discussions. RSVP at www.tinyurl.com/grievingwithhope24.

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