

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET GRETNA, NE 68028



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.

- Mt 2:10

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

JANUARY 7, 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

The Epiphany of the Lord

FIRST READING (Is 60:1-6)

Isaiah foresaw a future when the Lord would use Israel as His instrument to shine His glory into the world. What could you do this week to show God's glory to others?

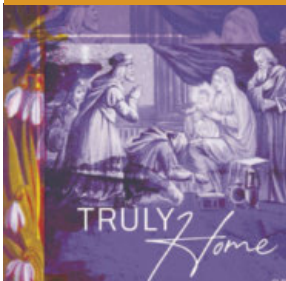
SECOND READING (EPH 3:2-3A, 5-6)

Paul met a lot of resistance when he spoke of God's "revelation" that Gentiles are "coheirs" and "copartners" with Jews in the divine promise fulfilled in Christ Jesus. How welcoming are you to outsiders?

GOSPEL (Mt 2:1-12)

In the story of the magi's visit, we see the prophecies of Isaiah (our first reading) fulfilled with the treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh given to the Holy Family. What gift do you give to the Lord?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



A stranger in a foreign land, I was exhausted and homesick as my summer Spanish immersion ended in Guatemala. The rusty minivan arriving outside my small residence filled me with joyful hope. I was flying home to the U.S. and would be, at long last, completely happy. Or so I thought. After about half an hour of being home, I thought to myself, "This place is boring. I want to go somewhere." So, I hopped in my car and left to see my friends. As I drove, I wistfully wondered, "Where am I truly at home?"

The feast of Epiphany has a lot to do with our notion of home.

Where is our origin? Where are we going? When is our wandering done? St. Matthew tells us of the Magi, "They were overjoyed at seeing the star." This star will bring them home, to a place where their questing will end, and they will be satisfied. Their real home is neither in the East nor in the earthly Jerusalem. Somehow, their home is wherever this boy and His parents are.

If you're a teenager or older, you probably know by now that every physical home we have is temporary. So, we look up at the countless stars in our proverbial skies: things which bedazzle and beckon us to follow toward peace. The Gospel invites us to behold that—at long last—God has sent us a star to follow home, one that whispers, "Follow me! I will take you home!" Perhaps that star is your spouse. A friend. An opportunity. A cause. An intuition about a new direction. A prayer group. What is it for you? How will you know? It will lead you to Mary and Joseph and their Son, and you will be home.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

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

ANSWER:

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

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

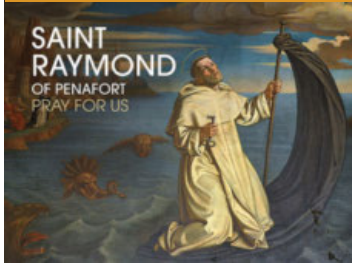
Today in the Roman Church, these are usually celebrated on three successive Sundays: Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord which is usually the next Sunday, and the wedding feast of Cana, which is proclaimed on the 2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time in lectionary year C.

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



SAINT RAYMOND OF PENAFORT

Religious



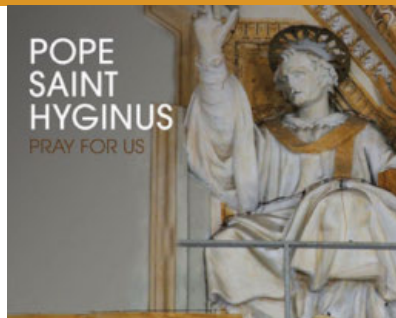
St. Raymond of Penafort (1175–1275) was born in Spain to the noble family of Aragon. As a child he received an excellent education and displayed a great love for the Blessed Mother. After studying and teaching philosophy and law he entered the Order of Preachers. He preached the Crusades and encouraged the faithful to defend their civilization from foreign threats. To aid his preaching, Raymond requested that his fellow Dominican, St. Thomas Aquinas, write his epic *Summa Contra Gentiles* for the conversion of non-

Catholics, especially Muslims. It is said that at least 10,000 Muslims were converted to the Catholic faith as a result of Raymond's evangelistic labors. Together with King James of Aragon and St. Peter Nolasco he founded the Order of Our Lady of Ransom (Mercedarians), a group that worked to free Christians enslaved by the Moors. Known for his great mind and great sanctity, St. Raymond was the Pope's personal confessor and close adviser. As a trained lawyer, he was also chosen to compile the Church's legal documents into one source of canon law which was then used for centuries. He also wrote a manual of moral theology for confessors. St. Raymond is famous for the miracle of sailing from the island of Majorca to Barcelona using his cape for a raft, in protest of the King of Aragon's refusal to dismiss his mistress. St. Raymond of Penafort is the patron of lawyers and canon lawyers. His feast day is January 7.

SAINT HYGINUS

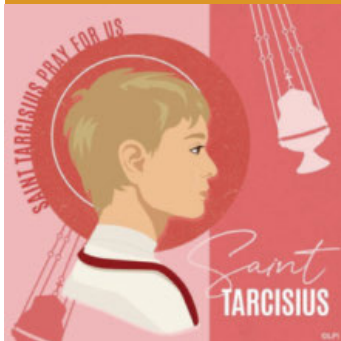
Pope

Pope St. Hyginus (d. 142 A.D.) was born in Athens, Greece, and became the ninth successor to the Chair of St. Peter. He reigned as pope for four years from about 138-142 A.D. Many of the details of his life have not been preserved, although various actions are credited to him: defending the Catholic faith against the Gnostic heresy which spread in Rome; beginning the practice of including godparents at infant baptisms to help the newborn child receive a Christian upbringing; and decreeing that all churches must be consecrated. Pope St. Hyginus is buried near the tomb of St. Peter on Vatican Hill. It is uncertain whether he became a martyr under the persecutions of Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius. His feast day is January 11.



SAINT TARCISIUS

Martyr



St. Tarcisus (263-275) was a 12-year-old boy who lived in 3rd-century Rome. Although what is known of him is legend taken from a poem written by Pope Damasus (366-384), he is still considered an important Catholic martyr, remembered for protecting the Eucharist from desecration with his life. According to legend, Tarcisus served as an acolyte. One of his duties was to aid in visiting the Christians imprisoned for their beliefs in Rome, bringing them the Eucharist. One day, as Tarcisus was on his way to the prison, carrying the consecrated Host from a secret underground Mass to those in need, he was confronted by a group of boys who demanded to know what he was carrying. Realizing the sacredness of

his mission, Tarcisus refused to reveal the contents of his pouch, even in the face of the boy's threats of violence. Subsequently, the boys beat him and stoned him to death, martyring him as he protected the Body of Christ. St. Tarcisus' sacrifice serves as a powerful reminder of the immense value of the Eucharist and how important it is to serve those who desire to receive Christ. His story also speaks to the incredible value of the church's youth and God's special mission in each of their lives. He is the patron saint of altar servers and first communicants. In 2010, at the end of a general audience dedicated to altar servers, Pope Benedict XVI blessed a 16-foot statue of St. Tarcisus in St. Peter Square. The event was attended by some 50,000 altar servers from around the world. St. Tarcisus, pray for us!



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

TUESDAY: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

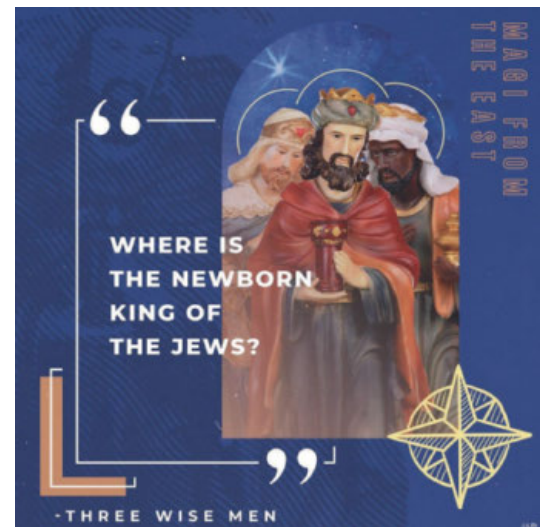
WEDNESDAY: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

THURSDAY: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

FRIDAY: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

SATURDAY: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

NEXT SUNDAY: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

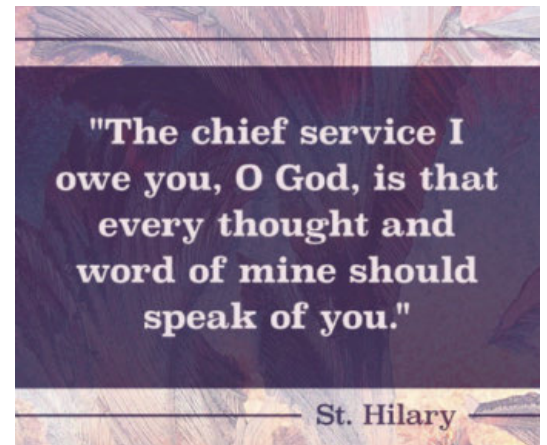


OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

MONDAY: The Baptism of the Lord

SATURDAY: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church; BVM

NEXT SUNDAY: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

VENI HOLY HOUR *Archomaha Young Adults*

All young adults in the archdiocese (ages 21-39) are invited to Veni, an evening of Adoration and fellowship at St. Cecilia Cathedral (701 N 40th St, Omaha) on Friday, January 12. Adoration begins at 7:30 PM in the Cathedral with a brief reflection from a priest and is followed by an after party in the parish center! Veni is held every second Friday of the month at the Cathedral. More information about getting involved in the Archdiocese Young Adult activities can be found at <https://www.archyoungadults.org>.



PARISH BREAKFASTS *Delicious Meal*



You are invited to join us in the Parish Center every second Sunday of the month, this month on January 14, from 9 AM to 12 PM for a delicious breakfast. It's a perfect way to gather after Sunday Mass and get to know other parishioners here at St. Patrick.

SEMINARIAN PRAYER CORNER

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

This week let us pray for **Michael Figura** (Theology II at North American College Seminary) from St. Stephen the Martyr in Omaha.



"For out of you shall come forth a ruler who will shepherd My people." Is Christ calling you forth out of your comfort zone to serve Him in others as a sister, brother, or priest? 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*

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.

NINE DAYS FOR LIFE NOVENA *Respect Life Novena*

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual USCCB Respect Life novena *9 Days for Life*. This novena is for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. This novena will begin on Tuesday, January 16 and conclude on Wednesday, January 24. To sign up for the daily emails visit <https://stpatrickgretna.flocknote.com/9DaysforLife> or contact Megan Seamann at 402-332-4444 ext. 202 or meseamann@archomaha.org.



HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS *Special Monstrance Blessed by Pope Saint John Paul II*



Join us on Monday, January 15 for a Holy Hour to Pray for Vocations at the JP II Newman Center (1221 S 71st St, Omaha). We will gather at 6:30 PM in the Karol Commons area for guests to meet our Serrans and then we will begin the Holy Hour at 7 PM. Father Frank Baumert and Father Toby Letak will preside the Holy Hour using the very special Serra International traveling monstrance that was blessed by Pope Saint John Paul II. After the Holy Hour we will gather in the Karol Commons area with students and attendees for a social mixer with refreshments. We hope to see you there!

SECOND COLLECTION FOR OUR SEMINARIANS *This Weekend—January 6-7*

This weekend, January 6-7, we will have a second collection in support of our Archdiocese of Omaha seminarians. The seminary collection, along with other gifts to the seminary fund, enables the Archdiocese of Omaha to cover educational costs and pay stipends for living expenses for its students in major and minor seminaries. A year's seminary education averages nearly \$40,000. The Archdiocese of Omaha doesn't require seminarians to repay their costs if they fail to complete their studies all the way to ordination, unlike some Catholic dioceses. Please consider supporting our seminarians in prayer as well as financially. You can find more information about each of our seminarians at <https://omahavocations.org/current-seminarians>.



Jesus, our Good Shepherd, bless all our parishes with numerous priests, deacons, men and women in religious life, consecrated laity and missionaries, according to the needs of the entire world, which you love and wish to save. Assist our pastors and all who live a consecrated life. Guide the steps of those who have responded generously to your call and are preparing to receive Holy Orders or to profess vows. Look with love on young people and call them to follow you. Help them to understand that in you alone can they attain complete fulfillment. To this end we call on the powerful intercession of Mary, Mother and model of all vocations. We beseech you to sustain our faith that the Father will grant what you command us to ask. Amen. —Pope St. John Paul II

YOU'RE INVITED

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje and Zadar—April 22 to May 5, 2024

It starts with a stirring...an ache...a longing to withdraw from the everyday routine and grow closer to Our Lord. Our Blessed Mother invites you to visit one of the most spiritual and peaceful places on the planet, a place of spiritual growth and conversion where she still appears today. The visionaries tell us that no one goes to Medjugorje by accident. You are invited to participate in a life-changing pilgrimage to Zadar (Croatia) and Medjugorje (Bosnia-Herzegovina) from April 22 to May 5, 2024, hosted by Mirjana Soldo, visionary. We will be staying at her hotel in Medjugorje for a few days and also at the Two Hearts Hotel. Our Spiritual Director is Reverend Michael Swanton, Associate Pastor of St. Leo the Great Catholic Church in Omaha. Our registered group leader is Jolene Jefferies who currently serves as the Parish Manager of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Gretna. How will you respond to our Blessed Mother's loving invitation? For questions or to learn more about the trip itinerary, cost, and related details, please contact Jolene Jefferies at 402-521-0717 or jmjefferies@archomaha.org.



WHY DO CATHOLIC WOMEN WEAR VEILS AT MASS

Are You Considering Veiling at Mass



For over 2000 years, Catholic women have worn some kind of head covering in Church. Though the particular reasons for doing so have varied (for example, modesty in the time of St. Paul), this practice has always focused on the transcendence of the place—the church, the very dwelling of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Having been given this magnificent gift by Jesus Himself, every Catholic Church holds something not found anywhere else: the true, living presence of our Bridegroom, hidden under the appearance of bread and wine. Contrary to what many believe, Vatican II never did away with this tradition. It remains a beautiful devotion whereby each woman, symbolizing the Bride of Christ, the Church, wears a veil as a visible reminder of the perfect submission to the Church to the loving rule of Christ.

If you are thinking about beginning this beautiful devotion, remember that it is God before Whom you wish to humble yourself. Like a religious habit, your veil is a public proclamation of your desire to submit to the will of God for your life, and of your commitment to answering the universal call to holiness and continual conversion. Your veil is also a sign of the great dignity inherent to a woman, who has the potential to receive life within herself...both human life and the supernatural life of God. This is an important message the world needs to hear, now more than ever!

Veils by Lily is a family apostolate whose mission is to reignite in the hearts of all the faithful the faith, awe, and wonder of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. We invite women to proclaim their faith in the Real Presence by making an external sign of their internal desire to humble themselves before God, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament.

—Article by *Veils by Lily* (www.veilsbylily.com)

Stewardship Report

Dec 12th-Dec 18th, 2023

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

General Contributions	Dec 12-Dec 18	Fiscal YTD thru Dec 18
Sunday's Offering-Dec 12-Dec 18	\$24,236.29	\$554,468.99
Other Contributions	\$1,500.72	\$43,149.92
Total General Contributions	\$25,737.01	\$597,618.91 *
Surplus/Deficit	\$987.01	(\$21,131.09)
Fiscal Year-to-Date Income		\$798,826.56
Fiscal Year-to-Date Expenses		\$800,723.85
Fiscal Year-to-Date Net Income		(\$1,897.29)

* 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



KNIGHTS JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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



January 2—Robert McKinney
January 3—Bruce Jefferies
January 5—Jamey Kennel
January 6—Stephen Sherry
January 8—Vance Wewel
January 9—Edward Dulik
January 10—Randall Ronspies
January 12—Rondal Charvat
January 13—William Baumert and Paul Beran
January 17—William Kirchner
January 18—Riley Egenberger
January 20—Jacob Lachnit and Larry Sibley
January 21—Shawn Dostal
January 22—Tony Benes and Chris Lingbloom
January 25—Ty Tucker
January 26—Anthony Korth
January 27—Denny Cannon
January 29—Dan Whitted

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 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 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 8TH

No Communion Service or Mass

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9TH

6:00 PM † Tom Selzle III

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10TH

7:30 AM † Larry and Michael Hansen

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11TH

7:30 AM † Deacon Paul and Patricia Rooney

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12TH

7:30 AM † Margaret Clayton

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13TH

5:00 PM † Kate Stork

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14TH

8:00 AM † Ron Osburn
10:00 AM † Ernst and Erma Meyer
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
Kay Schram,
Richard Smith,
Elaine Sedlacek,
Judy Burke, 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 7TH—THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 8TH

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Baptism Class—Father Hitch Room

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9TH

8:30 AM to 3:30 PM Project Linus—Basement Commons
10:00 AM to 11:30 AM Rosary Guild Meeting—Parish Center C
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 10TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
8:00 AM to 8:15 AM Liturgy of the Hours—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
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM St. Rose Flower Guild Meeting—Father Hitch Room
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM Fish Fry Planning Meeting—Father Hitch Room
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM RCIA—Parish Center C

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12TH

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13TH

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 14TH—2ND 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
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Parish Breakfast—Parish Center and Kitchen

THE PROPHETS: MESSENGERS OF GOD'S MERCY

Adult Ascension Bible Study Begins January 15

If we consider that God is the Divine Bridegroom and the Church is His Bride, then the prophets can be seen as "spiritual marriage counselors." They afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted, calling us to return to our covenant relationship with God. They urge us to repentance, warn us of the dangers of sin, and announce the blessings of faithfulness. Their prophetic words speak to us even today, as they draw us closer to our Heavenly Bridegroom. It is nearly impossible to understand the work and the message of Jesus without the prophetic books. In *The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy*, presenter Thomas Smith examines how the prophets were, their role during their time, and the meaning of their messages for our own time. Discover how God is constantly calling you to a deeper relationship as well as the ways you are called to be the voice of God to others.



Join fellow parishioners and come to know the prophets and how their messages shed light on our faith and our lives. St Patrick of Gretna will begin a ten-week Bible study *Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy* on Monday, January 15 at 7 PM. Participants will meet every week to view an engaging video presentation followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship.

Register at <https://stpatricksgretna.org>. You will also need to order study materials from Ascension. If you need help with registration or ordering, contact Ginny Giebelhaus at ginnyg651@aol.com or 402-319-5806. If you have general questions about the study or would like to volunteer as a small group facilitator, contact Jean Hlavacek at 402-504-4222 or jean.jeweler@gmail.com. Come discover the messages the prophets have for you.

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

JANUARY 13TH
5:00 PM

Sacristan
Pat Gilmore

Lectors
Lori Wewel
(Read the 1st Reading)

Karen Meyerott
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Linda Schriener
Karen Wiehl
Janie Vipond
Mikaela Vobejda
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Ken Beckman
Andy Pearson
Linda Schriener
Lisa Willert

Rosary Reciter
Ellie Clines

Altar Servers
Colin Lingbloom
Aslyn Ronk
Kenley Ronk

Greeters
Therese Nisbet
Tim Kirkpatrick

JANUARY 14TH
8:00 AM

Sacristan
Carol Zeleny

Lectors
Carrie Hubert
(Read the 1st Reading)

Joan Ingram
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Jamey Kennel
Paul Hubert
Cari Kaup
Laura Fischer
Deacon Larry Heck

Ushers
Kevin Kaup
Ron Kotrous
Larry Scheef
Pat Shurtliff

Rosary Reciter
Tim Gilligan

Altar Servers
Mitchell Hubert
Paul Joseph Hubert
Luke Hubert

Greeters
Mary Brown
Mary Maw

Hilcrest SR
Mike Siegel
Paula Siegel

JANUARY 14TH
10:00 AM

Sacristan
Mitch Wendlandt

Lectors
Theresa Gulizia
(Read the 1st Reading)

Kelly Eby
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Kathy Wendlandt
Kari Lenz
Rosie Stec
Diana Alderson

Ushers
Clint Bollock
Jim Hain
John Schaffert
Tony Vanek

Rosary Reciter
Tam Hottovy

Altar Servers
Greyson Angell
Anderson Brei
Scarlet McCord

Greeters
Andrew Brei
Andrew Urban

JANUARY 14TH
NOON

Sacristan
Ginny Giebelhaus

Lectors
Donna Bruck
(Read Both 1st and 2nd Readings)

Eric Hittner
(Standby: if a Sub is Needed)

EMHCs
Steve Otto
Leann Otto
Darcy Skrdla
Ginny Giebelhaus

Ushers
Ginny Giebelhaus
Carole Lisiecki
Need Sub
Need Sub

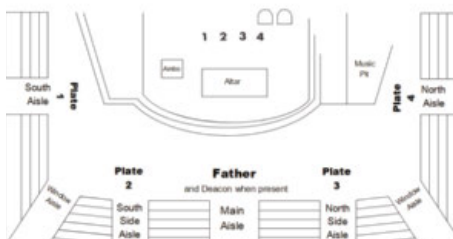
Rosary Reciter
Norm Svoboda

Altar Servers
Need Sub
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Carole Lisiecki
Jeanette Roy

Vocations Crucifix
Steve Ference

EMHC STATION MAP



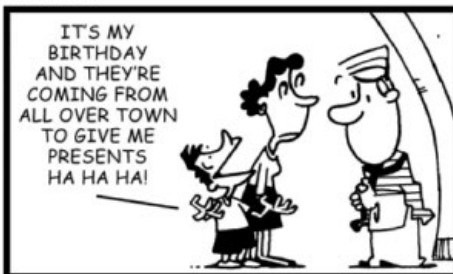
EMHC Positions (see diagram above):

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

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

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

EPIPHANY



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

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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
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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.

FREE CHRISTMAS BOOK
Beautiful Eucharist



Thanks to a generous donor, we are offering Matthew Kelly's recent book, *Beautiful Eucharist*, to our parishioners for free as a Christmas gift. This book features reflections by several popular Catholic speakers including Fr. Mike Schmitz and Bobby and Jackie Angel. Pick up your family's copy in the narthex of the Church.

FREE BISHOP BARRON VIDEOS
Every Friday Right to Your Inbox

Don't miss out on any parish happenings, plus get incredible Catholic content in your inbox every week! Every Friday a link from Bishop Robert Barron's *Word on Fire ENGAGE* program is included in an email to our parishioners. Start receiving messages today by texting STPATGRETN to 84576 or visit stpatgretna.flocknote.com.

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WORD on FIRE
ENGAGE

WHY IS MARY FREQUENTLY CALLED THE NEW EVE

Mary's Life in Contrast to Eve

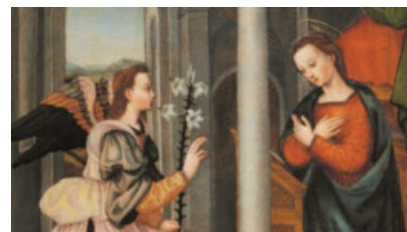
The story of Mary's life and her decisions offers a contrast to Eve and her disobedience to God at the beginning of time. Among the many titles of Mary is a reference to her as the "New Eve." Her life of obedience to God is often compared to the disobedience of Eve. In many ways Mary became what Eve should have been. Jesus is also called the "New Adam," referring to His obedience to the Father, compared to Adam's disobedience to God in the beginning.

St. Irenaeus summarizes the logic of this profound truth: "The Lord, coming into His own creation in visible form, was sustained by His own creation which He Himself sustains in being. His obedience on the tree of the cross reversed the disobedience at the tree in Eden; the good news of the truth announced by an angel to Mary, a virgin subject to a husband, undid the evil lie that seduced Eve, a virgin espoused to a husband."

As Eve was seduced by the word of an angel and so fled from God after disobeying His word, Mary in her turn was given the good news by the word of an angel, and bore God in obedience to His word. As Eve was seduced into disobedience to God, so Mary was persuaded into obedience to God; thus the Virgin Mary became the advocate of the virgin Eve."

The ancient hymn *Ave Maris Stella* poetically puts this truth in a similar way:

*Hail bright star of ocean,
God's own Mother blest,
Ever sinless Virgin,
Gate of Heavenly rest
Taking that sweet Ave
Which from Gabriel came,
Peace confirm within us,
Changing Eva's name.*



Many other saints have referred to Mary as the New Eve, seeing in her choice to follow God an ushering in of a new creation, the Church, and an abundance of spiritual children to follow. Mary, the New Eve, pray for us!

—Article by Aletea

DO THE SAINTS NEED OUR VENERATION?

They Lead Us Closer to Heaven



Sometimes being labeled a saint can seem like a privileged status that is beneficial to the people that are canonized. However, saints don't gain anything from our veneration, as they already possess the eternal bliss of Heaven.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux offers a beautiful reflection on this reality in a sermon that is featured in the *Office of Readings*. "Why should our praise and glorification, or even the celebration of [All Saints] day mean anything to

the saints? What do they care about earthly honours when their Heavenly Father honors them by fulfilling the faithful promise of the Son? What does our commendation mean to them? The saints have no need of honor from us; neither does our devotion add the slightest thing to what is theirs."

Who benefits from our veneration of the saints? St. Bernard explains that we are the primary beneficiaries of the veneration of the saints. "Clearly, if we venerate their memory, it serves us, not them. But I tell you, when I think of them, I feel myself inflamed by a tremendous yearning." "Calling the saints to mind inspires, or rather arouses in us, above all else, a longing to enjoy their company, so desirable in itself. We long to share in the citizenship of Heaven, to dwell with the spirits of the blessed, to join the assembly of patriarchs, the ranks of the prophets, the council of apostles, the great host of martyrs, the noble company of confessors and the choir of virgins. In short, we long to be united in happiness with all the saints."

Whenever we call to mind the saints, celebrate their feast, or even erect a statue, it helps us long to be united with them in Heaven and to imitate their example on earth. The saints don't need anything from us, but we are in need of anything that can lead us closer to Heaven.

—Article by Aletea

FR. SSONKO MISSIONARY FUND MATCH DONATIONS

Beginning Construction on a Kitchen for St. Mary's School



Fr. Ssonko has received some exciting news! A friend of the Father Ssonko Missionary Fund outreach has offered to match donations up to \$5000 in order to begin construction of the kitchen at St. Mary's Primary School in Busaabala, Uganda.

Learn more about Father Ssonko's important work and ministry on behalf of the children served by St. Mary's Primary School in Busaabala, Uganda at stpatriksgretna.org. On the website you will see

that the #1 Immediate Need includes a Kitchen.

Donations in any amount made between now and January 8 will be applied to this \$5000 match. Essentially each gift will be doubled; your \$10 = \$20, your \$50 = \$100, your \$1000 = \$2000 until the match total of \$5000 is reached. Meeting this match will make \$10,000 available to Fr. Ssonko! Any amounts over the match will be applied to various other needs as shown on the website.

Go to stpatriksgretna.org to access Donate Now! information for parishioners and non-parishioners. Thank you for your continued prayers and monetary donations during this Advent and Christmas season! Your financial gift to St. Patrick Parish to support our Father Ssonko Missionary Fund is tax-deductible within the guidelines of US law.

ASCENSION APP NEW DAILY BIBLE VIDEOS

2-3 Minute Videos Each Day

Ascension announces new daily Bible video reflections, coming January 1. Every single day in 2024, a new video reflection about the daily readings will be released in the Ascension App! The videos will be 2-3 minutes long and feature HUNDREDS of Catholic experts—Fr. Mike Schmitz will kick it off on January 1 with the first video. Each day, a different creator will choose one verse to focus on, and provide a short reflection. Then, the app will give users a few options surrounding that verse—users can create an image quote, read the verse in its Biblical context, or take a note to remember a specific insight. These daily video reflections are free for all users. Make sure to download the Ascension App so you don't miss a single day! Find out more at <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/ascension-app>.



THE CATHOLIC PARENT ON FORMED

2-3 Minute Videos Each Day



Do you ever feel like it's almost impossible to raise holy kids who love God (and sit still in Mass!) in our modern world? You're not alone. This six-episode series features real Catholic families like yours sharing their daily struggles and victories. Created by the *Augustine Institute* and *Catholic Sprouts*, *The Catholic Parent* aims to encourage you as a mom or dad as you embrace your God-given role to form your

family in the richness of the Catholic faith. Watch the series with your spouse, with friends, on your own, or as part of a small group! The participant guide—coming January 15—includes questions for group discussion, topics for personal reflection, and ideas to try at home. Watch at <https://watch.formed.org/the-catholic-parent> beginning January 15.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR AN ACCOUNT IF YOU'RE NEW TO FORMED:

Go to formed.org/signup
Select your parish (using zip code is easiest)
Register with your name and email address
Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED

HOW TO LOG INTO FORMED IF YOU PREVIOUSLY HAD ACCESS:

Go to formed.org/signup
In the upper right corner, select "Sign In"
A new "Sign In" screen appears and user enters their email address and selects "Next"
A message appears for user to "Check your email!"
Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED



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Gretna, Nebraska

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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jjwotipka@archomaha.org

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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

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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.

HEALING CHAIR PROGRAM

There for You When You Need It

The Gretna Knights of Columbus have purchased two powerlift recliners that are offered to any member of St. Patrick parish or our local community on a temporary basis.



These "Healing Chairs" can be used by anyone for recovery from any surgery, injury, or medical need. The Knights will provide and deliver the reclining lift chair to the home of the person in need and pick it up when the lending period expires, at no cost to the user. The Knights also have a battery powered wheelchair that was donated. This too is available for any member of St. Patrick parish or our local community on a temporary basis. Please contact a member of the Gretna Knights of Columbus Council #10047 or John Schaffert, 402-672-7903, if you or someone you know has a need for one of these devices.



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- BOYS TOWN NATIONAL HOTLINE**
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Website.....www.boys-town.org
- CATHOLIC ANSWERS**
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Website.....www.catholic.com
- CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**
Grief & Healing Counselor.....402-391-3711
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Gretna.....402-332-3475
- CATHOLIC CHARITIES—OMAHA**
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Website.....ccomaha.org
- CATHOLIC VOICE ONLINE**
Website.....catholicvoiceomaha.com
- COURAGE (PASTORAL SUPPORT—SAME-SEX ATTRACTION)**
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Website.....couragerc.org
- EWTN (GLOBAL CATHOLIC TELEVISION NETWORK)**
Phone.....1-800-447-3986
Website.....www.ewtn.com
- HOLY FAMILY SHRINE**
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Website.....holyfamilyshrine.com
- LEAST OF MY BRETHREN (SUPPORT HOMELESS)**
Phone.....402-681-5424
Website.....leastofmybrethren.org
- MARRIAGE RESOURCES**
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Retrouvaille.....1-800-470-2230
Retrouvaille.....www.helpourmarriage.org
- MASS TIMES NATIONWIDE**
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- NEBRASKA HOMESCHOOL NETWORK**
Website.....nebraskahomeschool.org
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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

IXIM: SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY MISSION—VIRTUAL, JANUARY 9



Since 2004, parishioners from across the Archdiocese of Omaha have gone to our sister diocese in Huehuetenango, Guatemala to work alongside our sisters and brothers in Christ. Ixim missionaries build bridges of understanding and solidarity by learning about the lives and realities of those in Huehuetenango. Over the years, Ixim missionaries have staffed medical clinics, taught lessons at local schools, applied fluoride treatments to children, assisted with reforestation projects, painted parish and school buildings, and helped implement clean water projects. Our 19th trip will be June 13–23. Learn more about our mission trip at an upcoming information meeting: contact Charlie cpetro@archomaha.org or 531-218-6354 for Zoom links or to reserve a spot at an in-person information meeting. Or visit <https://ixim.org> for more information.

GENERATIONAL HEALING MASS—ST. BERNARD, JANUARY 19

His Global Love Prayer Communities invite you to a Generational Healing Mass at St. Bernard Catholic Church (3601 N. 65th St, Omaha) with a Rosary beginning at 6:15 PM, praise and worship to follow, and the Mass to begin at 7 PM. Fr. Kevin Joyce from His Global Love Ministry will be presiding. All are welcome. To view live stream please go to <http://www.youtube.com>, then type in "His Global Love" into the search bar and then click on live video for January 19, 2024 Generational Healing Mass. Questions, contact Frances Mignon at 402-515-8000.



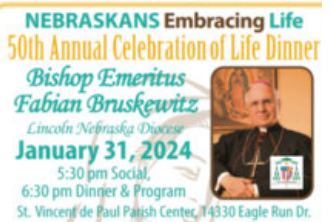
SANTO NIÑO MASS—ST. CECILIA CATHEDRAL, JANUARY 21



Join us as we celebrate the feast of Santo Niño with the Omaha area Filipino Catholics at the 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday, January 21 at St. Cecilia Cathedral (701 N 40th St, Omaha). The Santo Niño was given by Magellan to the chieftain of Cebu, Rajah Humabon (Carlos), and Hara Amihan (Juana) in 1521 to become the first Christian couple in the Philippines. The roots of Christianity in the Philippines are traced to this devotion. For centuries the original image of the Santo Niño has been venerated at the Minor Basilica of the Santo Niño in Cebu City and brought out in procession during the feast. We are happy to host this local celebration.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE BANQUET—ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, JANUARY 31

Nebraskans Embracing Life 50th Annual Celebration of Life Banquet with our keynote speaker Bishop Emeritus Fabian Bruskewitz of the Lincoln Diocese. Please join us at St. Vincent de Paul Kampschneider Hall (14330 Eagle Run Dr, Omaha) on January 31. Social at 5:30 PM and the dinner and program will begin at 6:30 PM. Reservations, sponsorship, and advertising can be found at www.NebraskansEmbracingLife.org/donate. Can't come? Watch the LIFestream on our website! We will honor Bishop Bruskewitz with our Lifetime Achievement Award, and school board members Terri Cunningham-Swanson and others. Please join us and help to support our mission to defend life, from conception, without exception! Reservations \$75 per person or a table for \$700 can be made at www.NebraskansEmbracingLife.org. Event sponsors, advertisers, and volunteers are needed! Visit our website or contact our office at 402-399-0299. "Decline to Sign" the abortion on demand up to birth amendment circulating in your area!



OACCW SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY



The Omaha Urban Area of Catholic Women (OACCW) is offering a \$500 scholarship to a High School Senior Catholic young woman. There is also a \$250 Honorable Mention award. The first place (OACCW) application will be forwarded to compete for the \$750 scholarship offered by the OACCW (Omaha Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women). Application forms are available on the OACCW website OACCW.org, and have been sent to the guidance counselors of area high schools. All High School Senior Catholic young women are encouraged to apply. If you have questions about the application or the process, please call Cathy Vak at 402-391-0484. Applications for the OACCW Scholarship must be submitted by January 15. Completed applications are to be sent to: Cathy Vak, 3255 S. 77th Street, Omaha NE 68124.

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