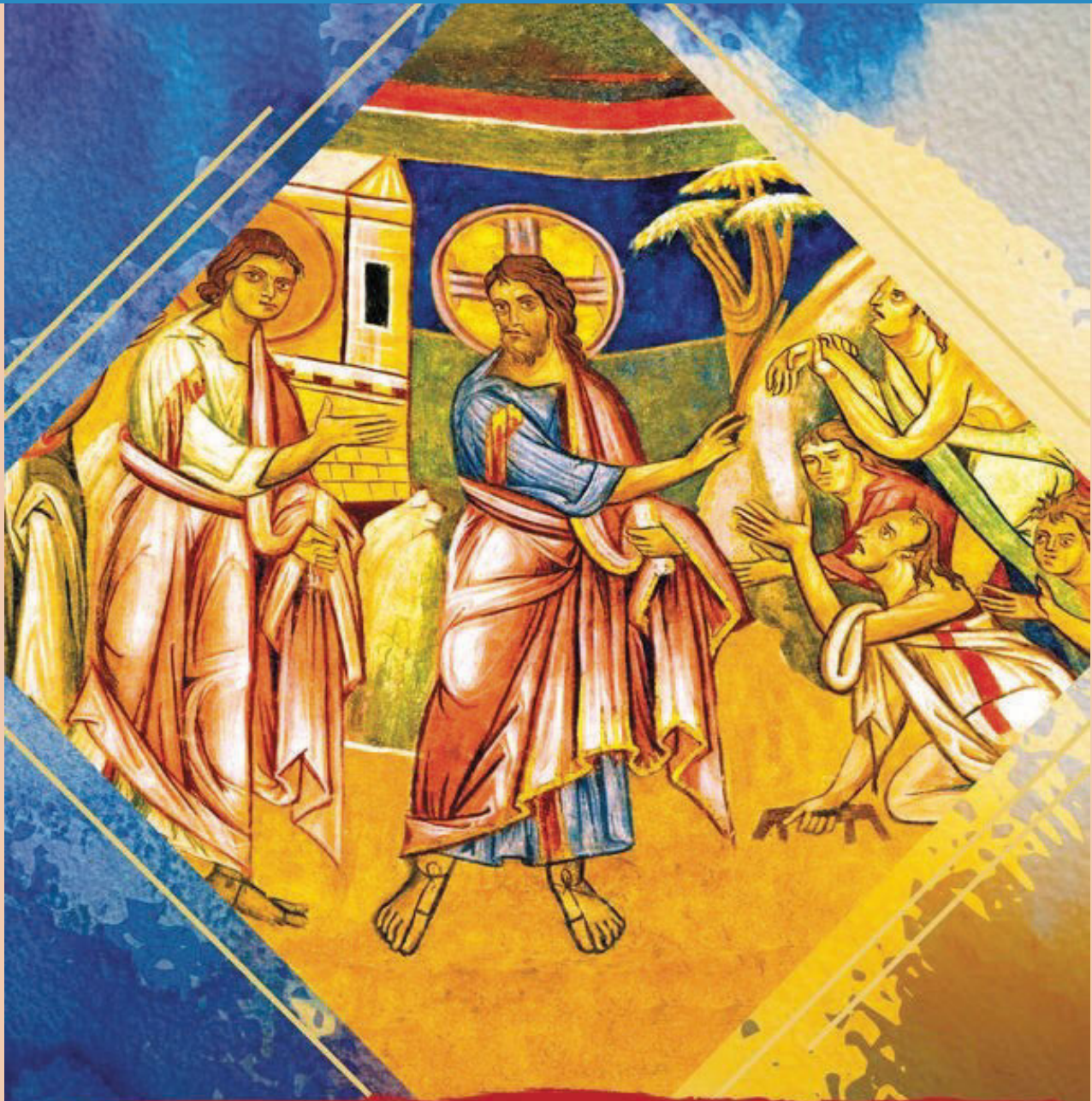


ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET GRETNA, NE 68028



6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him
and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean."

- Mk 1:40

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

FEBRUARY 11, 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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING (LV 13:1-2, 44-46)

We hear how ancient Israel was concerned about purity laws and the spread of disease, such as leprosy. How do you support people in your life who are suffering from disease or isolation?

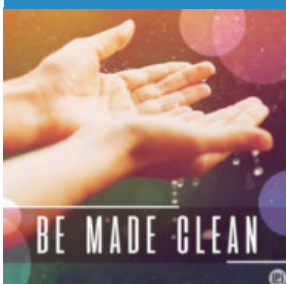
SECOND READING (1 COR 10:31—11:1)

Paul encouraged the Corinthians to be selfless and kind to each other as a practical way of living out their faith. Is there a friend or co-worker who could benefit from your generosity toward them?

GOSPEL (MK 1:40-45)

The healed leper disobeyed Jesus' command to remain silent and as a result, Jesus had to stay outside towns and in "deserted places." How do you deal with people in your life who disappoint or frustrate you?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



Recently I had a skin rash, and it was awful. (Please don't tell anyone.) I am embarrassed to admit that I didn't handle it well. Complaining, whining, begging for sympathy, and crying were my responses to the merciless itching and burning. In the aftermath, a silver lining emerged. I feel a new heartfelt sympathy for all those vexed with chronic skin problems. If you've ever had a seemingly unending skin problem, you know how that sympathy flows up from deep inside.

This gut-level compassion is something like what the Gospel describes in Jesus when the sore-covered leper says, "If you will it, you can make me clean." At this, just before the healing, Jesus was "moved with compassion." The Greek word used here is strong and earthy, closer to "his bowels and guts trembled with the deepest emotions of sadness, pity, and love." In Jesus, God heals our infirmities not from a divine distance but by learning what it feels like to be us. He acquires first-hand experience of what it costs us to be afflicted and still be faithful to God. He sympathizes with the burning, itching, and blistering of human existence in the deepest, first-hand way. To discover that is to touch Jesus' heart.

What in your life, right now, is breaking out like diseased skin? What is getting worse the more you try to soothe it? Perhaps only you feel it. Or maybe it's exposed to all. A bad habit, broken relationship, loneliness, fear of failure, self-hatred? Name it, and then find a way to bring it confidently to Jesus who will feel what we are feeling, and thereby heal us.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

What is the difference between a "Saint" and a "Blessed"?

ANSWER:

The process of proclaiming someone as a saint in the Catholic Church has evolved over the course of many centuries. In the beginning, those honored as saints were almost exclusively Biblical figures or martyrs. However, after the legalization of Christianity in the fourth century, new holy women and men came to be honored as saints, and this was often done by popular acclaim or by the local bishop or abbot.

It was Pope Gregory IX (who was pope from 1227 to 1241) who officially proclaimed that only the pope had the authority to add someone to the official list (the "canon") of saints. This is the meaning of the word "canonization."

Today, the saint-making process includes several steps, including detailed studies of the person's life and a recognition that they died as a martyr or lived a life of "heroic virtue." Once someone is recognized as a martyr or if a miracle is attributed to their intercession, they will be beatified and honored as "Blessed." This means that they can be celebrated by Catholics in a particular country or region or by the members of certain religious community. If another miracle occurs and is approved, then the "Blessed" is canonized and honored with the title "Saint," meaning that they are now officially recognized as a universal model of holiness and an intercessor.



SAINT CATHERINE DEL RICCI

Religious



St. Catherine del Ricci (1522-1590) was born with the name Alessandra in Florence, Italy, to a respectable merchant family. Her mother died while she was very young, so that from her childhood Alessandra took the Blessed Virgin Mary as her mother. She was given to prayer and religious fervor, and at the age of fourteen decided to enter a strict Third Order Dominican convent, taking Catherine as her religious name. She developed into a great mystic with an intense devotion to the Passion of Christ. For many years Catherine

would go into ecstasy from noon every Thursday through 4 PM on Friday, experiencing in a mystical manner the sufferings of Christ during His Passion. She was also given the spiritual gift of the stigmata; Christ's wounds would appear on her body through the course of the ecstasy. After enduring much humiliation for years on account of these sufferings, she was eventually accepted as a holy woman and later became prioress. Her advice was widely sought on many spiritual and practical matters. Despite being cloistered, she kept up a loving correspondence with many relatives, friends, and her spiritual children. Among those in her correspondence were three future popes, Pope Marcellus II, Pope Clement VIII, and Pope Leo XI. Her feast day is February 13.

SAINT JULIANA OF NICOMEDIA

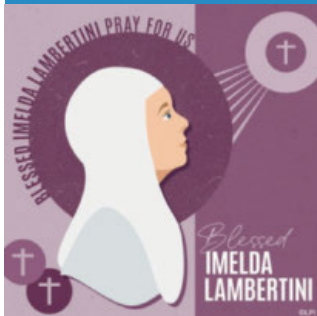
Martyr

St. Juliana of Nicomedia (c. 270 A.D.) was the daughter of noble pagan parents, born in Nicomedia, a Greek city in ancient Turkey. Although her father was hostile to Christians, Juliana secretly accepted baptism. Her father arranged her marriage to a pagan nobleman and Roman senator. When the time for her wedding came, Juliana refused her consent to be married unless her betrothed converted to the Christian faith. Her father retaliated by mercilessly abusing her, but Juliana would not give in. Her betrothed then denounced her as a Christian before the tribunal under the persecutions of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. St. Juliana was unwavering in her faith, even after the devil himself appeared to tempt her during her sufferings. She was then publicly tortured by being burned, boiled in oil, and finally beheaded. Some accounts say she died together with St. Barbara. Many were converted to the Christian faith upon witnessing her fortitude in the face of her tortures. St. Juliana is the patron saint of sickness and bodily ills. Her feast day is February 16.



BLESSED IMELDA LAMBERTINI

Religious



Blessed Imelda Lambertini (1322-1333) was born into nobility in Bologna, Italy. Her parents recognized her extraordinary spiritual gifts early on and, when Imelda asked to live with the Dominican sisters, they agreed and enrolled her into the Dominican convent of Val di Pietra when she was only nine years old. From the moment she entered the convent, Imelda developed a love for the Mass and the Eucharist although, according to the tradition of the time, she was considered far too young to receive it. Despite being denied her first Communion, she would spend hours in prayer and Eucharistic adoration, frequently begging her superiors to allow her to receive

the Eucharist. Sometimes, while in prayer, she was known to enter deep states of contemplation. In May of 1333, on the Feast of the Ascension, young Imelda experienced a remarkable and public event following Mass. As she knelt in prayer, a Eucharistic miracle unfolded before everyone's eyes. The sacred Host miraculously lifted into the air and suspended directly above her, shining a radiant light onto her. This miracle, witnessed by the sisters as well as by the priest who was celebrating Mass, persuaded her superiors to allow her to finally receive Communion. As the story goes, Imelda was allowed to stay in the chapel for a time to pray after the miraculous event but, when the sisters who went to collect her, they found that she had died. She was still kneeling in prayer with a smile on her face. They determined that she had died of pure joy. Blessed Imelda is considered a model of childlike faith, exemplifying the importance of approaching Christ in the Eucharist with a pure heart and childlike joy. Blessed Imelda, pray for us!



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76/
Mk 8:11-13

TUESDAY: Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19/
Mk 8:14-21

WEDNESDAY: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

THURSDAY: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25

FRIDAY: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15

SATURDAY: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32

NEXT SUNDAY: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (see 10)/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

WE ARE
HEALED BY
Compassion



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY: Ash Wednesday; Valentine's Day

SATURDAY: The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

NEXT SUNDAY: 1st Sunday of Lent





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION *Registration is Open to Parishioners*

Registration for the 2024-2025 Preschool year has started 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/education/preschool/ and register for your preferred class. Contact Amanda Scardina at 402-332-3050 with any questions.



KNIGHTS GRATITUDE *Donating to Pro-life Efforts*



The Gretna Knights of Columbus want to thank our fellow parishioners for

recent donations at the prolife breakfast and the One Rose One Life Collection. We are able to send Assure Women's Center \$1,100. The second collection for One Rose One Life was \$3,000! 100% of this collection will be distributed to prolife organizations throughout Nebraska and used by our bishops for prolife efforts. Thanks and may God's blessings be on you all!

SEMINARIAN PRAYER CORNER

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

This week let us pray for **Ryan Sheridan** (Pre-Theology I at St. Paul Seminary) from St. Gerald in Ralston.

"Do everything for the glory of God." Your vocation is your

sanctification in this life to lead you to sainthood in the next. Pray for your spouse (if you are married) and for our priests, deacons, and all in religious life each day and lead each other to Heaven. Consider that God may be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life. Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.



 *Pray for our Seminarians*

PREPARE FOR LENT

Ask Jesus How He Desires to Walk With You

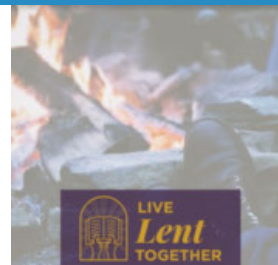


It's hard to believe that Lent is just around the corner. Have you thought about what you will be doing to walk with Jesus on His journey to Calvary? Here are a few options that you can consider, but most importantly ask Jesus how He desires to deepen your relationship with Him this year.

- 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.thedivinemeracy.org/ptpsignup/
- Forty Days, Forty Items—a challenge to collect one item from your home, closet, or particular room each day to be donated at the end of Lent
- Exodus 90—a 90 day program for men to find freedom, <https://exodus90.com/>
- Revelation 90—a 90 day program where women take a deep dive into their wellness habits to reveal their healthiest, happiest selves, <https://www.revelation90.org/>
- Veil Challenge—women are challenged to wear a veil to Mass during Lent, <https://www.veilsbylily.com/>

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. If you feel the call to lead a small group, know that there are plenty of resources to make leading simple and support for you all along the way. Thank you for considering! 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. Be a friend, invite a friend, and receive many graces from our Lord!



LENT BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday Mass, Fasting, and the Stations of the Cross

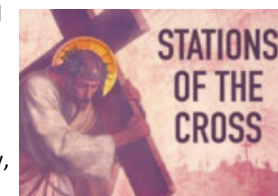
ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES

Join us for Mass on Wednesday, February 14 at 7:30 AM or 6 PM for Ash Wednesday Mass. Attending Mass is a great way to start off the Lenten season.



Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal. Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.

You can also join us every Friday during Lent at 6 PM for the Stations of the Cross with the only exception being Good Friday, March 29, when Stations will be at 3 PM instead of 6 PM.



BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION SECOND COLLECTION *Next Weekend—February 17-18*



Next weekend, February 17-18, our parish will take up the 140th annual National Black and Indian Mission Collection. Our support of this collection helps build the Church in African American, Native American, and Alaskan Native communities from coast to coast. Schools, parish religious education programs, and diocesan ministries depend on your generosity to help them spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ! You can help meet unmet needs with a generous contribution.

Thank you for your support. Find out more at www.blackandindianmission.org.

FIVE IDEAS FOR LENTEN PENANCES

It's Time to Move Beyond Just Giving Up Chocolate!

"What are you giving up for Lent?"

It's the question we are all asking each other right about now. And yes, giving up something we enjoy such as sweets, coffee, or our favorite TV show is a great start. These external penances are a necessary part of the season—and should be a part of our lives in some way throughout the year.



But what else can we do to actively cultivate virtue and really target our faults this Lent? How can we take our penances to the next level?

Here are five ideas that might prove a bit challenging—but try 'em out and you'll be enjoying some sweet spiritual fruit soon!

- 1. Mortify your will through the practice of obedience.** Obedience takes different forms depending on our state in life. Those in religious life must obey their religious superiors, and children their parents. As lay adults, we can do it by cheerfully serving our spouse and children, fulfilling our assigned tasks at work, or simply allowing others to go first in the buffet line!
- 2. Attend especially to the tasks you don't like doing.** Padre Pio was once visited by the soul of a young friar who had worked in the sacristy. The soul revealed that he suffered in purgatory because he'd been careless and negligent with his work. Complete every task meticulously, no matter how small and insignificant.
- 3. Embrace annoyances.** Annoyances abound in this life. Little flaws in other people especially provoke us to fixate on our aggravation. Very often the flaws are faults that we also are guilty of, but which we tolerate in ourselves. Over the next few weeks, when something in another person annoys you, examine yourself and discern how you, too, act or feel or think in that way.
- 4. Impose a strict watch on your tongue.** Innumerable, mundane complaints escape our mouths daily, fostering ingratitude—so guard your tongue and inspect what you want to say before speaking.
- 5. Check impulsive actions.** Be intentional in all that you do, asking yourself, "Do I really need to shoot off this text? Will this comment help anyone? Will I benefit from thoughtlessly popping snacks in my mouth?"

Lent is a long season and it's easy to grow weary—why not go through it as a family and help each other along?

—Article by The Catholic Company

Dear Lord, be with our young people this week and always—keep them in your care. Help them to form godly friendships, speak the truth, and know you in the personal way that will challenge, shape, and guide them. Amen.

Stewardship Report

Jan 30-Feb 5, 2024

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

General Contributions	Jan 30-Feb 5	Fiscal YTD thru Feb 5
Sunday Offering-Jan 30-Feb 5	\$27,491.18	\$767,998.40
Other Contributions	\$2,163.25	\$84,055.03
Total General Contributions	\$29,654.43	\$852,053.43 *
Surplus/Deficit	\$4,904.43	\$159,053.43
 Fiscal Year-to-Date Income		\$1,105,767.41
Fiscal Year-to-Date Expenses		\$1,034,032.98
Fiscal Year-to-Date Net Income		\$71,734.43

* 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



FEbruary KNIGHTS BIRTHDAYS

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

February 1—Jason Widhalm
February 2—Benjamin Staley
February 3—Randall McCartney
February 4—Samuel Ferguson, Nick Jarzynka, Paul Staley, and Jerry Thoendel
February 8—Daniel Agosta
February 9—Kevin Mcartor
February 12—Alan Wear
February 13—Kristen Faris
February 17—David Evans and Kelly Hoskins
February 19—Kevin Reiman
February 20—Brandon Arp
February 21—Richard Kemmy
February 22—Thomas Rongisch
February 25—Perry Waters
February 27—Jason Kassmeier

PROLIFE GALA

Four Gretna Knights and their spouses attended the first annual Knights of Columbus State Prolife Gala held in Lincoln in January with speakers including Governor Jim Pillion. Speakers encouraged folks to become more involved in prolife activities. A silent auction and fundraising helped raise funds for 27 different prolife organizations throughout the state. If you are interested in getting involved in Knights prolife activities, please contact Duane Benes at 402-250-6612.

LENTEN FISH FRYS

Join us every Friday during Lent, February 16 through March 22 from 5 PM to 7:30 PM for our Lenten Fish



Frys. Dine-in, Drive Thru, and Carry-out options available. Menu includes: fried or baked Alaskan pollock*, scalloped potatoes*, or French fries*, green beans*, mac & cheese, coleslaw*, bread, and coffee, tea, or lemonade. Beer, wine, and mixed drinks will be available for purchase. (*Gluten Free) Adult plates are \$15 and children (ages 6-10) are \$8. There will be kids activities provided by the St. Patrick Youth Group. Volunteers are needed, see the parish website for details.

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, FEBRUARY 12TH

No Communion Service or Mass

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

6:00 PM † Dave Gilmore

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

7:30 AM † Sig and Ellen Quan

6:00 PM † Basil and Sally Buras

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

7:30 AM † Kate Stork

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH

7:30 AM † Claire Surprenant

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH

5:00 PM † Myron Teut






SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

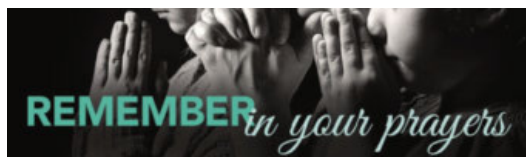
8:00 AM John and Corliss Lovstad

10:00 AM † Rosie Dauner

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 Catherine Berlage, Dennis Mattes, 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, 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, FEBRUARY 11TH—6TH 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

8:55 AM to 9:55 AM RE Mardi Gras Party—Basement Commons

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Parish Breakfast—Parish Center and Kitchen

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

10:00 AM to 8:30 PM Blood Drive—Parish Center AB

4:00 PM to 5:00 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal—Basement Rehearsal Room

5:00 PM to 8:00 PM Visitation and Rosary—Sanctuary and Narthex

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal—Basement Rehearsal Room

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM Funeral Mass—Sanctuary and Narthex

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Funeral Luncheon—Parish Center A and Kitchen

10:00 AM to 11:30 AM Rosary Guild—Father Hitch Room

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

7:00 PM to 8:00 PM Parish Council Meeting—Father Hitch Room

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH—ASH WEDNESDAY—NO YOUTH GROUP—NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary

6:00 PM to 8:30 PM Fish Fry Prep—Parish Center A and Kitchen

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM RCIA—Parish Center C

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH

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

5:00 PM to 8:00 PM Fish Fry—Parish Center and Kitchen

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH

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 18TH—1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

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

2:00 PM to 8:00 PM Private Event—Parish Center A

4:30 PM to 5:30 PM Lenten Study—Father Hitch Room

MASS TO PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

St. Patrick Elkhorn, Monday, February 19, 6 PM

The Serra Club of West Omaha invites you to a special Mass to Pray for Vocations on Monday, February 19, at 6 PM at St. Patrick Catholic Church (20500 West Maple Road, Elkhorn). Mass will be celebrated by Father Frank Baumert to pray together for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life in the Archdiocese of Omaha. After Mass, hear Deacon Joe Hartnett speak about his call to serve our Lord, his spiritual experiences along the way, and why prayer for vocations is so vital to the future of the Catholic Church.

Light refreshments will be provided. All are welcome! For questions, contact Lori Hamilton at bobxlori@aol.com or 402-699-5027. Learn more at serrawestomaha.org and follow us on Facebook @serrawestomaha.



LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

1st Sunday of Lent

FEBRUARY 17TH 5:00 PM	FEBRUARY 18TH 8:00 AM	FEBRUARY 18TH 10:00 AM	FEBRUARY 18TH NOON
Sacristan Larry Neppi	Sacristan Tony Schultz	Sacristan Mitch Wendlandt	Sacristan Ginny Giebelhaus
Lectors Jayne Schram (Read the 1st Reading)	Lectors Marty Stednitz (Read the 1st Reading)	Lectors Phil Lenz (Read the 1st Reading)	Lectors Kelly Eby (Read Both 1st and 2nd Readings)
Donna Bruck (Read the 2nd Reading)	Claudia Perchal (Read the 2nd Reading)	Andy Pearson (Read the 2nd Reading)	Need Sub (Standby: if a Sub is Needed)
EMHCs Diane Sherwood Paul Staley Wendy Neppi Larry Neppi	EMHCs Lori Frederick Amy Beran Sandy Scheef Nancy Arp	EMHCs Jason Kassmeier Ashley Kassmeier Kathy Wendlandt Andi Towey Deacon Larry Heck	EMHCs Delma Stoner Leann Otto Steve Otto Doris Williams Deacon Ken Broz
Ushers Ken Beckman Chris Lingbloom Chad Soupir Lisa Willert	Ushers Kevin Kaup Larry Scheef Pat Shurtliff Bob Sis	Ushers Jim Hain Chris Reinig Norm Svoboda Tony Vanek	Ushers Carole Lisiecki Delma Stoner Marty White Doris Williams
Rosary Reciter Kathy Dauner	Rosary Reciter Carol Zeleny	Rosary Reciter Tam Hottovy	Rosary Reciter Norm Svoboda
Altar Servers Shailynn Gatewood Colin Lingbloom Need Sub	Altar Servers Kaylee Frederick Drew Garcia Emersyn Pichler	Altar Servers Kalla Kassmeier Klayton Kassmeier Kameron Kassmeier	Altar Servers James Janda Thomas Janda Need Sub
Greeters Chris Gatewood Need Sub	Greeters Mary Maw Sally Stednitz	Greeters Tony Tiefenthaler Need Sub	Greeters Carole Lisiecki Marty White
	Hilcrest SR Gene Schwarting Kathy Schwarting		

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY 14TH 7:30 AM	Ushers Need Sub Need Sub	Lectors Eric Hittner (Read the 1st Reading)	Need Sub Need Sub
Sacristan Larry Neppi	Rosary Reciter Tam Hottovy	Need Sub (Read the 2nd Reading)	Altar Servers Need Sub Need Sub Need Sub Need Sub
Lectors Kathy Schwarting (Read the 1st Reading)	Greeters Need Sub Need Sub	EMHCs Phil Lenz Christine Walstrom Bob Huber Pat Gilmore Deacon Ken Broz	Greeters Need Sub Need Sub
Jolene Jefferies (Read the 2nd Reading)			
EMHCs Gene Schwarting Therese Nisbet Deacon Larry Heck	FEBRUARY 14TH 6:00 PM	Ushers Tony Schultz Need Sub	Vocations Crucifix Scott Kienow
	Sacristan Linda Schrinier		

6TH 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

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smfagan@archomaha.org

DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

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

PASTORAL MINISTRY (LITURGY, YOUTH GROUP & FAITH FORM)

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PASTORAL MINISTRY (ELDERLY, HOMEBOUND & FUNERALS)

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fdammermann@archomaha.org

DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC

Laura Rau.....402-332-4444, x216
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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
bjjefferies16117@gmail.com

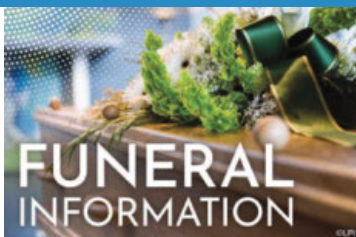


ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

FUNERAL NOTIFICATIONS *Receive Text Messages*

Would you like to receive a text message/email to pray for the recently deceased at our parish? These messages

include a link to their obituary. Sign up to receive these messages at stpatgretna.flocknote.com/Funerals or contact Megan Seamann at 402-332-4444 ext. 202 or meseamann@archomaha.org.



LENTEN ALMSGIVING *Least of My Brethren*



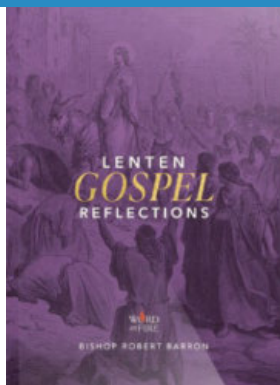
Least of My Brethren food pantry is having a Costco gift card drive throughout

Lent. The cards will be used to purchase frozen chicken, hamburger, and hotdogs. You can help us by giving one dollar a day for the 40 days of Lent towards a gift card. If you would like to participate in this project, please drop off the Costco gift card to the parish office during regular office hours. Not a Costco member? No problem, gift cards from places like HyVee, Fareway, Walmart, and Dollar General, allow us to purchase other food items in need. God bless.

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

LENTEN BOOK *Bishop Robert Barron Reflections*

Thanks to a generous parishioner we are offering Bishop Robert Barron's Lenten book, *Lenten Gospel Reflections*, for free. Each day there is a reflection to go along with that day's Gospel passage and then a reflection question with space to journal your answer and see how your relationship with Jesus has grown during this year's Lenten season. Pick up your family's copy in the narthex.



GROSS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Keep Up the Great Work



Congratulations to Paige Stone, daughter of Peter and Peggy Stone, for making Honor Roll during the first semester at Gross Catholic High School. Our Honors recipients, with GPAs between 3.25 and 3.75, have exhibited perseverance and a strong thirst for knowledge. Congratulations again and keep up the good work!

CALLED TO KINDNESS: BEING NICE ISN'T ENOUGH

Kindness is a Virtue that Goes Beyond Niceness

"If we wish to serve God and love our neighbor well, we must manifest our joy in the service we render to Him and them. Let us open wide our hearts. It is joy which invites us. Press forward and fear nothing" (St. Katharine Drexel).

While "be kind" may seem like nothing more than a bumper slogan, the command might carry more meaning than we think. At both home and work, we have the power to transform culture in both small and large ways, because we are invited to be the face of Christ in every moment. What does that look like, and how do we live that belief out?



In *The Hidden Power of Kindness: A Practical Handbook for Souls Who Dare to Transform the World, One Deed at a Time*, Father Lawrence G. Lovasik argues that acts of kindness transform souls. In my various jobs, I've always tried to be polite and respectful. However, when I reflect more on kindness, I think I fell short and missed many opportunities to anticipate the needs of others.

Lovasik describes this anticipation as "obligingness," which calls you to meet a need before anyone asks. "Obligingness," he says, "is an act of charity even more beautiful than a simple readiness to serve another."

Now, we might wonder: What if I struggle with pleasing people too much? What if my energy is already depleted? The key to kindness is in the deeds themselves. They are often small, but they grow out of kind thoughts, words, and acts strengthened by truth.

KINDNESS AND THE CHRISTIAN WITNESS

We can distinguish kindness from niceness. Kindness helps us become a true Christian witness in our work. I often hear people lament how difficult it is to evangelize at work, especially in secular spaces. But, I think we are also misguided on what true and good evangelization looks like. Evangelization doesn't always need charisma. It often looks like friendship built on a foundation of kindness—a kindness that is often quiet, unassuming, and hidden.

GIVING AND RECEIVING CORRECTION WELL

What about when we need to correct others? Lovasik offers some practical tips for giving correction:

- Start your correction with praise.
- Share your own weaknesses before you criticize another.
- Ask questions rather than give demands.
- Honor others' reputation.

He also explains how we can receive correction graciously:

- Listen, and don't interrupt.
- Offer to reflect seriously on the matter at hand.
- Resist any outburst or arrogant response.
- Practice gratitude, recalling God in all moments.

BRINGING THE LIGHT OF GOD TO OTHERS

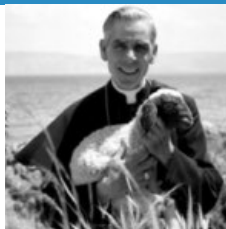
Kindness is a virtue that goes beyond what mere niceness can offer. But, like any virtue, it takes some interior work to cultivate. Silence, prayer, and contemplation help us to see where we are lacking and what we can do to become better. After the interior work, we must go out and act. Unlike niceness, kindness is an act of charity that gives joy to others—and it does more than transform your workplace. It trickles into the culture, bearing the mark of holiness so that more people can see a glimpse of God's light in a world that's often shrouded in darkness.

—Article by Catholic Women in Business

PREPARE FOR LENT WITH VENERABLE FULTON SHEEN

Mediate on Christ's Passion and the Seven Last Words

As I prepare for Lent each year, I ask myself the same questions: what am I going to give up, what works of mercy will I perform, or what spiritual reading might I entertain this year? The older I get, the more I realize that I cannot go wrong with the tried and proven writings of the saints. Classics such as St. Alphonsus Liguori's *The Way of the Cross*, and Lenten reflections from the writings of St. Teresa of Avila and St. Francis de Sales, are staples in my home. But to be honest, it is the writings of the Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen that continue to be my trusted Lenten companion.



I will never forget the first time I read Sheen's book from 1939, entitled *Victory over Vice*. As I entered into the book, I began to feel deep, heartfelt sorrow for my sins for the first time in my life. Fulton Sheen's words were removing the scales from my eyes. He showed me that the seven last words that Our Lord spoke from the Cross were the antidote for each of the seven deadly sins.

After reading this one Sheen book, I was convinced that I could put my trust in him, to guide me in my walk with Christ. I desired to read every book of his that I could find, with a similar Lenten theme. Over the course of the next several months, I read books such as *The Seven Last Words* (1933), *Calvary and the Mass* (1936), *The Cross and the Beatitudes* (1937), *The Rainbow of Sorrow* (1938), *The Seven Virtues* (1940), *Seven Words to the Cross* (1944), *Seven Words of Jesus and Mary* (1945), and *Characters of the Passion* (1946), to name a few.

I found out that during his last recorded Good Friday address in 1979, Archbishop Sheen spoke of having given this type of reflection on the subject of Christ's seven last words from the Cross "for the fifty-eighth consecutive time." Whether as the young priest in Peoria, Illinois, the university professor in Washington, D.C., or the bishop in New York, Sheen's messages were sure to make an indelible mark on his audience.

Possessing a burning zeal to dispel the myths about Our Lord and His Church, each year Sheen gave a series of powerful presentations on Christ's Passion and His seven last words from the cross. As a Scripture scholar, Archbishop Sheen knew full well the power contained in preaching Christ crucified. With St. Paul, he could say, "For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2). This confirmed what I had realized after reading many of Sheen's books: that he desired most of all to speak about the mystery of love and suffering, more specifically, about Jesus Christ becoming man, and dying for our sins.

Recently, I came upon this great description of what a priest should be: a priest is someone who brings Jesus to the people, and in turn brings the people to Jesus. From reading Sheen's books, listening to his audio recordings, and watching him on television, I have found that he fits this description perfectly. Indeed, he is an accomplished retreat master. His love for Our Lord and the Blessed Mother permeates his every thought, binding our hearts to theirs. And isn't that what Lent is all about, a time to put God in first place in our hearts?

Over the last ten years, it has been my privilege to speak about the life and writings of the Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. I never tire of hearing the "Sheen stories," how he is still fondly remembered by so many, and how he touched people's lives. As a way of thanking God for the many favors that my family has received through the intercession of Our Lady and the Venerable Sheen, I compiled a collection of Sheen's writings about Our Lord's passion and His seven last words. The book is titled: *The Cries of Jesus from the Cross—A Fulton Sheen Anthology*, and is published by Sophia Institute Press. It is a collection of seven unique Sheen titles that will take the reader on a spiritual journey during Lent like no other.

For the first time ever, Archbishop Fulton Sheen's complete writings and reflections on Christ's last words have been compiled into this one book. Sheen masterfully demonstrates how the seven last words of Our Lord are in fact, a full catechism on the spiritual life. From these holy words, we learn the secrets of living the Beatitudes, ways to avoid the deadly vices of anger, envy, lust, and pride, and how to cultivate the Heavenly virtues of fortitude, prudence, justice, and charity. Bishop Sheen teaches us how to deal with difficult people, and how to understand pain and suffering. And he binds all of this together with touching references to the most beautiful love between Our Lord and His Blessed Mother. The Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen has been my trusted Lenten guide for a number of years now. He is that faithful priest who continues to bring Jesus to me and helps to bring me closer to Jesus. I pray that he will do the same for you this Lent.

— Article by the Catholic Exchange



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Gretna, Nebraska

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

LAY LITURGICAL MINISTRY

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

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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

LEAST OF MY BRETHREN

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

CHURCH CLEANING

Sign Up Genius link to volunteer.....<https://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/13576de05a0c8eccfa81-church>
Megan Seamann.....meseamann@archomaha.org

ADVERTISE FOR YOUR MINISTRY GROUP

Does your parish ministry group have opportunities for others to get involved? Contact Megan Seamann, meseamann@archomaha.org, about getting your parish ministry group opportunities advertised.

ADULT BINGO NIGHT

The Gretna Booster Club is hosting an adults only Bingo night on February 12 at the Gretna Legion (11690 S 216th St). Doors open at 6 PM, and Bingo begins at 6:30 PM. Bingo cards will be sold for \$0.50 per card, cash or check only. Dinner and drinks will be available for purchase at 6 PM.



MEN'S SLOWPITCH TEAMS

Catholic League Softball



It's considered an "30 & Over" league, but teams are allowed to have a limited number of under age 30 players to support league development. Teams are

made up of men typically in their 30s and 40s with several in their 50s playing and coaching the team. They are fathers, sons, friends, and parishioners of the church being represented. It's around a 13-week season with games played at 4:30 and 5:30 PM Sunday afternoons beginning in April, at either at Seymour Smith or Kelly Softball Complex's with a year-end league tournament in early August. As the league is associated with UBA, there are fees associated in participating. Current league team members come out year after year as the camaraderie and lasting friendships are formed across the Omaha Catholic Community. If you are interested in forming a team or if there are questions regarding the league, contact Doug Ziska at dougzis@yahoo.com or visit cmsplsoftball.com.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- AL-ANON (ALCOHOLIC FAMILY SUPPORT—OMAHA)**
Phone.....402-553-5033
Website.....al-anon.org
- BOYS TOWN NATIONAL HOTLINE**
Phone.....1-800-448-3000
Website.....www.boystown.org
- CATHOLIC ANSWERS**
Phone.....1-888-318-7884
Website.....www.catholic.com
- CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**
Grief & Healing Counselor.....402-391-3711
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Gretna.....402-332-3475
- CATHOLIC CHARITIES—OMAHA**
Phone.....402-554-0520
Website.....ccomaha.org
- CATHOLIC VOICE ONLINE**
Website.....catholicvoiceomaha.com
- COURAGE (PASTORAL SUPPORT—SAME-SEX ATTRACTION)**
Phone.....402-557-5692
Website.....couragerc.org
- EWTN (GLOBAL CATHOLIC TELEVISION NETWORK)**
Phone.....1-800-447-3986
Website.....www.ewtn.com
- HEARTS RESTORED (HEALING AFTER ABORTION)**
Phone.....402-783-4673
Website.....heartstorestorednebraska.org
- HOLY FAMILY SHRINE**
Phone.....402-332-4565
Website.....holyfamilyshrine.com
- LEAST OF MY BRETHREN (SUPPORT HOMELESS)**
Phone.....402-681-5424
Website.....leastofmybrethren.org
- MARRIAGE RESOURCES**
For Your Marriage.....www.foryourmarriage.org
Retrouvaille.....1-800-470-2230
Retrouvaille.....www.helpourmarriage.org
- MASS TIMES NATIONWIDE**
Phone.....1-858-207-6277
Website.....www.masstimes.org
- NEBRASKA HOMESCHOOL NETWORK**
Website.....nebraskahomeschool.org
- POPE PAUL VI INSTITUTE (FERTILITY HELP)**
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- ST. JOHN PAUL II NEWMAN CENTER**
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Website.....jpiiomaha.org
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- WOMEN'S CENTER FOR ADVANCEMENT
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24/7 Hotline.....402-345-7273
Website.....wcaomaha.org

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

OACCW WINTER MEETING—HOLY TRINITY SCHOOL, HARTINGTON, FEBRUARY 13

All Catholic Women are invited to the OACCW (Omaha Archdiocese Council of Catholic Women) meeting on Tuesday, February 13, at the Heine Learning Center in Msgr. Cyril J. Werner Activity Center, parking lot and entrance on south side of Holy Trinity Elementary School (502 S Broadway Ave, Hartington). Registration of \$10 begins at 9:30 AM. The meeting begins at 10:00 AM with Lunch and Commission/Committee Reports to follow throughout day and a program presented by RNC. The day will conclude with Mass at 2 PM. Please come with your warm hearts to help melt this winter freeze and enjoy the fellowship with our sisters in Christ. Looking forward to seeing you all there! RSVPs are encouraged by February 7 for lunch count to Kim Estes, OACCW President via email at kimberley_estes@hotmail.com or text to 402-340-2866.



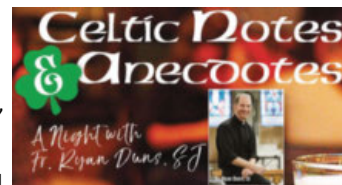
CBGO'S LUNCH AND SPEAKER—SCOTT CONFERENCE CENTER, FEBRUARY 15



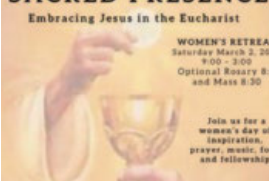
RSVP now for the Catholic Business Group-Omaha's (CBGO) February Lunch and Speaker on February 15 at 11:30 AM at the Scott Conference Center (6450 Pine St, Omaha). Our speaker is Steph Guy, PE, with Alvine Engineering Inc. with the topic, "Make a Difference." Steph enjoys making an impact and knows our Catholic faith helps her do that in our community, with family, and at work. She makes a difference and helps others make a difference as well. Hear her beautiful and inspiring faith story! Invite a friend, business associate, or fellow parishioner to attend this lunch with you! Be early, there is always networking, conversation, and growing in our Catholic faith. RSVP is required by the morning of February 12 at www.CBGOmaha.org. Reservations needed from members and non-members for all lunch meetings. The cost is \$25 for non-members. Any questions contact yochumja@yahoo.com.

A NIGHT WITH FR. RYAN DUNS, SJ—SHADOW RIDGE COUNTRY CLUB, FEBRUARY 22

Join Jesuit friends and alumni for Celtic Notes and Anecdotes: A Night with Fr. Ryan Duns, SJ, an evening of Irish music and anecdotes as we countdown to St. Patrick's Day! Hosted by the Midwest Province of Jesuits, this networking event is set for February 22, from 6 PM to 8 PM at Shadow Ridge Country Club (1501 S 188th Plaza, Omaha). Complimentary appetizers and drinks will be served. For more details and to register, go to <https://jfanusa.org/cities/omaha/>.



SACRED PRESENCE



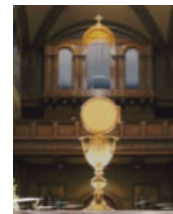
WOMEN'S RETREAT—ST. CHARLES BORROMEO, MARCH 2

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.

MONASTIC EXPERIENCE—CLYDE, MO, MARCH 2-7

As we celebrate our 150th Jubilee, the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration invite single women, ages 18-40, who are considering religious life, to visit for a weeklong Monastic Experience March 2-7, at our monastery in Clyde, Missouri. It's a chance to experience the daily rhythm of our life where you can join us in singing the divine office, attend daily Mass, spend time in personal prayer, and open your heart to God's call by learning about discernment and prayer. There is no cost to attend, and more details can be found at benedictinesisters.org. To register, contact Sr. Maria Victoria at 660-944-2221 ex. 127 or email vocation@benedictinesisters.org.



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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