

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET

GRETNA, NE 68028



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

“The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent,
and believe in the gospel.” - Mk 1:15

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

FEBRUARY 18, 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

1st Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING (GN 9:8-15)

God used a rainbow as a sign of His covenant with Noah and all living creatures to never
again flood the earth. Are there some additional signs in your life of God's love for us?

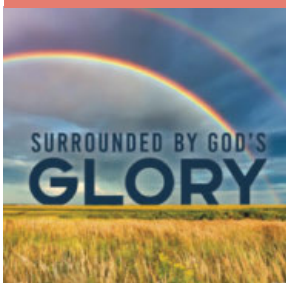
SECOND READING (1 PT 3:18-22)

Peter taught that baptism serves as an appeal or pledge to God for a clear conscience.
What leads you to an examination of conscience?

GOSPEL (MK 1:12-15)

After a brief report of Jesus' temptation by Satan in the desert, we hear the first words of
Jesus at the launch of His public ministry in Galilee: "This is the time of fulfillment. The
Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Gospel." As we begin the Lenten
journey, what are some temptations you plan to face this Lent?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



When I feel down, I sometimes watch the famous "Double
Rainbow" video on YouTube to feel better. It's hilarious. A
young man camping in Yosemite Park sees two rainbows
stretching across the sky. He bursts into a kind of ecstasy.
"Double rainbow, all the way! Oh my God!" he announces.
Then he starts to weep. He cries out, "What does it mean?"
Beneath the humor of his glorious overreaction is the deep
intuition we all have, I think, when we see the colorful bow in
the sky. This Sunday, God sends a rainbow to Noah, and to us.
What does it mean?

Long before YouTube had the double rainbow, Dante's medieval poem *The Divine Comedy*
featured one in his image of paradise. Seeing two rainbows, he muses that one is born of
the other. The bow is God's promise of peace. For Dante, it's even more: nature's
encrypted image of the Trinitarian God. One visible rainbow (God the Son) is begotten of
another usually invisible one (God the Father) united by invisible light between them (God
the Spirit). Like invisible light, Trinitarian glory surrounds us in every moment—but Jesus
has made it visible in His glorious body.

Lenten challenge: This might seem silly, but this Lent I invite you to find a rainbow and
meditate on it. You might have to make one yourself, like this current desert-dweller will.
Gaze on it. See there a natural gift from the Creator, saying to you, "Here I am! I will love
and protect you, surrounding you in My glory." This Lent let's embrace that with
confidence, rain, or shine.

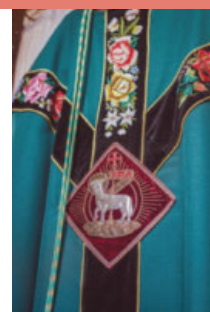
CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

What do the colors of the priest's and deacon's vestments mean?

ANSWER:

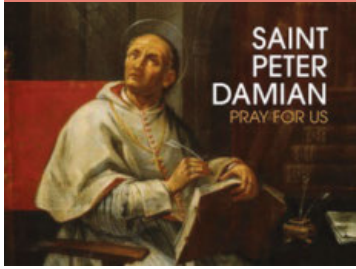
In the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, the colors of the vestments
evolved over the course of several centuries and there was wide
variation both in the colors used, and in the feasts and seasons
associated with particular colors. It was Pope Innocent III (d. 1216)
who gave us the basic outline that was later prescribed by Pope Saint
Pius V in 1570. The various colors remind us of the dominant themes
of a particular season or celebration.



- **White**—Used for the seasons of Christmas and Easter and in celebrations of the Lord, of
Mary, the angels, and saints who were not martyrs. This color is also used in Masses for
the dead, at baptisms, weddings, and other festive celebrations.
- **Red**—As the color of both blood and fire, red is used on Palm Sunday and Good Friday,
as well as Pentecost and special celebrations of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, red is used
on the feasts and memorials of the Apostles and those saints who died as martyrs.
- **Violet**—The color for Advent and Lent. Violet may also be used in Masses for the dead
and on All Souls Day (November 2).
- **Green**—A color of life and hope, green is used throughout Ordinary Time.
- **Rose**—May be used on the Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent.
- **Black**—May be used in Masses of the dead and on All Souls Day.
- **Gold or silver**—May be used on solemn occasions in place of white, red, or green.

SAINT PETER DAMIAN

Doctor of the Church



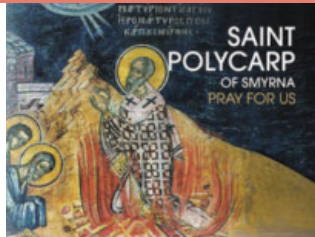
St. Peter Damian (1007-1072 A.D.) was born in Ravenna, Italy, the youngest of a large and noble yet poor family. After his birth his mother initially refused to nurse him due to the strain he would put on the family, and he nearly died. He was later orphaned and suffered from extreme poverty. One brother adopted him, but neglected him and treated him like a slave. Another brother, a priest, recognizing that Peter had great intelligence, took him in and provided for his education. Peter excelled in his studies and in religious

piety. By the time he was twenty-five he became a professor famous for his work in theology and canon law. Bothered by the distractions of university life, at twenty-eight he left his position to become a Benedictine monk and to lead a quiet life of fervent prayer and self-mortification. He lived during a time of great corruption in the Church, and became heavily involved in the controversies and crises of the day, advocating for reform and greater discipline in religious life. He was an influential figure, a friend, and adviser to both popes and emperors, and was made a bishop and cardinal. Due to his academic prowess and prolific theological writings, St. Peter Damian was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1823. His feast day is February 21.

SAINT POLYCARP OF SMYRNA

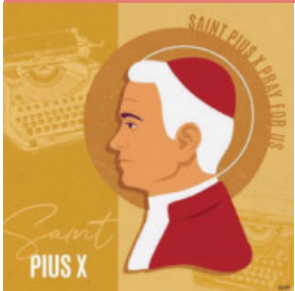
Bishop and Martyr

St. Polycarp of Smyrna (c. 69-155 A.D.) became a Christian in his youth, a disciple of St. John the Evangelist. St. John ordained him Bishop of Smyrna (in modern day Turkey) and from this position Polycarp became one of the most illustrious of the Apostolic Fathers. His closeness with the Apostles, and the long life that he lived, enabled him to protect the Church against heresy. The account of his martyrdom is well-preserved and is one of the earliest in the Church. Knowing the government was seeking his life, he received a vision while praying that he would be burned alive. After his capture he was encouraged to submit to Caesar in order to be released, but he refused. He was then taken to a public arena to be killed. He gave an outstanding testimony, declaring that he had served Christ for 86 years. Witnesses of his execution saw the flames surround his body without burning it, and then Polycarp began to glow and emit a sweet aroma. This amazed the crowds, and his executioners were then ordered to stab him to death. St. Polycarp is the patron saint against dysentery and earache. His feast day is February 23.



SAINT POPE PIUS X

Pope



St. Pius X (1835 – 1914), born Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto, was from the Austrian Empire in what is now modern-day Veneto, Italy. He was the 257th Pope and served from 1903 until his death in 1914. St. Pius X's love for the Eucharist was evident from a young age and he carried this devotion throughout his life. As Pope, he emphasized the importance of fostering a personal relationship with Jesus through the Sacrament, advocating for its accessibility to all Catholics, regardless of social status. One of St. Pius X's most significant contributions to the Church was the role he played in lowering the age of eligibility for First Communion. Recognizing the significance

of early spiritual formation, he sought to enable children to receive the Eucharist as soon as they reached seven years old. He believed that children could experience the profound graces of the Eucharist, grow in their faith at an early age, and that the reception of Holy Communion regularly in a child's life would set the foundation for a lifetime of spiritual growth. His papacy was also marked by his efforts to combat the rising tide of modernism—a movement that challenged traditional Catholic teachings. He wrote an encyclical entitled *Pascendi Dominici Gregis*, subtitled *On the Doctrines of the Modernists*, condemning modernist errors and safeguarding the integrity of Church doctrine. His commitment to preserving the traditional scope of Catholicism, especially the teachings of Christ's true presence in the Eucharist, earned him the epithet "Pope of the Eucharist." Despite his rejection of modernism, St. Pius X was the first Pope to use a typewriter for his encyclicals, signaling an embrace of modern technology during his time as Pope. St. Pius X, Pope of the Eucharist, pray for us!



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

TUESDAY: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15

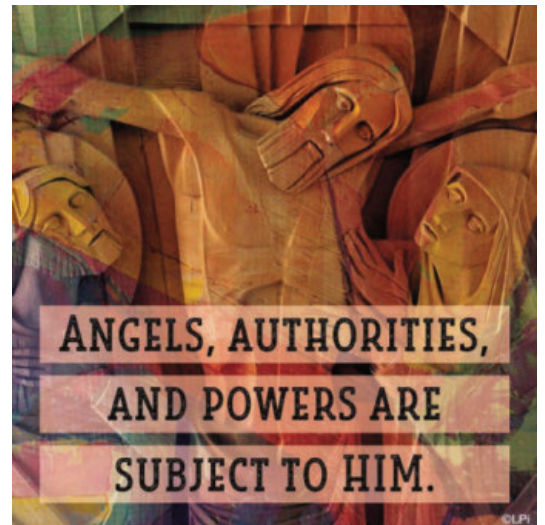
WEDNESDAY: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

THURSDAY: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19

FRIDAY: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26

SATURDAY: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

NEXT SUNDAY: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Presidents' Day

WEDNESDAY: St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

THURSDAY: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

FRIDAY: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr

NEXT SUNDAY: 2nd Sunday of Lent





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Every Friday at 6 PM

Join us every Friday during Lent at 6 PM in the Church for the Stations of the Cross. The only exception will be on Good Friday, March 29, when Stations will be at 3 PM instead of 6 PM.



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

SEMINARIAN PRAYER CORNER

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

This week let us pray for **Brandon Hernandez** (Propaedeutic Year at Kenrick Glennon Seminary) from Sacred Heart in Norfolk.



"I establish my covenant with you." If in your listening to the Lord you are sensing the invitation to follow Christ as a priest, sister, or brother, talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.

"PRAY ALWAYS AND DO NOT LOSE HEART."



PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

We, the community of St. Patrick, continue to pray for all our parishioners and their deceased family members and loved ones.



Name.....Date of Death.....Place of Burial

James "Jim" Iverson.....2/5/2024.....Calvary Cemetery

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



This 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.

ST. JOSEPH CONSECRATION

Consecrate Yourself, Your Children, and Your Family!

WHY: God entrusted the Holy Family to St. Joseph to keep them safe, and so should you!

WHO: All St. Patrick parishioners, children, and families

WHAT: To participate in a 33-day preparation and consecration to St. Joseph OR to renew your consecration to St. Joseph if you have participated in the past

WHEN: Preparation begins on Saturday, March 30 and ends with our consecration on the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, Wednesday, May 1.

WHERE: In the comfort of your own home



HOW TO PARTICIPATE: Stop in the parish office to purchase the book, *Consecration to St. Joseph, The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father* by Fr. Donald H. Calloway for \$5 OR *Consecration to St. Joseph for Children and Families* (book, calendar, and sticker set) by Fr. Donald H. Calloway and co-author Scott L. Smith, Jr. for \$10. (We have ordered the book in bulk for better availability for all parishioners who would like to participate.)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO CONSECRATE YOURSELF TO ST. JOSEPH?

What does it mean for a person to be consecrated to St. Joseph? Well, it basically means that you acknowledge that he is your spiritual father, and you want to be like him. To show it, you entrust yourself entirely into his paternal care so that he can help you acquire his virtues and become holy. Total consecration to St. Joseph means you make a formal act of filial entrustment to your spiritual father so that he can take care of your spiritual well-being and lead you to God. The person who consecrates himself to St. Joseph wants to be as close to their spiritual father as possible, to the point of resembling him in virtue and holiness. St. Joseph, in turn, will give those consecrated to him his undivided attention, protection, and guidance.

Father Baxter will lead all parishioners, children, and families to make their consecration to St. Joseph after the 7:30 AM Mass on Wednesday, May 1.

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Paul and Carrie Hubert at forlife9@icloud.com or call 402-671-8123 to join this prayer community in preparing to make a consecration to St. Joseph and receive weekly emails with additional resources about St. Joseph.

THANKS FROM THE PRESCHOOL STAFF

Protect our Children and Share the News

The St. Patrick Preschool staff would like to thank everyone who came the Taste of the Arts 2024 Touchdowns and Tailgates fundraiser. We would especially like to thank our wonderful volunteers, donors, and sponsors who helped make this night one to remember. What a great event to celebrate Catholic education! The proceeds from this event will go towards new technology and materials for our classrooms. God bless you all!



SAVE THE BABY—DECLINE TO SIGN

Protect our Children and Share the News

The "Protect Our Rights" petition IS A LIE!

DO NOT SIGN! DO NOT SIGN!

- It will allow abortions through the entire 9 months of a pregnancy.
- Parents and grandparents will lose all rights to know anything and to help.
- Abortion will be written into the Nebraska Constitution as a right.

Abortions... need to STOP!

Protect Our Children!

Learn more at:

**Save The Baby
Kill The Ballot.com**

www.SaveTheBabyKillTheBallot.com

Abortion on demand up to birth is coming to Nebraska, with signatures being collected on a petition to amend the state constitution on the November ballot. Information, news, and resource to stop the "abortion rights" amendment can be found at www.savethebabykilltheballot.com—including free downloads of posters, handouts, and links to other sources. This information must come through us to others. Bring to your neighborhood, business, organization, or ministry. We must evangelize our own with truthful information in order to protect sacred human life in Nebraska. Everyone must be active in their circle of contacts to ask for prayer, distribute information, offer support; but also then to ask others to do the same.

Dear Jesus, reveal yourself to me! When I am alone and in darkness, fill me with your light. I want to know you; I want to experience your healing. Be with me, Lord. Amen.

Stewardship Report

Feb 6-Feb 12, 2024

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

General Contributions	Feb 6-Feb 12	Fiscal YTD thru Feb 12
Sunday Offering-Feb 6-12	\$15,192.27	\$783,190.67
Other Contributions	\$2,496.85	\$86,551.88
Total General Contributions	\$17,689.12	\$869,742.55 *
Surplus/Deficit	(\$7,060.88)	\$52,992.55
Fiscal Year-to-Date Income		\$1,132,292.95
Fiscal Year-to-Date Expenses		\$1,052,012.95
Fiscal Year-to-Date Net Income		\$80,280.00

* 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



LENTEN FISH FRYs



Adult Plates \$15

Children \$8

(ages 6-10)

Credit and Debit cards accepted

Dine-in, Drive Through & Carry-out available

Friday, 5-7:30 pm

FEBRUARY
16, 23

MARCH
1, 8, 15, 22

Menu includes:
Fried or Baked Alaskan Pollock*, Scalloped Potatoes* or French Fries*, Green Beans*, Mac & Cheese, Coleslaw*, Bread & Coffee, Tea or Lemonade
* Gluten Free

Beer, Wine & Mixed Drinks available for purchase

Kids activities provided by:
St. Patrick Youth Group



Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #10047

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.

WILD GAME FEED

The Knights of Columbus are hosting their 4th annual Wild Game Feed Saturday, April 13. They are now accepting donations of gift cards, gift baskets (can be for ladies or men), and items that can be auctioned off. Please contact Larry Sibley for more information 402-957-8770 or LCSIB@centurylink.net.



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 19TH

No Communion Service or Mass

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

6:00 PM The Cooper Family

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

7:30 AM † Homer Uehling

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND

7:30 AM † Mark Penney

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

7:30 AM † William Zeleny

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

5:00 PM † Terence Veleba

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

8:00 AM Deceased Members of the Joseph Heck Family
10:00 AM † Pete Stec
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
Laikyn Rose
(newborn great-granddaughter of Barb Merkel),
Norma B,

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 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
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM Men's Lent Bible Study—Father Hitch Room
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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH

4:00 PM to 5:00 PM Children's Choir Rehearsal—Basement Rehearsal Room
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM CRHP Team 13 Lenten Study—Father Hitch Room
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal—Basement Rehearsal Room
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Ascension Adult Bible Study—Parish Center A and Kitchen

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH

8:30 AM to 3:30 PM Project Linus—Basement Commons
5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 6:40 PM Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion (after Mass)—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM Knights of Columbus Game Feed Meeting—Parish Center A

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
8:00 AM to 9:30 AM 55+ Club Outing—Offsite
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 Class—Father Hitch Room
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM Religious Education Classes—RE classrooms, Basement Commons
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM St. Rose of Lima Guild Meeting—Father Hitch Room
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room
7:30 PM to 8:30 PM Lenten Mass Study—Father Hitch Room

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND

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 23RD

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 24TH

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
6:30 PM to 9:30 PM Private Event—Parish Center AB

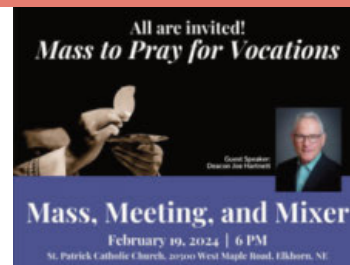
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH—2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

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
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM Men's Lent Bible Study—Father Hitch Room
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

2nd Sunday of Lent

FEBRUARY 24TH
5:00 PM

Sacristan
Linda Schriener

Lectors
Eric Hittner
(Read the 1st Reading)

Crystal Schroeder
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Mikaela Vobejda
Tracy Wollenburg
Julene Crockett
Adam Kreikemeier
Deacon Larry Heck

Ushers
Ken Beckman
Kathy Dauner
Jeff Wollenburg
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Ellie Clines

Altar Servers
Shailynn Gatewood
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Chris Gatewood
Therese Nisbet

FEBRUARY 25TH
8:00 AM

Sacristan
Joan Ingram

Lectors
Cari Kaup
(Read the 1st Reading)

Sandy Scheef
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Christa Pichler
Kathy Broz
Greg Jones
Rob Polak
Deacon Larry Heck

Ushers
Kevin Kaup
Ron Kotrous
Pat Shurtliff
Bob Sis

Rosary Reciter
Kathy Schwarting

Altar Servers
Ethan Kaup
Carson Kaup
Will Kaup

Greeters
Mary Brown
Gordon Yager

Hilcrest SR
Nancy Kruse
Tim Kruse

FEBRUARY 25TH
10:00 AM

Sacristan
Jim Hottovy

Lectors
Jolene Jefferies
(Read the 1st Reading)

Sandra Tiefenthaler
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Rosie Stec
Judy Huber
Bob Huber
Judy Weier
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Norris Hoover
Bruce Jefferies
John Schaffert
Norm Svoboda

Rosary Reciter
Theresa Gulizia

Altar Servers
Greyson Angell
Anderson Brei
Scarlet McCord

Greeters
Tony Tiefenthaler
Andrew Urban

FEBRUARY 25TH
NOON

Sacristan
Larry Neppi

Lectors
Karen Meyerott
(Read Both 1st and 2nd Readings)

Stephanie Lampe
(Standby: if a Sub is Needed)

EMHCs
Leann Otto
Steve Otto
Larry Neppi
Wendy Neppi
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Linda Gardner
Larry Neppi
Delma Stoner
Mary Zeigler

Rosary Reciter
Carol Zeleny

Altar Servers
Need Sub
Need Sub
Need Sub

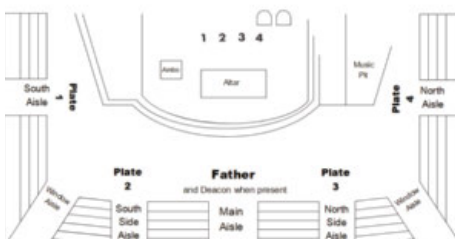
Greeters
Joann Dalley
Jeanette Roy

Vocations Crucifix
David Hubert

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

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

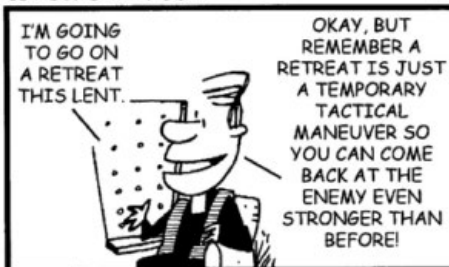
EMHC STATION MAP



EMHC Positions (see diagram above):

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

1ST SUNDAY OF LENT



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

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jmjefferies@archomaha.org

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Judy Weier, Secretary.....402-332-4444, x201
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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)

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

PASTORAL MINISTRY (ELDERLY, HOMEBOUND & FUNERALS)

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DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC

Laura Rau.....402-332-4444, x216
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Lezlie Thomas.....402-525-3098
lathomas@archomaha.org

FACILITY MANAGER

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

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

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

HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

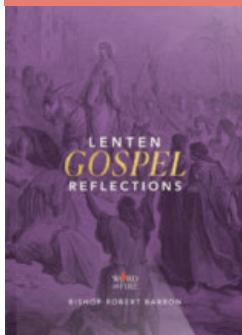
Registration is Open to Parishioners

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.



LENTEN BOOK

Bishop Robert Barron Reflections

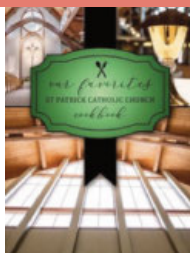


Thanks to a generous parishioner we are offering Bishop Robert Barron's Lenten book, *Lenten Gospel Reflections*, for free. Each day there is a reflection to go along with that day's Gospel passage and then a reflection question with space to journal your answer and see how your relationship with Jesus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

during this year's Lenten season. Pick up your family's copy in the narthex.

PARISH COOKBOOKS FOR SALE

Purchase your copy of the parish cookbook during regular parish office hours for \$25 (cash or check—checks can be made payable to St. Patrick Church). They make great gifts for all occasions—700+ family favorite recipes. All proceeds benefit St. Patrick Preschool.



HOW TO EXPERIENCE LENT LIKE NEVER BEFORE

40 Days of Learning to Discover God in a New Way

40 days of Lent, 40 days of struggle, 40 days of failure, 40 days of learning to discover God in a new way. During your childhood, Lent may have been a time for fish sticks and no chocolate, but how has Lent transformed as you aged? Has it become a season that you prepare for or one that always catches you by surprise? Regardless of how Lent has been for you in the past, let this be the year that you practice the three pillars of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. "Do you wish your prayer to fly toward God? Make for it two wings: fasting and almsgiving," St. Augustine.



PILLAR 1: PRAYER

Prayer in all its forms is how you cultivate your relationship with God. It is the first foundational pillar of Lent and without it, the other two pillars would be pointless. In prayer, we meet God in a deeply personal way. Prayer enables us to face the hurdles of life with confidence in the One who created us in His image. There are many different types of prayer and it can often be overwhelming trying to choose one on which to focus during Lent: devotionals, the Rosary, novenas, chaplets, not to mention the more frequent reception of the Sacraments. These recommendations will springboard you into a habit of prayer this Lent as you begin to know the Father more intimately. Choose one or two that you can commit to for at least the next six weeks—and maybe beyond!

Pick One! Devotional Reading Suggestions:

- *The Road to Calvary* (TAN Books): With St. Alphonsus Liguori as your spiritual guide, walk the long difficult path our Lord took to His Death and Crucifixion—all the way through His glorious Resurrection!
- *A Treatise on Perfection* (TAN Books): Cardinal Richelieu's work outlines the nine tortures of hell according to St. Augustine, the joys of Heaven, distractions at prayer, twenty spiritual counsels, and much more. It is a book that will stir your heart to love God above everything by cultivating piety, virtue, and moderation in whatever state of life you are called to.
- *A Scriptural Way of the Cross* (Ignatius Press): Take a new look at the journey to Calvary and accompany Jesus on the path of salvation with this unique book! Pray and meditate on the 14 Stations of the Cross drawn from Sacred Scripture. These simple yet profound meditations were written by Trappist monk Father André Louf for Pope St. John Paul II.
- *I Thirst* (Ignatius Press): This guided meditation on Scripture and the teaching of Mother Teresa will lead those who read it into the heart of the mystery of God's thirst for souls, and how man can respond.
- *Restore* (Ave Maria Press): In this beautiful guided journal for prayer and meditation, Sr. Miriam invites you to meet the tenderness of God's mercy and the power of His love and restore your heart and life as you practice prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.
- *Lent Family Bundle* (Blessed is She): This is the real center of Lent, that upon which everything truly hinges: through Christ's Death, we are brought to newness of life. With aligned themes and intertwined prayer, this is the perfect combo for leading your family toward Jesus, the Lamb of God!

Add an Hour of Eucharistic Adoration...Every Week!—According to the USCCB, "Holy hours are the Roman Catholic devotional tradition of spending an hour in Eucharistic Adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. The bishops have created a variety of holy hours that focus our prayer to Jesus Christ on peace, life, vocations, and other topics that are at the heart of the life of the Church and the world."

Commit to a Daily Rosary—There are many benefits of praying the Rosary daily, especially the 15 promises given to us by Our Lady.

Add a Daily Mass—Sunday Mass provides many graces and is the highest form of prayer. Adding a weekday Mass to your schedule for the duration of Lent can increase those graces and strengthen your prayer life.

Try Weekly Confession—Rev. Ronald Lawler, O.F.M. Cap. discusses the joys and hardships of frequent confession in this article found at <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/rediscovering-frequent-confession-9814>.

PILLAR 2: FASTING

"The enemy...stands more in awe of those whom he knows can fast," St. Francis de Sales. Fasting distances you from activities that nurture vices and allows you to more clearly discern God's voice. It is also a way to practice true penance and lead you toward closer communion with Christ. Growing in a habit of fasting—even from the good things of creation—can fortify you against the challenges of life by reordering your priorities. Below is a list of fasts that can challenge you on your path to sainthood. Take them to prayer and choose one or two to practice for the next six weeks of Lent!

Ascension Press Fasting Ideas Inspired by the Men's Lenten Program "Exodus":

- Fast from meat on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Continued on next page—>

HOW TO EXPERIENCE LENT LIKE NEVER BEFORE

Continued From Page 8

- Fast every Friday of Lent.
- Decrease your screen time.
 - No social media.
 - Only one show a day.
 - Only watching TV in social settings.
- Take cold showers.

Hallow's Lenten Fast Suggestions:

- Give up certain drinks (coffee, alcohol, soda) or all drinks other than water.
- Sleep without a pillow.
- Park in the back of the parking lot and pray as you walk to your building.
- Abstain from reading gossip sites or participating in gossip.

Other Ideas!

- No added seasoning, condiments or toppings on food (no salt, pepper, sugar, etc.). If it isn't cooked with it, don't add it.
- Don't procrastinate, if you can get it done today, do it today.
- Take better care of your body—find a reasonable workout regimen or create your own workout routine.
- Go to bed an hour earlier and wake up an hour earlier.

PILLAR 3: ALMSGIVING

The final (but by no means least important) pillar of Lent is giving alms. Through this practice, God's love that we encounter in prayer and fasting is shared with the world. There are many ways to give; it isn't all about money or acts of grandeur. There is something redeeming even in the smallest acts of kindness. Catholics commonly divide acts of generosity into three types: time, talent, and treasure. This approach ensures that everyone can find some way to give of themselves to others. Charity is not one-size-fits-all, so as you look below, choose an option that challenges you. If one doesn't work, get creative and find a new way to share God's love with those around you!

Time:

- Join a new ministry at your parish (EMHC, Lector, Greeter, Usher, etc.).
- Be present with others. Turn off your phone and ask genuine questions.
- Volunteer at a local charity on the weekends.

Talent:

- Join the choir at your church if you like singing.
- Perform at local nursing homes or teach free music/dance lessons to friends.
- Offer free tutoring lessons for local students.

Treasure:

- Tithe 10% of your income.
- Buy baby food/diapers to donate to your local Pregnancy Resource Center.
- Organize or donate to a food, coat, or toy drive for a local charity.

DO ALL THINGS IN LOVE

Journeying through Lent does not look the same for every person. Ultimately, it is a very personal experience with God and should be prayerfully crafted to fit each individual. As Ash Wednesday approaches, take some time out of your week to write down what suggestions stick out to you and create a plan for a fruitful Lenten season. May this Lent lead you closer to the heart of Christ!

—Article by Catholic Vote

FASTING—THE SPIRITUAL MUSCLE

Jesus Fasted for Forty Days and Nights in the Wilderness



"Throughout Sacred Scripture, we find that when God's people fast, the power of their prayers is increased, especially when they are engaged in spiritual warfare. In the Old Testament, the Lord told Isaiah that a fast properly undertaken would 'loose the bonds of wickedness ... undo the thongs of the yoke ... let the oppressed go free' (Is. 58:6) ... In the New Testament, we find that Jesus fasted for forty days and nights in the wilderness in preparation for His battle with Satan, who came to tempt Him (see Lk 4:1-2) ... If prayer is a spiritual weapon, fasting is the spiritual whetstone on which it is sharpened. It's the

spiritual muscle that, when exercised regularly, strengthens the thrust of that weapon to pierce the Enemy and drive him away."

—Paul Thigpen, *Manual for Spiritual Warfare*, p. 32



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Gretna, Nebraska

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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jjwotipka@archomaha.org

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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

LEAST OF MY BRETHREN

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

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

ADVERTISE FOR YOUR MINISTRY GROUP

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

GRADUATING SENIORS

Connect to Newman

It's overwhelming to be new on campus with no connections, no friends, and no group to call your own. With Newman Connection, graduating Seniors can meet like-minded people, find their church community, and remain active in their Catholic faith.

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SCAN QR CODE

FISH FRY FINDER

Spirit Catholic Radio



Looking for a great Fish Fry to head to this Lent? Let Spirit Catholic Radio help you with your search! Check out the Spirit Catholic Radio Fish Fry Finder to find amazing fish fries

in your area! Head to spiritcatholicradio.com/fish for more info!



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

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Website.....al-anon.org
- BOYS TOWN NATIONAL HOTLINE**
Phone.....1-800-448-3000
Website.....www.boystown.org
- CATHOLIC ANSWERS**
Phone.....1-888-318-7884
Website.....www.catholic.com
- CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**
Grief & Healing Counselor.....402-391-3711
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Gretna.....402-332-3475
- CATHOLIC CHARITIES—OMAHA**
Phone.....402-554-0520
Website.....ccomaha.org
- CATHOLIC VOICE ONLINE**
Website.....catholicvoiceomaha.com
- COURAGE (PASTORAL SUPPORT—SAME-SEX ATTRACTION)**
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Website.....couragerc.org
- EWTN (GLOBAL CATHOLIC TELEVISION NETWORK)**
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Website.....www.ewtn.com
- HEARTS RESTORED (HEALING AFTER ABORTION)**
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Website.....heartstorestorednebraska.org
- HOLY FAMILY SHRINE**
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Website.....holyfamilyshrine.com
- LEAST OF MY BRETHREN (SUPPORT HOMELESS)**
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Website.....leastofmybrethren.org
- MARRIAGE RESOURCES**
For Your Marriage.....www.foryourmarriage.org
Retrouvaille.....1-800-470-2230
Retrouvaille.....www.helpourmarriage.org
- MASS TIMES NATIONWIDE**
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- NEBRASKA HOMESCHOOL NETWORK**
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- POPE PAUL VI INSTITUTE (FERTILITY HELP)**
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Website.....www.popepaulvi.com
- SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO—FM 102.7**
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Website.....www.spiritcatholicradio.com
- ST. BENEDICT CENTER (RETREATS IN SCHUYLER)**
Phone.....402-352-2177
Website.....christthekingpriory.com/sbcbabout
- 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.)**
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Website.....wcaomaha.org

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

IPF LENTEN MORNING OF REFLECTION—CHRIST THE KING, MARCH 2

The Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) invites you to a “mini-retreat”, an opportunity to enrich your Lenten season and experience the IPF charism used in its spiritual formation programs for diocesan seminarians and priests. There is no cost for the IPF Morning of Reflection. A free will offering is always gratefully accepted. To help with planning purposes, please register at <https://priestlyformation.org> if you plan to attend. Questions? Contact Dawn at 531-272-8498 or by email, dsledge@priestlyformation.org.



We Would Like to See
Jesus
An IPF Lenten Morning of Reflection

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

SACRED PRESENCE

Embracing Jesus in the Eucharist



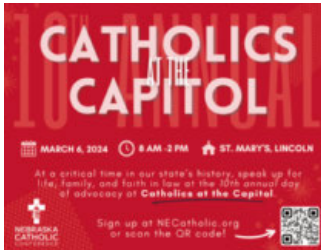
Plan to join us for a women's day of inspiration, prayer, music, food, and fellowship on March 2 from 9 AM to 3 PM (optional Rosary at 8 AM and Mass at 8:30 AM at St. Charles Borromeo (7790 S 192nd St, Gretna). Our retreat will be themed around embracing Jesus in the Eucharist. Julie Carrick, author 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.



CATHOLICS AT THE CAPITOL—ST. MARY'S, LINCOLN, MARCH 6



At Catholics at the Capitol, attendees can hear from prestigious panels, meet with their Senators, hear policy updates from staff and Senators, observe live legislative debates, and encounter our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration. It's a packed program that we ensure will be worth the day off. This event is \$15, which includes breakfast, lunch, and refreshments. Please wear red to signify the beating heart of life and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Sign up at NECatholic.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.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES IRISH FEST—MARRIOTT HOTEL CAPITOL DISTRICT, MARCH 16



Catholic Charities of Omaha is celebrating the 32nd Annual Irish Fest. Irish Fest is an evening brimming with Celtic cheer, all while raising crucial funds for Catholic Charities of Omaha. Grab your lads and lasses for a night of fun and fellowship for a great cause! This year is sure to be the best yet, as we welcome back award-winning Broadway star Quentin Darrington, Finest Hour, and honor the recipient of the 2024 Fr. Mel Merwald Award. Join us for cocktails, dinner, live auction, and dancing on Saturday, March 16 at the Marriot Hotel Capitol District (222 N 10th St, Omaha). Register to attend at <https://ccomaha.org/irish-fest>.

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Dani Schram
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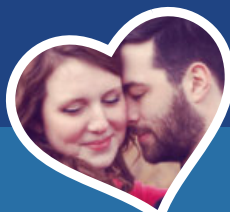


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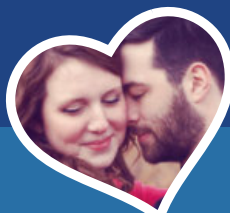
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