

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET GRETNA, NE 68028



EASTER SUNDAY

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. - Jn 20:8

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

MARCH 31, 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 A 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

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

FIRST READING (ACTS 10:34A, 37-43)

In his speech, Peter places much emphasis on his personal witness to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. To whom this week could you witness your faith in the resurrection of Jesus?

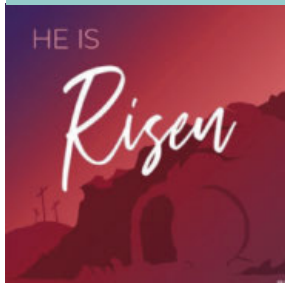
SECOND READING (COL 3:1-4 OR 1 COR 5:6B-8)

Paul taught the believers in Colossae to anticipate the return of the resurrected Jesus. How does your family celebrate Easter Sunday?

GOSPEL (JN 20:1-9 OR MK 16:1-7)

Mary Magdala, Peter, and the Beloved Disciple were the first to experience the joy and mystery of the empty tomb. Do you recall when you first started believing in the resurrection of Jesus?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



Outside Chicago, there is a small cemetery in the woods behind Mundelein Seminary, where I was a student. One night I was exploring it. I looked up and was shocked to see an imposing seventeen-foot angel towering over me and preparing to blow a trumpet. Adrenaline rushed through me. I gasped and uttered, "Oh my God!" Quickly I realized it was in fact a massive bronze statue. I tried to calm myself down. But it still freaked me out.

As we begin to celebrate Easter today, this image might seem a bit unnerving. But please recall that for the first disciples on the morning of the resurrection, it was precisely that. It wasn't joyful at first, it was terrifying. It wasn't peaceful, it was unsettling. In that Jerusalem cemetery, something otherworldly had happened. Angels announced that he was no longer dead, but alive. They had blown their trumpets, so to speak, and Jesus had risen. Soon the disciples' shock in that dark cemetery would turn into joy.

We all have our own places of the dead, too, don't we? Deceased loved ones. Our tired patterns of blame. Relationships stuck in resentment. Indifference to the poor. Lost dreams. Despair about our future. Fear of sickness and death. These are our "cemeteries" where we don't expect much to happen. Today we enter—if we dare—those places with the disciples. See the mighty angel standing there, trumpet ready to blare!

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

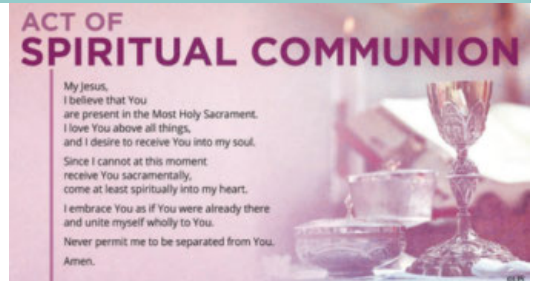
QUESTION:

What is spiritual communion, and do you need to be in a state of grace to receive it?

ANSWER:

The practice of making a "spiritual communion" dates back several centuries and St. Thomas Aquinas described it as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him." Traditionally, a prayer of spiritual communion has been used by those who are unable to receive sacramental communion because of health, inability to attend Mass, or who cannot receive communion because of grave sin. This practice has been encouraged by many saints and spiritual writers and most recently Pope Francis encouraged the practice when the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented so many Catholics from taking part in the Mass or receiving sacramental communion.

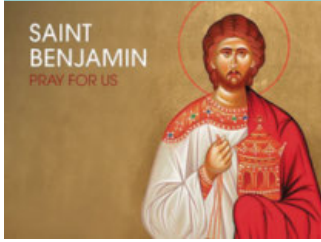
Although the graces offered in spiritual communion are not the same as those offered in the sacramental communion of the Mass, this practice is still a powerful opportunity to express our desire for union with the Lord and to be united with Christ and the Church, even in an imperfect way.



"Pray with great confidence, with confidence based on the goodness and infinite generosity of God and upon the promises of Jesus Christ. God is a spring of living water which flows unceasingly into the hearts of those who pray." —St. Louis De Montfort

SAINT BENJAMIN

Deacon and Martyr



St. Benjamin (d. 424 A.D.) was a deacon martyred in Persia during a forty-year-long Christian persecution under two tyrannical Persian kings. He was imprisoned for a year due to his Christian faith and then released with the help of the Eastern Roman Emperor Theodosius II. As a condition of his release he was ordered to no longer publicly proclaim his faith. Benjamin declared that it was his duty to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and he refused to be silenced. He continued preaching Christ crucified, and, when word reached the king, he was arrested again. In response, Benjamin asked the king what opinion he would have of any of his subjects if they were to renounce their allegiance to the king and join in war against him; in the same way Benjamin could not renounce his allegiance to Christ. This comment enraged the king, and he ordered Benjamin to endure cruel tortures. Sharpened reeds were repeatedly jammed underneath his fingernails, toenails, and other tender parts of the body. He died when a knotted stake was jammed into his bowels. St. Benjamin's feast day is celebrated on March 31.

BLESSED ANACLETO GONZALEZ FLORES

Martyr

Bl. Anacleto Gonzalez Flores (1888–1927) was the second of twelve children born to a poor family in Jalisco, Mexico. He was baptized the day after his birth. As he grew, a priest recognized his intelligence and recommended that he enter the seminary. Anacleto studied there for a time before discerning that he was not called to the priesthood. Instead he became an attorney, husband, and father, as well as an activist for his Catholic faith. He was a prolific writer and dedicated catechism teacher, and attended daily Mass. He joined the Catholic Association of Young Mexicans (ACJM) in addition to starting another Catholic lay organization committed to resisting the fierce persecution of the Catholic Church under the infamous Mexican dictator, Calles. Initially he participated only in the non-violent resistance against Calles, until four members of the ACJM were murdered in 1926. Their deaths spurred Anacleto to lend support to the armed resistance movement. Anacleto did not take up arms but instead gave speeches to encourage Catholics to support the Cristeros, the Catholic army fighting against Calles. Anacleto was captured during the Cristero War on April 1, 1927, and was brutally tortured before being martyred by firing squad. His feast day is April 1.



VENERALBE FRANCIS-XAVIER NGUYỄN VĂN THUẬN

Priest



Venerable Francis-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, (1928 –2002) was born in Huế, Vietnam and was the nephew of South Vietnam's first president. He entered seminary when he was a teenager and was ordained in 1953 at age 25. By 1975 he was appointed as the coadjutor archbishop of Saigon, just as the Vietnam War came to an end. Only six days after his appointment, Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese Army and Francis-Xavier, targeted for his faith and connections, was arrested, and detained by the regime. For the next 13 years, he endured immense hardships in captivity, including nine years of solitary confinement. Throughout his imprisonment,

Francis-Xavier's devotion to Jesus sustained him. Denied access to the Mass and to the Sacraments, he secretly celebrated Mass while confined with whatever resources he could find—even if he only had a few drops of wine and a piece of bread as the elements for the Eucharist. While imprisoned, he became known for his joyful spirit, sharing hope and encouragement with fellow prisoners, and writing powerful faith reflections on scraps of paper, which were smuggled out and circulated among Catholics worldwide. Released from prison in 1988, Francis-Xavier continued to inspire the Church from house arrest as well as from exile in Switzerland. In 1994, Pope John Paul II appointed him as the president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, recognizing his dedication to promoting peace, reconciliation, and social justice. Fourteen years later he died of cancer in Rome at the age of 74. In recognition of his heroic virtues, Francis-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận was declared Venerable by Pope Francis in 2017. His cause for beatification is ongoing, and he continues to be an important figure for those facing oppression and adversity, inspiring them to remain steadfast in God's love. Venerable Francis-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, pray for us!



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Mt 28:8-15
TUESDAY: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn 20:11-18
WEDNESDAY: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:13-35
THURSDAY: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:35-48
FRIDAY: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/Jn 21:1-14
SATURDAY: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/Mk 16:9-15
NEXT SUNDAY: Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Monday within the Octave of Easter; April Fools' Day
TUESDAY: Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
WEDNESDAY: Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
THURSDAY: Thursday within the Octave of Easter
FRIDAY: Friday within the Octave of Easter
SATURDAY: Saturday within the Octave of Easter
NEXT SUNDAY: 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

We love
having you as part of our Flock

Keep in touch with us
via email and text!

Text
STPATGRETNA
to 84576
OR
Connect with us online at:
stpatgretna.flocknote.com

Text STOP to 84576 to stop txt notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View full privacy policy & terms at flocknote.com/tot.

RELIGIOUS ED REGISTRATION
Tuesday, April 2

REGISTER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Registration for Religious Ed 2024-2025 will begin on Tuesday, April 2. Current families will receive emails or register online at the parish website, stpatricksgretna.org/education/religious-education.

SEMINARIAN PRAYER CORNER

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

This week let us pray for **Harrison Elhabbal** (Propaedeutic Year at St. John Vianney Seminary) from St. Wenceslaus in Omaha.



"The Lord is truly risen!" Are you being called to proclaim the truth of the Lord's Resurrection as a priest, religious sister, or brother? Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.

"PRAY ALWAYS AND DO NOT LOSE HEART."

Pray for our Seminarians

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

Dennis Mattes.....3/18/2024.....Holy Sepulchre Cemetery

Nancy Cerone.....3/19/2024.....Elkhorn Cemetery

SAVE THE DATES: SUMMER RE PROGRAMS
Totus Tuus and Vacation Bible School



TOTUS TUUS AT ST. PATRICK:

Totus Tuus (Totally Yours) is a fun and energetic parish based summer catechetical program for both grade school age children and junior and senior high school youth.

- June 17-21 for 1st-6th graders, 9 AM to 2:30 PM each day. Cost is \$35 per child.
 - June 16-20 for 7th-12th graders, 6:30 PM to 8:45 PM each night. No cost!
- Registration begins in April—watch the parish website or call the RE office, 402-332-3454.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) AT ST. CHARLES:

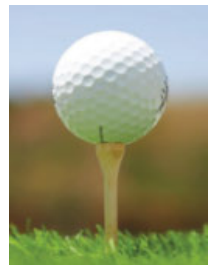
A week of faith discoveries, memorable music, and new friends! (Volunteer opportunities for 7th grade and above.)

- June 3-7 for 4 year-olds-5th grade, 9 AM to Noon each day. Cost is \$45 per child.
- Register at www.stcharlesomaha.org/vbs.

TEE IT UP FOR VOCATIONS! MONDAY, JUNE 3
Golf with Priests, Seminarians, and Consecrated Religious

The Serra Clubs of Omaha and West Omaha will host their Annual Golf, Tennis, and Pickleball Outing, followed by a cocktail hour, dinner, and awards at The Pines Country Club in Valley on Monday, June 3 (best ball format) with registration beginning at 11 AM. Tennis and Pickleball will both be at Genesis Westroads at 3 PM. All proceeds received support the vocations programs of the Archdiocese of Omaha. Early registrations are welcome!

- Golf \$125 (Includes box lunch and dinner)
- Foursome \$500 (Includes box lunch and dinner)
- Tennis \$75 (Includes dinner at The Pines)
- Dinner Only \$40 (No golf or tennis)
- Sponsor a Priest, Seminarian, or Religious \$125
- Hole Sponsor \$250



To register as a player and/or a sponsor and to pay online, go to: <https://serrawestomaha.org/golf/>. If you wish to pay by check, go to the website to download the PDF Registration Form and mail your completed form and check per the instructions at the bottom of the form. For questions, contact Joe Grier at 402-680-6654. Make this event one of your priorities this summer!

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

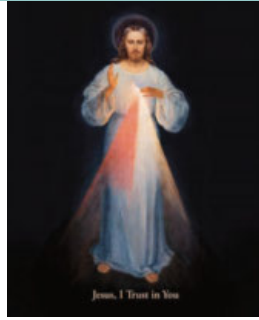
On First Fridays, St. Joseph (100 9th St, Springfield) has a 2 PM Mass with Anointing of the Sick available and confessions beforehand. This Mass is specially scheduled to accommodate older and limited mobility persons who may have difficulty attending an early morning Mass or sitting through an entire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



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, APRIL 7

Enthroned Your Home

"I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and then throughout the world. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. By means of this image I shall be granting many graces to souls: so, let every soul have access to it." (Jesus to St. Faustina, Diary, 47, 48, 570)



The Enthronement of the Divine Mercy image in the home is the recognition and honoring of the existence of God our Creator by the family. Those who give themselves to trusting in the wonderful love and mercy that His Son, Jesus, brings to us through this image. This image which was first made known to Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska in 1931.

Pick up your own copy of the Divine Mercy image and a prayer card to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in the narthex.

The enthronement begins by installing the Divine Image in a place of honor in the home, which is then ceremoniously blessed by a priest or deacon if available or the head of the household as follows:

THE BLESSING

V: Our help is in the name of the Lord

R: Who made Heaven and Earth

V: The Lord be with you

R: And also with you

Let us pray. Almighty, Eternal God, you have allowed pictures and statues of your saints to be painted and carved, so that as often as we look upon them with our bodily eyes, we may recall with our more inward eyes their deeds and their sanctity and learn to imitate them. In your goodness, therefore, bless and sanctify this picture fashioned to reveal to us the unfathomable love of our crucified and risen Savior—Divine Mercy personified—and to recall to our minds the streams of blood and water gushing forth from His Pierced Heart to be a fount of mercy for us. Grant to all who invoke your mercy with this picture before their eyes, the grace of true repentance, pardon, and peace. Shield them from every danger to soul and body. Loving Savior, establish in this picture the throne of your mercy. Pour out upon all who approach it with faith and trust, the purifying, healing, and sanctifying rays of grace ever emanating from it as from a blazing sun. Gaze upon them from it as you did from the cross with unfathomable love and compassion. Through this image may your Divine Mercy triumph over all the powers and wiles of Satan the world over. May all who venerate it never perish. May it be their joy in life, their hope in death, and their glory in eternity. This we ask through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

NEBRASKA CATHOLIC DAY OF GIVING—MAY 1

Formally Joy of Giving



The Archdiocese of Omaha, the Diocese of Lincoln, and the Diocese of Grand Island are joining together to offer the first ever Nebraska Catholic Day of Giving

on Wednesday, May 1. Through this initiative, we hope to inspire faithful stewards throughout the state to share their blessings willingly and lovingly. It is our desire to create a wave of generosity and provide donors with the opportunity to give back in support of the organizations that have helped to shape their lives of faith...our parishes, schools, and ministries. Through this initiative, we can create awareness and empower organizations to raise the critically important funds necessary to accomplish the outstanding work that is offered to so many throughout Nebraska. Come along and, together, we'll help others discover the joy that comes from seeing the impact of their support! More information to come on how to support St. Patrick Gretna through this program.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

See Future Bulletin for Updated Report

We were unable to print this week's Stewardship Report. We apologize for any inconvenience and please know that we will publish this week's report in a future bulletin. Thank you for your patience.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

**THE
KNIGHT'S
CORNER**



KNIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

Applications are available and can be picked up at the church office or by contacting Randy Meerian at 402-981-6471. The scholarship deadline is Monday, April 15. This is a separate scholarship application process from the Church Scholarship. The Gretna Knights of Columbus Council #10047 has established multiple scholarships. To be eligible for a Knights Scholarship, the candidate must be the son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, grandchild, or legal guardian of an active member in good standing of the Gretna Knights of Columbus Council #10047. Members in good standing are members who are current with their member dues, have been a member for at least two years, and are not in the process of transferring to another council.



MARCH KNIGHT FAMILY OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to our Family of the Month for March, the John and Cauley Schaffert family. Thank you to the Schaffert family for your

service and contributions to our Knights of Columbus Council, our parish, and our community. Pictured from left to right is Grand Knight, Bruce Jefferies presenting the Family of the Month Award to the John and Cauley Schaffert Family.

MARCH KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our Knight of the Month for March, Larry Neppl. Thank you Larry for your service and contributions to our Knights of Columbus Council, our parish, and our community. Pictured from left to right is Grand Knight, Bruce Jefferies presenting the Knight of the Month certificate to Larry Neppl.



Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight, Bruce Jefferies.....402-521-4262
Deputy Grand Knight, John Schaffert ..402-672-7903
Financial Secretary, Marty Stednitz.....402-332-3840
Chancellor & Membership Director, Randy Meerian
.....402-981-6471



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

MASS INTENTIONS

An individual may ask a Priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday or if they are ill), or, as is most common, for the repose of the soul of one who has died (†). To request a Mass intention, stop by the Parish Office to schedule. A minimum of \$10 per Mass is requested.

MONDAY, APRIL 1ST

No Communion Service or Mass

TUESDAY, APRIL 2ND

6:00 PM † Chris Reteneller

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3RD

7:30 AM † Scot Stoner

THURSDAY, APRIL 4TH

7:30 AM † Gregory Loftis

FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH

7:30 AM † Howard Degener

SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH

5:00 PM The Budzinski Family

SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH

8:00 AM † Deacon Joe Krajicek

10:00 AM For Our Parishioners

12:00 PM † Stephen Shonka

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 Arlene (sister of Maxine Burke), Pauline Kwapnioski family, Dottie Engler, Geri Donahue, 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 McMahan, 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, MARCH 31ST—EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD—NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary

MONDAY, APRIL 1ST

6:00 PM to 7:30 PM CRHP Team 13 Lenten Study—Father Hitch Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 2ND

3:30 PM to 4:30 PM Confirmation Interviews—Father Hitch Room
5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus Holy Hour of Prayer—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 6:40 PM Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion (after Mass)—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Knights of Columbus Meeting—Parish Center AB

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3RD

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
8:00 AM to 10:00 PM Knights of Columbus Game Feed Prep—Kitchen
9:00 AM to 10:30 AM Faith Connection—Father Hitch Room
3:30 PM to 4:30 PM Confirmation Interviews—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
5:00 PM to 5:30 PM Confirmation Interviews—Father Hitch Room
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

THURSDAY, APRIL 4TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
8:00 AM to 10:00 PM Knights of Columbus Game Feed Prep—Kitchen

FRIDAY, APRIL 5TH

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
8:00 AM to 10:00 PM Knights of Columbus Game Feed Prep—Kitchen
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal—Sanctuary and Narthex

SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Knights of Columbus CPR Class—Parish Center A
8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Wedding Prep—Sanctuary, Narthex, Father Hitch, Bride's Room
8:00 AM to 10:00 PM Knights of Columbus Game Feed Prep—Kitchen
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM Wedding—Sanctuary and Narthex

SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH—2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
8:00 AM to 10:00 PM Knights of Columbus Game Feed Prep—Kitchen
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM Religious Education Classes—RE classrooms, Basement Commons
1:00 AM to 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary and Narthex
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM Medjugorje Pilgrimage Meeting—Parish Center A

FASTING VS. FEASTING

It's Improper to Fast on Easter

"In giving us this regular hunger for food, we are also given opportunity to sacrifice for each other and for God and to discipline our appetites. Always cognizant of our nature, the liturgical year is rife with periods of both fasting and feast. In order to feast, we must also know sacrifice; in fact, it's only in sacrifice that we understand what a feast really is. Our lives can contain an ever-repeating rhythm of each in its proper time. In the same way that it would be profane to feast on Good Friday, so would it be improper to fast on Easter. This rhythm is a reminder of both a need to be filled as well as a need to strengthen our resolve so that we might long first and foremost for the feast that has no end."

—Carrie Gress and Noelle Mering, *Theology of Home*, p. 88



LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

APRIL 6TH
5:00 PM

Sacristan
Pat Gilmore

Lectors
Eric Hittner
(Read the 1st Reading)

Jayne Schram
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Bridget Blum
Tracy Wollenburg
Therese Nisbet
JoAnn Koch

Ushers
Ken Beckman
Chad Soupir
Jeff Wollenburg
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Ellie Clines

Altar Servers
Aslyn Ronk
Kenley Ronk
Need Sub

Greeters
Need Sub
Need Sub

APRIL 7TH
8:00 AM

Sacristan
Tony Schultz

Lectors
Kathy Schwarting
(Read the 1st Reading)

Cari Kaup
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Gene Schwarting
Carrie Hubert
Amy Beran
Rob Polak

Ushers
Kevin Kaup
Larry Scheef
Bob Sis
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Theresa Huttman

Altar Servers
Carson Kaup
Ethan Kaup
Will Kaup

Greeters
Mary Maw
Gordon Yager

Hilcrest SR
Marty Stednitz
Sally Stednitz

APRIL 7TH
10:00 AM

Sacristan
Mitch Wendlandt

Lectors
Judy Weier
(Read the 1st Reading)

Kelly Eby
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Kathy Wendlandt
Jim Hain
Jocelyn Pearson
Phil Lenz

Ushers
Clint Bollock
Norris Hoover
Andy Pearson
John Schaffert

Rosary Reciter
Tam Hottovy

Altar Servers
Ihrey Reiman
Marlie Reiman
Riley Reiman
Kianna Reiman
Skylar Reiman

Greeters
Andrew Brei
Tony Tiefenthaler

APRIL 7TH
NOON

Sacristan
Larry Neppi

Lectors
Rebecca Campbell
(Read Both 1st and 2nd Readings)

Stephanie Lampe
(Standby: if a Sub is Needed)

EMHCs
Doris Williams
Delma Stoner
Larry Neppi
Norma Hintz

Ushers
Larry Neppi
Mary Zeigler
Need Sub
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Norm Svoboda

Altar Servers
Need Sub
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Joann Dalley
Jeanette Roy

Vocations Crucifix
Jason Street



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
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smfagan@archomaha.org

DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

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Laura Rau.....402-332-4444, x216
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FACILITY MANAGER

Judy Knight.....402-332-4444, x206
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PASTORAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

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

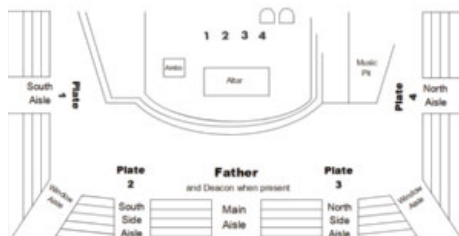
HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

EMHC STATION MAP



EMHC Positions (see diagram above):

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

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

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

EASTER





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP
Register Today



This year we will offer three different summer camp sessions for children 3-5 years old. All students must be toilet trained. Camps are \$50 each or \$125 for all three camps. Register on our parish website, stpatricksgretna.org. For more information, contact our Preschool Director, Amanda

Scardina at 402-332-3050 or email acscardina@archomaha.org.

SUMMER CAMPS INCLUDE:

- June 10-14: The ABCs of Summer
- June 24-28: The Colors and Shapes of Summer
- July 15-19: Soaking Up God's Love

THE CHOSEN SEASON FOUR
Viewing at St. Charles Borromeo



St. Charles Borromeo (7790 192nd St, Gretna) was able to acquire the rights to show *The Chosen* Season 4! Join us on Fridays at 7 PM in our gym to watch. Please RSVP below so we know how many people to expect.

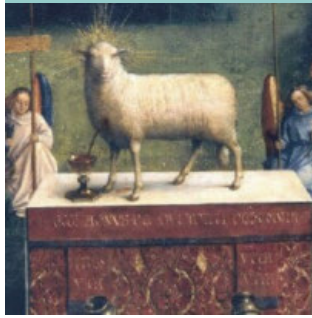
*There will be no food or drink provided, however, you are welcome to bring your own!

- Episodes 1&2 • April 12
- Episodes 3&4 • April 19
- Episodes 5&6 • April 26
- Episodes 7&8 • May 3

Please RSVP at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A084CACAE2BA5FD0-48691486-thechosen>



WHY IS EASTER ALSO CALLED "PASCHA"?
The Connection Between the Jewish Passover and Easter



Christ as the Paschal Lamb from the Ghent Altarpiece by Jan van Eyck

"Pascha" means "Passover"—it is the Aramaic form of Hebrew's Pesach, the feast commemorating Israel's release from bondage in Egypt. Calling Easter "Pascha" brings home the reality of Christ as the Paschal Lamb. At Passover, God commanded the Israelites to sacrifice a pure lamb and mark their doorposts with its blood. Seeing the lamb's blood, the angel of death would skip their homes as he went throughout Egypt, slaying every firstborn male among man and beast. At Easter, Christ allowed Himself to be crucified and His Blood poured out. His Blood redeems us from eternal death, setting us apart from those who reject Him. It's no coincidence that this event occurred during the Passover feast. "The connection between the Jewish Passover and the Christian feast of Easter is real and ideal. Real, since Christ died on the first Jewish Easter Day; ideal...because Christ's death and Resurrection had its

figures and types in the Old Law, particularly in the paschal lamb, which was eaten towards evening of the 14th of Nisan," *The Catholic Encyclopedia*.

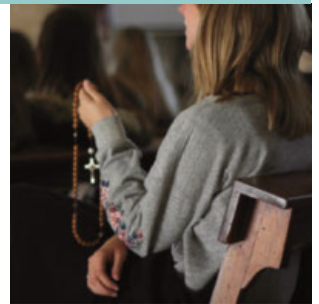
Easter, prefigured by the Passover, becomes a reality. Passover is fulfilled. Christ is the Paschal Lamb. We are the Israelites. His triumph over death releases us from the slavery of sin. We are freed to set out for the Promised Land—for Heaven. Easter is steeped in many symbolic connections. Christ's Resurrection and Last Supper as well as His death sprang firmly from Jewish roots. In the fascinating pages of *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist*, Dr. Brant Pitre explains the Last Supper in light of the Jewish Passover meal. You'll find fascinating answers to all the questions you have about the institution of the Eucharist and the Last Supper.

—Article by *The Catholic Company*

WOMAN CONVERTS TO CATHOLICISM
After Praying "Hail Mary" Every Day for Three Years

"By this devotion, we give to Jesus all we can possibly give Him, and in the most perfect manner, that is, through Mary's hands," St. Louis de Montfort.

Last week a woman took to X (formerly Twitter) to share her conversion story. She explains that during college in 1993, her Italian boyfriend taught her the "Hail Mary". She wrote down the prayer in her journal and recited it daily in Italian. Three years later, she converted to Catholicism. "It never occurred to me at the time that those actions were connected," she said. "Now, I'm certain they were."



Other X users commented with supportive kind sentiments and similar testimonies to the rosary. One user said, "I came back to the Church shortly after starting to pray the Rosary. It's always Mary who draws us to Jesus." Another user said, "One of the joys of getting older is looking back and connecting the dots of events that in fact were Jesus and our Blessed Mother working in our [lives]." One user added, "God bless you and welcome home."

There are countless conversion stories throughout the world that include Mary at the helm, but what is it about Mary that is so intriguing and ultimately leads people to Jesus? We learn in the Gospel of John (John 19: 26-27) that while Jesus was dying for our sins and giving us salvation, He also gave us an irreplaceable gift. In His goodness, the Lord offers His mother to all of mankind. "When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple there whom He loved, He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold, your son.' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home."

The Blessed Mother has the ultimate goal for each of us: to devote ourselves to her son so we can get to Heaven. In the way we ask our friends and family to pray for us, there is much power in asking the Blessed Mother to do the same. The "Hail Mary" is the most perfect example of where true motherly love and intercessory prayer meet. We are offered an open invitation to accept the motherhood of Mary into our personal lives. Let it start with one "Hail Mary" and see how the Blessed Mother softens your heart to do the will of Her Son. As St. Josemaría Escrivá wrote, "If you seek Mary, you will find Jesus."

—Article by *Church Pop*

PRAYERS EVERY CATHOLIC SHOULD MEMORIZE

Strive to Pray Without Ceasing

Almost all of us know some rote prayers. The one we pray before taking a road trip asking our guardian angels to watch over us. Or the one we pray during Mass as we join our voices with the rest of the congregation, asking the Father to forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who have trespassed against us. But those prayers only scratch the surface! How many prayers do we actually know by heart? Likely fewer than we think. CatholicVote has compiled a list of prayers you may be familiar with but not really know. We challenge you to memorize these prayers as we all strive to pray without ceasing.



THE 'MEMORARE'—Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

THE JESUS PRAYER—Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me, a sinner. Amen.

MORNING OFFERING—O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart; the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, the reunion of Christians; and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father. Amen.

ST. MICHAEL PRAYER—St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

ETERNAL REST—Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

HAIL HOLY QUEEN—Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O most holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

ANIMA CHRISTI—Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me. Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me. Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me. Within your wounds hide me. Never permit me to be parted from you. From the evil enemy defend me. At the hour of my death call me and bid me come to you, that with your saints I may praise you for age upon age. Amen.

NICENE CREED—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of Heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from Heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His Kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED—I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

—Article by CatholicVote



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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Masses Still Available in 2024

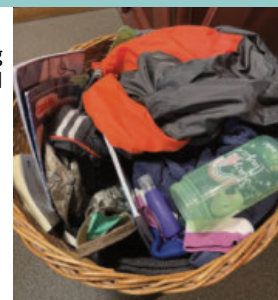
MASS INTENTIONS  One of the greatest acts of charity is to pray for the living and the dead, and

the greatest and most powerful prayer we have is the Mass since the fruits of the Mass are the very fruits of Jesus' redemption. You can schedule 3 Mass Intentions (one weekend and two weekdays) per calendar year for a minimum stipend of \$10 each. We are now scheduling in the early part of 2025, however, there are still several dates in 2024 available to schedule Mass Intentions. Contact the parish office, 402-332-4444, for more information and to offer such an incredible pray for a loved one—living or deceased.

LOST AND FOUND

Does This Look Familiar to You?

It doesn't take long for us to start accumulating lost items found around the Church. If you seem to have lost something at the Church stop by and check out the basket at the bottom of the steps or stop in the office we have a small collection too.





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.....heartsrestorednebraska.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)**
Phone.....402-390-6600
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- SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO—FM 102.7**
Phone.....402-571-0200
Website.....www.spiritcatholicradio.com
- ST. BENEDICT CENTER (RETREATS IN SCHUYLER)**
Phone.....402-352-2177
Website.....christthekingpriory.com/sbcabout
- ST. JOHN PAUL II NEWMAN CENTER**
Phone.....402-557-5575
Website.....jpiiomaha.org
- STRIVE (BREAK FREE FROM PORNOGRAPHY)**
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Website.....strive21.com
- WOMEN’S CENTER FOR ADVANCEMENT (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, ETC.)**
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Website.....wcaomaha.org

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY DAY OF GRACE PROGRAM—CHRIST THE KING, APRIL 7

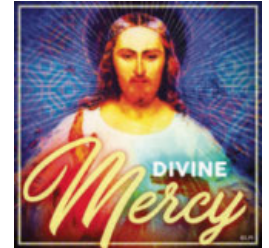


Please join us at Christ the King Church (654 S 86th St, Omaha) or by live-stream via ctkomaha.org/divinemercy for our Divine Mercy Sunday Day of Grace Program on Sunday, April 7 from 2 PM to 6 PM. This year’s theme is Trusting in God’s Merciful Love. Speakers and spiritual activities include: Deacon George Butterfield—

theme: Trusting in God’s Divine Mercy, Craig and Ann Hagenau—theme: Trust in God, Jim Langhorst—theme: Living God’s Mercy, Eucharistic Procession, Adoration, Benediction, Chaplet/Litany of Divine Mercy, Holy Rosary, and Holy Mass with Father John Pietramale as celebrant/homilist. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered beginning at 2 PM, but due to the limited number of priests available, we encourage going to Confession shortly before or after Divine Mercy Sunday. Eucharistic Adoration will begin at 2:40 PM with the Divine Mercy Chaplet beginning at 3 PM, a family led Rosary at 4:30 PM and Holy Mass at 5 PM. Please call 402-498-9871 for more information.

DIVINE MERCY CELEBRATION—ST. THOMAS MORE, APRIL 7

Join us for our Divine Mercy Celebration on Sunday, April 7 at St. Thomas More (4804 Grover St, Omaha) beginning at 11:30 AM with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Confessions will go from 2 PM to 4:30 PM, but due to the shortage of priests, we strongly recommend going to confession prior to Divine Mercy Sunday. You may receive the indulgence even if you go to confession 20 days prior or 20 days after Divine Mercy Sunday and are in a state of grace. We will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet together at 3 PM, the Rosary at 3:30 PM, Benediction at 4 PM with a procession at 4:15 PM and Mass with Fr. Jindra at 4:30 PM. Relics of St. John Paul II and St. Faustina will be on display during the celebration.



HEALING SERVICE AND RECEPTION—ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON, APRIL 10

Have you or someone you love been affected by the trauma of abuse?

JOIN US FOR A HEALING SERVICE AND RECEPTION

backgrounds to join us. There will be an opportunity to pray silently or with another person. A reception with light refreshments will immediately follow.

Have you or someone you love been affected by the trauma of abuse? Join us for a healing service and reception on Wednesday, April 10 at 7 PM at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (5419 N 114th St, Omaha). From childhood to adulthood, abuse takes many forms and occurs in families, churches, and communities. The Archdiocese of Omaha invites anyone impacted by abuse to come together and pray for the healing of wounds. Archbishop George Lucas will preside. This is not a Mass. We welcome people of all faiths, walks of life, and

NEFARIOUS MOVIE SHOWING—CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY, APRIL 13

How real is the devil? Join us for a showing of the movie *Nefarious* at Creighton University (2500 California Plz, Omaha) in the auditorium on Saturday, April 13 at either 1:30 PM or 6:30 PM. We have Fr. Ben Boyd along with Fr. Damian Cook giving a talk and a Question and Answer session after the movie. Seats are limited. Scan the QR code for ticket information and event details.



RACHEL’S VINEYARD RETREAT—OMAHA/LINCOLN AREA, APRIL 19-21



The pain of a past abortion need not endure for a lifetime. In one weekend this retreat began a transformation towards healing and self-forgiveness that I had been searching years for. Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat for men and women offers a chance to begin healing. Email helpingrachel@yahoo.com or text or call 402-671-3749 for more information and to register for this transforming weekend retreat.

"Every pious desire, every good thought, every charitable work inspired by the love of Jesus, contributes to the perfection of the whole body of the faithful. A person who does nothing more than lovingly pray to God for his brethren, participates in the great work of saving souls." —Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich

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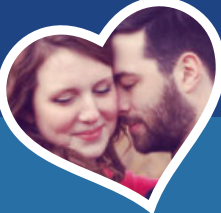
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