

# ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET

GRETNNA, NE 68028



23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Ephphatha!”—that is, “Be opened!”  
- Mk 7:34

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

SEPTEMBER 8, 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  
Tuesday.....6:00 PM  
Mon, Wed, Thurs, and Fri.....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 or 531-466-2453.

## 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

### 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### FIRST READING (Is 35:4-7A)

The prophet Isaiah encouraged the Israelites to be strong in their conviction that God was coming to heal them and renew creation itself. Who could you encourage to be firm in their faith this week?

#### SECOND READING (JAS 2:1-5)

James taught believers to make no distinctions between the rich and the poor in their community gatherings. How do you think showing no partiality helps a community grow in faith?

#### GOSPEL (Mk 7:31-37)

We hear today how the people of the Decapolis were astonished at Jesus's healing of the deaf and mute. What parts of your life need healing?

## GOSPEL MEDITATION



One of the most touching YouTube videos I've ever seen is one in which a deaf woman receives new technology to heal her hearing. She hears her husband's voice for the first time—and her own, too—and bursts into tears of overwhelming joy. It must have been like an immovable wall between her and her loved ones came tumbling down.

We are all like this woman, to some degree. We believe in the presence of God's love, but we can't hear Him. We can't speak well about Him. The deaf man who can't speak properly in the Gospel today is an image of what God

wants us to experience again and again. Jesus takes the man aside to a private place away from the crowd, touches his ears and tongue, and says, "Ephphata!" The man's ears are opened, and he speaks clearly. Contact with Christ has this effect on us.

This experience happens to us in our baptism, almost exactly. It happens to us in the liturgy. It happens in our private prayer. It happens when we hear the voice of God in our conscience. The more we engage these privileged channels of Jesus' healing, the more we are empowered to hear and speak of the presence of God's perfect love.

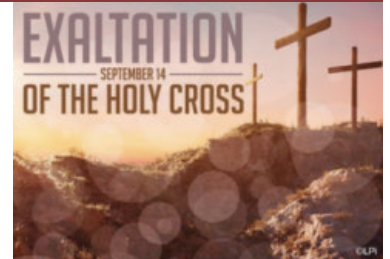
## CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

### QUESTION:

What is the history behind feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross?

### ANSWER:

Emperor Constantine's mother, Helena, is credited with having discovered the true cross around 330. She traveled to the Holy Land and uncovered the places associated with Jesus' life. Legend has it that Helena uncovered three crosses but was not able to detect the true cross until each of them was laid on a leper. Only one of them cured the leper, proving it to be the true cross. A great church was built at the site, and soon various portions of the cross were sent to other churches as relics to be venerated.



The day after the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, September 14, 335, the actual cross was displayed for veneration. Egeria, a women traveler to Jerusalem around the year 386, kept a diary that has survived. She tells of the unique veneration of the wood of the cross that took place on Good Friday, something maintained ritually to this very day.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross focuses on the gift of love that Jesus manifested by His total gift of self, offered for all. The cross, the ultimate form of capital punishment in its day, has become for us the ultimate symbol of love and triumph over evil and death.



Dear God, what a grace to live in a world of all ages and stages. Bless our grandparents, today and always. Thank you for their experiences, wisdom, and insight. Thank you for the gifts they bring the Church. Thank you for the lessons they teach the next generations. Amen.

## SAINT KIERAN THE YOUNGER

*Bishop*

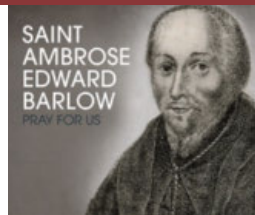


St. Kieran the Younger (512-546 A.D.), also known as St. Ciaran, was born in Connacht, Ireland, the son of a carpenter. He demonstrated a great aptitude in his studies, being educated by a holy deacon who had him baptized. Kieran tended cattle in the fields before continuing his education at Saint Finian's monastery school at Clonard, where he became a monk. He soon earned the reputation for being the most learned monk at Clonard, and was held in high esteem by his instructors and peers. Kieran's years of residence there were marked by many miracles. He also mentored, befriended, and tutored many of the founders of the Catholic Church in Ireland. Saint Kieran eventually left Clonard and went on to found the famous Clonmacnoise Abbey in West Meath Ireland, which attracted thousands of students from all over Europe. St. Kieran was one of the Twelve Apostles of Ireland—the first twelve bishops in Ireland consecrated by St. Patrick. He is also honored as the first Irish-born saint. St. Kieran's feast day is September 9.

## SAINT AMBROSE EDWARD BARLOW

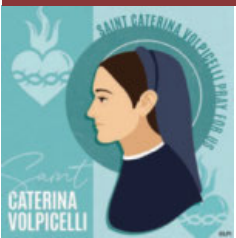
*Priest and Martyr*

St. Ambrose Edward Barlow (1585-1641) was born near Manchester, England, to a noble family. He was baptized Catholic at his birth, but was raised Protestant when Catholicism was outlawed by the reigning monarchy. His grandfather died while imprisoned for his Catholic faith, and his father had two-thirds of his estate confiscated for refusal to conform to the Church of England. Ambrose returned to Catholicism as an adult, recognized his vocation to the priesthood, and traveled to France to enter seminary. He was ordained in 1617 in the Order of St. Benedict. He returned to England to minister to underground Catholics in his native south Lancashire for 24 years, being financially supported with a pension arranged by his grandmother. Ambrose said Mass daily and administered the sacraments secretly to avoid detection by the authorities. He was arrested four times during his priesthood, each time being released without charge. When the king issued a decree that all Catholic priests should immediately flee the country or be arrested and condemned as traitors, St. Ambrose chose to stay, reasoning that he could not die a better death than to be martyred for being a Catholic priest. On April 25, 1631, just as he ended Easter Sunday Mass at Morley Hall near Manchester, he was arrested by a 400-strong armed mob led by the local Anglican vicar. He freely admitted to the charge of being a Catholic priest, and gave a defense of the true faith before his judge. He was sentenced to be hanged, drawn, quartered, and boiled in oil on September 10, 1641. His dead body was publicly displayed on a pike as a warning to other Catholic priests. St. Ambrose Edward Barlow is one of the Forty Martyrs of England and Wales. His feast day is September 10.



## SAINT CATERINA VOLPICELLI

*Religious*



St. Caterina Volpicelli (1839-1894) was born into an upper middle-class Neapolitan family. She was well educated at the Royal Educational Institute of St. Marcellino. She was a typical young woman of her class with a vibrant social life, however, she experienced a conversion through conversations with many holy people. One of these, Blessed Father Ludovico da Casoria, urged her to enter the Third Order of the Franciscans, which she did, remaining in society and evangelizing. On May 28, 1859, Caterina left the lay order and entered the Congregation of Perpetual

Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament. But her stay was short, she was forced to leave because of a severe illness. Caterina was deeply saddened that she had been unable to complete her vocation. But this was the Lord's design, for it was during this time that she learned of a movement in French Jesuit monasteries called the Apostleship of Prayer. This powerful apostleship dedicates each day to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, finding God in every moment, every task. This prayerful way of life and her devotion to the Eucharist, with hours spent in adoration, marked the next stage of her life. Finally, Caterina founded her own order, the Servants of the Sacred Heart on July 1, 1874. Her order opened the orphanage of the Margherites, a lending library, and set up the Association of the Daughters of Mary. The sisters even nursed the many victims of cholera in 1884. St. Caterina participated in the first National Eucharistic Congress celebrated in Naples in 1891. She was canonized on April 26, 2009, by Pope Benedict XVI. Her story of conversion and perseverance marked by a prayerful dedication to the Sacred Heart is an inspiration.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Gretna, Nebraska

## READINGS THIS WEEK

**MONDAY:** 1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/Lk 6:6-11  
**TUESDAY:** 1 Cor 6:1-11/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 6:12-19  
**WEDNESDAY:** 1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17/Lk 6:20-26  
**THURSDAY:** 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24/Lk 6:27-38  
**FRIDAY:** 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12/Lk 6:39-42  
**SATURDAY:** Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17  
**NEXT SUNDAY:** Is 50:4c-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 (9)/Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35



## OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

**MONDAY:** St. Peter Claver, Priest  
**WEDNESDAY:** Patriot Day  
**THURSDAY:** The Most Holy Name of Mary  
**FRIDAY:** St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
**SATURDAY:** The Exaltation of the Holy Cross  
**NEXT SUNDAY:** 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday





**ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Gretna, Nebraska

**PRO-LIFE ROSARY**  
*Every Sunday at 7 PM*

Join us every Sunday evening at 7 PM here at St. Patrick

*Pro-Life*

in the Sanctuary to pray a Pro-Life Rosary. The special intentions of this Rosary are for the Pro-Life ballot items in the November elections. All are welcome!

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**  
*Volunteers Needed for All Masses*



We are in need of new volunteers for ALL weekend Masses. These positions include: Greeters, Lectors, EMHCs, Ushers, Sacristans, Rosary Reciters, and volunteers to take the Vocation Box

home to pray for all Vocations throughout the week. If you feel called to help with any of these Liturgical Ministry positions, please contact Jonathan Wotipka, 402-332-4444 ext. 212 or [jjwotipka@archomaha.org](mailto:jjwotipka@archomaha.org).

**VOCATIONS PRAYER CORNER**

Please pray for the men and women of the Archdiocese in Consecrated Life.

This week let us pray for **Br. Paul Floersch** (Our Lady of Clear Creek Abbey) from St. Robert Bellarmine in Omaha. (Picture not available)



"He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak." If you feel Christ encouraging you to be a transformative instrument as a priest or religious brother or sister, talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email [vocations@archomaha.org](mailto:vocations@archomaha.org).

**"PRAY ALWAYS AND DO NOT LOSE HEART."**

*Pray for all Vocations*

**ANNUAL VILLA MARIE PAPER DRIVE**

*August 30—September 22*



The Knights of Columbus Annual Villa Marie Paper Drive will be held from August 30 through September 22 at St. Patrick. Villa Marie is a Catholic school serving students challenged with Down Syndrome, Autism, developmental delays, and other health impaired struggle located near Waverly, NE. Paper products of all kinds are needed by the school—copy paper, construction paper, paper towels, napkins, toilet paper, etc. Leave your donation in the narthex any time during these

dates under the Villa Marie posters. The Knights will collect the donated items each day and deliver them to Villa Marie on September 22. Your support is much appreciated!

**OKTOBERFEST—SEPTEMBER 14**

*Live Polka, German Food, Beer, Husker Game*

Come join us for the Second Annual Knights of Columbus Oktoberfest. Dance the night away under the big tent to live Polka music while enjoying great German food and beer.

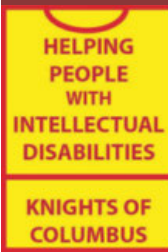


Worried about missing the game? Don't be! We will have the evening's football games streaming in the Parish Center.

Oktoberfest is Saturday, September 14 from 6 PM to 10 PM in the Church parking lot. Contact Tim Hall for more information at [tshallnj10@gmail.com](mailto:tshallnj10@gmail.com).

**SPECIAL COLLECTION BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

*Next Weekend, September 14-15*



When you see our Knights in yellow vests that read "Helping People with Intellectual Disabilities," you should smile. When these Knights are working hard at collecting donations around town, they are helping to recognize the dignity of every person.

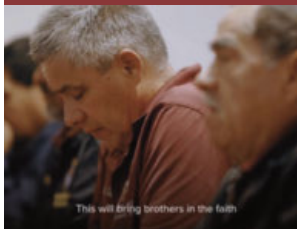
For every donation, each donor is offered a piece of candy, usually a Tootsie Roll. Because of these little gifts of appreciation, the "Campaign for People with Intellectual Disabilities" is frequently referred to as the "Tootsie Roll Drive."

The campaign, which stretches back decades, is about more than just candy — it is about serving those with intellectual and physical disabilities. On September 14-15, please support the Knights' special collection during Mass to help answer the needs of those who are often treated harshly by society and often ignored or worse. Together, this is our chance to provide people with intellectual and physical disabilities more resources to live a happy life. Thank you for your generous support!



**ATTENTION MEN OF ST. PATRICK PARISH**

*Prayer, Formation, and Fraternity for Men*



St. Patrick Parish is excited to share the implementation of *Cor*, a new formation and fraternal opportunity for the men of St. Patrick Parish. *Cor* exists to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue as missionary disciples by drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation, and fraternity.

*Cor* will be held on Sunday, September 15, in the Fr. Hitch Room, after the 7 PM Pro-Life Rosary in the Sanctuary. Come join your brother parishioners for prayer and fraternity. We are also hoping to determine what times work best for everyone moving forward. Please visit [stpatricksgretna.org/cor](http://stpatricksgretna.org/cor) or scan the QR code to take a brief survey to let us know when you'd be the most available and how you would like to grow as a Catholic man. If you have additional questions, please reach out to Matthew Henry at [mattnhenry@gmail.com](mailto:mattnhenry@gmail.com).



## ASCENSION ADULT BIBLE STUDY—EARLY CHURCH

*Discover the Epic Story of The Early Church*

Discover the extraordinary story of the Church's beginnings—a time of courageous saints, brilliant philosophers, eloquent theologians, ruthless emperors, and heroic martyrs. St. John Paul II said, "Christ is the foundation and center of history; He is its meaning and ultimate goal." *Epic: The Early Church* encourages you to grow closer to Christ through a deeper understanding of His Church.



Here you will get to know the people and events that shaped its first five hundred years. You will see how the Church Fathers boldly confronted early challenges to the Faith—challenges similar to the ones we face today. You will learn the stories behind the first ecumenical councils and the Roman persecutions and meet many of the men and women who gave their lives to defend the Faith. The heroic stories of the early leaders and martyrs of the Church will strengthen and affirm your own walk of faith. This 10-part study features dynamic DVD presentations with Church history professor Steve Weidenkopf, and student materials including a full color workbook, timeline chart, and bookmark.

St. Patrick of Gretna will begin this 10-week Bible study *Epic: The Early Church* on Monday, September 16 at 7 PM. Participants will meet every week to view an engaging video presentation followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship.

Register at <https://stpatricksgretna.org/education/faith-formation/bible-study>. You will also need to order study materials (workbook and/or online access) at <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/epic-the-early-church#study-materials>.

If you need help with registration or ordering, contact Ginny Giebelhaus at [ginnyg651@aol.com](mailto:ginnyg651@aol.com) or 402-319-5806. If you have general questions about the study or would like to volunteer as a small group facilitator, contact Jean Hlavacek at [jean.jeweler@gmail.com](mailto:jean.jeweler@gmail.com) or 402-504-4222.

Don't miss this opportunity to take part in a compelling and inspiring learning experience that is sure to draw you closer to Christ through a deeper understanding of His Church!

## JESUS THIRSTS: THE MIRACLE OF THE EUCHARIST

*Thursday, September 26 at 5 PM*



We are excited to host a movie night on Thursday, September 26 at 5 PM featuring the powerful film, *Jesus Thirsts: The Miracle of the Eucharist!* The film takes viewers on a global journey to uncover the transformative power of the Eucharist. Through discussions with Catholic leaders and heartfelt personal narratives, the film unveils the Eucharist

as Jesus Christ Himself, eagerly desiring to fulfill our spiritual thirst with His boundless love. Join us for a special movie night of *Jesus Thirsts: The Miracle of the Eucharist!* Adult tickets are \$11 and children (12 and under) tickets are \$9. Get your tickets online by visiting [stpatricksgretna.org](http://stpatricksgretna.org).

### Stewardship Report

Aug 28 2024-Sep 3, 2024

Current Fiscal Year - July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

General Contributions	Aug 28-Sep 3	Fiscal YTD thru Sep 3
Sunday Offering	\$9,607.00	\$180,101.75
Other Contributions	\$1,344.36	\$10,700.62
Total General Contributions	\$10,951.36	\$190,802.37 *
Surplus/Deficit	(\$15,298.64)	(\$45,447.63)
<b>Fiscal Year-to-Date Income</b>		\$501,371.39
<b>Fiscal Year-to-Date Expenses</b>		\$560,356.97
<b>Fiscal Year-to-Date Net Income</b>		(\$58,985.58)

\* Our budget requires an average weekly income of \$26,250.

'Other Contributions' include Holy Days, Maintenance & Repairs, and other Special Collections.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Gretna, Nebraska

THE  
KNIGHT'S  
CORNER



SAVE THE DATE—BLOOD DRIVE



BLOOD DONATION  
BE A HERO GIVE BLOOD

The Knights of Columbus #10047 and St. Patrick Church will host a Gretna Community Blood Drive Monday, September 9 from 12:30 PM until 6:30 PM. To make your appointment go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

Search sponsor code GretnaNE or call Marty Stednitz at 402-332-3840. Sign up today and you can make a difference!

VOLUNTEER FOR CHARITY: BECOME A KNIGHT



Join men from all over the world, young and old, who work with local parishes and communities to follow a path where faith leads the way. Put your faith into action today and become a Knight! Anyone interested in becoming a Knight, please contact our Membership Director, Tim Hall at 307-214-3714 or Knights of Columbus Insurance Agent, Kevin Weber at 402-630-7877. Pictured left to right is Knights of Columbus Insurance Agent, Kevin Weber and Membership Director, Tim Hall.

MONTHLY MEETING

All Knights are invited to join us for our monthly Knights of Columbus meeting that occurs every first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM in the St. Patrick Parish Center.



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 and Membership Director, Tim Hall.....  
.....307-214-3714



**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 (INT), 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, SEPTEMBER 9TH**

7:30 AM † Mark and Debbie Nowka

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH**

6:00 PM † Carol Heng

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH**

7:30 AM † Diane Bishop

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH**

7:30 AM † Ron Vencil

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH**

7:30 AM † Basil and Sally Buras

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH**

5:00 PM † Leon Schneider

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH**

8:00 AM † Frank and Agnes Setlak  
10:00 AM For Our Parishioners  
12:00 PM † Bob Ostdiek

**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 Joan Carraher, Don Maher, Joe Carney, 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, 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, SEPTEMBER 8TH—23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary  
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary  
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM Religious Education—Basement Commons, RE Classrooms  
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Parish Breakfast—Parish Center and Kitchen  
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM Knights of Columbus COR Leadership Meeting—Father Hitch Room  
7:00 PM to 7:30 PM Pro-Life Rosary—Sanctuary

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH**

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary  
11:00 AM to 8:00 PM Blood Drive—Parish Center AB  
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Baptism Training Class—Father Hitch Room

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH**

5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary  
6:30 PM to 6:40 PM Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion (after Mass)—Sanctuary  
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM Parish Council Meeting—Father Hitch Room

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH**

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  
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM Back to RE Night—Sanctuary  
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM Religious Education Classes—Basement Commons, RE Classrooms  
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH**

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary  
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM OCIA—Parish Center C

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH**

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  
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM Chosen Viewing—Father Hitch Room

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH**

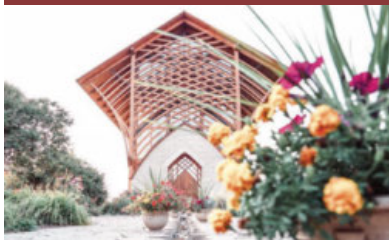
4:00 PM to 4:40 PM Confession—Confessional  
4:30 PM to 4:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 5:00 PM)—Sanctuary  
6:00 PM to 9:00 PM Knights' Oktoberfest—South Parking Lot and Parish Center

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH—24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary  
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary  
9:00 AM to 9:30 AM Back to RE Night—Sanctuary  
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM Religious Education—Basement Commons, RE Classrooms  
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary and Narthex  
7:00 PM to 7:30 PM Pro-Life Rosary—Sanctuary  
7:30 PM to 9:00 PM COR Men's Group—Father Hitch Room or Parish Center C

**HOLY HOUR TO PRAY FOR FAMILIES—SEPTEMBER 16**

*Holy Family Shrine—Gather at 5:30 PM*



Join the Serra Club of West Omaha on Monday, September 16, for a beautiful Holy Hour to Pray for Families at the Holy Family Shrine (23132 Pflug Rd, Gretna). This special prayer event begins with greetings at 5:30 PM in the Visitor's Center. At 6 PM, we will gather in the Chapel for the Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The presider will be Father Tom Weisbecker, Chaplain of the Serra Club. Together we will pray a *Rosary*

*for the Healing and Protection of Families*, reflect on a Gospel reading and homily, and will also recite the *Litany of the Holy Family*. We will spend time in silent adoration and sing hymns as we pray for families in the Archdiocese of Omaha. All are welcome! For questions, contact Lori Hamilton, Serra VP, at 402-699-5027 or by email at westomaha@serrainternational.org. Learn more at serrawestomaha.org and follow us on Facebook @serrawestomaha.

*"As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live."  
—Pope St. John Paul II*

## LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

### 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

<b>SEPTEMBER 14TH</b> <b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 15TH</b> <b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 15TH</b> <b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 15TH</b> <b>NOON</b>
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**Sacristan**  
Pat Gilmore

**Lectors**  
Eric Hittner  
(Read the 1st Reading)

Bridget Blum  
(Read the 2nd Reading)

**EMHCs**  
Kylie Karnish  
Julene Crockett  
Therese Nisbet  
Diane Sherwood

**Ushers**  
Ken Beckman  
Chris Lingbloom  
Lisa Willert  
Need Sub

**Rosary Reciter**  
Jayne Schram

**Altar Servers**  
Shailynn Gatewood  
Colin Lingbloom  
Need Sub

**Greeters**  
Chris Gatewood  
Need Sub

**Sacristan**  
Joan Ingram

**Lectors**  
Theresa Huttmann  
(Read the 1st Reading)

Sandy Scheef  
(Read the 2nd Reading)

**EMHCs**  
Jamey Kennel  
Christa Pichler  
Greg Jones  
Barb Applegate  
Deacon Ken Broz

**Ushers**  
Tony Schultz  
Need Sub  
Need Sub  
Need Sub

**Rosary Reciter**  
Duane Benes

**Altar Servers**  
Kaylee Frederick  
Drew Garcia  
Emersyn Pichler

**Greeters**  
Mary Brown  
Sally Stednitz

**Hilcrest SR**  
Tim and Nancy Kruse

**Sacristan**  
Mitch Wendlandt

**Lectors**  
Michael Chatterson  
(Read the 1st Reading)

Sandra Tiefenthaler  
(Read the 2nd Reading)

**EMHCs**  
Jason Kassmeier  
Ashley Kassmeier  
Bridget Chatterson  
Kathy Wendlandt

**Ushers**  
Clint Bollock  
Norris Hoover  
Bruce Jefferies  
Chris Reinig

**Rosary Reciter**  
Judy Weier

**Altar Servers**  
Kalla Kassmeier  
Kameron Kassmeier  
Klayton Kassmeier

**Greeters**  
Andrew Urban  
Need Sub

**Sacristan**  
Ginny Giebelhaus

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

Stephanie Lampe  
(Standby: if a Sub is Needed)

**EMHCs**  
Delma Stoner  
Leann Otto  
Steve Otto  
Ginny Giebelhaus  
Deacon Larry Heck

**Ushers**  
Linda Gardner  
Delma Stoner  
Doris Williams  
Mary Zeigler

**Rosary Reciter**  
Carol Zeleny

**Altar Servers**  
Need Sub  
Need Sub  
Need Sub

**Greeters**  
Jeanette Roy  
Doris Williams

**Vocations Crucifix**  
John Roll

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

*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!*



**ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Gretna, Nebraska

### PARISH STAFF

**PASTOR**

Fr. Gregory P. Baxter.....402-332-4444, x205  
gpbaxter@archomaha.org  
Residence.....402-332-4428  
Emergencies (if facing danger or death), call:  
402-332-4428 or 531-466-2453

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

Fr. Vincent A. Sunguti.....402-332-4444, x204  
vasunguti@archomaha.org  
Residence.....531-466-2453

**DEACONS**

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Deacon Larry Heck.....402-572-1319

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jmjefferies@archomaha.org

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**DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION**

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jjwotipka@archomaha.org

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**PARISH CENTER COORDINATOR**

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**FACILITY MANAGER**

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

**PASTORAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Janell Ronk.....402-510-9413

**FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

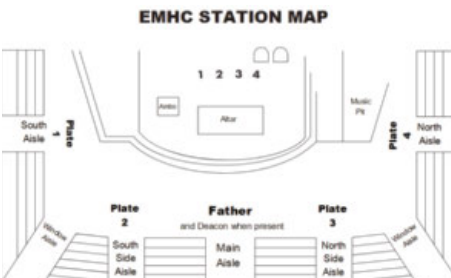
Kevin Kaup.....402-525-1469

**HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY**

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

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

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



**EMHC 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

**23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**





**ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Gretna, Nebraska

**VENI HOLY HOUR**  
*Archomaha Young Adults*

All young adults in the archdiocese (ages 21-39) are invited to Veni, an evening of



Adoration and fellowship at St. Cecilia Cathedral (701 N 40th St, Omaha) on Friday, September 13. Adoration begins at 7:30 PM in the Cathedral with a brief reflection from a priest and is followed by an after party in the parish center! Veni is held every second Friday of the month at the Cathedral. More information about getting involved in the Archdiocese Young Adult activities can be found at <https://www.archyoungadults.org>.

**STUDENT INSTRUMENTALISTS**  
*Play for Mass*



Woodwind, brass, and string players can add beautiful variety to Sunday Masses and special holiday Masses. High school

players with at least three years of instrumental study are invited to play for occasional Masses. To express interest or learn more, please contact Laura Rau at 402-332-4444 or [lr.au@archomaha.org](mailto:lr.au@archomaha.org).

**PARISH GARAGE SALE**  
*Save the Date—October 19-20*

Save the Date! We will be hosting a parish-wide garage sale again this year on October 19-20. We will NOT be receiving any donations until October 9. More information to come.



**FOCCUS MARRIAGE MINISTRY**  
*Work-Life Balance*



Work-Life balance? Find it here! Work one day a week from home. FOCCUS Marriage Ministries is hiring for Part-Time Customer Service Representative.

Apply at [careers.archomaha.org](https://careers.archomaha.org).

**NINE POWERFUL QUOTES FROM SAINTS**  
*On the Holy Eucharist*

Over 50,000 people gathered for the National Eucharistic Congress from July 17-21. According to Catholic News Agency, "U.S. bishops launched the multi-year National Eucharistic Revival in 2022 in response to concern about waning belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist among American Catholics. The goal of the revival has been to 'renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the holy Eucharist.'" Holy devotion to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament is a common thread in the lives of the saints. We can look to their example and grow in our own relationship with Christ through the Body and Blood of our Lord. Here are nine quotes from the saints on the Holy Eucharist:



1. "A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament." —St. Padre Pio
2. "How many of you say: I should like to see His face, His garments, His shoes. You do see Him, you touch Him, you eat Him. He gives Himself to you, not only that you may see Him, but also to be your food and nourishment." —St. John Chrysostom
3. "God dwells in our midst, in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar." —St. Maximilian Kolbe
4. "Jesus has made Himself the Bread of Life to give us life. Night and day, He is there. If you really want to grow in love, come back to the Eucharist, come back to that Adoration." —St. Teresa of Calcutta
5. "The courage and strength that are in me are not of me, but of Him who lives in me—it is the Eucharist." —St. Faustina
6. "One of the most admirable effects of Holy Communion is to preserve the soul from sin, and to help those who fall through weakness to rise again. It is much more profitable, then, to approach this divine Sacrament with love, respect, and confidence, than to remain away through an excess of fear and scrupulosity." —St. Ignatius of Loyola
7. "If angels could be jealous of men, they would be so for one reason: Holy Communion." —St. Maximilian Kolbe
8. "Do you realize that Jesus is there in the tabernacle expressly for you—for you alone? He burns with the desire to come into your heart...don't listen to the demon, laugh at him, and go without fear to receive the Jesus of peace and love..." —St. Therese of Lisieux
9. "Always remain close to the Catholic Church, because it alone can give you true peace, since it alone possesses Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, the true Prince of Peace." —St. Padre Pio

**PRAYER OF SAINT FAUSTINA BEFORE THE EUCHARIST:**

O Christ, let me glorify Your goodness and mercy to the last moment of my life, with every drop of my blood and every beat of my heart. Would that I be transformed into a hymn of adoration of You. When I find myself on my deathbed, may the last beat of my heart be a loving hymn glorifying Your unfathomable mercy. Amen.

—Article by ChurhPop

**FRUITFUL FRIDAY VIDEOS ON SOCIAL MEDIA**  
*Have You Seen Them?*

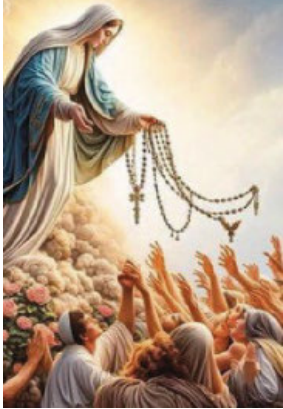


Jesus said to "go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:19). We the staff of St. Patrick desire to do just that, beginning right here in our own parish. For the last year we have been running our video series "Fruitful Friday" as an opportunity for you to learn more about why we do what we do at the Mass, how to participate more fully, and tips on growing in your relationship with Jesus. These minute-long videos are uploaded every Friday evening across all of our social media platforms—Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @stpatgretnane and on YouTube @StPatrickCatholicChurchNE. If you haven't seen them, we highly encourage you to go check them out, and then help us spread the word with others! If you have any questions about the faith that you'd like to see us answer in a video contact Jonathan Wotipka, [jjwotipka@archomaha.org](mailto:jjwotipka@archomaha.org), or Megan Seamann, [meseamann@archomaha.org](mailto:meseamann@archomaha.org).



## EXPERIENCE EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

### *Eucharistic Rosary Congress—October 5-12*



During this time of Eucharistic Revival, the faithful are encouraged to renew our worship of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, and to encounter His healing grace. We have the perfect opportunity to do so during the Eucharistic Rosary Congress, which is a seven-day period of Eucharistic Adoration and Hourly Rosary in response to Our Lady of Fatima's call to conversion, consecration, and prayer. It is offered in a spirit of reparation to restore the sanctity of life, to heal families, establish peace in our cities, nation, and world, and to console the hearts of Jesus and Mary.

#### WHAT IS THE EUCHARISTIC ROSARY CONGRESS?

Across the nation, parishes and dioceses are encouraged to join in prayer, interceding to Our Blessed Mother Mary as she stands in the breach with her Son in the Blessed Sacrament interceding on our behalf to the Father. This year's theme is "Do Whatever He Tells You," drawing from the Wedding Feast of Cana where Mary directed the servants to obey Jesus.

Our intentions will be offered in a spirit of reparation to restore the sanctity of life; to establish peace in our hearts, our families, our Church, and our nation; and to console the hearts of Jesus and Mary.

It is a powerful and intense week of spiritual warfare with the lightest, most joyful weapons ever, the Rosary and the Eucharist. When a person responds to Our Lady with a 'yes!', she takes it upon herself to help efficaciously in this battle. Every prayer warrior is necessary and needed!

Learn more about the incredible history of the Rosary Congress, involving Poland, Pope St. John Paul II, the fall of communism, and St. John Bosco's dream at <https://www.rosarycongressusa.org>!

#### SPECIAL EVENTS HERE AT ST. PATRICK

St. Patrick will host the Eucharistic Rosary Congress beginning with an outdoor procession carrying a statue of Our Blessed Mother around several city blocks. We will begin lining up at 4:15 PM on Saturday, October 5 in the Church parking lot. Following the procession, all are invited to attend the 5 PM Mass.

For seven days and seven nights the faithful can come together for Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with the Rosary prayed aloud at the start of each hour, followed by silent prayer for the remainder of the hour. The prayers with the special intentions for the decades of the Rosary are provided. This is in response to Our Lady of Fatima's call to conversion, consecration, and prayer. This will take place in our Adoration Chapel. We ask that parishioners of St. Patrick especially help us fill the over night hours. (Key card access to the Adoration Chapel can be given to parishioners as needed.) We are inviting our sister parishes, St. Charles and St. Joseph to join us in praying.

During this Eucharistic Rosary Congress, we will also host a special event on Wednesday, October 9 at 6:30 PM in the Church where we will have a Holy Hour to Pray for Families and a talk presented by Fr. Jeff Loseke. There will be a reception to follow in the Parish Center.

Blessed Carlo Acutis' "Appeals of Our Lady" exhibit will be on display in the narthex from October 5 to October 13. We will close the week of the Eucharistic Rosary Congress with the 5 PM Mass on Saturday, October 12.

Please consider participating by volunteering to cover one of the hours of Adoration during the day or the night hours. Bring your family, a friend, or if you are part of a parish group, consider inviting your group to pray a Holy Hour. If you are interested in leading the Rosary, please contact Colleen Karmazin at [colleen.karmazin956@gmail.com](mailto:colleen.karmazin956@gmail.com) or Kathy Dauner at [kathydauner@gmail.com](mailto:kathydauner@gmail.com). Sign-up for an hour of adoration by scanning the QR code or visit [stpatricksgretna.org](http://stpatricksgretna.org).



*"Dear children, I rejoice with you and thank God for permitting me to be with you, to lead you and love you. Little children, peace is in danger and the family is under attack. I am calling you, little children, to return to prayer in the family. Put Sacred Scripture in a visible place and read it every day."*

—Message from Our Lady of Medjugorje, June 25, 2024



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Gretna, Nebraska

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

#### LAY LITURGICAL MINISTRY

Jonathan Wotipka.....402-332-4444, x212  
[jjwotipka@archomaha.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:meseamann@archomaha.org), about getting your parish ministry group opportunities advertised.

## ENCOUNTER SCHOOL MINISTRY

### *Longing for More Out of the Faith?*

The supernatural life is not a story in the Bible. It is living and active. The Encounter School of Ministry is a dynamic training program designed to teach, equip, and activate you in the full supernatural lifestyle of Jesus so that you can walk with God in intimacy, and demonstrate His love and power to the world around you!



The Encounter School of Ministry is a 2-year program, broken up into quarters, that takes the individual on a journey to greater healing, freedom, and power in the Holy Spirit. God wants so much more for your life and He wants to work through you in ways you could not even imagine. As you embrace your identity and live out the inheritance Jesus won for you, your mission, ministry, and God-given dreams will flourish in every season of life. Jesus is calling you to perform greater works in His name (John 14:12)!

Applications are open! Apply to the school and join us on Tuesday nights starting September 10 for orientation. Start the journey to a fuller life in Christ! Is the Lord calling you? Not yet sure? Then join us for three classes (September 17, September 24, and October 1) to help you discern and decide. Applications close on October 1. Apply at <https://encounterschool.org/omaha>.



**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)**  
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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  
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**AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE**

**FALL FESTIVAL—MOUNT MICHAEL, SEPTEMBER 15**

We have a full day of fun planned for the whole family—food, live music, beer garden, inflatables, our famous cake tent, cornhole tournament, hayrack rides, and so much more! Join us at Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey (22520 Mount Michael Rd, Elkhorn) on Sunday, September 15 at 10 AM for Mass in the Chapel and then stay for entertainment and activities for the 69th Annual Fall Festival. Check out [mmfallfestival.org](http://mmfallfestival.org)



**SIDEWALK ADVOCACY TRAINING—CATHOLIC CHARITIES, SEPTEMBER 28**



**Sidewalk Advocates**  
FOR LIFE

We need YOU in this important mission! Training will be offered for men and women desiring to help women through sidewalk advocacy or prayer support at local abortion facilities. This peaceful, prayerful, law abiding approach has saved over 20,000 babies in 239 cities. Attend our training on Saturday, September 28 from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Catholic Charities Building (9223 Bedford Ave, Omaha) and see how you can be a part of our team. There is a \$10 registration fee that covers workbook, materials, and lunch. For information or to register contact [lifesidewalk@gmail.com](mailto:lifesidewalk@gmail.com).

**KINGDOM MEDICINE CONFERENCE—VIRTUAL OR BRIGHTON, MI, SEPTEMBER 26-28**

People often lack understanding of how to allow God to be a part of their workplace, how to hear His voice, and tap into His presence to build a Kingdom culture outside of ministry. This conference will provide refreshment, inspiration, and new vision to healthcare workers as they learn to partner more deeply with the Holy Spirit in their spheres of influence. In-person and livestream tickets are available. All healthcare workers from all fields and all levels are invited to come. Find out more and register at <https://encounterministries.us/kingdommedicine>.



**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND—LINCOLN, SEPTEMBER 27-29**



worldwide  
**marriage encounter**

Bring the peace of Christ into your relationship with a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on September 27-29 in Lincoln, NE. Space is limited. Reserve your weekend early! The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience gives you the tools to keep your marriage alive and vibrant. For more information, please visit [www.wmme.org](http://www.wmme.org) or contact Brenda and Gary Granger at 402-370-5839.

**ANNUAL FALL FEST—CHRIST THE KING, SEPTEMBER 28**

Join us for the Christ the King annual Fall Fest on Saturday, September 28 from 5 PM to 8 PM in the Christ the King Church parking lot (654 S 86th St, Omaha). Join us for Mass too at 4 PM. There will be fun for the whole family with inflatables, a mechanical bull ride, face painting, games, live music by the Pat O and the Show, food trucks, beer garden, ice cream, and a silent auction. For more information visit [www.ctkomaha.org/events-1](http://www.ctkomaha.org/events-1).



**FATIMA, LOURDES, AND SHRINES OF SPAIN TOUR—SPAIN, APRIL 8-19, 2025**



Starting from picturesque Lisbon, visit some of the world’s most treasured Marian shrines, pilgrimage sites, and spiritual places of Portugal, Spain, and France. Hear about the apparition of the Blessed Virgin to the shepherd children of Fatima, learn about the journey taken by pilgrims from all over the world into Santiago de Compostela, and visit Loyola and Manresa to get inspired by St. Ignatius’ Jesuit mission. In Braga, walk the monumental steps of the Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte and in Burgos, marvel at the majestic Cathedral. Join the nightly Rosary and candlelight procession in Lourdes. Spend one night by the inspiring Montserrat Sanctuary, where you will also attend Mass. End in Barcelona with time to celebrate life, reflect, and rejoice. Land starting at \$2,589 per person based on double occupancy. For more information and to make your reservation, contact Brian Johnson at Catholic Cruises and Tours at 1-860-399-1785.

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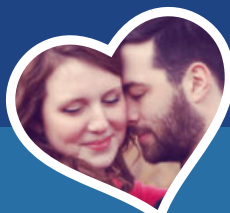
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