

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET

GRETNA, NE 68028



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

The Holy Spirit descended upon him.
- Lk 3:21-22a

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

JANUARY 12, 2025



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

Welcome

We invite you to become involved
in our parish community!

There are many opportunities for
experiencing the peace and joy of our loving
God in liturgy, education, prayer and service.

If you would like to join our parish
family, please visit our website or
the Parish Office for a registration form.

PARISH OFFICE

Office Hours.....M-F 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
Phone.....402-332-4444
Fax.....402-332-5107
Website.....stpatricksgretna.org
Facebook & Instagram.....@stpatgretnane
YouTube.....@StPatrickCatholicChurchNE
E-mail.....stpatrick.gre@archomaha.org
Flocknote.....text STPATGRETN to 84576

MASS AND HOLY EUCHARIST

Saturday.....5:00 PM
Sunday.....8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, & Noon
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

The Baptism of the Lord

FIRST READING (Is 40:1-5, 9-11)

The prophet Isaiah brought words of comfort and hope from God to the Israelites exiled in Babylon. Is there someone in your life who needs hope for the future?

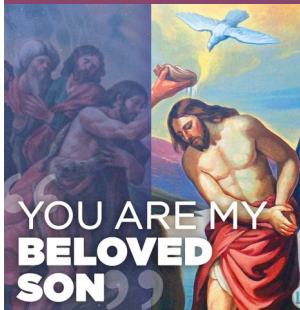
SECOND READING (Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7)

Paul challenged Titus to reject godless ways and worldly desires. Do you have any family or friends you consider a role model in living an exceptional life?

GOSPEL (Lk 3:15-16, 21-22)

The Holy Spirit affirms Jesus as the Christ, the beloved Son of God. When do you sense the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



In my second year of theology studies, I went to confession to a priest visiting the seminary for a three-day retreat. My heart wasn't in it. I was going through the motions. I confessed my sins and waited for his response. The priest said, "For your penance, I'd like you to go into the chapel and repeat the words 'You are my beloved Son, with you I am well pleased' (Luke 3:22) until they mean something to you." Easy penance, I thought.

But to my surprise, I struggled to say those words. I sensed a strong interior resistance blocking them. How could God be well-pleased with me? He couldn't be, I thought. A battle within me ensued. Two hours later, the resistance vanished, and I found myself able to speak, and claim as my own, those marvelous words. I emerged from the chapel with a new, deep, peaceful conviction that I was indeed God's beloved son.

Those words are a precious gift from Heaven to all of us. Jesus' Baptism, which we celebrate this week, offers them to us. Are we willing to receive these words anew? Many things can block this deepening of our baptismal identity: failings, sins, disappointments, traumas, problems, and so on. Yet God's love is always greater. This week I challenge you to prayerfully repeat these words over yourself—or perhaps over someone you're struggling to love—until those words find a home in your heart.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

At my grandson's Baptism, the priest put a bib on the baby. I do not remember seeing this before. Why is this done? Is it something new?

ANSWER:

When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbolic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.



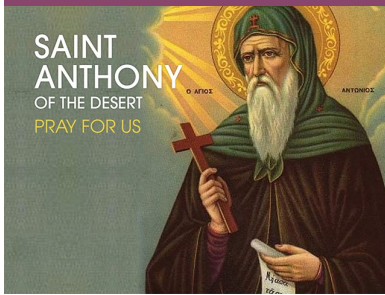
Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. At the place in the ceremony where the investiture takes place, the bib is used. Some are poncho-like and fit over the baby's head. Others are simply placed on the baby's chest. If the baby is dressed in a white garment, nothing else is needed. The prayer says it all: "See in your white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of Heaven." In baptism, we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers and this is symbolized by the white garment.

"Wait a little while, my soul, await the promise of God, and you will have the fullness of all that is good in Heaven. If you yearn inordinately for the good things of this life, you will lose those which are Heavenly and eternal. Use temporal things properly, but always desire what is eternal. Temporal things can never fully satisfy you, for you were not created to enjoy them alone... for your blessedness and happiness lie only in God, who has made all things from nothing."

—Thomas a' Kempis, *Imitation of Christ*, p. 133-134

SAINT ANTHONY OF THE DESERT

Religious



St. Anthony of the Desert (251–356 A.D.), also known as St. Anthony the Great (or St. Antony the Great), was a leading figure among the Desert Fathers, the early Christian monks who lived in the Egyptian desert in the 3rd and 4th centuries. The story of his life was written by St. Athanasius of Alexandria. St. Anthony's parents were wealthy, and after their death Anthony desired to conform himself to the manner of life of the Apostles and early Christians. On hearing these words from the Gospel of Matthew in church, "If you wish to be

perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven; then come, follow me," St. Anthony left everything behind to live a life of prayer, fasting, self-denial, and labor. Whenever he heard of other holy people living in this manner, he would visit them to learn from their virtues in order to imitate them. He eventually removed himself from all society and became the first Christian to live a life of consecrated solitude. He occasionally left his hermitage for pressing matters, once to encourage persecuted Christians, and another time to support Pope Athanasius against the heresy of Arius. St. Anthony died at the age of one hundred and five. His feast day is January 17.

SAINT PRISCILLA OF ROME

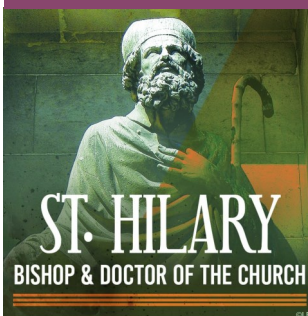
Martyr

St. Priscilla of Rome (1st c.) was a Christian noblewoman who served as a benefactor to the Christian community in Rome. She supported St. Peter the Apostle, the first Bishop of Rome, and her home near the catacombs served as his headquarters. She was the wife of Manius Acilius Glabrio, a Roman politician, who was executed by the Emperor Domitian for atheism, that is, his refusal to worship the Roman gods because he was Christian. Priscilla buried him in what was once a quarry and donated the property to the Church so that others could also be laid to rest there. Her catacombs, known since the earliest days of Christianity as the "Catacombs of Priscilla" are also referred to as the "Queen of the Catacombs" because such a large number of martyrs and popes were buried there. It also holds a significant collection of early Christian iconography including the earliest known depiction of the Madonna and Child. St. Priscilla was also martyred for her Christian faith and buried there. Her feast day is January 16.



SAINT HILARY OF POITIERS

Bishop and Doctor of the Church



Born a pagan, St. Hilary (c. 315 – c. 367) studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the Bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353. Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy, Arianism. He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ's divinity. From Phrygia St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy. Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way. St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the

West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms, and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.

"It is a lesson we all need—to let alone the things that do not concern us. He has other ways for others to follow Him; all do not go by the same path. It is for each of us to learn the path by which He requires us to follow Him, and to follow Him in that path." —St. Katharine Drexel



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9/
Mk 1:14-20

TUESDAY: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk
1:21-28

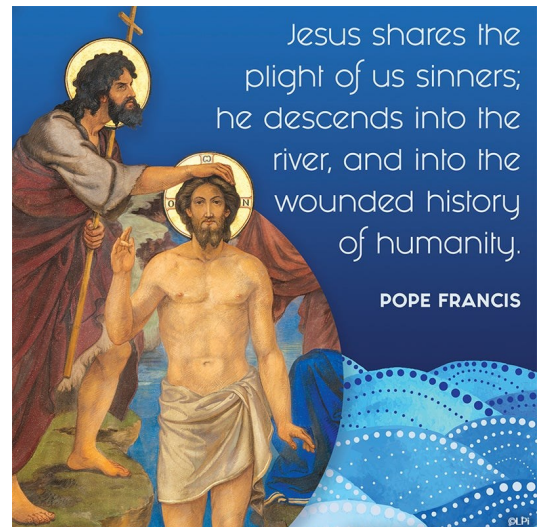
WEDNESDAY: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-
9/Mk 1:29-39

THURSDAY: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/Mk
1:40-45

FRIDAY: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/Mk
2:1-12

SATURDAY: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk
2:13-17

NEXT SUNDAY: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10
(3)/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

MONDAY: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

FRIDAY: St. Anthony, Abbot

SATURDAY: January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

NEXT SUNDAY: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

ST. PATRICK'S NIGHT OUT
Get Your Tickets and Donate

PURCHASE TICKETS

Join our
Preschool for
their annual St.
Patrick Preschool
Fundraiser: A St.
Pats Night Out on
Saturday,



February 8 at 6 PM in the Parish Center! This is going to be a fun night full of great food catered by Josh and Tara Westra, dancing, games, and a live and silent auction that will benefit our Preschool! Grab your tickets now on our parish website, stpatricksgretna.org. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$300 for a table of 8!

DONATIONS NEEDED



A St. Pats Night Out 2025 needs you! Please consider donating items for the live and silent auction for our biggest fundraising event of the year for our St. Patrick Preschool. Contact Amanda Scardina for more information, 402-332-3050 or

acscardina@archomaha.org.



SEMINARIAN PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Omaha.

This week let us pray for **Thomas LaSala** (Discipleship III) from St. Gerald in Ralston.

"You are my beloved Son; with you, I am well pleased." (Luke 3:22) God takes great pleasure in those who respond to His call. Do you hear His voice? He may be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life. Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.



"PRAY ALWAYS AND DO NOT LOSE HEART."



Since our last update on December 8, one child has been baptized into the Body of Christ. We congratulate the parents and family members, and we welcome your little one into the Family of Faith! We are praying our Lord Jesus will bless, guide and inspire each of you in His love as you travel along your faith journey. Congratulations!



Name.....*Date*

Lilianna Marie LeCalsey.....*1/5/2025*

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS



Thank you to all who donated to our Christmas Flower Offering this year. We greatly appreciate your donation to help decorate our beloved Church during the Christmas season and to remember/honor our loved ones. Blessed Christmas to you and your loved ones.

In Memory Of.....*Donor*

Lonnie Liss and Mary and Lonny Liss.....*Rose Anania*

Don Cooper Family and George Barna Family.....*John and Diane Barna*

Joe Orosco, Max Orosco, and Leonard Beckman.....*Ken and Liz Beckman*

Janet Bergmann.....*Ron Bergmann*

Jerry Burke, Vincent Burke, and Pete and Judy Burke.....*Maxine Burke*

Mr and Mrs Melvin Boysen, Mr and Mrs Anton Boysen, Linda Simmons,.....

Tony Boysen, and Patrick Casteel.....*Jean Casteel*

John and Penny Thornbrush.....*Victoria Cervantes*

Win and Vivian Hansen, A Elaine Spencer, and Lewis Bobb....*Bob and Kathy Cinotto*

Jim Clines and Norman and Janet Dudley.....*Cathie Clines*

Frank and Flora Lo Surdo, Nina Sacco, Joseph C Crisafulli Jr, and Ronald Clines.....

.....*Paul and Ellie Clines*

Clyde M Comstock, Pauline Comstock, Mike Comstock, Robert Carr, and.....

Marge Carr.....*Terry and Judy Comstock*

Joe and Fern Bruning and Ron Dye.....*Sharrie Dye*

Mr and Mrs Stephen Kalin, Vickie Ahrendt, Gerald Kalin, and Shirley Kruger.....

.....*Chuck and Deb Eddie*

Loren Ellis and Mr and Mrs Don Karges.....*Suzanne Ellis*

Clarence and Marcella Krzycki, Leroy Krzycki, John and Eulalia Jaixen.....

Bob and Barbara Embury.....*Mike and Linda Embury*

Palmer and Cecelia Gundvaldson and Dale and Joan Stumpf.....

.....*Wayne and Jane Gudvaldson*

Michael J Hagge.....*Matt and Amy Hagge*

Continued on next page—>

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Continued From Page 4

Larry Hansen and Michael Hansen.....Pat Hansen
 Don Hintz Family and John and Maurine Family.....Norma Hintz
 Arya Mazitto, Janet Woster, Pat Murphy, and Jerry Gray...Rick and Sue Hollendieck
 Roger and Jean Mann, Ray and Francie Hottovy, Wanda Korensky, and the.....
 Deceased Grandparents of the Hottovy and Mann Family.....Jim and Tam Hottovy
 Deceased Members of the Ingram and Bruck Families.....Steve and Joan Ingram
 Deceased Members of the Laferriere, Bay, Kohlbek, and Griencewic.....
 Families.....Randy and Kathy Kohlbek
 John F Krager, Jr.....Betty Krager
 Mylan Kruse, Kristen Kuhn, and Kay Schram.....Tim and Nancy Kruse
 Delores Ratkovec.....Jay and Jeanne Rebensdorf
 Kade Reiman.....Kevin and Deb Reiman
 Adolph Perchal Jr and all Deceased Members of the Anderson and Perchal.....
 Families.....Claudia Perchal
 Randy Reim, Todd Survil, and Doreen Survil.....Jarod and Jennifer Reim
 Al and Marlene Sambasile and Deacon John Digilio.....Mark and Sherry Sambasile
 Vac Elsie Sedlacek and Pete Grace Brummer.....Bill and Mary Ellen Sedlacek
 Robert J Dietz and Mary A Dietz.....Christine Walstrom
 Maynard Wanetka.....Mike and Lisa Wanetka
 Peggy Welsch.....Pat Welsh
 Riley Stryk.....Tom and Marla Wohldmann
 Gertrude Wilde.....Allen and Karen Wilde
 Lorene and Lawrence Pokorny.....Jon and Lisa Willert
 Michael Wuerfele.....Sharon Wuerfele

In Honor Of.....Donor

Joel and Karen Spier.....Albert and Arlene Spier

"It is not that I want merely to be called a Christian, but to actually be one. Yes, if I prove to be one, then I can have the name." —St. Ignatius of Antioch

Stewardship Report

Dec 18-Dec 24, 2024

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

General Contributions	Dec 18-Dec 24, 2024	Fiscal YTD thru Dec 24
Sunday Offering	\$34,237.51	\$609,273.50
Other Contributions	\$1,159.36	\$40,722.60
Total General Contributions	\$35,396.87	\$649,996.10 *
Surplus/Deficit	\$9,146.87	(\$6,253.90)

** 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



BECOME A KNIGHT TODAY

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! To find out more contact Randy Meerian at 402-981-6471.



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A KNIGHT



We are Catholic men who lead, serve, protect, and defend. We share a desire to be better husbands, fathers, sons, neighbors, and role models and to put charity and community first.

GAME FEED—SAVE THE DATE

The Knights of Columbus are hosting their 5th annual Wild Game Feed Saturday, February 22. We are asking for donations of goose and items for the silent auction to help with the game feed. Please contact Larry Sibley for more information on donating meat, auction items, or table tickets, 402-957-8770 or LCSIB@centurylink.net.



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, JANUARY 13TH

7:30 AM † Mark Little

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14TH

6:00 PM † Joseph Piccolo

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15TH

7:30 AM † Joseph and Clara Meysenburg

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16TH

7:30 AM † James Eggerling

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17TH

7:30 AM † Margaret Clayton

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18TH

5:00 PM † Doug and Marcia Laferriere

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH

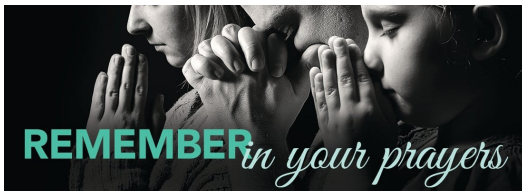
8:00 AM † Dean Schwaninger

10:00 AM For Our Parishioners

12:00 PM † Kenny Milroy

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 Trent Burton (grandson of George Majewicz), Janiece Marie, Herb Rogers, Lucy Winter, Celeste Baumert, Joe Carney, Ronald Baxter (Fr. Baxter's dad), Paul Polt, and Leanne Robb. Pray for John and Wanda Jonas, 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, JANUARY 12TH—THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM Religious Education—Basement Commons, RE Classrooms
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Parish Breakfast—Parish Center and Kitchen
3:00 PM to 7:00 PM Women's Small Group Mixer—Parish Center A

MONDAY, JANUARY 13TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Baptism Class—Father Hitch Room

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14TH

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Rosary Guild Meeting—Father Hitch Room
5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 6:40 PM Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion—Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15TH

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 9:30 AM 55+ Club Outing—Offsite
9:00 AM to 10:30 AM Faith Connection—Parish Center C
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, JANUARY 16TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
8:30 AM to 3:30 PM Project Linus—Basement Commons
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM OCIA—Parish Center C

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17TH

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18TH

4:00 PM to 4:40 PM Confession—Confessional
4:30 PM to 4:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 5:00 PM)—Sanctuary

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19TH—2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM Religious Education—Basement Commons, RE Classrooms
12:00 PM to 7:00 PM Private Event—Parish Center A and Kitchen
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary and Narthex
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM COR Men's Meeting—Father Hitch Room

DEACON LARRY HECK IS RETIRING

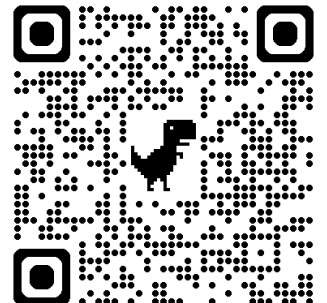
Retirement Dinner on January 24



Deacon Larry Heck is retiring! Deacon Larry has been a Deacon for the Archdiocese of Omaha for over 40 years—serving at St. James in Omaha for 20 years and here at St. Patrick Gretna for the last 21 years.

We are so blessed to have had Deacon Larry here at St. Patrick Gretna for as long as we have! His presence on the altar will be missed, but we are incredibly grateful for all that he's done, and will continue to do in retirement, to minister to the community.

We will host a formal retirement dinner to honor Deacon Larry on Friday evening, January 24. There will be a greeting and social hour from 6 PM to 7PM and a dinner beginning at 7 PM. Parishioners are invited, but asked to RSVP to attend. Please RSVP by Friday, January 17. You can RSVP on our parish website or by scanning the QR code or by calling the parish office, 402-332-4444.



LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

JANUARY 18TH
5:00 PM

Sacristan
Pat Gilmore

Lectors
Andy Pearson
(Read the 1st Reading)

Crystal Schroeder
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Paul Staley
Tracy Wollenburg
Kylie Karnish
Bridget Blum

Ushers
Ken Beckman
Chris Lingbloom
Paul Staley
Jeff Wollenburg

Rosary Reciter
Jayne Schram

Altar Servers
Colin Lingbloom
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Tim Kirkpatrick
Nancy Kirkpatrick

JANUARY 19TH
8:00 AM

Sacristan
Lori Frederick

Lectors
Sandy Scheef
(Read the 1st Reading)

Kathy Broz
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Joan Ingram
Duane Benes
Deb Benes
Marilyn Havel

Ushers
Ron Kotrous
Tony Schultz
Marty Stednitz
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Theresa Huttman

Altar Servers
Kaylee Frederick
Drew Garcia
Paul Joseph Hubert

Greeters
Steve Ingram
Sally Stednitz

Hilcrest SR/HL
Gene Schwarting
Paula Schwarting

JANUARY 19TH
10:00 AM

Sacristan
Andi Towey

Lectors
Jolene Jefferies
(Read the 1st Reading)

Kelly Eby
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Jim Hain
Judy Weier
Ashley Kassmeier
Jason Kassmeier

Ushers
Bruce Jefferies
Chris Reinig
Norm Svoboda
Tony Vanek

Rosary Reciter
Theresa Gulizia

Altar Servers
Kalla Kassmeier
Kameron Kassmeier
Klayton Kassmeier

Greeters
Andrew Urban
Need Sub

JANUARY 19TH
NOON

Sacristan
Ginny Giebelhaus

Lectors
Stephanie Lampe
(Read Both 1st and 2nd Readings)

Eric Hittner
(Standby: if a Sub is Needed)

EMHCs
Steve Otto
Leann Otto
Ginny Giebelhaus
Norma Hintz
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Linda Gardner
Ginny Giebelhaus
Carole Lisiecki
Marty White

Rosary Reciter
Carol Zeleny

Altar Servers
Need Sub
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Carole Lisiecki
Marty White

Vocations Crucifix
Paul Duin



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

Deacon Ken Broz.....402-676-1025
Deacon Larry Heck.....402-689-9676

PARISH OFFICE

Jolene Jefferies, Parish Mgr.....402-332-4444, x203
jmjefferies@archomaha.org

Megan Seamann, Communications Associate

meseamann@archomaha.org..402-332-4444, x202

Judy Weier, Secretary.....402-332-4444, x201
jaweier@archomaha.org

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Shane Fagan.....402-332-3454
smfagan@archomaha.org

DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

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

PASTORAL MINISTRY (LITURGY, YOUTH GROUP & FAITH FORM)

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

DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC

Laura Rau.....402-332-4444, x216
lrau@archomaha.org

PARISH CENTER COORDINATOR

Lezlie Thomas.....402-525-3098
lathomas@archomaha.org

FACILITY MANAGER

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

PASTORAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

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

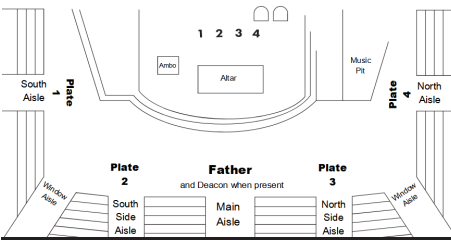
HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

EMHC 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.

BAPTISM OF THE LORD





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

HOLY HOUR FOR VOCATIONS
St. John Paul II Newman Center



Join the Serra Club of West Omaha on Monday, January 20, for a beautiful *Holy Hour to Pray for Vocations* at the St. John Paul II Newman Center (1221 S 71st

St, Omaha) beginning with a brief meet-and-greet in the Karol Commons Student Center at 6:30 PM followed by the Holy Hour at 7 PM in the Chapel. The presider will be Fr. Tom Weisbecker, Chaplain of the Serra Club of West Omaha. Together we will pray a Rosary for Vocations before the Blessed Sacrament, exposed in a special Serra traveling monstrance that was blessed by Pope St. John Paul II. We will also recite the Litany for Vocations and spend time in silent adoration as we pray for an increase in vocations throughout the Archdiocese of Omaha. Please show your support and invite your family, friends, and guests to join us! If you are interested in helping to build the Church locally through vocations support, contact Bruce Jefferies, Serra VP, at westomaha@serrainternational.org. Learn more at serrawestomaha.org and follow us on Facebook @serrawestomaha.

PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION
Mark Your Calendar—Opens Soon

Mark your calendars. Registration for the 2025-2026 Preschool year will begin on Monday,



February 3 for all families of St. Patrick. Go to preschool.stpatricksgretna.org and register for your preferred class. Call the Preschool office at 402-332-3050 with questions!

WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP
January 12 at 4 PM



Still looking to join a women's small group? We will be meeting on January 12 at 4 PM to catch up with the groups that have started, those looking to get started, and those still looking for a

group! Come join us for some food, fellowship, and information.

LUKE: THE STORY OF SALVATION FULFILLED
Adult Ascension Bible Study

The Gospel of Luke takes you on a journey that begins with the foretelling of John the Baptist's birth and culminates in Jesus' Ascension into Heaven. Along the way, you will witness key moments in salvation history, including the Annunciation, the Nativity, Jesus' Baptism, His public ministry, the Last Supper, and Jesus' suffering, death, and glorious Resurrection. The Gospel's powerful prose and beautiful details will deepen your desire to draw closer to Jesus and be transformed by His teachings.



The Gospel of Luke continually reveals how Jesus is the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies. With *Luke: The Story of Salvation Fulfilled*, you will experience joy as you see how God has been faithful throughout the ages and how God's promise can guide you in your everyday lives.

St. Patrick of Gretna will begin an eight-week Bible study *Luke: The Story of Salvation Fulfilled*, on Monday, February 17 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 on our parish website, stpatricksgretna.org. You will also need to order study materials (workbook and/or online access) at <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/luke-the-story-of-salvation-fulfilled>.

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

PILGRIMAGE TO SLOVENIA, CROATIA, AND MEDJUGORJE
with Fr. Michael Grewe, September 30—October 12, 2025



Join us on a journey through Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, a region rich in Catholic history and tradition, where you will experience a culture of deep faith and spirituality. From the island Church of the Assumption on Lake Bled to the shrine of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, you will visit the most important sites dedicated to the Blessed Mother in Slovenia. In Croatia, venerate the relics of St. Simeon, explore the UNESCO World Heritage town of Trogir, and marvel at Dubrovnik, the Pearl of the Adriatic. Spend five days in the peaceful Bosnian village of Medjugorje, which many say it feels like Heaven on earth. Return home refreshed and renewed in your faith. To learn more about the trip itinerary, cost, and related details go to: https://www.tektonministries.org/pilgrimage_pages/pilgrimage-to-slovenia-croatia-and-medjugorje.

Our Spiritual Director is Fr. Michael Grewe, retired priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha, and our Group Leader is Jolene Jefferies, Parish Manager of St. Patrick in Gretna.

Please be sure to attend our upcoming Pilgrimage Info Meeting on Tuesday, January 21, at 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM in the Parish Center. Fr. Grewe will be in attendance. You will have the opportunity to ask questions as you discern this pilgrimage opportunity. If you cannot attend the meeting, a Zoom video can be emailed to you for viewing at a time convenient for you.

How will you respond to our Blessed Mother's loving invitation? For questions, please contact Jolene Jefferies at 402-521-0717 or jolenejefferies@gmail.com.

"All our perfection consists in being conformed, united, and consecrated to Jesus Christ; and therefore the most perfect of all devotions is, without any doubt, that which the most perfectly conforms, unites, and consecrates us to Jesus Christ. Now, Mary being the most conformed of all creatures to Jesus Christ, it follows that, of all devotions, that which most consecrates and conforms the soul to Our Lord is devotion to His holy Mother, and that the more a soul is consecrated to Mary, the more it is consecrated to Jesus." —St. Louis De Montfort, *True Devotion to Mary*, p. 65

PILGRIMS OF HOPE—JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Vatican Prepares to Welcome Millions for Holy Year



The celebration of a Holy Year every 25 years is an acknowledgment that “the Christian life is a journey calling for moments of greater intensity to encourage and sustain hope as the constant companion that guides our steps toward the goal of our encounter with the Lord Jesus,” Pope Francis wrote. Opening the Holy Door to St. Peter’s Basilica on Christmas Eve, the pope will formally inaugurate the Jubilee Year 2025 with its individual, parish, and diocesan pilgrimages and with special celebrations focused on specific groups from migrants to marching bands, catechists to communicators, and priests to prisoners. Inside the Vatican basilica, the door had been bricked up since November 20, 2016, when Pope Francis closed the extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy. Dismantling the brick wall began December 2 with a ritual of prayer and the removal of a box containing the key to the door and Vatican medals. The Holy Doors at the basilicas of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul Outside the Walls were to be freed of their brickwork in the week that followed.

In January 2021, as the world struggled to return to some kind of normalcy after the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pope Francis announced that he had chosen “Pilgrims of Hope” as the theme for the Holy Year. ““We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and farsighted vision,” the pope wrote in a letter entrusting the organization of the Jubilee to Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the then-Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization. The pope prayed that the Holy Year would be marked by “deep faith, lively hope, and active charity.”

A holy year or jubilee is a time of pilgrimage, prayer, repentance, and acts of mercy, based on the Old Testament tradition of a jubilee year of rest, forgiveness, and renewal. Holy years also are a time when Catholics make pilgrimages to designated churches and shrines, recite special prayers, go to confession, and receive Communion to receive a plenary indulgence, which is a remission of the temporal punishment due for one’s sins.

Crossing the threshold of the Holy Door does not give a person automatic access to the indulgence or to grace, as St. John Paul II said in his document proclaiming the Holy Year 2000. But walking through the doorway is a sign of the passage from sin to grace which every Christian is called to accomplish. “To pass through that door means to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord; it is to strengthen faith in Him in order to live the new life which He has given us. It is a decision which presumes freedom to choose and also the courage to leave something behind, in the knowledge that what is gained is divine life,” St. John Paul wrote.

Pope Boniface VIII proclaimed the first Holy Year in 1300 and decreed that jubilees would be celebrated every 100 years. But just 50 years later, a more Biblical cadence, Pope Clement VI proclaimed another holy year. Pope Paul II decided in 1470 that holy years should be held every 25 years, which has been the practice ever since—but with the addition of special jubilees, like the Holy Year of Mercy in 2015-16, marking special occasions or needs. The Jubilee of Mercy had a special focus on encouraging Catholics to return to confession, but the sacrament is a key part of every Holy Year.

Pope Francis, in his bull of indiction for the 2025 Holy Year, said churches are places “where we can drink from the wellsprings of hope, above all by approaching the sacrament of reconciliation, the essential starting point of any true journey of conversion.” The pope also asked Catholics to use the Jubilee Year to nourish or exercise their hope by actively looking for signs of God’s grace and goodness around them. “We need to recognize the immense goodness present in our world, lest we be tempted to think ourselves overwhelmed by evil and violence,” he wrote. “The signs of the times, which include the yearning of human hearts in need of God’s saving presence, ought to become signs of hope.” Even in a troubled world, one can notice how many people are praying for and demonstrating their desire for peace, for safeguarding creation and for defending human life at every stage, he said. Those are signs of hope that cannot be discounted.

As part of the Holy Year 2025, Pope Francis has announced the canonization of Blessed Carlo Acutis April 27 during the special Jubilee for Adolescents and the proclamation of the sainthood of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati August 3 during the Jubilee for Young Adults. The lives of the two men, active Catholics who died young, are emblematic of Pope Francis’ conviction that hope, “founded on faith and nurtured by charity,” is what enables people “to press forward in life” despite setbacks and trials. Both young Italians knew that the hope they drew from faith had to be shared with others through their words, their way of acting and their charity.

Continued in the right hand column—>



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.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Continued From the Left Column

Pope Francis, in the bull of indiction, told Catholics that “during the Holy Year, we are called to be tangible signs of hope for those of our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind.”

In addition to individual acts of charity, love, and kindness like feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, or visiting the sick and the imprisoned, Pope Francis has continued his predecessors’ practice of observing the jubilee by calling on governments to reduce the foreign debt of the poorest countries, grant amnesty to certain prisoners and strengthen programs to help migrants and refugees settle in their new homes...

Archbishop Fisichella, the chief Vatican organizer of the Jubilee Year, said in late November that the Vatican had commissioned a university to forecast the Holy Year pilgrim and tourist influx. They came up with a prediction of 32 million visitors to Rome.

The multilingual jubilee website—www.iubilaeum2025.va—has been up and running for months and includes the possibility of reserving a time to pass through the Holy Door at St. Peter’s and the other major basilicas of Rome.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops also has a special section on its website—www.usccb.org/committees/jubilee-2025—with information about traveling to Rome for the Holy Year and for celebrating the special jubilees in one’s own diocese or parish.

—Article by USCCB

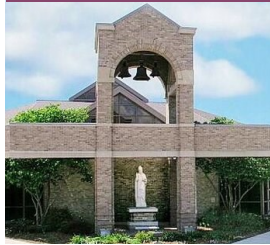


ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- AL-ANON (ALCOHOLIC FAMILY SUPPORT—OMAHA)**
Phone.....402-553-5033
Website.....al-anon.org
- BOYS TOWN NATIONAL HOTLINE**
Phone.....1-800-448-3000
Website.....www.boystown.org
- CATHOLIC ANSWERS**
Phone.....1-888-318-7884
Website.....www.catholic.com
- CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**
Grief & Healing Counselor.....402-391-3711
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Gretna.....402-332-3475
- CATHOLIC CHARITIES—OMAHA**
Phone.....402-554-0520
Website.....ccomaha.org
- CATHOLIC VOICE ONLINE**
Website.....catholicvoiceomaha.com
- COURAGE (PASTORAL SUPPORT—SAME-SEX ATTRACTION)**
Phone.....402-557-5692
Website.....couragerc.org
- EWTN (GLOBAL CATHOLIC TELEVISION NETWORK)**
Phone.....1-800-447-3986
Website.....www.ewtn.com
- HEARTS RESTORED (HEALING AFTER ABORTION)**
Phone.....402-783-4673
Website.....heartstorestorednebraska.org
- HOLY FAMILY SHRINE**
Phone.....402-332-4565
Website.....holyfamilyshrine.com
- LEAST OF MY BRETHREN (SUPPORT HOMELESS)**
Phone.....402-681-5424
Website.....leastofmybrethren.org
- MARRIAGE RESOURCES**
For Your Marriage.....www.foryourmarriage.org
Retrouvaille.....1-800-470-2230
Retrouvaille.....www.helpourmarriage.org
- MASS TIMES NATIONWIDE**
Phone.....1-858-207-6277
Website.....www.masstimes.org
- NEBRASKA HOMESCHOOL NETWORK**
Website.....nebraskahomeschool.org
- POPE PAUL VI INSTITUTE (FERTILITY HELP)**
Phone.....402-390-6600
Website.....www.popepaulvi.com
- 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)**
Phone.....989-720-8000
Website.....strive21.com
- WOMEN’S CENTER FOR ADVANCEMENT
(DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, ETC.)**
24/7 Hotline.....402-345-7273
Website.....wcaomaha.org

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE



HEALING MASS—ST. GERALD, JANUARY 17

His Global Love Prayer Communities invite you to a Healing Mass on Friday, January 17 at St. Gerald Catholic Church (9602 Q St, Ralston). We will begin with a Rosary at 6:15 PM and will have praise and worship following, and Mass at 7 PM. Fr. Kevin Joyce from His Global Love Ministry will be presiding. All are welcome. Any questions, contact Frances Mignon at 402-515-8000.

OPEN HOUSE—ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR, JANUARY 26

Join us for an Open House on Sunday, January 26 from 9 AM to Noon to meet parents, students, teachers, and staff, tour the St. Stephen the Martyr School, and complete your student’s application. Find out more and request your tour at <https://school.stephen.org/openhouse>.



AWAKEN NEBRASKA—THE RELEVANT CENTER, JANUARY 30



We invite you to Awaken Nebraska, a night of spirit-led worship, a powerful message, prayer, and adoration. It will be an opportunity to witness the movement that is leading thousands of youth to Christ. Save the date for Thursday, January 30! This event will be at The Relevant Center (21220 Elkhorn Dr, Elkhorn) from 6 PM to 8:30 PM. Tickets are free at the door! Invite everyone! Read more about the work of Damascus at <https://www.damascus.net/about>. For more information about the event call 402-721-6611. This event is hosted by St. Patrick in Fremont and Damascus Ministries.

SILENT IGNATIAN PREACHED RETREAT—CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY RETREAT CENTER, MARCH 13-16

This retreat invites you into a deepening of relationship with God as you enter the Lenten journey. These three days of prayer and reflection will center on God’s meeting Abram and three of His Apostles as they are. We’ll journey with them as they are invited to a deepening of their relationship with God. No pointing of Divine Fingers but more the invitation to experience God’s fidelity to our human fears and questions. Time will be spent in being who we are in God’s loving gaze rather than preparing or changing our behavior to do what we should. The cost is \$425 per person, including room and meals. The location is Creighton University Retreat Center located one hour east of Omaha. Register at <https://www.creighton.edu/retreatcenter/scheduleofretreats/3-day-silent-ignatian-retreat> or scan the QR code.



ENCOUNTER THE EUCHARIST—DES MOINES, IA, APRIL 2



Spend an evening with Fr. Mike Schmitz as he guides you into a deeper relationship with Christ. This limited seating event allows for an intimate conversation about faith, that will inspire a deeper relationship with Jesus. Come and have your life changed! This event is sponsored by Iowa Catholic Radio and will take place at the Community Choice Convention Center (730 Third St, Des Moines, IA) on Wednesday, April 2 at 7 PM. VIP tickets includes premier seating and an exclusive pre-show event with heavy hours d’oeuvres and drinks from 5-6:30 PM. Get your tickets today at <https://iowacatholicradio.ubpages.com/schmitz>.

JUBILEE ROME PILGRIMAGE—ROME, OCTOBER 6-13

Join the Evangelium Institute and Verso Ministries on a pilgrimage to Rome to experience the fullness of life and the beauty of the Catholic Church. Intentionally handcrafted with time for prayer and reflection, this pilgrimage will offer inspiring encounters with sites central to our Catholic faith, incredible walks through history, and a taste of the best that Italian culture has to offer. This pilgrimage is happening October 6-13, during the 2025 Jubilee Year. We will be in Rome during the Jubilee of Marian Devotions! Our chaplain for the trip will be none other than Fr. Dan Andrews, pastor at the St. John Paul II Newman Center. We are thrilled that he agreed to join us! For more information on the pilgrimage, including a full itinerary, and to register visit <https://www.eicatholic.org/rome-pilgrimage>.

