

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET

GRETNA, NE 68028



7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Give, and gifts will be given to you.”

- Lk 6:38

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

FEBRUARY 23, 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 STPATGRETNA 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

7th Sunday of Ordinary Time

FIRST READING (1 SM 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23)

King David exercised great restraint in sparing the life of Saul. Can you think of a time when you had to take the high road with a friend or co-worker?

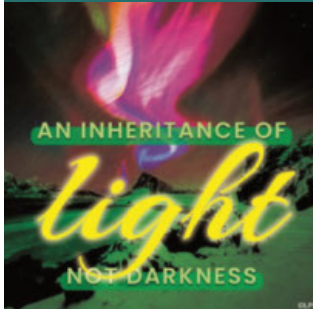
SECOND READING (1 COR 15:45-49)

Paul speaks of present-day believers as one day bearing the image of Christ (the "Heavenly one"). How often do you think about your future life in Heaven?

GOSPEL (LK 6:27-38)

Jesus presents His followers with some very challenging morals: love your enemy, do not retaliate, and always be willing to forgive. Does this high moral standard seem possible for you personally?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



One of my favorite new singers/songwriters is Noah Kahan. I'm a little biased because, like me, he is originally from Vermont. In a fine song entitled "Stick Season," he sings of his hope to "cancel out the darkness I inherited from dad." This lyric articulates his painful recognition of a dark spiritual "inheritance" from his father, and his hope to be free of it. We all inherit some degree of evil from our earthly forebears. It's easy to feel doomed to repeat their darknesses.

But we're not so doomed, thank God. This week's Gospel proclaims this. Whatever good or bad we received from our parents, we have a more definitive and perfect inheritance in God. Jesus commands us, "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36). We have a perfect Father in Heaven and are destined to inherit and reflect that perfect and merciful love. We have an inheritance of light, not darkness, and thus a whole new possibility of magnanimous love. Like any inheritance, this is a free gift to us.

What are we destined to repeat? Not the darkness of our earthly parents. We are destined to be a reflection of God's life. Jesus liberates us from the inevitability of repeating whatever evils and imperfections are in our familial or cultural upbringings. It's time to claim that perfect inheritance.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

Is Ash Wednesday a Holy Day of Obligation?

ANSWER:

Despite the often packed churches, you may be surprised to hear that the answer is no! Holy Days of Obligation commemorate a particular event (such as the birth of Christ at Christmas) or celebrate particular people (such as Mary's Immaculate Conception or the feast of All Saints). Ash Wednesday is a day of penance, fasting, and abstinence to begin the season of Lent. In a sense, it focuses on a concept rather than something particular and concrete.

Of course, repentance ought to be reflected in particular, concrete ways! That's one of the reasons that attending Mass on Ash Wednesday is a very good idea. It marks the beginning of a solemn season of penance. Despite all its comparisons to the desert, Lent can be very fruitful for our spiritual growth! Beginning this season with the celebration of Mass and the reception of ashes is a sign of our commitment to God and to spiritual growth.

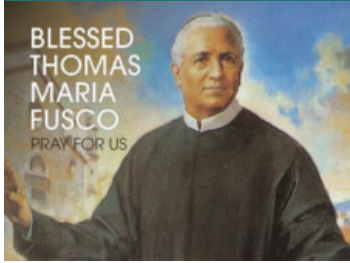


"The heroic minute. It is the time fixed for getting up. Without hesitation: a supernatural reflection and... up! ...Here you have a mortification that strengthens your will and does no harm to your body. Conquer yourself each day from the very first moment, getting up on the dot, at a fixed time, without yielding a single minute to laziness. If, with God's help, you conquer yourself, you will be well ahead for the rest of the day."

—St. Josemaria Escriva, *The Way*

BLESSED THOMAS MARIA FUSCO

Priest



Bl. Thomas Maria Fusco (1831-1891) was born to a noble and pious family in Italy, the seventh of eight children. He was orphaned at an early age and raised by his uncle, a priest, who oversaw his education. He had a deep love for the faith, especially to the Passion of Christ and Our Lady of Sorrows. He became a priest at the age of 24 and opened a school in his own home. He later became an itinerant missionary throughout southern Italy. After traveling for a number of years he opened another school, this time to train priests on how to be good confessors. He also founded the Priestly Society of the Catholic Apostolate to support the missions, which gained papal approval. During his work with the poor he discerned a call to start a new religious order of sisters, the Daughters of Charity of the Most Precious Blood, to minister to orphaned children. In addition to all of this, Fusco was also a parish priest, a confessor to a group of cloistered nuns, and a spiritual father to a lay group at the nearby Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. He died of liver disease at the age of 59. He was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II in 2001. His feast day is February 24.

SAINT HILARY

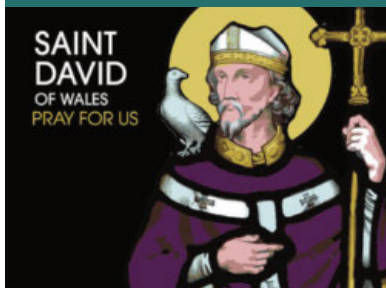
Pope

Pope Saint Hilary (5th c.) was Bishop of Rome from 461 to 468. Not much is known of his early life other than that he was from Sardinia. He rose to prominence in the Church when he became archdeacon under Pope St. Leo the Great, working closely with him as a trusted aid. St. Leo sent Hilary as one of the papal legates to the Council of Ephesus in 449. There St. Hilary fought bravely against the monophysite heresy, for which his life was threatened. He was forced into hiding and fled back to Rome for safety. He was so highly esteemed that after Pope Leo's death he was elected to the papacy. As pope, St. Hilary fought for the rights of the papacy in spiritual matters against the Roman Emperor, and increased organization and discipline between the bishops and the Holy See. He also did much work in building, remodeling, and decorating Roman churches and other public places. Pope St. Hilary's feast day is February 28.



SAINT DAVID OF WALES

Bishop



St. David of Wales (6th c.), also called Dewi Sant by the Welsh, was a missionary priest, Celtic monk, archbishop, miracle-worker, and the founder of many monasteries in Wales and western England. He was descended from Welsh royalty, and in medieval times many believed he was the nephew of the famed King Arthur. His great leadership abilities gave him influence over many Church affairs. In the dozen monasteries he founded he established strict asceticism modeled after the early desert hermits. St. David is often depicted standing on a mound with a dove on his shoulder. According to legend, one day while preaching a dove rested on his shoulder, and the earth rose to lift him above the crowd so that all could hear him speak. During a battle with the Saxons, St. David advised the Welsh soldiers to wear leeks in their hats to distinguish themselves from their enemy; this is the origin of the leek as an emblem of Wales. St. David is one of the great saints of the 6th century whose work helped to establish Christianity in Europe. He is the patron saint of Wales, and his feast, "St. David's Day," is a popular cultural celebration. The Cathedral of St. David's in Pembrokeshire was built over his remains and became a pilgrimage destination for centuries. St. David of Wales' feast day is March 1.

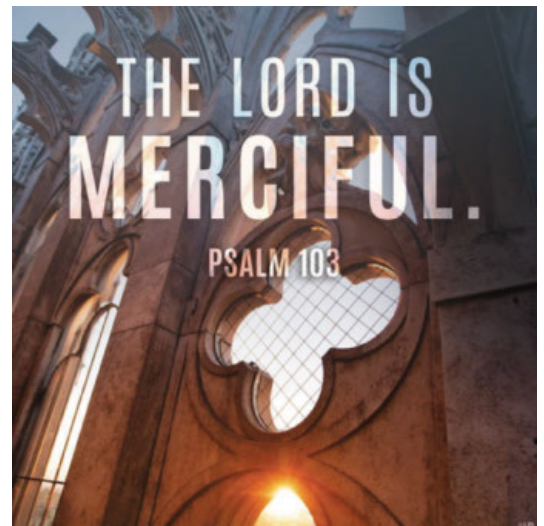
Dear Jesus, help me to pray for and bless everyone I encounter, whether that be easy or hard. Help me to act in the mercy I have known through you. Help me to demonstrate generosity, as you have given so much to me. Amen.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

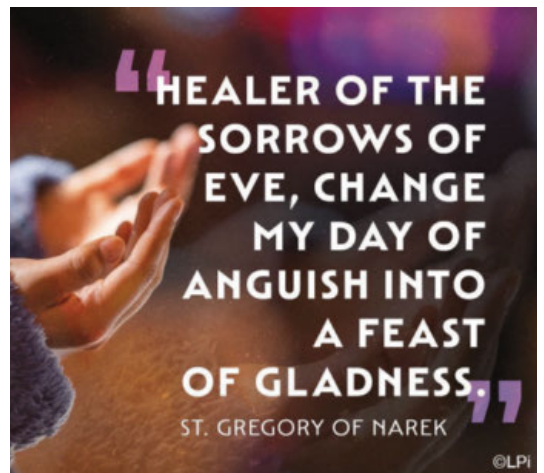
READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29
TUESDAY: Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37
WEDNESDAY: Sir 4:11-19/Ps 119:165, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175/Mk 9:38-40
THURSDAY: Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mk 9:41-50
FRIDAY: Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35/Mk 10:1-12
SATURDAY: Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-14, 15-16, 17-18/Mk 10:13-16
NEXT SUNDAY: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (see 2a)/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

THURSDAY: St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
NEXT SUNDAY: 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

EQUIPPED TO GO ON MISSION

Mentorship Program Applications



The Mentorship Program of the Archdiocese of Omaha equips lay people to confidently and fruitfully share their faith through friendship and deep

investment in others. Applicants commonly say one or all of the following things:

- “I really want to grow in prayer and a deeper relationship with the Lord.”
- “I really want to grow my ability to evangelize and/or minister to others.”
- “I really want to grow my ability to know where God is calling me.”

If any of these struck a chord, I challenge you to apply. Come and see if the Mentorship Program is right for you. Each evening provides an opportunity to meet current and past program participants, learn more about the program, and get your questions answered. There are two Come and See events: Sunday, April 6 from 5 PM to 7 PM at the Sacred Heart Parish Center (2301 Madison Ave, Norfolk), and Monday, April 7 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the Chancery (2222 North 111 St, Omaha). Dinner will be followed by a short talk—similar content to what is covered in program sessions. Please RSVP by April 2. To RSVP, find out more information, and to apply visit <http://archomaha.org/mentorship>.

SEMINARIAN PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Omaha.

This week let us pray for **Alex Kennedy** (Propaedeutic Year) from St. Stephen the Martyr in Omaha.



“Love your enemies and do good to those who hate you.” (Luke 6:27) Priests, religious brothers and sisters, and married couples are each called to live out a vocation rooted in love and forgiveness. Is God calling you to witness to His mercy and compassion through a religious vocation? Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.

 *Pray for our Seminarians*

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: THE TRUE PRESENCE

Six Weeks Beginning March 6



All are invited to a Lenten Bible Study starting on Thursday, March 6 at 7 PM in the Parish Center. The *True Presence: Prefigured in the Old Testament, Fulfilled in the New Testament*, is a six session Bible study that will guide us through passages from Genesis to Revelation, saint quotes, and more that support and build our belief in Jesus’ gift of Himself in the Eucharist. The format will be a 20-30 minute talk each week, followed by small group discussions utilizing a workbook. Don’t worry if you have never studied Scripture before, or if you are a Scripture scholar, everyone will find that the Holy Spirit has a message for you. We pray each session for the Holy Spirit to enflame our hearts to hear His Word. Learn more and RSVP on the parish website, <https://stpatriksgretna.org/education/faith-formation/true-presence>.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS FOR WOMEN

The Beauty of God’s Design

All women of the parish are invited to “Lenten Reflections for Women: The Beauty of God’s Design.” The day—Saturday, March 15—will begin at 8 AM with Mass celebrated by Father Baxter. Following Mass we will have a continental breakfast and speaker in the Parish Center. Attendees are asked to bring a free will offering. Our speaker will be Sharon Doran from Seeking Truth Catholic Bible Study. Sharon has prepared a beautiful talk about our Blessed Mother and her role as “The Helper” in salvation history. She will also speak on the beauty of the creation of woman and how we are all called to be helpers. Please plan to join us and invite your friends to accompany you! RSVP at <https://stpatriksgretna.org>.



HOW IS FASTING DIFFERENT THAN DIETING?

The Difference is Intention



They might sound the same, but they are quite different. The critical difference between fasting and dieting is intention. Both involve a limited intake of food, but they are utilized and implemented differently. Dieting is purely for the sake of physical health or even personal vanity, while fasting is a spiritual exercise.

What does this spiritual exercise do? A few of the main benefits of fasting: it tames our bodily appetites, which can be sources of temptation for us; detaches us from physical comforts, which can weaken us and impede growth in virtue; and aids us in personal self-mastery, so that we can resist sin and choose the good even when it's difficult to do so. Fasting also purifies and liberates our prayer. The detachment it produces sharpens our focus on God and helps us to enter into prayer more freely. It quiets the demands of the body so that we can focus on God without hindrance. In fact, fasting isn't just helpful to prayer: it must be joined to prayer. It's ineffective on its own. As St. Peter Julian Eymard said: “The two actions must be joined and never separated, filling our soul with love by prayer, and purifying ourselves exteriorly by mortification. It is easy to say, ‘I love God,’ but if this word is not followed by mortification, it is vain and unfounded. Self-love has quickly taken the place of the love of God.”

Fasting has physical benefits, as well, as the secular world has recently discovered. It goes to show that God takes care of all our needs, physical and spiritual—body and soul! This ancient spiritual practice isn't optional. Fasting combined with prayer is a crucial part of our progress towards God. The Church actually prescribes two obligatory fast days a year: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition to these days, we should consider adding in a bit of extra fasting to our spiritual routines, according to our ability, health, and duties in life.

What better time to start a new routine than Lent, coming up in just a couple short weeks? Good Catholic's fan-favorite Lenten series—A Holy Lent—will be your step-by-step guide through this holy season. Providing a combination of videos, written content, exams, and prompts—including a practical schedule of prayer and fasting—this daily series will help you pray the days of Lent like never before. Sign up now at <https://www.catholiccompany.com/a-holy-lent-good-catholic-digital-content-series/>

—Article by The Catholic Company

PREPARE FOR LENT

Ask Jesus How He Desires to Walk With You

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



- Live Lent Together—Lenten study resources as a small group, more information at stpatricksretna.org/get-involved/live-lent-together/
- True Presence Bible Study—Lenten Bible Study here at St. Patrick, for more information see page 4 of the bulletin or stpatricksretna.org.
- Best Lent Ever—program by Dynamic Catholic, www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent.html
- Ascension Lenten Companion—book and video series can be done individually or in a small group setting, <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/the-ascension-lenten-companion-walking-with-mary-to-jerusalem>
- Exodus 90—a 90 day program for men to find freedom, <https://exodus90.com/>
- Revelation 90—a 90 day program where women take a deep dive into their wellness habits to reveal their healthiest, happiest selves, <https://www.revelation90.org/>
- FORMED—How to Lent video series, <https://watch.formed.org/how-to-lent>
- Holy Heroes—many kids and family recourses, <https://holyheroes.com/collections/lenten-resources>
- Pray More Novenas—Lenten do-it-yourself virtual retreat with 15 videos and study guides, <https://praymoreretreat.org>
- Forty Days, Forty Items—a challenge to collect one item from your home, closet, or particular room each day to be donated at the end of Lent
- Word on Fire—virtual retreat with membership to Word on Fire Institute, <https://institute.wordonfire.org/lent-retreat-2025>

ST. PATRICK'S DAY FAMILY HOOLEY

Wednesday, March 12



Our St. Patrick's Day Family Hooley (Irish for party) is Wednesday, March 12 from 5 PM to 7 PM in the Parish Center. Join us for a family friendly way to celebrate our parish patron saint. We will have corned beef and cabbage, hot dogs, and dessert for a free will donation. We will have free games with prizes for the kids including: coin toss, putt-putt, lucky duck, pin the pot o' gold, snake race, and get the gold. The Craoi Na Tire Irish Dancers will be our entertainment for the evening after the Irish Person of the Year is awarded. Support for the event is provided by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Sarpy Co. Div.

Volunteers are needed, contact the Religious Education office at 402-332- 3454 or smfagan@archomaha.org.

Stewardship Report

Feb 12-Feb 18, 2025

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

General Contributions	Feb 12-Feb 18, 2025	Fiscal YTD thru Feb 18
Sunday Offering	\$22,868.70	\$818,761.35
Other Contributions	\$1,107.71	\$82,652.44
Total General Contributions	\$23,976.41	\$901,413.79 *
Surplus/Deficit	(\$2,273.59)	\$35,163.79

* 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



COR MEN'S GROUP

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 in the Fr. Hitch Room every two weeks with the next meeting being (Sunday, March 2 at 7 PM). Come join your brother parishioners for prayer and fraternity! If you have additional questions, please reach out to Matthew Henry at matthhenry@gmail.com, Andy Pearson at apearson709@gmail.com, Eric Devlin at delineric62@gmail.com or Seth Boardman at sethd99@hotmail.com.



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.

NOW IS THE TIME TO BECOME A KNIGHT!



For Catholic men that are 18 years of age you can join the Fr. John V. Wallace Knights Council #10047 at St. Patrick here in Gretna and your dues will be taken care of while you are in school up to 4 years by

the Council. This includes trade schools, community colleges, and universities. If interested please contact our Chancellor and Membership Director, Randy Meerian at rmeerian@gmail.com or 402-981-6471.

JOIN US ON FLOCKNOTE

The Gretna Knights of Columbus is on Flocknote! Brother Knights, send a text with the letters STPGK to 84576 to sign up for communications via email and text. Help us spread the word to other Knights!



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, FEBRUARY 24TH

7:30 AM † Nancy Sis

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

6:00 PM † Mark Schaffer

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

7:30 AM † Deceased Members of the Charlie Wear Family

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

7:30 AM † James Dooley

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH

7:30 AM † Dennis Mattes

SATURDAY, MARCH 1ST

5:00 PM † Paul Vincent Rockwell

SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND

8:00 AM † John Kula
10:00 AM † Thomas Mullen
12:00 PM For Our Parishioners

LITURGICAL VESTMENT COLORS

- **White**—JOY—Christmas, Easter, Mary, Saints
- **Red**—LOVE—The Passion, Holy Spirit, Martyrs
- **Green**—HOPE—Ordinary Time
- **Violet**—HUMILITY—Advent, Lent
- **Rose**—JOY—Gaudete, Laetare Sundays



Let us pray for Fred Matulka (brother of Pat Gilmore), 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, FEBRUARY 23RD—7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Knights of Columbus Game Feed Cleanup—Parish Center
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM Religious Education Classes—Basement Commons, RE Classrooms

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM Preschool Amazing Athletes—Basement Commons
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Ascension Adult Bible Study—Parish Center A and Kitchen

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM Preschool Amazing Athletes—Basement Commons
5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 6:40 PM Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion—Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
8:00 AM to 8:15 AM Liturgy of the Hours—Behind the Tabernacle
9:00 AM to 10:30 AM Faith Connection—Parish Center C
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM Religious Education Classes—Basement Commons, RE Classrooms
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM RE Mardi Gras Celebration—Basement Commons, RE Classrooms
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH

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, FEBRUARY 28TH

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, MARCH 1ST

8:00 AM to 9:30 AM Knights of Columbus Officer Meeting—Father Hitch Room
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
5:00 PM to 6:30 PM Inaugural Gretna Game Changer Gala Tickets Sold—Narthex
6:30 PM to 9:30 PM Private Event—Parish Center AB

SUNDAY, MARCH 2ND—8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
8:00 AM to 1:30 PM Inaugural Gretna Game Changer Gala Tickets Sold—Narthex
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM Religious Education Classes—Basement Commons, RE Classrooms
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM RE Mardi Gras Celebration—Basement Commons, RE Classrooms
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM First Communion Meeting—Parish Center AB
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary and Narthex
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM COR Men's Group Meeting—Father Hitch Room

PARTICIPATE IN BEING A MISSIONAL COMMUNITY
Live Lent Together in a Small Group

St. Patrick is once again participating in Live Lent Together. It is our sincere hope that as many parishioners as possible will participate by joining a small group during the Lenten season. We also ask that you consider leading a small group. No experience is necessary, and training will be provided. Live Lent Together encourages the habits of prayer, compassion, and friendship. It is also an important step in our journey to be a more missional community, which the archbishop is asking of every parish in the archdiocese.



To learn more about Live Lent Together or to register for a training to be a small group leader, visit archomaha.org/lent. Attending a training is not a commitment to lead a small group. However, if you feel the call to lead a small group this spring, know that there are plenty of resources to make leading simple and support for you all along the way. Thank you for considering! Be a friend, invite a friend, and receive many graces from our Lord!

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

8th Sunday of Ordinary Time

MARCH 1ST
5:00 PM

Sacristan
Pat Gilmore

Lectors
Bridget Blum
(Read the 1st Reading)

Jayne Schram
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Steve Otto
Leann Otto
Jocelyn Pearson
Sue Korth

Ushers
Ken Beckman
Paul Staley
Need Sub
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Ellie Clines

Altar Servers
Colin Lingbloom
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Nancy Kirkpatrick
Tim Kirkpatrick

MARCH 2ND
8:00 AM

Sacristan
Joan Ingram

Lectors
Kathy Broz
(Read the 1st Reading)

Carrie Hubert
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Barb Applegate
Greg Jones
Jamey Kennel
Christa Pichler

Ushers
Kevin Kaup
Ron Kotrous
Pat Shurtliff
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Kathy Schwarting

Altar Servers
Luke Hubert
Mitchell Hubert
Paul Joseph Hubert

Greeters
Steve Ingram
Tony Schultz

Hilcrest SR/HL
Marty Stednitz
Sally Stednitz

MARCH 2ND
10:00 AM

Sacristan
Andi Towey

Lectors
Jolene Jefferies
(Read the 1st Reading)

Judy Weier
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Ashley Kassmeier
Jason Kassmeier
Tony Tiefenthaler
Norm Svoboda

Ushers
Jim Hain
Bruce Jefferies
John Schaffert
Tony Vanek

Rosary Reciter
Judy Weier

Altar Servers
Kalla Kassmeier
Kameron Kassmeier
Klayton Kassmeier

Greeters
Andrew Urban
Carol Zeleny

MARCH 2ND
NOON

Sacristan
Larry Neppel

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

Need Sub
(Standby: if a Sub is Needed)

EMHCs
Delma Stoner
Larry Neppel
Wendy Neppel
Norma Hintz
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Larry Neppel
Delma Stoner
Marty White
Mary Zeigler

Rosary Reciter
Norm Svoboda

Altar Servers
James Janda
Thomas Janda
Need Sub

Greeters
Joann Dalley
Mary Zeigler

Vocations Crucifix
Mark Hazard



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 (*Retired*).....402-689-9676

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Judy Weier, Secretary.....402-332-4444, x201
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Shane Fagan.....402-332-3454
smfagan@archomaha.org

DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

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

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DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC

Laura Rau.....402-332-4444, x216
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PARISH CENTER COORDINATOR

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

FACILITY MANAGER

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

PASTORAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

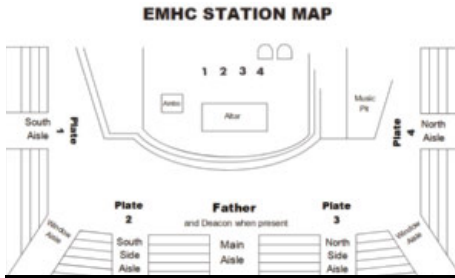
Kevin Kaup.....402-525-1469

HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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



EMHC 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.

7th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

PARISH CHOIRS
Open to New Singers



Children’s Choir is available for 4th through 8th graders. Parish Choir is open to adults and high school youth. Knights Choir is open to men of the parish. Choirs are made up of

people who love to learn, who need a smaller community within the larger parish, and who desire to help the congregation worship God in song. To express interest or learn more, please contact Laura Rau at 402-332-4444 or lrau@archomaha.org.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES
Totus Tuus and VBS

More information and registration will come out later, but save the dates for these summer activities:

- VBS at St. Charles Borromeo: June 2-6, 9 AM to Noon (open to 4yo-6th grade)
- Totus Tuus at St. Patrick: June 22-26, 6:30 PM to 8:45 PM (for 7th-12th graders)
- Totus Tuus at St. Patrick: June 23-27, 9AM to 2:30 PM (for 1st-6th graders)



HEALING AFTER AN ABORTION
Hearts Restored Nebraska



Are you or someone you know struggling after an abortion? It’s time to find hope and healing with Hearts Restored. This post-abortion healing ministry will accompany you on your unique healing journey, offering mentorship, individual counseling, group settings, retreats, spiritual support, and more. Restore your peace and hope today. Call the Hearts Restored hotline at 402-783-HOPE (4673) or email the confidential, secure inbox at FindPeace@HeartsRestoredNebraska.org. Learn more about Hearts Restored at HeartsRestoredNebraska.org.

INAUGURAL GRETNA GAME CHANGER GALA
Gretna Public Schools Foundation

The Gretna Public Schools Foundation is excited to announce the Inaugural Gretna Game Changer Gala on March 6—a special evening to support mental and behavioral health initiatives for students in Gretna Public Schools. This gala will be held at Tiburon Events Center (10302 S. 168th St, Omaha). As you know, we have many students from St. Patrick Parish attending Gretna Public Schools. We need your help to make this event a huge success! Here are a few ways you can get involved:



- Buy a Raffle Ticket—For a chance to win a \$10,000 grand prize!
- Get Your Gala Ticket—Don’t miss out on an unforgettable night supporting mental health initiatives for students in Gretna Public Schools.
- Donate and Bid on Silent and Live Auction Items—Exciting items will be up for grabs!
- Become a Sponsor—Show your support as a sponsor and help make a lasting impact!

Your participation makes all the difference. All funds raised will directly support mental and behavioral health initiatives for students in our school district. Parishioners associated with the Gala and the foundation will have a table in the narthex on Saturday, March 1 and Sunday, March 2. Please help support our Gretna kids. For more information, visit <https://GPSFoundation25.givesmart.com>.

MOVIE: THE GREAT WARNING
In Theatres in Omaha—Get Your Tickets Now



Check out *The Great Warning*, a movie based on Catholic principles. This movie is based on re-enactments of people and their stories from around that world that have experienced the Illumination of Conscience which has been prophesized from apparitions from Fatima, Portugal; Garabandal, Spain; and Medjugorje, Bosnia.

SYNOPSIS

In a world where the inexplicable becomes reality, this documentary immerses us in the impactful experiences of people from different countries, unknown to each other but united by a common destiny. Through dramatic and gripping accounts, these individuals reveal that they have lived through supernatural encounters linked to ancient prophecies and Biblical passages. Their testimonies, filled with mystery and wonder, converge in an alarming revelation: an event of unimaginable proportions is about to occur and will change the course of humanity forever. This documentary film invites us to question our perception of reality and warns us of an imminent future we cannot ignore.

SHOWINGS AND TICKETS

Showings in Omaha at Marcus Village Point Cinema (304 N 174th St, Omaha) include: Saturday, March 8 at 1 PM, Sunday March 9 at 1 PM, and Wednesday, March 12 at 7 PM. Each showing needs at least 47 people to sign up by February 26 in order for the theater to show the movie. There are limited seats and limited showings, so get your tickets soon. Tickets are \$22. You will only be charged if enough people sign up.

- **March 8 tickets**—<https://fan-force.com/screenings/the-great-warning-marcus-village-point-cinema>
- **March 9 tickets**—<https://fan-force.com/screenings/the-great-warning-marcus-village-point-cinema-march9>
- **March 12 tickets**—<https://fan-force.com/screenings/the-great-warning-marcus-village-point-cinema-2>

“Those very traumatic events in our lives give us a privileged opportunity to let God’s love become concrete for us. What the psychoanalyst strives to do by bringing traumatic experiences to consciousness often comes about much quicker and more completely by the action of the Holy Spirit. “The spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all his innermost parts” (Prov. 20:27) We can ask Him to illuminate our past and lead us to those incidents that we have still not accepted wholeheartedly. We can save a lot of time if we go into analysis with the Holy Spirit... who is our true and ultimate therapist. Nothing is hidden from Him.” —Fr. Wilfrid Stinissen

INDULGENCES REMIND US CHRISTIANS AREN'T ALONE

Remission Before God of Temporal Punishment

"An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints." (CCC 1471)



There are very few words in Christian theology that spark as much confusion and controversy as the word "indulgence," and yet not one person in 100,000 who rejects it can accurately explain it. The concepts of Purgatory and indulgences are inextricably linked, as the blessed in Heaven do not need our prayers. It is us, in fact, who need their prayers. The common misconception is that indulgences wipe away sins. This is flatly incorrect. The sacrament of Reconciliation does that. Instead, indulgences are a remission of the temporal punishment due for sins that have already been forgiven through sacramental confession. The example I was taught as a child was if a nail is driven into a piece of wood, the nail could be retracted but the hole would remain. Similarly, if someone is punched in the face, breaking his nose and glasses and blackening his eye, the puncher could be truly remorseful and that remorse could drive him to the sacrament of Reconciliation through which he would surely be forgiven of his sin. Unfortunately, this does the punchee very little good. The man who was the target of the puncher's wrath still has a bruised and broken nose, a nonfunctioning pair of glasses and a swollen eye. Is it fair to suggest that once the sinner has been forgiven in confession he has no obligations to the man he attacked? This is horrendous psychology and sociology, as well as bad theology and spirituality.

Forgiveness is assured by Christ's sacrifice and the mediation of the Church of God's grace, but the debt accrued by one's sin is still present... If he has no intention of helping those he hurt, can anyone say he is truly remorseful? If he isn't remorseful, why bother asking for forgiveness? Thus, indulgences themselves don't wipe away sins. They're not a "get-out-of-Purgatory-free card." They are, instead, a means by which the faithful may make full amends for their sins and be inspired to a love for others—the opposite of sinfulness. Sacred Scripture backs up the need for indulgences by pointing out the pernicious and perfidious nature of sin (James 1:14-15): "But we are tempted when we are drawn away and trapped by our own evil desires. Then our evil desires conceive and give birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."

There are two kinds of sins humans can commit: mortal, which is a grave offense that is committed knowingly and freely, and venial. All sin is serious and "represents an unhealthy attachment to creatures," that is, the material world, and is thus, a rejection of God. Indulgences can be full or partial and are granted for specific good works and prayers. They are granted after the penitent has confessed and received absolution from the Church. The Church teaches that indulgences draw upon the storehouse of grace accrued by Christ's sacrifice and the virtues and penances of all Christians—those in Heaven, in Purgatory and upon earth. As we are united to all Christians, whether dead or alive, it is believed that the living can assist souls in Purgatory through our prayers and indulgences performed with the expressed desire to assist them. Due to revisions made during Vatican II, Pope Paul VI clarified the Church's position of indulgences as not only a way to make amends for their sins but also to inspire the faithful to greater love of Christ but showing their sorrow for their sins. As the Pope wrote in his *Indulgentiarum Doctrina*: "Indulgences cannot be gained without a sincere conversion of outlook and unity with God."

The Church recognizes two types of indulgences: plenary and partial. To gain a plenary indulgence, which remits all temporal punishment until that point, the faithful must: eschew all attachment to sin, perform the indulgenced act, receive the Sacrament of Penance, receive Holy Communion, and pray for the Holy Father's intentions. To gain a partial indulgence, the faithful must: be contrite and sorrowful for their sins and perform the act of mercy/penance. Plenary indulgences can be gained in several ways, including: praying before the Blessed Sacrament for at least half an hour, praying the Stations of the Cross, praying the Rosary in a church, with one's family, a religious community, or group, reading Sacred Scripture for at least half an hour, receiving a papal *Urbi et Orbi* blessing in person, by radio or television on January 1 of every year, participating in a spiritual retreat of at least three full days, and participating in the Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage in Northern Spain and walking at least 61 miles (100 kilometers) along it.

By God's grace, our prayers are efficacious in helping others. Certainly, all Christians understand that our prayers can help others who are currently alive. Catholic, Orthodox and many other Christians believe that our prayers for the deceased have the same effect.

—Article by National Catholic Register



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 BRETHERN

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www.leastofmybrethren.org/linktree

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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.

DEVOTIONS EXPLAINED

Fasting

The practice of fasting predates Christianity. The Old Testament is full of examples of righteous men and women mortifying their flesh for the purpose of making atonement or simply to grow closer to God.



Jesus Himself fasted for forty days and forty nights in preparation for the beginning of His public ministry, and we see His disciples following His example in the Acts of the Apostles.

Fasting continues to be an important part of Christian devotional life today. Many people feel the practice of fasting enhances their prayer and helps them fulfill St. Paul's advice to "put to death the deeds of the body" (Romans 8:13) to grow in the Spirit. Most Catholics will associate fasting with the liturgical season of Lent, which begins and ends with obligatory fasting for all members of the Latin Catholic Church between ages 18 and 59.



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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)**
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- HEARTS RESTORED (HEALING AFTER ABORTION)**
Phone.....402-783-4673
Website.....heartsrestorednebraska.org
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Retrouvaille.....www.helpourmarriage.org
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Website.....jpiiomaha.org
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- 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, FEBRUARY 28



His Global Love Prayer Communities invite you to a Healing Mass on Friday, February 28 at St. Gerald Catholic Church (9602 Q St, Ralston). The rosary will begin at 6:15 PM with praise and worship to follow. Mass will start at 7 PM. Fr. Kevin Joyce from His Global Love Ministry will be presiding. All are welcome. Questions, contact Frances Mignon at 402-515-8000.

WOMEN’S RETREAT—ST. CHARLES BORROME0, MARCH 1

Join the women of St. Charles Borromeo for an inspiring day of fellowship, praise, and deepening your relationship with our Lord and Savior. This special gathering is an opportunity to connect with one another, grow in faith, and explore the transformative power of prayer. This women’s retreat, *In His Presence: Draw Near to Jesus Through Prayer*, will take place on Saturday, March 1 from 9 AM to 3 PM. There is an optional Rosary at 8 AM and Mass at 8:30 AM at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church (7790 192nd St, Gretna). The cost is \$20, which includes continental breakfast and lunch. Registrations are due February 26, by visiting: stcharlesomaha.org/womensretreat or call Bertie 402-651-1616.



“THE WAY” THROUGH GRIEF—CATHOLIC CEMETERIES, STARTING MARCH 1



If you have felt the pain of sorrow and grief, Catholic Cemeteries is offering a grief workshop called “The Way” through Grief.” This workshop consists of six-two-hour sessions beginning at 10:30 AM on Saturday, March 1 and running through April 5. Through prayerful reflection with guided fellowship, we learn to journey in life from grief to the life our Lord wishes for us. To register or for more information, contact Deacon Jim Tardy at 402-391-3711 or jtardy@catholiccem.com.

MONASTIC EXPERIENCE—BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF PERPETUAL ADORATION, CLYDE, MO, MARCH 8-13

Come, let us Adore—The Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration invite single women, ages 18 to 40 who are considering religious life, to a Monastic Experience March 8-13 at their monastery in Clyde, Missouri. It’s a chance to experience the daily rhythm of monastic life where participants can join the sisters in praying the divine office, attending daily Mass, spending time in personal prayer, and opening their hearts to God’s call by learning about discernment and prayer. There is no cost to attend, and more details are available at www.benedictinesisters.org—Vocations—Walk With Us. To register, please contact Sr. Maria Victoria at 660-944-2221 ext. 127 or vocation@benedictinesisters.org.



LIFERUNNERS PRO-LIFE BANQUET—BELLEVUE BERRY FARM, MARCH 28



Join LIFE Runners for an inspiring evening at the “All In Christ for Pro-Life” Banquet on Friday, March 28! This is a unique opportunity to hear from Archbishop Broglio, USCCB president, and Military Archdiocese, and to enjoy the engaging presence of Jen Brown, co-host of the KVSS Spirit Mornings show. The evening begins with a social at 6 PM at Western Barn, Bellevue Berry Farm (11001 S 48th St, Omaha). Details and registration at liferunners.org/banquet.

3 DAY SILENT DIRECTED RETREATS—CREIGHTON RETREAT CENTER, GRISWOLD, IA, VARIOUS DATES

Come away to the quiet and be present to what God wants to offer you. Creighton University Retreat Center, located one hour east of Omaha (16493 Contrail Ave, Griswold, IA) is offering 3 Day Silent Directed Retreats at the times listed below. Retreats begin 6 PM supper the first day and end at 3 PM the last day. The cost is \$375 for room, meals, and daily individual spiritual direction sessions. Read more and/or register at creighton.edu/retreatcenter/scheduleofretreats. Choose one from these available dates: Thursday to Sunday, April 10-13; Thursday to Sunday, May 1-4; Sunday to Wednesday, June 29 to July 2.



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