

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET GREYNA, NE 68028



8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“A good tree does not bear rotten fruit.”

- Lk 6:43

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

MARCH 2, 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 A 84576

MASS AND HOLY EUCHARIST

Saturday.....5:00 PM
Sunday.....8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, & Noon
Tuesday.....6:00 PM
Mon, Wed, Thurs, and Fri.....7:30 AM
Holy Days.....7:30 AM & 6:00 PM
Holidays (on weekdays)9:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday.....4:00 PM - 4:40 PM
Or call the parish office for an appointment.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Parishioners registered for a minimum of one year are eligible to marry here. Six months of marriage preparation prior to your wedding is required by the Archdiocese. Contact the Parish Office to schedule a wedding date and marriage preparation instruction.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms take place on the first and third Sundays of each month after the Noon Mass. A baptismal date will not be set until you become a registered parishioner and both the parents and Godparents attend the baptismal class for their first child. Classes are held at 7 PM on the second Monday of each month in the Fr. Hitch Room. Please call the Parish Office if you will be attending the class.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

If you, a relative or friend are hospitalized or shut in, short or long term, and would like a visit from the Pastor, Deacon or Pastoral Minister, please call the Parish Office. For emergencies or if facing danger or death, call 402-332-4428 or 531-466-2453.

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Access the Adoration Chapel through the Church from 6 AM to 7 PM or contact the office for an access card to the back door. To sign up for an hour, contact Jean Hlavacek at 402-504-4222.

REFLECT AND RESPOND

8th Sunday of Ordinary Time

FIRST READING (SIR 27:4-7)

Sirach teaches us to pay attention to how people speak; it reveals a lot. How often do you find yourself weighing your words before speaking?

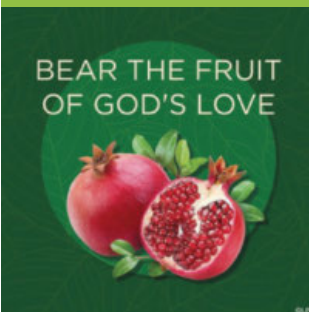
SECOND READING (1 COR 15:54-58)

Paul speaks of Jesus's resurrection as taking away the "sting" and "victory" of death. What words of comfort do you use to those grieving over the death of a loved one?

GOSPEL (LK 6:39-45)

Jesus encourages His followers to be humble in judgment of others and mindful in speech. Have you had good role models in your life for these virtues?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



One of the things that older pastors and younger priests occasionally quarrel about is the proper balance between work and prayer. I know one pastor who complains that his younger associate ignores the people and the parish because he wants to spend more time in prayer. And the young priest complains that the pastor gives him too much work to do and no time to pray. The Lord's words this Sunday speak into this tension with an image that can help us find a proper balance between life and prayer.

Jesus says, "For every tree is known by its fruit. For people do not pick figs from thorn bushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles" (Luke 6:44). When we are deeply rooted and cultivating our relationship with Jesus, we are going to bear the fruit of that love in our lives. No fruit, no good prayer. How do we know that we are praying well? We are experiencing concrete fruits of love for others in our lives.

Someone who prays well will, sooner or later, burst forth the "figs" and "grapes" of acts of love. But without concrete commitment to deeds of selfless service to others, our prayer time is as useless as thorn bushes and brambles. Let's recommit ourselves to be men and women of prayer and service. And hopefully the pastors will help their associates to pray and serve fruitfully... with minimal quarreling.

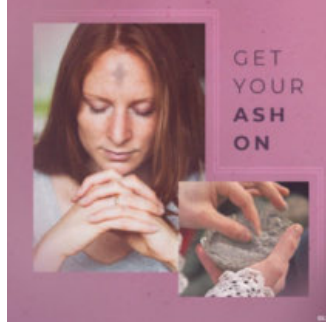
CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

Why do we place ashes on our forehead each Ash Wednesday?

ANSWER:

Ashes are rich in spiritual symbolism. We recall in the second chapter of Genesis, when the human person is fashioned "out of the dust of the ground" and receives the breath of life (Genesis 2:7). In death, a person returns to the ground from which we came. The ancient Hebrews used ashes as a sign of repentance, reminding themselves that God is God and we are not.



As the minister places ashes on our forehead, we hear either "remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return" or "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." When we receive ashes, we remember our own mortality. We're reminded that we have limited time on this earth and we ought to make the best use of it that we can! People are in need of love, care, and compassion. We all need to continually rediscover the love of God. The Gospel invites every person in every stage of life to encounter and imitate Jesus here and now. The forty days of Lent are the perfect time to assess our own awareness of these realities.

"God gives us certain abilities and interests and they are truly that: gifts. This means we should approach them with gratitude and mission. Comparing ourselves to others, then, is pointless and begrudges the giver. How exquisite that we all have different gifts. And the reality that He's bestowed them on us should embolden us to develop them and serve Him and others through them."

—Carrie Gress and Noelle Mering, *Theology of Home II: The Spiritual Art of Homemaking*, p.123

SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL

Religious



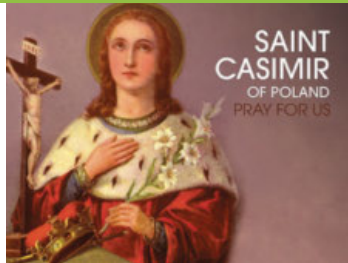
St. Katharine Drexel (1858-1955) was a wealthy heiress from a prominent family in Philadelphia. From a young age she felt called to serve the spiritual and temporal needs of the underprivileged, particularly the African American and Native American communities. She learned the virtue of charity from her parents, who often opened their home to the poor. She began by donating money, but quickly realized this would not bring the lasting change these communities desperately needed. During an audience with Pope Leo XIII she requested that a religious order be sent to manage the institutions she was funding. In response, the Pope suggested that she herself

enter the religious life for this purpose. St. Katharine then founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People. From the age of 33 until her death in 1955, Katharine invested her personal fortune of 20 million dollars in this cause. She helped build the first missions school for Native Americans in Santa Fe, and founded Xavier University in New Orleans. At the time of her death, more than 500 sisters of her order taught in over 60 schools which had been founded throughout the country. Katharine Drexel was canonized by Pope St. John Paul II in the year 2000, making her the second American-born saint. Her feast day is March 3.

SAINT CASIMIR OF POLAND

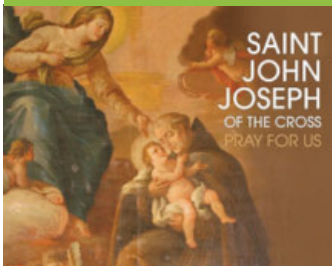
Religious

St. Casimir of Poland (1458-1484) was the second son of King Casimir IV and Queen Elizabeth of Austria, one of thirteen children born to them in the royal palace at Cracow. Casimir committed his life to God from an early age, thanks in part to a brilliant and pious priest who served as the royal tutor. He turned away from the privileges of his station in life and instead exercised extreme asceticism and self-denial. He wore a hairshirt under his clothes, slept on the cold ground, and knelt in prayer for long hours outside of locked churches. At the age of thirteen the Hungarians requested Prince Casimir to rule their country as king, which he accepted in the hope of defending the Christian nation against the Turks. However, the plan did not come to fruition and he returned home to continue his life of prayer, penance, and generosity to the poor. He later ruled Poland for a few short years while his father attended royal business in Lithuania. Casimir took a vow of celibacy which he upheld despite immense political pressure to marry. He suffered from a chronic lung condition, which he succumbed to in 1484 at the age of 25. Many miracles were attributed to his intercession after his death. St. Casimir is the patron saint of Poland, Lithuania, and young people. His feast day is March 4.



SAINT JOHN-JOSEPH OF THE CROSS

Religious



St. John-Joseph of the Cross (1654-1739) was born on the island of Ischia, near Naples. He joined the Franciscan Order of the Strict Observance (the reform of St. Peter of Alcantara) at age sixteen. His influence was great despite his young age, and after three years he was sent to help found a new order of friars in Piedmont, where he was ordained to the priesthood. He codified a set of guidelines for spiritual and daily life that were approved by the Holy See and became a lasting model for religious communities. In 1702 he was appointed

Vicar Provincial of the Alcantarine Reform in Italy. During his time as Vicar he implemented a rule that no beggar would be turned away without assistance, and in times of extreme scarcity he would offer his own portion to the poor. He was known as a deeply holy man who served Christ and the monastic community through daily acts of mortification and humility. Despite his high ranking position, he continued to lead a life of service and took on menial tasks whenever possible, from working in the kitchen to chopping firewood. He was said to have performed numerous miracles as well as the gift of prophecy. St. John-Joseph of the Cross is the patron saint of Ischia and his feast day is March 5.

Dear Jesus, fill my heart so full of goodness that it produces your goodness. Let my thoughts, words, and actions reflect you. Amen.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Sir 17:20-24/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 10:17-27

TUESDAY: Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14 and 23/Mk 10:28-31

WEDNESDAY: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

THURSDAY: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25

FRIDAY: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15

SATURDAY: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32

NEXT SUNDAY: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (see 5b)/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

MONDAY: St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin

TUESDAY: St. Casimir

WEDNESDAY: Ash Wednesday

FRIDAY: Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

SATURDAY: St. John of God, Religious

NEXT SUNDAY: 1st Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving Time begins

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

TO YOU GOD ENTRUSTED HIS ONLY SON;

IN YOU MARY PLACED HER TRUST;

WITH YOU CHRIST BECAME MAN.

OBTAIN FOR US GRACE MERCY

AND COURAGE. AMEN.

POPE FRANCIS



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

PARISH BREAKFASTS
Every Second Sunday



You are invited to join us in the Parish Center every second Sunday of the month, this month March 9, from 9 AM to 12 PM for a delicious breakfast. It's a perfect way to gather after Sunday Mass and get to know other parishioners here at St. Patrick.

STUDENT INSTRUMENTALISTS
Play for Mass Occasionally



Woodwind, brass, and string players add beautiful tonal variety to Sunday Masses and Holy Days. High School

players with at least three years of instrumental study are invited to play for occasional Masses. To express interest or learn more, please contact Laura Rau at 402-332-4444 or lrau@archomaha.org.

SEMINARIAN PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Omaha.

This week let us pray for **Kyle Snodgrass** (Propaedeutic Year) from St. Francis of Assisi in Neligh.



"Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?" (Luke 6:41) Jesus calls us to self-awareness and humility, reminding us to look inward before we judge others. This same humility is essential when discerning how God is calling us to serve. Are you being called to dedicate your life to God's service as a priest or religious brother or sister? Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.

 *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://stpatricksgretna.org/education/faith-formation/true-presence>.



LENTEN REFLECTIONS FOR WOMEN
The Beauty of God's Design

Lenten Reflections for Women:
The Beauty of God's Design

Saturday, March 15 | 8 AM

8 AM - Mass
9 AM - Sharon Doran & Continental Breakfast

Sharon Doran of Seeking Truth Catholic Bible Study will speak on Mary's role as "The Helper" and the beauty of God's design for women.

Open to all women of the parish. Free will offering requested.



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://stpatricksgretna.org>.

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 stpatricksgretna.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 stpatricksgretna.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://holyyheroes.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>

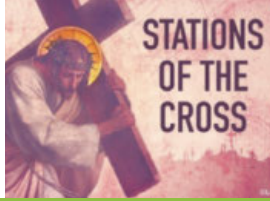
LENT BEGINS ON WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday Mass, Fasting, and the Stations of the Cross



Join us for Mass on Wednesday, March 5 at 7:30 AM or 6 PM for Ash Wednesday Mass. Attending Mass is a great way to start off the Lenten season.

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal. Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.



You can also join us every Friday during Lent at 6 PM for the Stations of the Cross with the only exception being Good Friday, April 18, when Stations will be at 3 PM instead of 6 PM.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Gretna, Nebraska



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 16 at 7 PM). Come join our brother parishioners for prayer and fraternity! If you have additional questions, please reach out to Matthew Henry at mattnhenry@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.



LENTEN FISH FRIES

Join us every Friday during Lent, March 7 through April 11 from 5 PM to 7:30 PM for our Lenten Fish Frys. Dine-in and Drive Thru options are available. Menu includes: fried or baked Alaskan pollock*, scalloped potatoes*, or French fries*, green beans*, mac and cheese, coleslaw*, bread, and coffee, tea, or lemonade. (*Gluten Free) Beer, wine, and mixed drinks will be available for purchase. Adult plates are \$15 and children (ages 6-10) are \$8. There will be kids activities provided by the St. Patrick Youth Group. Volunteers are needed, see the parish website for details.

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'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 or visit the parish website.

FIRST FRIDAY AFTERNOON MASS AND ANNOINTING

Gretna - Springfield Family of Parishes

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



"The fast of Lent has no advantage to us unless it brings about our spiritual renewal. It is necessary while fasting to change our whole life and practice virtue. Turning away from all wickedness means keeping our tongue in check, restraining our anger, avoiding all gossip, lying, and swearing. To abstain from these things—herein lies the true value of the fast." —St. John Chrysostom

Stewardship Report		
<i>Feb 19-Feb 25, 2025</i>		
<i>Current Fiscal Year - July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025</i>		
General Contributions	Feb 19-Feb 25, 2025	Fiscal YTD thru Feb 25
Sunday Offering	\$27,622.33	\$856,328.68
Other Contributions	\$906.80	\$84,539.24
Total General Contributions	\$28,529.13	\$940,867.92 *
Surplus/Deficit	\$2,279.13	\$48,367.92

* 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

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, MARCH 3RD

7:30 AM † Deceased Members of the Ingram and Bruck Families

TUESDAY, MARCH 4TH

6:00 PM † Joseph Piccolo and † Debbie Piccolo Bercum

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH

7:30 AM † Constance Wesely
6:00 PM † Herbert Weier

THURSDAY, MARCH 6TH

7:30 AM † Deacon Bill Camp

FRIDAY, MARCH 7TH

7:30 AM † Roger and Jean Mann

SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH

5:00 PM † Michael Wuerfele

SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH

8:00 AM For Our Parishioners
10:00 AM † Ron Vencil
12:00 PM † Joseph Ostdiek

LITURGICAL VESTMENT COLORS

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



Let us pray for Nancy S., Herb Rogers, Lucy Winter, Irene Harris, Celeste Baumert, Joe Carney, Ronald Baxter (Fr. Baxter's dad), Paul Polt, and Leanne Robb. Pray for John and Wanda Jonas, Ed, and Jo Anne Lyons (mom of Theresa Gulizia). Pray for Marolyn, Lil Herbstritt, Deacon David Medeiros, and Reece Bittner (grandson of Bruce Jefferies). Pray also for all our parishioners who are homebound, hospitalized, and in nursing homes, and for all our parishioners and loved ones who have recently passed away.

To add a loved one to the prayer line, please call Corliss Lovstad at 402-968-5877 or email her at clovstad@gmail.com.

THE WEEK AHEAD

SUNDAY, MARCH 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

MONDAY, MARCH 3RD

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Ascension Adult Bible Study—Parish Center A and Kitchen

TUESDAY, MARCH 4TH

5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus Holy Hour of Prayer—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 6:40 PM Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM Clear Path Meeting—Father Hitch Room
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting—Parish Center AB

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH—ASH WEDNESDAY—NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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
5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

THURSDAY, MARCH 6TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM Women's Small Group—Basement Commons
6:00 PM to 8:30 PM Knights of Columbus Fish Fry Prep—Parish Center A and Kitchen
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM Discernment Group Meeting—Father Hitch Room
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Lenten Bible Study—Parish Center C
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM OCIA—Youth Group Room

FRIDAY, MARCH 7TH

6:30 AM to 7:30 AM Men's Faith Sharing—Father Hitch Room
7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Women's Faith Sharing—Father Hitch Room
5:00 PM to 8:00 PM Knights of Columbus Fish Fry—Parish Center and Kitchen

SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH

12:00 PM to 6:00 PM Private Event—Parish Center A
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, MARCH 9TH—1ST SUNDAY OF LENT—NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Parish Breakfast—Parish Center and Kitchen

BLACK AND INDIAN MISSIONS COLLECTION

Second Collection Next Weekend, March 8-9

Next weekend our parish will take up the 141st annual National Black and Indian Mission Collection. Our support of this collection helps build the Church in African American, Native American, and Alaskan Native communities from coast to coast. Schools, parish religious education programs, and diocesan ministries depend on your generosity to help them spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ! You can help meet unmet needs with a generous contribution today. Thank you for your support and generosity! For more information visit www.blackandindianmission.org.



"Continuously ask your guardian angel for help. Your guardian angel has to become your best friend." —Blessed Carlo Acutis

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

1st Sunday of Lent

MARCH 8TH
5:00 PM

Sacristan
Linda Schriener

Lectors
Barb Applegate
(Read the 1st Reading)

Crystal Schroeder
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Christine Walstrom
Tracy Wollenburg
Therese Nisbet
Sue Korth
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Chris Lingbloom
Andy Pearson
Lisa Willert
Jeff Wollenburg

Rosary Reciter
Jayne Schram

Altar Servers
Shailynn Gatewood
Colin Lingbloom
Need Sub

Greeters
Chris Gatewood
Need Sub

MARCH 9TH
8:00 AM

Sacristan
Lori Frederick

Lectors
Duane Benes
(Read the 1st Reading)

Sandy Scheef
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Rob Polak
Laura Fischer
Tim Gilligan
Marilyn Havel
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Greg Jones
Pat Shurtliff
Marty Stednitz
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Theresa Huttmann

Altar Servers
Jacob Kula
Nick Kula
Sarah Kula

Greeters
Mary Maw
Need Sub

Hilcrest SR/HL
Mike and Paula Siegel

MARCH 9TH
10:00 AM

Sacristan
Mitch Wendlandt

Lectors
Michael Chatterson
(Read the 1st Reading)

David Burke
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Carol Hoover
Kathy Wendlandt
Bridget Chatterson
Darcy Skrdla

Ushers
Clint Bollock
Norris Hoover
Tom Nienaber
Chris Reinig

Rosary Reciter
Jim Hottov

Altar Servers
Kalla Kassmeier
Kameron Kassmeier
Klayton Kassmeier

Greeters
Tony Tiefenthaler
Need Sub

Vocations Crucifix Merrill Neary

MARCH 9TH
NOON

Sacristan
Larry Neppi

Lectors
Karen Meyerott
(Read the 1st Reading)

Need Sub
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Larry Neppi
Larry Neppi
Need Sub
Need Sub

Ushers
Linda Gardner
Larry Neppi
Doris Williams
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Norm Svoboda

Altar Servers
Need Sub
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Jeanette Roy
Doris Williams



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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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jmjefferies@archomaha.org

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smfagan@archomaha.org

DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

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

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Laura Rau.....402-332-4444, x216
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Janell Ronk.....402-510-9413

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday

MARCH 5TH
7:30 AM

Sacristan
Joan Ingram

Lectors
Kathy Schwarting
(Read the 1st Reading)

Jolene Jefferies
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Norm Svoboda
Gene Schwarting

Ushers
Norm Svoboda
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Carol Zeleny

Altar Servers
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Steve Ingram
Need Sub

MARCH 5TH
6:00 PM

Sacristan
Jim Hottov

Lectors
Barb Applegate
(Read the 1st Reading)

Sandy Scheef
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Christine Walstrom
Sue Korth

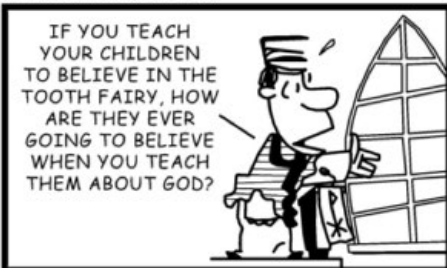
Andi Towey
Need Sub

Ushers
Need Sub
Need Sub
Need Sub
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Carol Zeleny

Greeters
Need Sub
Need Sub

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

EXAMINATION OF LOVE
Continued From the Right Column

and I remind you that there is great freedom in forgiving. Ask the Lord to show you any relationships where you need to offer deeper forgiveness. Then pray, "In Jesus' name, I forgive (name) for (what), and I release them from their debt to me and ask you to bless them abundantly." Remember, forgiveness will bless you more than them! They may not even know that you were offended, yet when you forgive from the heart like Jesus, the burden, the grudge, the brooding will leave you. The love of Jesus will set you free!

Take time this month to examine your love as we approach Lent. A Lenten practice that the Lord invites us into is always better than what we throw together on Ash Wednesday! Be assured of my prayers for you, and may we grow in charity and more perfectly glorify our Father in Heaven.

—Article by Denver Catholic

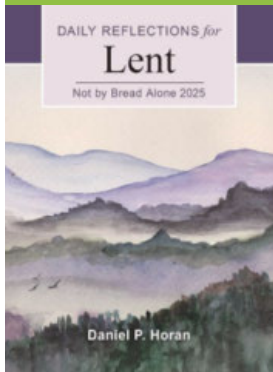
SUMMER ACTIVITIES
Totus Tuus and VBS

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)



LENTEN DEVOTIONALS
Pick Up in the Narthex



Pick up a Lenten devotional, *Daily Reflections for Lent: Not by Bread Alone*, in the narthex. Each day of this devotional includes Scripture, a reflection, a meditation, and a prayer. Make Lent more than just giving up chocolate, but spend more time in prayer with Him whom loves you the most.

AN EXAMINATION OF LOVE AS LENT APPROACHES

Love Transforms us and Gets us to Heaven

Over the last few years, I have spoken and written often about the importance of abiding in relationship with the Holy Trinity. The underlying principle that makes this abiding possible is the gift of God's love, which we call charity. One of the main points that I stress is that the love that transforms us and gets us to Heaven is one that loves God first and above all things. This point cannot be understated.



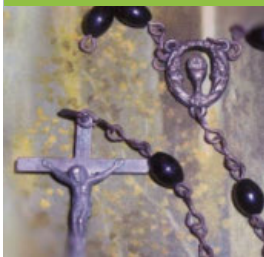
The Lord Himself gave this command to the people of Israel, "Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength. Take to heart these words which I command you today" (Dt 6:4-6). Furthermore, Jesus in the Gospel teaches us, "as I have loved you, so you also should love one another" (Jn 13:34). And He gives us the command, "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you" (Lk 6:27). As we begin to ponder how Jesus is calling us to approach Lent, I offer here an examination of our love. Please pray with it and ask the Lord how he is inviting you to love Him more fully.

1. **Do you dedicate time each day to give praise and worship to God?**—Daily personal prayer is necessary if we are to follow Jesus as His disciples. What we do in that time is just as important as carving the time out itself. In prayer, we want two things: to receive God's love more deeply and to love God more perfectly. I encourage you to examine how much time you spend simply telling God how much you love Him, praising Him for His goodness and blessing His name. "It is truly right and just" to worship the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Let us make sure that our prayer time is giving glory to the Holy Trinity and not only looking at ourselves.
2. **Do you regularly read the Bible and allow it to guide your life?**—Jesus teaches His disciples, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments" (Jn 14:15). If we love God above all things, His Word will shape and guide every aspect of our lives. This is nearly impossible without frequent reading and prayer with Sacred Scripture. If regular Scripture reading is new to you, begin with the Gospels (especially the Gospel of Mark!). Allow the Word to speak to your heart, listening to each word from the mouth of Jesus as addressed to you personally. In His love, how is He calling you to conform your heart and behaviors to His?
3. **Do you make the Lord's Day a priority?**—God commanded His people to keep the Sabbath holy. In the new covenant, we honor the Lord, especially on Sunday, in remembrance of Jesus' Resurrection. How do we honor the Lord on Sunday? Is it a day of rest and prayer? Or a day to catch up on work and prepare for the week ahead? Is Mass something you fit in? Or is the rest of the day scheduled around it? Do you encounter Jesus as you listen to His Word and receive Him in the Eucharist? Let your heart cry out, "Jesus, help me to love you in your Word and in the Eucharist."
4. **Do you receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the intention of reconciling with God or clearing your conscience?**—The sacrament of Confession is an incredible gift from God to help us receive His forgiveness and love and to grow in grace and virtue. Our disposition to the sacrament matters. Sometimes, we can be motivated to go to Confession to relieve our guilt. While we should still certainly go, it is more perfect to desire to go to Confession to reconcile with God. Do our hearts miss the intimacy we may have lost with God because of our sins? Or do we need to clear our conscience and move on?
5. **Do you have worldly attachments which get in the way of your love for God?**—Attachments are not necessarily always sinful, but they do prevent us from growing in charity. Our human hearts have finite abilities. Although we often think we can have it both ways, the Lord tells us we must choose one over the other. "No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon" (Mt 6:24). What attachments are preventing you from serving and loving God more fully? Are you more attached to money, judgments, political parties, or work than to the love of God?
6. **How do you give to those who have no way to repay you?**—Jesus is the most perfect example of charity in action in a human heart. His highest act of charity is giving His life for us on the Cross. In Jesus' sacrifice, He shows us that if we truly loved, we would not consider "What's in it for us?" Through Jesus' Passion, God chooses to love us and fix the mess we have made, even though we have no way to repay God for original sin or our personal daily sins. In what ways do we love those who have no way to repay us or fix what they have done?
7. **Are there relationships in your life that require deeper forgiveness?**—I have written before on the necessity and power of forgiveness. I reiterate that Christians are required to forgive,

Continued in the left column—>

REVERENTLY DISPOSING DAMAGED BLESSED OBJECTS

Do You Have a Broken or Deteriorated Rosary or Scapular?



Father Eduardo Hayen Cuarón of Juarez, Mexico provided advice to help dispose of damaged blessed objects properly. According to the Code of Canon Law #1171, "Sacred objects, which are designated for divine worship by dedication or blessing, are to be treated reverently and are not to be employed for profane or inappropriate use even if they are owned by private persons."

On his Twitter account, Father Eduardo explained that "There are Catholics who do not know what to do with their deteriorated religious objects that have been blessed by a priest or deacon." In a tweet with almost 5,000 views, the priest recalled these objects, "if they have been blessed by a priest, have a spiritual power, and must be treated properly when they have already been damaged..."

WHAT PROCESS SHOULD I FOLLOW?

"They can be buried or burned, giving thanks to God because they fulfilled their function of being sacramentals that led us to the sacraments and the relationship with God. If you cannot get rid of the objects, take them to a parish so they can dispose of them there."

CAN WE REPAIR THEM?

Among the comments, one user asked if a damaged rosary could be repaired. The priest noted: "Of course, it can be recovered. I have broken some rosaries, and it was all a matter of the chain being a little open in one of its gears."

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO DISPOSE OF BLESSED OBJECTS

The Diocese of Superior, Wisconsin provides these additional suggestions for damaged blessed items:

1. Do not throw blessed items away if they are not burnable.
2. Disassemble or destroy the blessed object in a manner that prevents profane use. Give them to your parish for burial in a cemetery or on Church grounds.
3. "If the item is metal that could be melted down for re-use, it must first be disassembled or destroyed in a way that prevents any profane re-use in its recognizable form prior to its trip to the smelter."

—Article by Church Pop

EASTER FLOWER OFFERING

Make a Gift In Memory/Honor Of...

If you receive giving envelopes from the parish you may have seen this envelope to donate to the Easter Flower Offering. Anyone who wishes to be recognized in a future bulletin with their loved ones listed "In Memory/Honor Of" can easily do so by filling out the offering envelope and including your donation inside or by filling out the form below and returning it to the Parish Office with your donation by April 13. If you are donating online please fill out the form below and return it to the Parish Office. We greatly appreciate your donation to help decorate our beloved Church during the Easter season and to remember/honor our loved ones.



EASTER FLOWER OFFERING

In Memory/Honor Of...

_____ In Memory / Honor of (please circle)

_____ In Memory / Honor of (please circle)

_____ In Memory / Honor of (please circle)

_____ In Memory / Honor of (please circle)

_____ In Memory / Honor of (please circle)

Your Name _____

(Please Circle)— Donated Online / Check Included / Cash Included

Amount included: \$ _____



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jjwotipka@archomaha.org

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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

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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.

BLESSED PALMS TO BE BURNED

Return Your Old Palms

During this season of Lent, we ask that you bring in any old blessed palms you no longer desire to keep. A basket labeled "old palms" will be made available in the narthex for collection throughout the Lenten season. As a reminder any blessed objects you no longer wish to keep can be brought to the parish office for proper disposal during regular office hours.



DON'T RESPOND TO SPAM

Double Check the Email



If you have received a message from Father Baxter from any email

other than gpbaxter@archomaha.org or via text message that looks suspicious, DON'T RESPOND. It is spam! Father Baxter would never email or text a parishioner for a "special request" or "need a favor". Unfortunately, spammers have been masking themselves as Father Baxter, and using fake emails or phone numbers. If it seems out of the ordinary, chances are it isn't genuine.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

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Website.....al-anon.org

BOYS TOWN NATIONAL HOTLINE
Phone.....1-800-448-3000
Website.....www.boystown.org

CATHOLIC ANSWERS
Phone.....1-888-318-7884
Website.....www.catholic.com

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES
Grief & Healing Counselor.....402-391-3711
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Gretna.....402-332-3475

CATHOLIC CHARITIES—OMAHA
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Website.....ccomaha.org

CATHOLIC VOICE ONLINE
Website.....catholicvoiceomaha.com

COURAGE (PASTORAL SUPPORT—SAME-SEX ATTRACTION)
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Website.....couragerc.org

EWTN (GLOBAL CATHOLIC TELEVISION NETWORK)
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Website.....heartsrestorednebraska.org

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Website.....holyfamilyshrine.com

LEAST OF MY BRETHREN (SUPPORT HOMELESS)
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Website.....leastofmybrethren.org

MARRIAGE RESOURCES
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Retrouvaille.....1-800-470-2230
Retrouvaille.....www.helpourmarriage.org

MASS TIMES NATIONWIDE
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Website.....www.masstimes.org

NEBRASKA HOMESCHOOL NETWORK
Website.....nebraskahomeschool.org

POPE PAUL VI INSTITUTE (FERTILITY HELP)
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Website.....www.popepaulvi.com

SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO—FM 102.7
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Website.....www.spiritcatholicradio.com

ST. BENEDICT CENTER (RETREATS IN SCHUYLER)
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Website.....christthekingpriory.com/sbcabout

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Website.....wcaomaha.org

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

IPF LENTEN MORNING OF REFLECTION—CHRIST THE KING, MARCH 15



Join the Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) for a Lenten Morning of Reflection, Saturday, March 15 at Christ the King Parish (654 S 86th St, Omaha). These annual Lenten gatherings offer an opportunity for the laity to experience the IPF charism used in the spiritual formation of diocesan seminarians and priests who participate in our programs. Presentations will be given by IPF staff members. The morning begins with the 8:15 AM parish Mass, includes a continental breakfast, presentations by the IPF staff, time for silent reflection, and concludes at Noon. There is no charge for the event, however a free will offering for the refreshments will be gratefully accepted. For planning purposes, please register online at www.priestlyformation.org or call Dawn at 531-272-8498.

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.



HOPE FOR LIFE—ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, MARCH 29

Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 29 to join Heart of a Child Ministries in standing for life after the 8:15 AM Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Parish (14330 Eagle Run Dr, Omaha) for a continental breakfast and an inspiring look at how our ministry is changing the heart of Nebraska—and changing the heart of the nation—one presentation at a time. Together, we can foster a wonder for life in young children and change over 50% of the minds of pro-abortion tweens and teenagers. You're invited to be the first to hear about the exciting new developments and growth at Heart of a Child Ministries! You won't want to miss it! RSVP for this event at <https://heartofachildministries.org/rsvp>. Can't attend but would love to support this mission, donate today at <https://heartofachildministries.org>.

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 Conrail 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.



MARIAN CONFERENCE—CHAMPION SHRINE, CHAMPION, WI, MARY 16-17



Join pilgrims from around the country for The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion's fourth-annual Marian Conference in Champion, WI! Focused on Mary as “Mother of Hope,” attendees will embrace the Marian themes of the Church's Jubilee Year of Hope, in addition to finding time for prayer, spiritual growth, and peace on Our Lady's grounds. Learn more about the speakers and register at <https://championshrine.org/marian-conference>. The Marian Conference is an Official Jubilee Event at Champion Shrine! Champion Shrine is a designated pilgrimage site for the 2025 Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope! By attending this event at the Shrine, you have an opportunity to receive a special Jubilee Indulgence!

“There are two ways of knowing how good God is: one is never to lose Him, and the other is to lose Him and then to find Him.” —Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

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OCTOBER EDITION

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