

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET GRETNA, NE 68028



4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“My sheep hear my voice; I know them,
and they follow me.” - Jn 10:27

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

MAY 11, 2025



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

Welcome

We invite you to become involved
in our parish community!

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

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

PARISH OFFICE

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

MASS AND HOLY EUCHARIST

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

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

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

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

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

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

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

REFLECT AND RESPOND

4th Sunday of Easter

FIRST READING (ACTS 13:14, 43-52)

Paul and Barnabas experienced resistance from some of the Jews and leaders of the city of Antioch. What sustains you in difficult and challenging experiences?

SECOND READING (RV 7:9, 14B-17)

John sees a vision in which those who have suffered and died for the faith are comforted by God and relieved of their distress. Is there a family member or friend you could comfort this week?

GOSPEL (JN 10:27-30)

We hear how Jesus gives eternal life to all who follow Him. How does following Jesus impact your work or family life?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



A few years back, I felt as if I couldn't hear God's voice the way I used to. The words in the Bible seemed like cold ink on a page. Prayer felt like sitting anxiously in a lonely room. I was worried—how could I, a priest, preach or help others if I couldn't hear God's voice? It went on for months.

Then a friend encouraged me to go on a retreat and spend as much time as possible in silence. After a day or two of quiet prayer, I noticed gentle but clear thoughts of repentance in two specific areas of my life. I asked God for the grace to change, and I went to confession. Suddenly,

the divine silence that haunted me was filled with a sense of God's closeness and goodness. I realized, gratefully, that God had been speaking to me in the quiet voice of my conscience.

This week we hear Jesus say, "My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me" (John 10:27). Jesus links the hearing of His voice to following Him. He speaks to us in our conscience in an intimate, personal way, when we most need to hear Him. When you feel deaf to God's voice, perhaps it is time to listen in silence for His voice in your conscience calling you to hear and follow the Good Shepherd of your soul.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

Why do Catholics genuflect?

ANSWER:

Genuflection is an act of devotion that literally means "to bend the knee." For many Catholics, it's an almost automatic gesture that we perform before entering our pew or row of seats at Mass. But, like many of the symbols and gestures of our faith tradition, genuflecting can also be an invitation for deeper reflection.



The practice of "bending the knee" is an ancient way of recognizing the presence of someone greater than we are. It has been said that the practice dates back to the time of Alexander the Great, but it became a common part of etiquette in the royal courts of the Middle Ages. From throne rooms and palaces, it was a small step to genuflecting becoming part of the devotional lives of Christians, who used this secular gesture as a way of recognizing the presence of the One who is King of Kings, especially in the Eucharist.

Today, Catholics are asked to genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar during Eucharistic Adoration). So, while it has become second nature to genuflect before entering your seat in church, we should pay attention to where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in each church or chapel that we visit, and genuflect in the direction of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. In churches or chapels in which the tabernacle is in a separate space, we are invited to simply bow toward the altar.

In addition to genuflecting before the Blessed Sacrament, we are also instructed to genuflect before the cross used for veneration on Good Friday (during the solemn celebrations of the Lord's Passion) and any time a relic of the True Cross is displayed for veneration. This long-standing tradition is a way of honoring the cross as the great sign of our salvation and of showing devotion to the passion of Jesus.

BLESSED IMELDA LAMBERTINI

Religious



Bl. Imelda Lambertini (1322–1333) was born to a noble and devout family in Bologna, Italy. As a child she developed a great love for prayer, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and the Holy Eucharist. She spent much of her time in the Dominican monastery praying with the nuns, and at nine years of age requested to enter there as a postulant. Her parents and the nuns allowed her to enter, however, in that era children her age were not permitted to receive Holy Communion. Imelda repeatedly pleaded to receive Communion, but each

time she was denied. Nevertheless, she developed a close relationship with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. When the feast of the Ascension approached, Imelda begged to make her First Holy Communion on this feast. Again, she was denied. On the Vigil of the Feast of the Ascension she was in the chapel praying, as usual, as the other Sisters received Holy Communion. Afterwards a glowing host was seen suspended in the air above the child. The priest understood this as a sign that the child should be permitted to receive, and he ministered the Holy Eucharist to her. Imelda remained kneeling in prayer in thanksgiving as the nuns left the chapel. When they returned for her, they found her just as they had left her, but her body was lifeless. It was understood that Imelda died of pure ecstatic joy after receiving Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, as she had so ardently desired. Bl. Imelda Lambertini is the patron saint of First Communicants. Her feast day is May 12.

SAINT JULIANA OF NORWICH

Religious

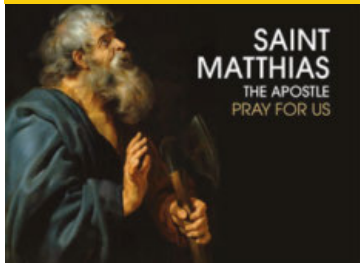
St. Julian/Juliana of Norwich (1342–1416) is a Benedictine nun who lived as a recluse in Norwich, England. Little is known of her life with certainty. At the age of 30 she was suddenly struck by a severe illness which almost took her life. During this illness she received a series of visions of Jesus Christ in sixteen separate revelations. When she recovered from her illness the visions stopped. Fifteen years later, Our Lord appeared to her to give her the meaning of her visions. St. Julian wrote her visions down in a book called

Revelations of Divine Love, the earliest surviving book in the English language known to have been written by a woman. After these revelations she began to live a solitary life as an anchoress in a little cell built into the wall at the church of St. Julian in Norwich, not far from London. During her life the Church was in schism, and England was caught in a long war with France. The book contains a message of optimism based on the certainty of being loved by God and of being protected by His Providence. She received visitors to her cell and gave them guidance on the spiritual life, becoming a spiritual mother to many. St. Julian is an important medieval mystic whose response to the problem of evil is cited in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Her feast day is May 13.



SAINT MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

Apostle and Martyr



St. Matthias the Apostle (1st c.) followed Jesus during His entire earthly ministry and was one of His 72 disciples. Matthias was chosen by the 11 Apostles to replace Judas Iscariot after his betrayal of Christ and subsequent suicide. After Christ's Ascension into Heaven, St. Matthias devoted himself to preaching Christianity among the pagans, some of them barbarians and cannibals, all over Judea, Cappadocia, and Ethiopia for over 30 years. Many miracles are ascribed to him as the pagans sought to kill him: that

he was unharmed after being forced to drink poison, that he once hid by becoming invisible, and that the earth opened up and swallowed his attackers. St. Matthias also preached the need for mortification of the flesh as an aid to growth in holiness. Eventually, at God's appointed time, he was martyred for the cause of Christ, though there are conflicting traditions as to exactly where and how. St. Matthias is the patron saint of carpenters, tailors, and reformed alcoholics. His feast day is May 14.

"The Eucharist is the Sacrament of Love; it signifies Love, it produces love. The Eucharist is the consummation of the whole spiritual life." —St. Thomas Aquinas



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:1-10

TUESDAY: Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 10:22-30

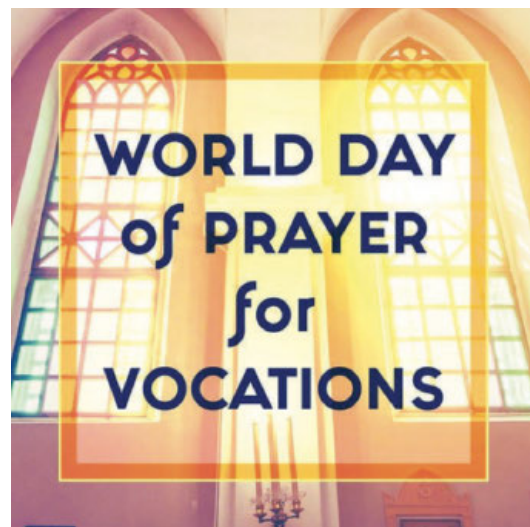
WEDNESDAY: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Jn 15:9-17

THURSDAY: Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/Jn 13:16-20

FRIDAY: Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/Jn 14:1-6

SATURDAY: Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 14:7-14

NEXT SUNDAY: Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13 (see 1)/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr

TUESDAY: Our Lady of Fatima

WEDNESDAY: St. Matthias, Apostle

THURSDAY: St. Isidore

SATURDAY: Armed Forces Day

NEXT SUNDAY: 5th Sunday of Easter





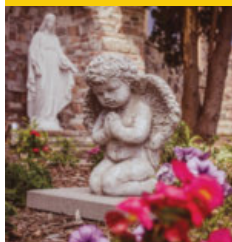
ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

TEMPORARY TABERNACLE Original Will Be Returned

You may have noticed that there is a different tabernacle in the Church, this is a temporary tabernacle. Our tabernacle needs to be serviced as the door has been getting stuck. It may be a few months before we will get it back. Thank you for understanding.



CEMETERY CLEAN UP Holy Sepulchre Cemetery



We will be having two clean up days at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery (23131 Schram Rd, Gretna) on Saturday, May 10 at 8 AM (or for a rain date on Saturday, May 17) and Saturday, June 14 at 8 AM (or for a rain date on Saturday, June 21). If you are available, please join us. Garden clean up tools and gloves are helpful to bring along with them if you have them. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Kathy at 402-740-1889. Thank you!

VOCATION PRAYER CORNER

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

This week let us pray for **Cecilia Fuller** (Missionary Benedictines) from St. Leo in Omaha.



"My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27) Let's unite as a Church to ask the Lord to inspire more hearts to hear His call and to follow Him in the priesthood and consecrated life. Trust that He knows each of us by name and will lead the right hearts to their vocation. Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.

"PRAY ALWAYS AND DO NOT LOSE HEART."



Since our last update on April 13, five children have been baptized into the Body of Christ. We congratulate the parents and family members, and we welcome your little ones into the Family of Faith! We are praying our Lord Jesus will bless, guide and inspire each of you in His love as you travel along your faith journey. Congratulations!



Name.....Date

Kora Elaine Frew.....5/4/2025

Salvatore Louie Rindone.....5/4/2025

Santino Luca Rindone.....5/4/2025

Rori Suzanne Robison.....5/4/2025

Oakleigh Anne Toliver.....5/4/2025

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT NEWLYWEDS!



Last weekend, we were excited to host a wedding! Congratulations to the newlyweds as you share your life together! We will keep you in our prayers and wish you both the very best!

Couple.....Date

Christian Martin and Genevieve Henry.....5/3/2025

PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

We, the community of St. Patrick, continue to pray for all our parishioners and their deceased family members and loved ones.



Name.....Date of Death.....Place of Burial

Robert (Bob) Davis.....4/27/2025.....Voss-Mohr Cemetery

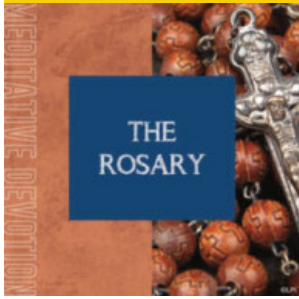
NEBRASKA CATHOLIC DAY OF GIVING Extended Giving Until May 14



While the actual giving day was Wednesday, May 7, extended giving days go through the end of the day on Wednesday, May 14. This year's funds will be used to update the sound system in the Church, make repairs to the sidewalk and parking lot, and restore our stained glass windows. Any donation amount is greatly appreciated to help us cover the cost of these repairs and preventative maintenance projects. A link to our giving day web page can be found on our parish website. As always, you are welcome to drop off or mail in a check addressed to St. Patrick Church with "Nebraska Catholic Day of Giving" or "Giving Day" in the memo line. We thank you for your generosity, support, and stewardship!

CATHOLIC DEVOTIONS EXPLAINED

The Rosary



Christians have used beads to mark the recitation of prayers since ancient times. In the 12th century, the Rosary emerged as a meditative devotion centering on significant moments in the lives of Jesus and Mary. In the words of St. Leo XIII, "there is no more excellent way of praying."

The Rosary is traditionally attributed to a Marian vision received by St. Dominic de Guzman (1170-1221). Though scholarship on this point is uncertain, the Dominican Order was undoubtedly crucial in establishing and evangelizing the Rosary as a devotional prayer.

Over the centuries, the formula of the devotion eventually took the shape of 50 Hail Marys divided into five "decades," with each decade focused on a different mystery. The Church has defined the Joyful Mysteries (to be recited on Saturdays and Mondays), the Glorious Mysteries (Sundays and Wednesdays), the Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesdays and Fridays), and most recently the Luminous Mysteries (to be recited on Thursdays).

"Let us love Jesus above all, let us love Mary as our mother; but then, how could we keep from loving Joseph, who was so intimately united to both Jesus and Mary? And how can we honor him better than by imitating his virtues? Now, what else did he do in all his life but contemplate, study, and adore Jesus, even in the midst of his daily labors? Behold, therefore, our model." —St. Madeleine Sophie Barat

DIAPER DRIVE FOR MOTHERS IN NEED

Supplying Organizations Supporting Mothers Choosing Life

The St. Patrick Outreach is organizing a Diaper Drive. The items received will help mothers and children in need. We would be helping to supply diapers and supplies to three different organizations: Bethlehem House, Essential Pregnancy Services, and Assure Women's Center. We will have a playpen in the narthex to place these items. We're asking for the following items:

- Diapers: sizes 3, 4, 5, 6, and pull-ups (We are asking for larger diapers, for we all know they do not stay little very long.)
- Unscented baby wipes
- Gift cards to Walmart or Amazon



Items can be brought to Church any time between May 3 thru May 18. If you have questions, please contact one of the following Outreach members: Colleen Karmazin, 402-984-3003, Lauri Charvat, 402-250-1798, or Joan Ingram, 402-203-3604.

PRAYER FOR WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST



God our Father, you made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ. We ask that you inspire young people whom you call to priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow your will. Send workers into your great harvest so that the

Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and your people are strengthened by the sacraments. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Stewardship Report

Apr 23-Apr 29, 2025

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

General Contributions	Apr 23-Apr 29, 2025	Fiscal YTD thru Apr 29
Sunday Offering	\$16,700.58	\$1,086,753.60
Other Contributions	\$1,042.50	\$112,022.64
Total General Contributions	\$17,743.08	\$1,198,776.24 *
Surplus/Deficit	(\$8,506.92)	\$70,026.24

* 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



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FINANCIAL SEMINARS



Please mark your calendars for the following Knights of Columbus Financial Seminar. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about investing in your future in ways that affirm our Catholic values.

Estate Planning Seminar—Wednesday, May 21 with a 7 PM presentation and a dessert social to follow at St. Patrick Parish Center, Gretna. Please contact Tim Hall, timothyhall360@gmail.com, with any questions. A Flocknote reminder will go out before each event.

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, May 11 at 7 PM). Come join your 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.



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.

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
Century Club Administrator, Jim Hottovy.....
.....402-651-8564



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, MAY 12TH

7:30 AM † Nicole Embree

TUESDAY, MAY 13TH

6:00 PM † John Moloney

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14TH

7:30 AM † Gordon Alex Brummel

THURSDAY, MAY 15TH

7:30 AM † Nancy Sis

FRIDAY, MAY 16TH

7:30 AM † John Paul Lenz

SATURDAY, MAY 17TH

5:00 PM † Jan Bergmann

SUNDAY, MAY 18TH

8:00 AM INT Hallie Schultz and Family
10:00 AM For Our Parishioners
12:00 PM † Gidget and Domingo Cordero

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 Cheryl Schram, Steve N, Lucy Winter, 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, MAY 11TH—4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER—MOTHER'S DAY—WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

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
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM COR Men's Meeting—Father Hitch Room

MONDAY, MAY 12TH

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

TUESDAY, MAY 13TH

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, MAY 14TH

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
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM Women's Prayer Group—Father Hitch Room
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM St. Patrick Preschool Graduation Mass—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM St. Patrick Preschool Graduation Reception—Parish Center AB
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

THURSDAY, MAY 15TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM Confirmation Practice—Sanctuary

FRIDAY, MAY 16TH

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 7:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal—Sanctuary and Narthex

SATURDAY, MAY 17TH

8:00 AM to 2:00 PM Wedding Prep—Sanctuary, Narthex, Father Hitch, Bride's Room
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Private Event—Parish Center AB
2:00 PM to 3:30 PM Wedding—Sanctuary and Narthex
4:00 PM to 4:40 PM Confession—Confessional
4:30 PM to 4:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 5:00 PM)—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM 10-Point Pitch—Basement Commons

SUNDAY, MAY 18TH—5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM Confirmation Set Up and Pictures—Parish Center
2:00 PM to 3:30 PM Confirmation Mass—Sanctuary

HOLY HOUR FOR ORDINANDI AND SEMINARIANS

Join us in Praying for those Preparing for Ordination

The Serra Club of West Omaha invites all the faithful to join us for a special Holy Hour to Pray for Ordinandi and Seminarians on Monday, May 19 at St. Cecilia Cathedral (701 N 40th St, Omaha). Join us in the narthex at 6:30 PM for greetings and at 7 PM in the Sanctuary for the Holy Hour. The presider will be Father Tom Weisbecker, Chaplain of the Serra Club of West Omaha.



This special Holy Hour on May 19 is to pray for the Priesthood Ordination of three men—Transitional Deacons Logan Hepp, Brian Hula, and Will Targy—on Saturday, June 7. We will also pray for the Transitional Diaconate Ordination of one seminarian—Michael Figura—in the Fall in Rome. Be sure to join us as we pray together for these ordinandi and all our seminarians before the Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Please show your support and invite your family, friends, and guests to join us! All are welcome! For questions, contact Lori Hamilton, Serra VP, at bobxlori@aol.com or 402-699-5027. For more information visit serrawestomaha.org.

"The end for which God has instituted the priesthood has been to appoint on earth public persons to watch over the honor of his divine majesty, and to procure the salvation of souls."
—St. Alphonsus Liguori

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

5th Sunday of Easter

MAY 17TH
5:00 PM

Sacristan
Linda Schriener

Lectors
Andy Pearson
(Read the 1st Reading)

Barb Applegate
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Jocelyn Pearson
Liz Beckman
Bridget Blum
Julene Crockett

Ushers
Ken Beckman
Chris Lingbloom
Linda Schriener
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Ellie Clines

Altar Servers
Colin Lingbloom
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Nancy Kirkpatrick
Tim Kirkpatrick

MAY 18TH
8:00 AM

Sacristan
Tony Schultz

Lectors
Sandy Scheef
(Read the 1st Reading)

Cari Kaup
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Gene Schwarting
Kathy Schwarting
Laura Fischer
Need Sub

Ushers
Pat Calvert
Lori Frederick
Kevin Kaup
Tony Schultz

Rosary Reciter
Duane Benes

Altar Servers
Carson Kaup
Ethan Kaup
Will Kaup

Greeters
Mary Maw
Gordon Yager

Hilcrest SR/HL
Gene Schwarting
Kathy Schwarting

MAY 18TH
10:00 AM

Sacristan
Mitch Wendlandt

Lectors
David Burke
(Read the 1st Reading)

Sandra Tiefenthaler
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Mitch Wendlandt
Kathy Wendlandt
Rosie Stec
Jim Hottovy

Ushers
Chris Reinig
John Schaffert
Norm Svoboda
Tony Vanek

Rosary Reciter
Tam Hottovy

Altar Servers
Vinnie Nelson
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Need Sub
Need Sub

MAY 18TH
NOON

Sacristan
Ginny Giebelhaus

Lectors
Need Sub
(Read the 1st Reading)

Need Sub
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Darcy Skrdla
Doris Williams
Norma Hintz
Need Sub

Ushers
Ginny Giebelhaus
Doris Williams
Mary Zeigler
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Norm Svoboda

Altar Servers
James Janda
Thomas Janda
Need Sub

Greeters
Marty White
Mary Zeigler

Vocations Crucifix
John McQueney

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.

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

Confirmation

MAY 18TH
2:00 PM

Sacristan
Carol Zeleny

Lectors
Rebecca Campbell
(Read the 1st Reading)
Crystal Schroeder
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Ashley Kassmeier
Jason Kassmeier
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Delma Stoner
Need Sub
Need Sub
Need Sub

Altar Servers
Nev Dickes
Sarah Kula
Jacob Kula
Kalla Kassmeier
Klayton Kassmeier

Greeters
Andrew Brei

4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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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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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

PASTORAL MINISTRY (LITURGY, YOUTH GROUP & FAITH FORM)

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jjwotipka@archomaha.org

DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC

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

PARISH CENTER COORDINATOR

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FACILITY MANAGER

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jaknight@archomaha.org

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HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

10-POINT PITCH Every 3rd Saturday Evening

Please join us for Call Your Partner 10-Point Pitch! We will meet the 3rd Saturday evening of each month, May 17 in the Commons Area in the lower level from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM here at St. Patrick. Please bring food and/or drinks if you like and enjoy meeting others while playing a few friendly games of Pitch. A prize will be given to the highest and lowest score. If you want to learn to play, we would be glad to teach you! If you have any questions, text or call Liz Schwartz at 402-705-0434. All are welcome!



SPIRITUAL MOMS PROGRAM Institute of Priestly Formation



Registration is now open to become a "Spiritual Mom" for an Institute for Priestly Formation summer seminar. We need 117 women to offer one

Hail Mary for a specific seminarian, by name, every day while he participates in the spirituality program with IPF this summer. We also need women from around the country to pray for all the summer seminarians with one Hail Mary a day. If you feel called to pray for a seminarian, visit <https://priestlyformation.org/support-ipf/get-involved/sp-moms.html> or call Lisa at 402-980-3283.

NEW MEMORIAL GARDEN Collecting Geraniums Next Week

The Landscape Team will be creating a "Memory Garden" to be planted where the Knights place the Nativity for Christmas. We will be collecting geraniums to be planted in memory of a loved one. There won't be any signage, but you will all be able to see the flowers throughout the spring, summer, and fall. We will collect any geraniums, of any color, the weekend of May 17-18. Volunteers from the Landscaping Team will be collecting geraniums before each Mass that weekend. We will then plant them later that week, just in time for Memorial Day. We look forward to having our parish enjoy the beautiful flowers in memory of our loved ones.



THE TRUTH ABOUT ABORTION DRUGS

Two Women Speak Out



For women and girls facing a pregnancy in difficult circumstances, abortion drugs can seem like a logical solution. They're "a safe and effective way to end an early pregnancy," Planned Parenthood claims on its website. "Safer than Advil," abortion advocates insist. In reality, the two drugs—mifepristone and misoprostol—can cause serious, even life-threatening complications. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration's own label for these abortion drugs says that roughly one in 25 women who take them will end up in the emergency room and up to 7% will require surgery.

When the FDA approved the drugs in 2000, it did so with important safety standards. Since then, it has removed safeguards such as in-person doctor visits, ongoing care, and other health protections. Now, women and girls can order abortion drugs by mail and take them alone in their homes or dorm rooms—often unaware of what they will experience or that emergency care may be necessary.

Alliance Defending Freedom is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to hold the FDA accountable for unlawfully removing crucial safeguards for the use of abortion drugs. Oral arguments in the case, U.S. Food and Drug Administration v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine, took place in March. A decision is expected in June. Here, an OB/GYN and a woman who experienced a chemical abortion share their own stories of the abortion drugs' dangers.

DR. CHRISTINA FRANCIS

"Easy everywhere." According to Christian thinker Andy Crouch, this is what technology promises us all today. Look no further than the rise of artificial intelligence systems like ChatGPT over the last year to see this being promised even more. Need to write a difficult message to a friend? Have ChatGPT do it. With each keystroke, our human world becomes a little less human.

"Easy everywhere" is also the promise of chemical abortion drug manufacturers and the FDA. It's a promise that these drugs are not only safe for women, but that women can take them at home—alone—without even one in-person doctor visit. It's a promise that seeks to normalize what countless women tell me was one of the most painful, isolating moments of their lives.

As an OB/GYN who has cared for thousands of pregnant women, I know that women don't pursue abortion lightly or enthusiastically. It's never easy. It's tragic. Women are often pressured into abortion. A study by the Charlotte Lozier Institute found that over 60% of women reported feeling "high levels of pressure to abort from one or more sources."

Women who take abortion drugs are promised an easy experience. Complications are rare, they're told. The reality, though, is that a significant number of women will experience severe complications from these drugs that require immediate medical attention. Data cited by the FDA itself showed that hospitalizations increased 300% with no in-person doctor visit. Yet the FDA has removed nearly every safety standard it once provided to women using abortion drugs.

My colleagues and I see women in our hospitals on a regular basis who are suffering because of the FDA's reckless removal of these essential safeguards. We have cared for women who've required emergency D&Cs, antibiotics, blood transfusions, and hospitalizations for several days. They think they might be dying. They are not told that they will go into labor and deliver their dead babies all alone on the bathroom floor.

Another significant risk is an unknown ectopic pregnancy. Ultrasound is the most accurate way to diagnose the condition, which occurs in one in 50 pregnancies. If a patient with undiagnosed ectopic pregnancy takes abortion drugs, she will think her symptoms are simply the drugs' side effects. A friend and fellow OB/GYN treated a patient... who experienced a sharp abdominal pain after starting a chemical abortion. Then days of worsening pain. Weeks later, she was rushed to the hospital when her blood pressure dropped to dangerous levels. During emergency surgery, my colleague discovered that the patient had experienced a ruptured ectopic pregnancy. These women are being sold the lie of "easy everywhere."

ELIZABETH GILLETTE

I was 24 years old and had a great life—a college degree, a good job, and a boyfriend I cared about very much. Then came a shocking complication: two pink lines on a pregnancy test. Suddenly, I had no idea what my future was going to look like. And my boyfriend made it clear he wasn't ready to be a dad. "This is the worst thing that could happen to me," he said when I shared the news, scared and hoping for support. Instead, he pressured me into making an appointment at a local abortion clinic, even after I told him I didn't think it was the right thing to do.

The coercion started the moment I called the clinic. I'd

Continued on next page—>

THE TRUTH ABOUT ABORTION DRUGS

Continued From Page 8

need to come in right away to have the “easy procedure,” the receptionist told me, explaining that once I was more than 10 weeks into my pregnancy, I’d have to have a “really terrible” surgical procedure. Abortion drugs, she said repeatedly, were the safe, easy way to end my pregnancy. When I went to the clinic to pick up the drugs, I was told that I would experience a double period and some light cramping—nothing that a heating pad and some Tylenol wouldn’t take care of. But my experience was so much more traumatic than that.



I had intense cramping and waves of pain from my head to my toes. I bled profusely, blood running down my legs and pooling on the bathroom floor. *Something is wrong*, I thought. *I’m going to die on this bathroom floor*. But I felt that I’d made this choice and would have to see it through. *If I die, my parents are going to find out what I’ve done. So, I’d better not die*. The worst part—what nobody had told me about—was when I delivered the amniotic sack with my tiny child inside. I held my baby, saw its eyes and fingers... then flushed it down the toilet. But I still see it. You can’t unsee something like that.

My bleeding continued for more than a month. I had residual cramping that lasted even longer, as well as headaches, nausea, and tremors. No doctor ever checked on me or told me to come in for a follow-up visit to check for severe bleeding or life-threatening infections. Today, I still suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

I was shocked when I heard that the FDA was removing the abortion drugs’ safety standards. My experience was traumatic and terrifying. I can only imagine what women will face now, with the FDA removing even the initial in-person doctor visit. Women taking these drugs without that initial doctor visit are at risk for so many devastating consequences. Who’s going to check them for an ectopic pregnancy? Who’s going to protect them from bleeding and sepsis? Who’s going to counsel them about the reality of chemical abortion and the physical, emotional, and psychological risks?

These are high-risk drugs that should never be available over the counter with no ongoing care from a doctor. When the FDA recklessly removed its original safeguards, it betrayed women like me. The Supreme Court needs to recognize this truth. It’s time for the Court to say enough and to defend women’s health.

Elizabeth Gillette is the mother of four children and resides in Salem, Oregon. Watch her share her chemical abortion story at [JoinADF.com/FJ-Elizabeth](https://www.joinadf.com/FJ-Elizabeth).

—Article adapted from *Faith and Justice, Alliance Defending Freedom Volume XVII, Issue 2*

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.

CALLING ALL ACTIVE OR RETIRED MILITARY MEMBERS

Recite the Patriotic Rosary With Us

The Rosary Guild has received wonderful feedback about the participation of our military men and women in our Patriotic Rosary events. We are excited to continue this tradition and would love to invite more voices to join us in this special devotion.

If you are an active or retired member of the military and would be interested in leading a decade of the Rosary at one of our events, we would love to hear from you! Since military service is not recorded in parish registration, we rely on word of mouth to reach those who may be interested. If you would like to participate or learn more, please contact Kathy Dauner by phone, text or email—kathydauner@gmail.com, 402-707-7393. If you text, please let us know your name. Thank you for your service and for helping us honor our nation in prayer!



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Gretna, Nebraska

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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.

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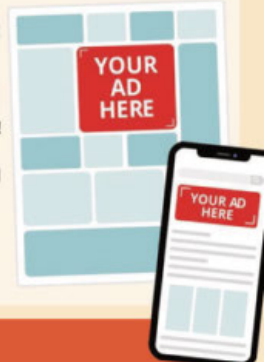
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Retrouvaille.....1-800-470-2230
Retrouvaille.....www.helpourmarriage.org
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AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

SCHOOL OF PROPHECY—ST. GERALD, RALSTON, MAY 30-31

We are excited to announce a Two-Day School of Prophecy on Friday, May 30 from 6 PM to 9 PM and on Saturday, May 31 from 9 AM to 4 PM at St. Gerald (9602 Q St, Ralston). This powerful, hands-on, experience based on the teachings of Encounter School of Ministry is free with a free-will donation. Come discover how to hear God's voice with greater clarity, speak His heart with love and boldness, and step into your prophetic calling with confidence. For more information or to register, visit <https://ablazehouse.regfox.com/school-of-prophecy->



THE WAY RETREAT—OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL, MAY 30-JUNE 1, JULY 18-20



The Way is a healing retreat for survivors of abuse, a three-day guided meditation and prayer experience for those whose abuse by another has deeply affected their heart, mind, body, and soul. These are yearly retreats, one for women and one for men. This year's men's retreat will be held May 30-June 1. The women's retreat will be held July 18-20. Both retreats are held at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat Center (7303 N 112th St, Waverly). For more information, contact MaryBeth Hanus, Director of the Victim Outreach and Prevention Office at the Archdiocese of Omaha, at 402-558-3100 or mbhanus@archomaha.org.

SIDEWALK ADVOCATES—CATHOLIC CHARITIES BUILDING, OMAHA, MAY 31

Let 2025 be the year that you step out to help women seeking an abortion. Love is ending abortion and your prayers and presence is a visible sign of your love for that mother and her baby. This peaceful, prayerful, law-abiding approach has saved over 23,000 babies, brought peace of mind to their mothers and often a path to a better future. A training will be held on Saturday, May 31 from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Catholic Charities building (9223 Bedford Ave, Omaha). A \$15 fee will cover lunch and supplies. Go to LifeSidewalk@gmail.com for more information and registration.



STEEPLECHASE FUN RUN/WALK—ST. JOSEPH, SPRINGFIELD, JUNE 7



St. Joseph Parish in Springfield is sponsoring the Steeplechase Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, June 7 at 8:30 AM. Proceeds will be directed to the United Methodist Church Food Pantry. All are welcome! This event will be during the Springfield Days. You can sign up for a 5K run or 1-mile walk. Register at stjosephspringfield.org/springfield-days/. Registration fee is \$20 per person or \$50 per family.

MARRIAGE RETREAT—CLOISTERS ON THE PLATTE, JUNE 13-15

Join us Father's Day weekend for reflection and renewal on the Sacrament of Marriage that will still get you home in time to celebrate with your loved ones. You'll enjoy: a weekend with your spouse at The Cloisters on the Platte (23332 Fishery Rd, Gretna); all meals carefully prepared by Chef Manager, Kevin Carney; four marriage-focused presentations from Ryan O'Hara on: The Stunning Beauty of Sacramental Marriage, Creating a Catholic Culture in Our Homes, Four Holy Habits when Difficulties Arise, and Advice for Married Couples from St. Ignatius; and Saturday and Sunday morning Mass, outdoor rosary, twilight Stations of the Cross walk, and group sharing. Please note, this is not a silent retreat. Check-in is Friday, June 13 from 4 PM to 6 PM and check-out is from 11 AM to 1 PM on Sunday, June 15. This retreat will sell out! Space is limited. Cost is \$1500 per couple. Learn more about speaker Ryan O'Hara at www.ryanohara.org/about. Register at <https://my.onecause.com/event/organizations/725a19c4-72f1-479a-888a-43b7c8475347/events/vevt:899965ab-2d4c-4777-869f-768d9e3a5bed/home/story>.



"For there are three ways of performing an act of mercy: the merciful word, by forgiving and by comforting; secondly, if you can offer no word, then pray—that too is mercy; and thirdly, deeds of mercy." —St. Faustina Kowalska

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