

# ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET      GRETNA, NE 68028



## STS. PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

“I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.  
Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in  
heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be  
loosed in heaven.” - Mt 16:19

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

**JUNE 29, 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

### *Saints Peter and Paul*

#### FIRST READING (ACTS 12:1-11)

In his miraculous escape from prison, Peter was convinced of God's saving work in his life. Where do you see God at work in your life?

#### SECOND READING (2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18)

As Paul was nearing the end of his life, he realized that God had rescued him from many dangers and threats. As you reflect on your life, can you see times when God's saving hand was present for you?

#### GOSPEL (MT 16:13-19)

Jesus commissioned Peter to be the foundation ("rock") of His Church. Are there any roles or responsibilities you feel called to do in your parish?

## GOSPEL MEDITATION



What do you call brothers who are born on the same day? Twins, of course. That is what we celebrate today in the inestimable saints, Peter and Paul. Wait: twins? Yes. The early Church believed that Peter and Paul were martyred in Rome on the same day. Since the day of martyrdom is celebrated as a saints' birth into eternal life, the result is striking: Peter and Paul are twins in God's family, the Church.

Who should care about this? Well, anyone who longs to live in a world marked by love and peace. Remember, the Romans believed that twins, Romulus and Remus, founded

their city through an act of fratricide, the former murdering the latter. Sadly, the structures of this fallen world emerge through violence between those who should love each other. But in the Church, a new city has been founded upon this new set of twins, embodying the non-violent power of Jesus' cross and resurrection.

That's why traditional icons represent Peter and Paul in a fraternal and warm embrace. Contrasted with the violence of Rome's founders, it challenges us with a bold claim: do we believe that structures of merciful love are more powerful and lasting than those based on power, violence, and domination? Am I willing to see others in my life as my "twin," with whom I am called to give my life for Christ, or as my rival? Am I committed to living what is embodied in Romulus and Remus, or in Peter and Paul?

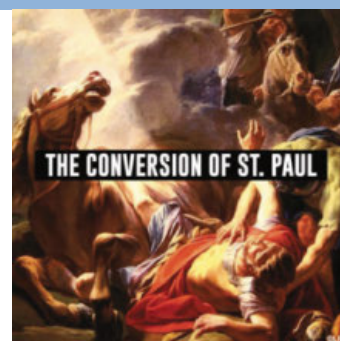
## CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

### QUESTION:

January 25 is the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul and the end of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. What does one have to do with the other?

### ANSWER:

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity consists of eight days beginning January 18 (at that time the feast of the Chair of Peter), and ending on January 25, the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, founded in the early twentieth century in Graymoor, NY, sought to promote unity among Anglicans and Roman Catholics. Paul James Wattson, a former Episcopalian priest, founded the community, which was formally accepted into the Catholic communion.

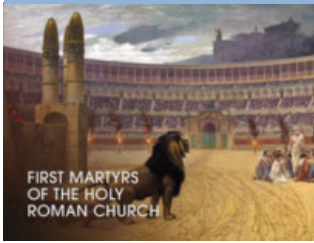


The idea for Christian unity soon began to catch on, and by the 1930s, more and more Christians welcomed such a focus. Suggestions for prayer and education are distributed each year, emphasizing a jointly chosen theme. The 1964 Vatican II document on ecumenism, *Unitatis Redintegratio*, gave a great boost to the octave, so that today many Christians worldwide promote and participate in the octave time of prayer.

The emphasis on both Peter and Paul aptly fits into the rationale of the octave. Peter is seen as the source of unity within the Christian tradition. Paul is highlighted due to his vision of bringing all to Christ. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an ideal opportunity to pray for and promote respect, understanding, and, hopefully, eventual unity among Christians. To learn more, visit geii.org.

## FIRST MARTYRS OF THE HOLY ROMAN CHURCH

### *Martyrs*



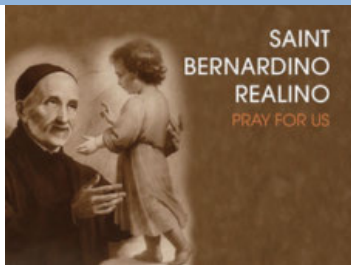
A great number of Christians perished at the hands of the Roman Emperor Nero during the terrible persecution that lasted from 64-68 A.D. This was the first of many major persecutions of the newly founded Church at Rome. The holy men and women who first died for the Gospel of Jesus Christ are also called the "Protomartyrs of Rome." Some were burned as living torches in the Emperor's gardens; some were crucified; others were fed to wild animals.

Many died even before Sts. Peter and Paul, and therefore it is said of them that they are the "Disciples of the Apostles... whom the Holy Roman Church sent to their Lord before the Apostles' death." God used the sacrifice of these holy men and women, who suffered like their savior Jesus Christ, to lay the indestructible foundation of His Church. Their bold witness for the Christian faith as they endured a brutal death won many converts and caused the Church to grow and spread throughout the world. The feast day of the First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church is June 30.

## SAINT BERNARDINO REALINO

### *Priest*

St. Bernardino Realino (1530–1616) was born in Italy to a noble family. He grew into an accomplished "Renaissance Man" of his day; he studied law and medicine, had a successful career as an attorney and judge, and served as the mayor of three cities. At the age of 34 he completed an eight-day retreat with Jesuit priests, and during this time he discerned a call to the religious life. He entered the Jesuit order and was ordained a priest in 1567. As a priest he preached, taught, and visited the sick and poor in the areas of Naples and Lecce. He was much loved and venerated by the people he ministered to, especially because of the miracles he performed. It was commonly believed among the people that he was a living saint. Even public scandal and civil strife were calmed due to his holy influence. While he was on his death bed, the city leaders of Lecce came to request of him that he become the official patron saint of their city once he entered Heaven. After St. Bernardino's death, vials of his blood were kept for veneration, which were observed to liquefy and exhibit unusual phenomena for more than a century. St. Bernardino Realino's feast day is July 2.



## SAINT ZOE OF ROME

### *Martyr*



St. Zoe of Rome (d. 286 A.D.) was a noblewoman married to a Roman court official during the reign of the infamous Emperor Diocletian. For six years she suffered from a condition that left her unable to speak; when she met St. Sebastian she fell at his feet so that he would heal her. St. Sebastian made the Sign of the Cross over her, and from that moment her speech miraculously returned. As she was being healed she had a vision of an angel standing next to St. Sebastian holding a book in which was written everything that St.

Sebastian preached. Her first words were ones of thanks and praise to God, and many witnesses of the miracle were brought to faith in Christ. Zoe and her husband then received baptism at the hands of St. Polycarp, along with many others who had come to believe in Christ through St. Sebastian's miracles. Of this new group of Christians, St. Zoe was the first to be martyred for her faith. She was greatly devoted to St. Peter the Apostle, and was arrested while praying at his tomb. She was martyred by being hung from a tree by her hair, with a fire lit under her feet. After her death her body was thrown into the Tiber River. She then appeared in a vision to St. Sebastian, who was in prison awaiting his execution, to tell him of her martyrdom and subsequent glory. St. Zoe of Rome's feast day is July 5.

**"The Eucharist is the bread that gives strength... It is at once the most eloquent proof of His love and the most powerful means of fostering His love in us. He gives Himself every day so that our hearts as burning coals may set afire the hearts of the faithful."**

—St. Damien of Molokai



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

## READINGS THIS WEEK

**MONDAY:** Gn 18:16-33/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 8-9, 10-11/Mt 8:18-22

**TUESDAY:** Gn 19:15-29/Ps 26:2-3, 9-10, 11-12/Mt 8:23-27

**WEDNESDAY:** Gn 21:5, 8-20a/Ps 34:7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Mt 8:28-34

**THURSDAY:** Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 20:24-29

**FRIDAY:** Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67/Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5/Mt 9:9-13

**SATURDAY:** Gn 27:1-5, 15-29/Ps 135:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:14-17

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Is 66:10-14c/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 (1)/Gal 6:14-18/Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9



## OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

**MONDAY:** The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

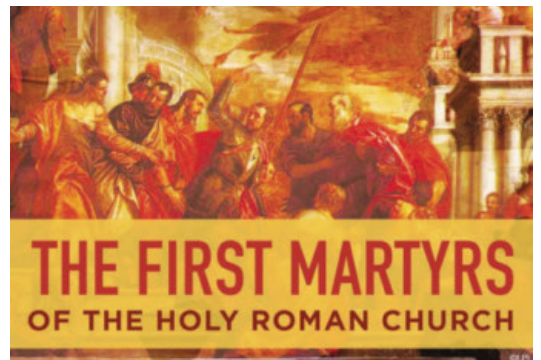
**TUESDAY:** St. Junípero Serra, Priest

**THURSDAY:** St. Thomas, Apostle

**FRIDAY:** Independence Day

**SATURDAY:** St. Anthony Zaccaria, Priest; St. Elizabeth of Portugal

**NEXT SUNDAY:** 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Gretna, Nebraska

## LEAST OF MY BRETHREN Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer for Least of my Brethren!



Least of my Brethren is looking for groups or individuals willing to volunteer one hour or one day to help the homeless in Omaha. For one hour, your group can pack blessing bags that include essential toiletries handed out

to the homeless. Your group could volunteer for one evening to help sort donations that come into the LoMB storage unit. Or, your group could volunteer one Saturday to help set up apartments for recently homeless people who have found a job and secured an apartment. Or, your group could volunteer one Saturday to prepare and serve breakfast for the homeless. Or, individuals could just donate some gently used household items or canned food. Every little bit helps! The Least of My Brethren ministry thanks you for your support! Find out more by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://www.leastofmybrethren.org/>.

## 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 **Sr. M. Anunciata Grace** (Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus) from St. Vincent de Paul in Omaha.

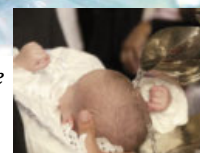


"You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18) Sometimes God speaks to us very clearly, other times it is a little more difficult to understand what God is asking of us. Maybe you feel like Peter, God is calling you to something greater than yourself, but we don't fully understand what He is asking of us. Now would be a great time to talk to your priest to better learn how to hear God's voice and discern His purpose for your life. Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email [vocations@archomaha.org](mailto:vocations@archomaha.org).

"PRAY ALWAYS AND DO NOT LOSE HEART."



Since our last update on June 22, one child has been baptized into the Body of Christ. We congratulate the parents and family members, and we welcome your little one into the Family of Faith! We are praying our Lord Jesus will bless, guide and inspire each of you in His love as you travel along your faith journey. Congratulations!



Name.....Date

Dottie Rose Robertson.....6/18/2025

## 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

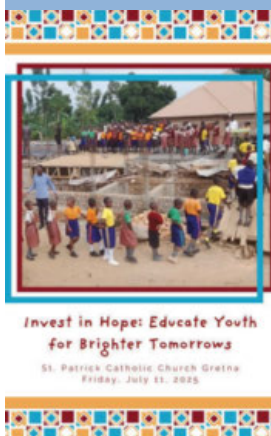
Jacob Marshall and Adelaide Watts.....6/21/2025

## PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND Support the Work of Our Holy Father

This weekend we will take up the Peter's Pence Collection to support the Universal Church and the work of the Holy See, including the charitable works of Pope Leo XIV. These works benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. Take this opportunity to be a sign of mercy to our suffering brothers and sisters. Please be generous. For more information, visit [www.obolodisaniopietro.va/en.html](http://www.obolodisaniopietro.va/en.html).



## FR. SSONKO FUNDRAISER—FRIDAY, JULY 11 Get Your Tickets and Invite a Friend



Join us for this year's Fr. Ssonko Fundraiser—Invest in Hope: Educate Youth for Brighter Tomorrows—on Friday, July 11. This unique raise the paddle fundraiser raises money to support our sister parish, St. Mary's in Busaabala, Uganda. Last year, we had an outstanding response to raise funds to build a dormitory for the students of St. Mary's Primary School. This year we will be raising funds to support the students of the school—particularly in paying for uniforms for students who can't afford them, school supplies, and the like. Visit our parish website, [stpatricksgretna.org/father-ssonko-fundraiser](http://stpatricksgretna.org/father-ssonko-fundraiser) or stop in the Parish Office to get your tickets. The Stella Matutina O'Connor Foundation is offering a \$30,000 matching fund this year. Grab a few postcards from the narthex and invite a friend to join you!



"Nothing seems tiresome or painful when you are working for a Master who pays well; who rewards even a cup of cold water given for love of Him."  
—St. Dominic Savio

## WHY DO CATHOLICS BELIEVE IN THE REAL PRESENCE?

### *Biblical and Historical Roots of Belief*

As a fundamentalist, and later as an evangelical, I took it for granted that the Catholic Church held to the most un-Biblical, illogical, and offensive beliefs about the Eucharist. But there came a point when I began to wonder, "What do Catholics believe about the Eucharist?" This meant taking Catholic doctrine seriously, rather than mindlessly repeating anti-Catholic rhetoric from questionable sources.

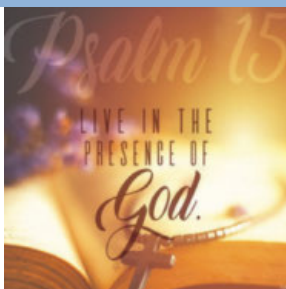
I discovered that Irenaeus of Lyons, writing in the second century, stated, "Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking" (see Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 1327). I read *Lumen Gentium*, the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, which described the Eucharist as "the source and summit of the Christian life" (No. 11). And I saw that the Council of Trent had declared that "in the Blessed Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, after the consecration of the bread and wine, our Lord Jesus Christ, true God and man, is truly, really, and substantially contained under the appearances of those perceptible realities" (Thirteenth Session, ch. 1).

So, I wondered, "Why do Catholics believe in the Real Presence?" I quickly learned the reasons are many and interrelated, but can be generally described as Biblical, historical, and theological. The Biblical reasons were of primary interest to me and came in large part from the nagging suspicion that Jesus' insistent, shocking words "For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink" (Jn 6:55) were not metaphorical at all, as I believed as a Protestant. The larger context of John 6—during the Passover (see v. 4)—and the striking escalation in Jesus' teaching about His identity and the need to eat His flesh and drink His blood pointed to something far deeper, unsettling and astounding.

If Jesus had allowed some disciples to depart over a misunderstanding regarding metaphors (see Jn 6:66), what sort of teacher and Savior would He be? If the apostle John, writing his Gospel in the late first century, also failed to clarify Jesus' intentions, what sort of apostle and Evangelist was he? And did it make sense that the Old Covenant could boast of manna—physical food given by miraculous means—but the New Covenant had a physical symbol only? No, it didn't. In addition, the Catholic (and Orthodox) belief in the Sacrament of the Eucharist helped make sense of other passages of Scripture, such as Jesus' words at the Last Supper—"Take and eat; this is my body" (Mt 26:26)—and St. Paul's warning to the Christians at Corinth that "whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord" (1 Cor 11:27).

While the Biblical evidence cracked the door, the historical evidence blew it open. I recall rather vividly standing in a bookstore reading a passage written by St. Ignatius of Antioch that was penned around A.D. 107, which renounced the Docetist heretics because "they abstain from the Eucharist and from prayer, because they do not confess that the Eucharist is the Flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ" (*Letter to Smyrna*, No. 7). Many other passages from many other writers followed, written over many centuries, each professing the same belief that the Eucharist is the true Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ. In fact, no orthodox Christian interpreted the words of Jesus and Paul about the Eucharist in a metaphorical fashion until a thousand years after they were written.

—Article by Simply Catholic



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Gretna, Nebraska

### THE KNIGHT'S CORNER



#### COR MEN'S GROUP

Cor exists to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue as missionary disciples by drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation, and fraternity. Cor will be held in the Fr. Hitch Room every two weeks with the next meeting being (Sunday, July 20 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](mailto:mattnhenry@gmail.com), Andy Pearson at [apearson709@gmail.com](mailto:apearson709@gmail.com), Eric Devlin at [delineric62@gmail.com](mailto:delineric62@gmail.com) or Seth Boardman at [sethd99@hotmail.com](mailto:sethd99@hotmail.com).



#### THE GIVING GARDEN



The Giving Garden is set up in the Narthex! Please feel free to bring any excess vegetables from your bountiful gardens to share with our parish. Be sure to check it regularly as people bring in new goodies to share. There are bags on the cart that you can use to take the produce you would like.

#### BAGS, BEERS, AND BRATS

Save the date for this year's St. Patrick Bags, Beers, and Brats Community Festival on Friday, July 25 from 5 PM to 10 PM in the south parking lot. Register for the bags (Cornhole) tournament by emailing [GretnaOptimistClub@gmail.com](mailto:GretnaOptimistClub@gmail.com). Tables, chairs, and tents are provided, however, you are welcome to bring your own lawn chair. This year's live music will be the Mark Vyhliadal Variety Band. Our Gretna Knights of Columbus are sponsoring the Beer and Beverage Tent while the Gretna Optimist Club is sponsoring the brats, burgers, and hotdogs and the cornhole (bags) tournament.



#### 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

"Who except God can give you peace? Has the world ever been able to satisfy the heart?" —St. Gerard

#### Stewardship Report

June 18-June 24, 2025

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

General Contributions	Jun 18- Jun 24, 2025	Fiscal YTD thru Jun 24
Sunday Offering	\$13,053.10	\$1,265,752.41
Other Contributions	\$1,657.75	\$131,463.66
Total General Contributions	\$14,710.85	\$1,397,216.07 *
Surplus/Deficit	(\$11,539.15)	\$84,716.07

\* 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, JUNE 30TH

7:30 AM † Phillip Schoen

#### TUESDAY, JULY 1ST

6:00 PM † Judy Burke

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 2ND

7:30 AM † Nancy Sis

#### THURSDAY, JULY 3RD

7:30 AM † Jack Schmit

#### FRIDAY, JULY 4TH

9:00 AM † Charles and Marie Soula






#### SATURDAY, JULY 5TH

5:00 PM † Thaddeus Rosenthal

#### SUNDAY, JULY 6TH

8:00 AM † James Eggerling  
10:00 AM For Our Parishioners  
12:00 PM † Arya Manzitto

### 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 Sharon Haney, Annie Sova, Ian McGovern, 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](mailto:clovstad@gmail.com).

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### SUNDAY, JUNE 29TH—SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary  
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary

### MONDAY, JUNE 30TH

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

### TUESDAY, JULY 1ST

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

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 2ND

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

### THURSDAY, JULY 3RD

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary  
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM Discernment Group Meeting—Father Hitch Room

### FRIDAY, JULY 4TH—INDEPENDENCE DAY—OFFICE CLOSED

6:30 AM to 7:30 AM Men's Faith Sharing—Father Hitch Room  
8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Women's Faith Sharing—Father Hitch Room  
8:30 AM to 8:50 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 9:00 AM)—Sanctuary

### SATURDAY, JULY 5TH

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, JULY 6TH—14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary  
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary  
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary and Narthex

## 4TH OF JULY MASS

*Parish Office Closed on Friday*

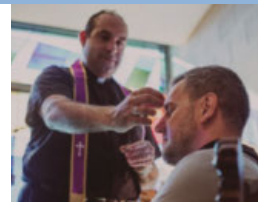


Join us for Mass to celebrate Independence Day on Friday, July 4 at 9 AM instead of our regular 7:30 AM. The Parish Office will be closed in observance of this National Holiday. Have a blessed and safe weekend.

## 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.



## SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE

*Pray for Our Parish Priests*



We are looking for women who would be willing to pray one day a week for one hour for Father Greg Baxter and Father Vince Sunguti's intentions. Materials are available to help you in prayer for your hour. If you are interested in joining the Seven Sisters, please contact Barb Applegate at 402-980-0216. For more information about the apostolate, visit <http://sevensistersapostolate.org>.

**"May we know You more clearly, love You more dearly, and follow You more nearly, day by day." —St. Richard of Chichester**

## LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

### 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**JULY 5TH**  
**5:00 PM**

**Sacristan**  
Linda Schriener

**Lectors**  
Rebecca Campbell  
(Read the 1st Reading)  
  
Eric Hittner  
(Read the 2nd Reading)

**EMHCs**  
Linda Schriener  
Nancy Arp  
Carol Zeleny  
Christine Walstrom

**Ushers**  
Ken Beckman  
Chris Lingbloom  
Linda Schriener  
Need Sub

**Rosary Reciter**  
Jayne Schram

**Altar Servers**  
Lydia Hall  
Colin Lingbloom  
Need Sub

**Greeters**  
Nancy Kirkpatrick  
Tim Kirkpatrick

**JULY 6TH**  
**8:00 AM**

**Sacristan**  
Joan Ingram

**Lectors**  
Claudia Perchal  
(Read the 1st Reading)  
  
Kathy Schwarting  
(Read the 2nd Reading)

**EMHCs**  
Cari Kaup  
Barb Applegate  
Amy Beran  
Carol Zeleny

**Ushers**  
Lori Frederick  
Kevin Kaup  
Bob Sis  
Tony Schultz

**Rosary Reciter**  
Kathy Schwarting

**Altar Servers**  
Carson Kaup  
Ethan Kaup  
Will Kaup

**Greeters**  
Christopher Wilson  
Need Sub

**Hilcrest SR/HL**  
Marty Stednitz  
Sally Stednitz

**JULY 6TH**  
**10:00 AM**

**Sacristan**  
Mitch Wendlandt

**Lectors**  
Jolene Jefferies  
(Read the 1st Reading)  
  
Jim Hain  
(Read the 2nd Reading)

**EMHCs**  
Carol Hoover  
Bruce Jefferies  
Mitch Wendlandt  
Phil Lenz

**Ushers**  
Norris Hoover  
Tom Nienaber  
Norm Svoboda  
Tony Vanek

**Rosary Reciter**  
Jim Hottovy

**Altar Servers**  
Vinnie Nelson  
Austin Votruba  
Need Sub

**Greeters**  
Andrew Urban  
Carol Zeleny

**JULY 6TH**  
**NOON**

**Sacristan**  
Ginny Giebelhaus

**Lectors**  
Karen Meyerrott  
(Read the 1st Reading)  
  
Kathy Broz  
(Read the 2nd Reading)

**EMHCs**  
Delma Stoner  
Kathy Broz  
Ginny Giebelhaus  
Doris Williams  
Deacon Ken Broz

**Ushers**  
Ginny Giebelhaus  
Delma Stoner  
Marty White  
Doris Williams

**Rosary Reciter**  
Norm Svoboda

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

**Greeters**  
Jeanette Roy  
Marty White

**Vocations Crucifix**  
Charlie Canfield

*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

### Independence Day

**JULY 4TH**  
**9:00 AM**

**Sacristan**  
Joan Ingram

**Lectors**  
Barb Applegate  
(Read the 1st Reading)  
  
Need Sub  
(Read the 2nd Reading)

**EMHCs**  
Christa Pichler  
Diane Sherwood  
Joan Ingram

**Ushers**  
Need Sub  
Need Sub

**FOURTH OF JULY**

PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES



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

## PARISH STAFF

### PASTOR

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

### ASSOCIATE PASTOR

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

### DEACONS

Deacon Ken Broz.....402-676-1025  
Deacon Larry Heck (*Retired*).....402-689-9676

### PARISH OFFICE

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

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

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

### DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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smfagan@archomaha.org

### DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

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

### PASTORAL MINISTRY (LITURGY, YOUTH GROUP & FAITH FORM)

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

### DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC

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

### PARISH CENTER COORDINATOR

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

### FACILITY MANAGER

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

### PASTORAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

### FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

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

### HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY

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

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Gretna, Nebraska

## ENCOUNTER SCHOOL *Applications are Open*



### ENCOUNTER SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

Omaha is blessed to be 1 of 45 locations offering the Encounter School of Ministry Curriculum! This curriculum is authentically Catholic, theologian reviewed, and bishop approved. You can learn more about the curriculum at <https://encounterschool.org/curriculum>. This ministry school was founded in Michigan, and has now spread across the country and even internationally. We are a full on-site satellite campus meeting at the Ablaze House of Prayer (11501 Fairview Rd, Springfield) on Tuesdays from 5:20 PM to 9:15 PM. This school year begins on September 16 and runs through May. The application deadline is October 1. For more information or to register, visit <https://encounterschool.org/omaha>.

### ENCOUNTER SUMMER INTENSIVE

Want to test drive the Encounter School? Register for the Summer Intensive! This annual event



provides a survey of the content offered in the first four quarters of the Encounter School of Ministry. The summer intensive is perfect for anyone desiring to attend the Encounter School during the year but unable to do so because of distance or schedule. It is also ideal for those discerning their enrollment in the school of ministry but needing greater discernment. The sessions include: Identity and Transformation; Hearing God's Voice and the Prophetic Gifts of the Holy Spirit; Power and Healing; and Inner Healing and Freedom. This four-day summer intensive will run from 5:30 PM to 9 PM on the evenings of Tuesday, July 22 through Friday, July 25 at St. Gerald Catholic Church (9602 Q St, Ralston). To register or to find the schedule, visit <https://ablazehouse.regfox.com/omaha-encounter-summer-intensive-2025>.

**Holy Spirit of God—disturb this room with your presence today, filling us, empowering us, emboldening us. Descend upon us with your gifts, your inspiration, and your promptings. Lead us to where we should go, stirring within us the movement of God. Amen.**

## WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM AFRICA *From a Ugandan Seminarian*

Uganda is one of those countries where it's common to be born into a large family. This is the case of Gerald Emanuel Ongodia, a seminarian from the Diocese of Soroti. He has 10 siblings—three brothers and seven sisters—two of whom have already gone to be with the Lord. He shares with us how his vocation to the priesthood was shaped by the faith and community values of his homeland. In his testimony, he highlights the importance of solid spiritual formation, close leadership, and the use of technologies to transform lives.



### THE STORY OF HIS VOCATION

The idea of ending her pregnancy crossed Gerald's mother's mind in a moment of despair. "Thank God the pregnancy continued and I'm here today, with a vocation to the priesthood," Gerald says joyfully. He's also grateful for the determination of his father, a catechist, and believes that his vocation has its roots in these two circumstances of his life. His family works in the fields and lives by agriculture. Due to the economic difficulties they went through, his parents taught them to always keep fighting to move forward, working and leaving everything in the hands of the Lord, as well as knowing how to share whatever they have, be it much or little. Gerald entered the minor seminary of his diocese of Soroti, in Uganda, at the age of 14. Now at 28, his bishop has sent him to study at the Ecclesiastical Faculties of the University of Navarra, in Pamplona. There, he's studying his final year of Theology. "My parents are very happy with my vocation, and they're praying hard for me so that the Lord, who called me, will help me to be a good and faithful priest," he says with emotion.

### RELIGIOUS CHALLENGES IN UGANDA

Uganda enjoys religious freedom, although, as in many other places, there are tensions and competitions between the different religious denominations. A different problem is the proliferation of certain religious sects. Gerald says that "although Catholicism is predominant, some Protestant groups and non-Catholic religious movements have gained ground in many parts of Uganda. The sects that tend to attract people often present themselves as more dynamic, focused on material well-being and prosperity, offering healing services and certain miracles." These are some of the religious challenges facing his country, in particular his diocese, Soroti. It's located in north-eastern Uganda, a region where religious life plays a fundamental role.

### THE CHURCH'S SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

"[The region covered by] my diocese is mainly Catholic, and as in many other regions of Uganda, faith plays a key role in people's daily lives. Religious life is strongly influenced by African traditions and liturgical celebrations such as baptisms, weddings, and funerals," Gerald explains. Most of the Catholics in Soroti live in rural communities where the Catholic church isn't only a place of worship but also a community center providing social, educational, and spiritual support. Parishes organize numerous activities, offering not only spiritual formation but also programs to help the most needy.

### IMPROVING EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE

Another of the sources of joy for his diocese is the large number of young people who participate in parish activities. "However, my diocese needs more tools to improve education, both secular and religious. The diocese offers educational programs, but often faces limitations in terms of resources," he laments. Access to healthcare is also a challenge, especially in rural areas. To help improve healthcare, many Catholics are involved in community health projects. His diocese is also working to improve economic conditions, providing skills training and supporting agricultural development projects. But above all they dream of building a great cathedral, a project that's already well advanced.

### FOUR CHARACTERISTICS IN THE SPIRITUAL FORMATION OF A 21ST-CENTURY PRIEST

Soroti also needs well-trained priests capable of being religious leaders in rural communities. In this sense, Gerald clearly states that, in countries like Uganda, young 21st-century priests face unique challenges, "but they also have special opportunities to become charismatic leaders who are close to the people." Full of enthusiasm and eager to put all the training he has received into practice when he returns to his country, he lists the four characteristics that a young priest today should have:

1. **Solid spiritual training:** to know both theology and the social and cultural situation of his community
2. **Empathy and closeness:** to be a spiritual guide and a support, especially for the most vulnerable
3. **Technological mastery:** to use digital tools to evangelize and connect with the faithful
4. **Social commitment:** to promote justice and well-being in their communities

## WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM AFRICA

*Continued From Page 8*

### LEARNING FROM THE EXAMPLE OF AFRICA

To conclude this testimony that he shares with us thanks to the CARF Foundation, Gerald Emanuel Ongodia shares what can be learned from Africa: "Europe can learn a lot from Africa, and particularly from Uganda, to be more vibrant in religious community life. In many parts of Africa, community life is deeply meaningful. African communities tend to be very close-knit and have a strong network of mutual support. Despite enormous socio-economic challenges, people in Uganda and much of Africa show remarkable resilience. Hope and faith play a crucial role, and even though people live in difficult conditions, they maintain a strong sense of community and faith."

The rest of the world can learn from Uganda's lively spirituality and religiosity. For this young Ugandan seminarian, liturgical celebrations, songs, and dances are authentic expressions of faith that Christians all over the world could rediscover to strengthen their connection with God. And finally, he emphasizes the interconnection between faith and daily life. "In many parts of Africa, faith is not something separate from daily life; it is rooted in all our daily actions," he says.

—Article by Aleitea

## BLESSED CARLO ACUTIS TO BE CANNONIZED

*Along with Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati on September 7*



The Vatican announced early Friday, June 13 that Pope Leo will canonize Blessed Carlo Acutis September 7, along with Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati—giving the Catholic Church two new saints widely known as role models for youth. "This morning, Pope Leo XIV presided over the Ordinary Public Consistory for the Canonization of the Blesseds," Vatican News reported early Friday, "announcing that these Italian young men will be inscribed in the Register of Saints on the first Sunday of the month."

The late Pope Francis first determined a date for Blessed Carlo's canonization last year. The death of Francis delayed the canonization, leaving Catholics unsure when the newly elected Pope Leo would take up the task. "Acutis' canonization ceremony will have special significance, as he will be the first Millennial—or person born between the years of 1981 and 1996—to be canonized a saint," CatholicVote reported in 2024.

"Acutis was born in 1991 in England and died from leukemia in Italy at the young age of 15," CatholicVote's report added. "Acutis enjoyed playing video games and loved going to daily Mass. A talented coder and computer programmer, he designed a virtual exhibit website dedicated to Eucharistic miracles from around the world. Pope Francis declared him a Blessed in 2020."

—Article by CatholicVote

## CATHOLIC DEVOTIONS EXPLAINED

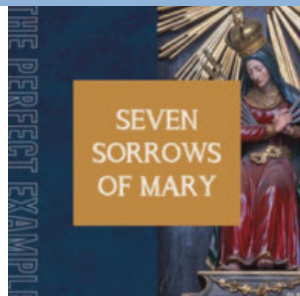
*Seven Sorrows of Mary*

The Seven Sorrows of Mary refer to seven key events in the lives of Jesus and Mary: the prophecy of Simeon, the flight into Egypt, the loss of the Child Jesus in Jerusalem, the meeting of Jesus and Mary as he carried his cross to Calvary, the Crucifixion and death of Jesus, the removal of the Body of Christ from the cross, and the burial of Jesus.

These events illustrate the great suffering endured by Our Lord and his Blessed Mother, and remind Christians to unite our own sufferings with those of Jesus, following Mary's perfect example.

Devotion to the sorrows of Mary dates to the early centuries of Christianity, with such proponents as St. Ephrem, St. Alphonsus Liguori and St. Bridget of Sweden.

The Seven Sorrows devotion can take the form of seven Hail Marys, seven Rosaries or a novena, all recited while meditating upon the individual sorrows.



**"I know well that the greater and more beautiful the work is, the more terrible will be the storms that rage against it." —St. Faustina**



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

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

### LAY LITURGICAL MINISTRY

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

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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

### LEAST OF MY BRETHREN

Link to volunteer.....https://  
www.leastofmybrethren.org/linktree

### CHURCH CLEANING

Sign Up Genius link to volunteer.....https://  
www.signupgenius.com/  
tabs/13576de05a0c8eccfa81-church  
Megan Seamann.....meseamann@archomaha.org

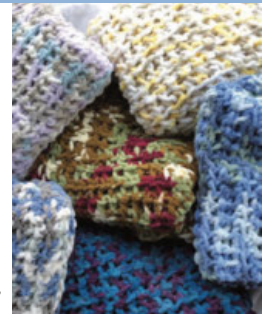
### ADVERTISE FOR YOUR MINISTRY GROUP

Does your parish ministry group have opportunities for others to get involved? Contact Megan Seamann, meseamann@archomaha.org, about getting your parish ministry group opportunities advertised.

## SICK OR SUFFERING?

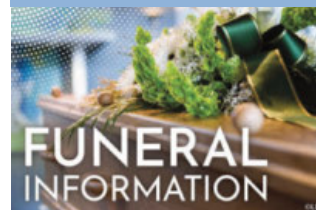
*Prayer Shawls in the Parish Office*

Did you know that our church has blessed prayer shawl blankets, that can be shared with any of your family members or friends, who are sick and suffering physically, spiritually, emotionally? If you know of anyone who would benefit from this gift of comfort and prayer, please stop by the office Monday-Friday between 8 AM and 4:30 PM and choose a prayer shawl blanket for your loved one.



## FUNERAL NOTIFICATIONS

*Receive Text Messages*



Would you like to receive a text message/email to pray for the recently deceased at our parish? These messages include a link to their obituary. Sign up to receive these messages at [stpatgretna.flocknote.com/Funerals](https://stpatgretna.flocknote.com/Funerals) or contact Megan Seamann at 402-332-4444 ext. 202 or [meseamann@archomaha.org](mailto:meseamann@archomaha.org).



## ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

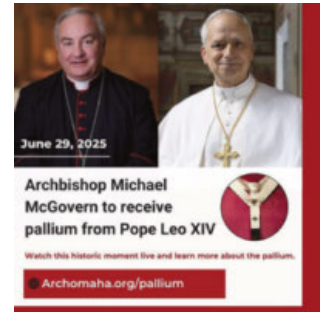
### HELPFUL RESOURCES

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

## AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

### ARCHBISHOP MCGOVERN TO RECEIVE HIS PALLIUM—VIRTUAL, JUNE 29

On June 29, 2025, Pope Leo XIV will bless and impose Archbishop Michael G. McGovern's pallium during the celebration of the Mass for the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Watch the Mass live from Rome at 2:30 AM Omaha time (9:30 AM in Rome). EWTN will carry it live and also re-air the Mass at 11 AM. The pallium is a papal liturgical symbol and insignia of an archbishop. When an archbishop is appointed to a new archdiocese, he requests a pallium from the Holy See. The pallium is a stole-like vestment worn over the chasuble when the archbishop celebrates Mass. It symbolizes the archbishop's authority and his unity with the Pope. For more information and to watch the livestream, visit <https://archomaha.org/pallium>.



### ANN'S ATTIC CLOTHING SALE AND PARISH GARAGE SALE—ST. PIUS X, JULY 10-12



Join us for our annual St. Pius X Ann's Attic Clothing Sale and Parish Garage Sale on July 10-12. These are two huge sales—a gym full of gently used clothes for all ages, all sizes. Sell by the bag. On Friday—buy one bag, get 50% off your second bag. On Saturday—get free clothes (free will offering). The second sale is a Parish Center full of very useful and unique items, including furniture, kitchen ware, pictures, books, etc. Come get your hidden treasures at St. Pius X (6905 Blondo, Omaha) on Thursday, July 10 from 9 AM to 6 PM, Friday, July 11 from 9 AM to 6 PM, or Saturday, July 12 from 9 AM to Noon.

### MONASTIC EXPERIENCE—CLYDE, MISSOURI, JULY 18-20

The Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration invite single women, ages 18-40 who are curious about religious life, to a Monastic Experience July 18-20 at their monastery in Clyde, Missouri. It's a chance to experience the daily rhythm of monastic life where participants can join the Sisters in praying the Divine Office, Daily Mass, and Eucharistic Adoration, as well as experiencing Lectio Divina (praying with Scripture) and gaining wisdom from the Benedictine tradition. There is no cost to attend, and more details are available at <https://benedictinesisters.org/come-let-us-adore>. The next opportunity will be October 17-19. To register, please contact Sister Nancy Rose at 660-944-2221 ext. 142 or [vocation@benedictinesisters.org](mailto:vocation@benedictinesisters.org).



### THE WAY HEALING RETREAT—OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL, WAVERLY, JULY 18-20



The Way is a healing retreat for survivors of abuse. This three-day guided meditation and prayer experience is designed for those whose abuse by another has deeply affected their hearts, minds, bodies, and souls. The next retreat is for women and will be held July 18-20 at the Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat Center (7303 N 112th St, Waverly). For more information, contact Mary Beth Hanus from the Archdiocese of Omaha at 402-827-3798 or [mbhanus@archomaha.org](mailto:mbhanus@archomaha.org). Learn more at <https://archomaha.org/safe-environment/victim-assistance/#theway>.

### PRO-LIFE COMMUNITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE—OUR LADY OF LOURDES, JULY 24-26

We appreciate donated cars, small appliances, pots and pans, toys, jewelry, religious items, trinkets, games, sporting goods, books/dvds/cds, memorabilia, pictures, clocks, antiques, and all items in good saleable condition. Please no clothing, electronics, mattresses or box springs, exercise equipment, or junk. Please no furniture except book cases, small dressers, and small tables. You can drop off saleable items on Sunday, July 20 from Noon to 8 PM, or Monday - Wednesday, July 21-23, from 8 AM to 8 PM at Our Lady of Lourdes gym (2120 S 32nd Ave, Omaha). Donations and purchases help defend life with Nebraskans Embracing Life. The sale will take place Thursday and Friday, July 24-25, from 8 AM to 6 PM and on Saturday, July 26 from 8 AM to 2 PM at Our Lady of Lourdes gym (2120 S 32nd Ave, Omaha).



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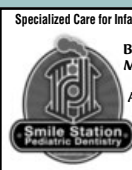


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