

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET

GRETNNA, NE 68028



PENTECOST SUNDAY

“We will come to him and make our dwelling with him.”
- Jn 14:23

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

JUNE 8, 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

Pentecost Sunday

FIRST READING (ACTS 2:1-11)

The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and able to speak in multiple tongues so that all the people could understand them. When do you feel the Holy Spirit present in your life?

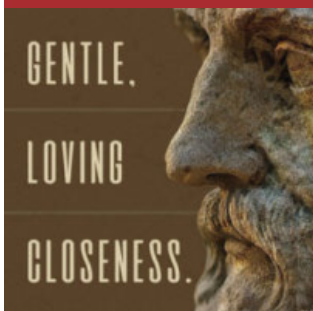
SECOND READING (1 COR 12:3B-7, 12-13 OR ROM 8:8-17)

Paul assures us that as believers, the Spirit of God dwells in us. How ought the indwelling of the Spirit positively impact our day-to-day living?

GOSPEL (JN 20:19-23 OR JN 14:15-16, 23B-26)

The resurrected Jesus sent out the disciples to forgive (or retain) sins. What has been your experience of the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



When I was a seminarian almost 20 years ago, a bank vice president taught us etiquette classes. She said, "Gentlemen, please make sure your breath isn't bad. Take some breath mints before you hear confessions, okay?" We nervously laughed because the proximity that makes breath noticeable (whether pleasant or not) can be a bit awkward.

When Jesus breathes on His Apostles (John 20:22), He must have been within inches of at least some of them. This closeness of His breath has a purpose: the purpose of forgiveness of sins. "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven

them" (John 20:23). Why in the world would the almost uncomfortable closeness of His breath forgive sins?

In the Bible, breath is spirit or wind. It comes from above and makes that which is below to have identity. To not have a single identity is to be multiple, divided. The word "sin" comes from an ancient word that means "to split" or "render asunder." Sin divides us sinners and the world around us; our spiritual "breath" leaves us and our identity splinters. Only breath from above restores. For example, a shattered vase is rendered whole because the craftsman breathes the spirit of the vase back into it when he repairs it. A human being shattered by sin is made whole by the breath of God, breathed by Jesus through His priests. His breath alone forgives sins. It's always done with His gentle, loving closeness.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

Why do we use incense at Mass?

ANSWER:

The use of incense in religious ceremonies and worship is a practice that predates Christianity, and which is also found in many other religious traditions today.

Incense, which is made from resin infused with aromatic spices and oils, is one of those fundamentally human symbols that incorporates more than one of our senses, helping us to reflect on realities that transcend the everyday details of our lives.

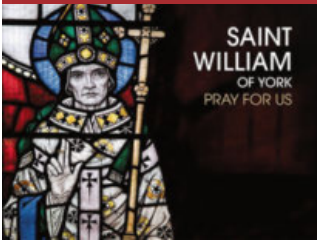
The use of incense in the Church's liturgy—in the Mass, as well as in devotions to the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours—is inspired by the use of incense in the Jewish tradition. In the writings of the Old Testament, we hear about incense being used in the worship of the temple, and Psalm 141 asks, "Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering" (vs. 2). The image here is that, as the incense gently rises to Heaven, our prayers also rise to God as something sweet and pleasant.

Another ancient use of incense that has also become part of our Catholic tradition is the idea that when we incense something, it's because it is something special or sacred. This is why the Book of the Gospel is incensed during the Liturgy of the Word and the bread, wine, priest celebrant, and congregation are incensed at the presentation of the gifts. To this, we can also add the incensing of the Blessed Sacrament during Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction, and the body of the deceased at the end of the Mass of the Resurrection (the Funeral Mass).



SAINT WILLIAM OF YORK

Bishop

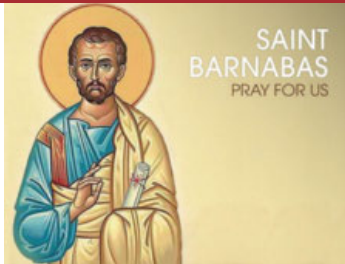


St. William of York (d. 1154) was born to a powerful family in England, the nephew of the king. He became a priest and then treasurer of York Minster Cathedral at the time when the English crown was contested by two grandchildren of William the Conqueror. When the Archbishop of York died, William was chosen to take his place. Kind-hearted and generous to the poor, he was well-liked by the people; however, he faced political and ecclesiastical opposition from the rival to the English throne. Because he was consecrated without papal approval, William was accused of wrongdoing by those who wanted their preferred prelate in the position; even St. Bernard of Clairvaux opposed him. Although he eventually confirmed William's appointment, the Pope died before the pallium was given, and the new pope took the side of William's detractors. A new archbishop was ordained in his place while William went to live as a monk with his uncle, a bishop, in quiet prayer and penance. The people of York, upset that their favorite had been deposed, took to rioting. Six years later the Archbishop of York died, and another new pope made William the successor. The people were overjoyed at his return—so many came to greet him as he entered the city that a bridge collapsed under their weight; the fact that no one was hurt was considered a miracle. A few months later, after celebrating Mass on Trinity Sunday, William became ill and died. Poisoning was suspected but never confirmed. Miracles took place at his tomb which gave rise to his canonization in 1227. His feast day is June 8.

SAINT BARNABAS

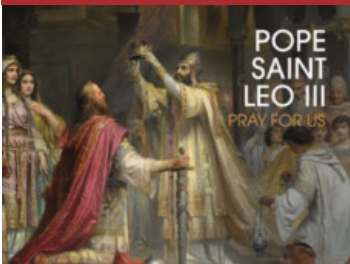
Martyr

St. Barnabas (1st c.) was a Jew from the island of Cyprus who was given the name Joseph at birth. He is mentioned by name in the New Testament. A convert to the Christian faith in Jerusalem, he sold his property and preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles alongside St. Paul the Apostle and St. Mark the Evangelist. He was given the surname Barnabas, meaning 'Son of Exhortation' and was highly esteemed among the Christian leaders at Jerusalem and Antioch, almost ranked among the twelve Apostles themselves. St. Luke said of him, "... for he was a good man, full of the Holy Ghost and of Faith." It was Barnabas who vouched for the genuineness of St. Paul's conversion and had him accepted as a Christian by the other Apostles. Barnabas was the cousin of St. Mark, and Barnabas famously disputed with St. Paul over bringing Mark along on their missionary journey, which caused the two famed preachers to part ways and travel separately as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. They were later reconciled. Barnabas was eventually stoned to death around the year 61 A.D. His feast day is celebrated on June 11.



SAINT LEO III

Pope



Pope St. Leo III (d. 816 A.D.) was a Roman cardinal who was unanimously elected pope on the same day his predecessor was buried. He lived during a time of tension between the popes and emperors and their respective rights, powers, and responsibilities. Unlike his predecessor, Leo recognized Charlemagne as the protector of the See of Rome, which won him many enemies among the Roman nobility. As a result, Pope St. Leo III was attacked by a mob who cut out his eyes and tongue so that he could no longer serve in his office. He survived the attack, but was imprisoned by his attackers and deposed from his office under false accusations. Leo's eyes and tongue were miraculously restored, and he was able to escape his captivity and flee to Charlemagne for protection. Charlemagne in turn took up the Holy Father's cause, escorted him back to Rome, and put his enemies on trial. A few days later, at the Christmas Mass of 800 A.D., Pope St. Leo III crowned Charlemagne as the Holy Roman Emperor. As the Roman Pontiff, Pope St. Leo III was known for being an effective administrator and for improving the Roman churches. He also paved the way for a more unified Europe, and for greater cooperation across national borders between the Church and the secular European nations to maintain their collective Christian identity. His feast day is June 12.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7/Jn 19:25-34
TUESDAY: 2 Cor 1:18-22/Ps 119:129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 135/Mt 5:13-16
WEDNESDAY: Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3 (580)/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 8, 9/Mt 5:17-19
THURSDAY: 2 Cor 3:15—4:1, 3-6/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 5:20-26
FRIDAY: 2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 116:10-11, 15-16, 17-18/Mt 5:27-32
SATURDAY: 2 Cor 5:14-21/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Mt 5:33-37
NEXT SUNDAY: Prv 8:22-31/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (2a)/Rom 5:1-5/Jn 16:12-15



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
WEDNESDAY: St. Barnabas, Apostle
FRIDAY: St. Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church
SATURDAY: Flag Day
NEXT SUNDAY: The Most Holy Trinity; Father's Day





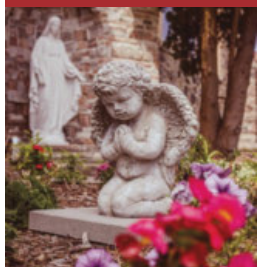
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CENTURY CLUB *Your Chance to Earn Cash*

It's time for the semi-annual Century Club drive! A branch of the Knights of Columbus, Century Club raises funds to give it away! Half is used for St. Patrick Parish needs. The other half is returned to members, regardless of where they live, via a monthly CASH prize drawings. Nine members win from \$25 to \$150 in CASH! Jim Hottovy will be in the narthex after all Masses the weekend of June 7-8 to answer any questions you may have.



CEMETERY CLEAN UP *Holy Sepulchre Cemetery*



We will be having a clean up day at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery (23131 Schram Rd, Gretna) on 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 **Br. Paul Hotovy** (Salesians of Don Bosco) from St. Leo the Great in Omaha.



"Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:22)
As the Holy Spirit filled the disciples with power, so too can He fill you with the strength to answer a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life. Be open to His prompting. 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 May 11, seven 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

Cooper Douglas Endorf.....6/1/2025
Rhett Thomas Hines.....6/1/2025
Lillian Lee Kelley.....6/1/2025
Rori Suzanne Robison.....6/1/2025
Charlie Jane Meyer.....6/1/2025
Blake Ann Longacre.....6/1/2025
Graham William Vrbicky.....6/1/2025

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

Colton Wells and Teresa Fibich.....5/31/2025

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

Gerald (Jerry) Pilakowski.....5/23/2025.....Omaha National Cemetery

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 Baxter and Father Vince'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>.

FR. SSONKO FUNDRAISER—FRIDAY, JULY 11

Get Your Tickets Today 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, stpatriksgretna.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.

TOTUS TUUS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Host Families, Meals, and Classroom Volunteers

Visiting missionaries will be with us for Totus Tuus Sunday, June 22 thru Friday, June 27, and we need your help! If you would like to help in any way listed below, please contact Shane at smfagan@archomaha.org. Thank you!



- Host Families:** do you have room for two college aged young men or women to stay with you from the evening of Saturday, June 21 thru the morning of the Saturday, June 28 (or evening of June 27)? Can you provide continental breakfast items each day? Then, this might be a great opportunity for these traveling missionaries to meet some of our amazing parishioners and be provided with a warm welcome and hospitality while visiting St. Patrick.
- Provide Dinner:** are you a good cook for a group? Each night we have dinner available for the teens participating and the visiting missionaries (about 15-20 total). Please consider making or purchasing a dinner one night (June 22-26).
- Provide Lunch:** each day (June 23-27) we need someone to provide lunch for the missionaries (only 4). This can be dropped off ahead of time or at lunchtime on your day.
- Snack/Lunch Help:** This can be an adult, high schooler, or middle schooler to help set up and serve snacks in the morning and help with clean up after lunch. You can help everyday or just some days.
- Small Group Help:** This can be an adult, high schooler, or middle schooler that sits in with the groups through the day assisting the missionaries with behavior, activities, etc. You could volunteer for the whole week, just some days, or just parts of days.

Stewardship Report

May 21-27, 2025

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

General Contributions	May 21-27, 2025	Fiscal YTD thru May 27
Sunday Offering	\$15,251.87	\$1,174,289.40
Other Contributions	\$985.21	\$121,469.71
Total General Contributions	\$16,237.08	\$1,295,759.11 *
Surplus/Deficit	(\$10,012.92)	\$62,009.11

May 28-June 3, 2025

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

General Contributions	May 28- Jun 3, 2025	Fiscal YTD thru Jun 3
Sunday Offering	\$14,905.45	\$1,189,194.85
Other Contributions	\$2,781.49	\$124,251.20
Total General Contributions	\$17,686.94	\$1,313,446.05 *
Surplus/Deficit	(\$8,563.06)	\$53,446.05

* Our budget requires an average weekly income of \$26,250.

'Other Contributions' include Holy Days, Maintenance & Repairs, and other Special Collections.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

THE KNIGHT'S CORNER

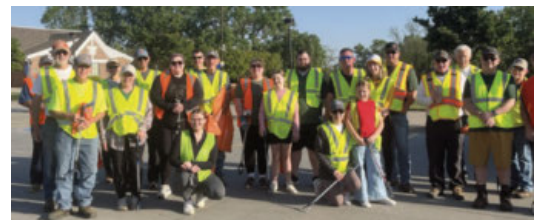


COR MEN'S GROUP

Cor exists to form and strengthen Catholic men in faith and virtue as missionary disciples by drawing them into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, formation, and fraternity. Cor will be held in the Fr. Hitch Room every two weeks with the next meeting being (Sunday, June 8 at 7 PM). Come join your brother parishioners for prayer and fraternity! If you have additional questions, please reach out to Matthew Henry at mattmhenry@gmail.com, Andy Pearson at apearson709@gmail.com, Eric Devlin at delineric62@gmail.com or Seth Boardman at sethd99@hotmail.com.



HIGHWAY CLEANUP THANKS



Thank you to all of the volunteers who "pitched in" on Saturday, May 10 to get the Highway 370 looking beautiful for Memorial Day weekend. We had great weather for this event with 26 volunteers. What a great way to give back to our community!

MONTHLY MEETING

All Knights are invited to join us for our monthly Knights of Columbus meeting that occurs every first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM in the St. Patrick Parish Center.



Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight, Bruce Jefferies.....402-521-4262
Deputy Grand Knight, John Schaffert.. 402-672-7903
Financial Secretary, Marty Stednitz.....402-332-3840
Chancellor and Membership Director, Tim Hall.....
.....307-214-3714
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, JUNE 9TH

7:30 AM † Nancy Sis

TUESDAY, JUNE 10TH

6:00 PM † Juanita Distefano

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11TH

7:30 AM † Nicole Embree

THURSDAY, JUNE 12TH

7:30 AM † James Dooley

FRIDAY, JUNE 13TH

7:30 AM † Scot Stoner

SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH

5:00 PM † The Deceased Members of the Lyle Green Family

SUNDAY, JUNE 15TH

8:00 AM All the Fathers of the Parish Living and Deceased
10:00 AM All the Fathers of the Parish Living and Deceased
12:00 PM All the Fathers of the Parish Living and Deceased

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 Ian McGovern, Jennifer Boldt, 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, JUNE 8TH—PENTECOST SUNDAY

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
12:00 PM to 4:00 PM Knights Family Day—Parking Lot and Parish Center AB
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM COR Men's Group Meeting—Father Hitch Room

MONDAY, JUNE 9TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
9:00 AM to 11:30 AM Preschool Summer Camp—Preschool
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Baptism Class—Father Hitch Room

TUESDAY, JUNE 10TH

8:30 AM to 3:30 PM Project Linus—Basement Commons
9:00 AM to 11:30 AM Preschool Summer Camp—Preschool
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, JUNE 11TH

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
9:00 AM to 11:30 AM Preschool Summer Camp—Preschool
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

THURSDAY, JUNE 12TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
9:00 AM to 11:30 AM Preschool Summer Camp—Preschool

FRIDAY, JUNE 13TH

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH

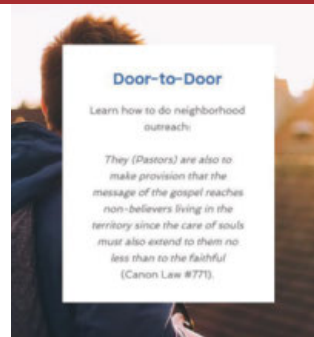
9:00 AM to 11:30 PM Father's Day Breakfast Prep—All Parish Center and Kitchen
4:00 PM to 4:40 PM Confession—Confessional
4:30 PM to 4:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 5:00 PM)—Sanctuary

SUNDAY, JUNE 15TH—THE MOST HOLY TRINITY—FATHER'S DAY

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 Father's Day Breakfast—Parish Center and Kitchen
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary

SENT EVANGELIZATION COMING TO GRETNA *Catholic Door to Door Ministry*

Join the parishioners of St. Charles Borromeo in Gretna for a presentation and training from the founder of Sent Evangelization, Austin Habash, on Saturday, June 14 from 9:30 AM to 4 PM in the St. Charles Borromeo Gym (7790 192nd St, Gretna) as they embark on a door-to-door evangelization initiative. St. Charles has grouped their parishioners into Evangelists (those that knock doors and pray for/with neighbors), Intercessors (those that pray for the Evangelists and the neighbors they encounter), and Support (those who fund the initiative and follow up with/assist neighbors in need). Austin will present how each group operates and plays a crucial role in evangelizing those living right next door. He will follow up the training by guiding the group in their first Sent outing and finish by leading a debrief of the experience. If you or a group from your parish are interested in attending free of charge, please contact Adam Stephenson via email at astephenson@scbccomaha.org or phone at 402-707-3677. More information on the initiative can be found here on FORMED at <https://watch.formed.org/sent-evangelization> or on the Sent Evangelization website at <https://www.sentevangelization.org>.



**"Let us never forget that if we wish to die like the saints we must live like them."
—St. Eugene de Mazenod**

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

The Most Holy Trinity

JUNE 14TH
5:00 PM

Sacristan
Linda Schriener

Lectors
Crystal Schroeder
(Read the 1st Reading)

Bridget Blum
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Christine Walstrom
Janie Vipond
Julene Crockett
Sue Korth

Ushers
Chris Lingbloom
Linda Schriener
Need Sub
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Carol Zeleny

Altar Servers
Shailynn Gatewood
Colin Lingbloom
Need Sub

Greeters
Chris Gatewood
Chris Lingbloom

JUNE 15TH
8:00 AM

Sacristan
Tony Schultz

Lectors
Sandy Scheef
(Read the 1st Reading)

Therese Huttman
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Gene Schwarting
Kathy Schwarting
Greg Jones
Therese Nisbet

Ushers
Greg Jones
Kevin Kaup
Tony Schultz
Christopher Wilson

Rosary Reciter
Carol Zeleny

Altar Servers
Matthew Farwell
Drew Garcia
Need Sub

Greeters
Mary Brown
Christopher Wilson

Hilcrest SR/HL
Gene Schwarting
Kathy Schwarting

JUNE 15TH
10:00 AM

Sacristan
Mitch Wendlandt

Lectors
Judy Weier
(Read the 1st Reading)

Need Sub
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Abby Kenner
Carol Hoover
Dan Dauner
Jolene Jefferies

Ushers
Jim Hain
Norris Hoover
Bruce Jefferies
Tom Nienaber

Rosary Reciter
Kathy Dauner

Altar Servers
Vinnie Nelson
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Carol Zeleny
Need Sub

JUNE 15TH
NOON

Sacristan
Larry Neppel

Lectors
Karen Meyerott
(Read the 1st Reading)

Kathy Broz
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Kathy Broz
Steve Otto
Leann Otto
Larry Neppel
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Carole Lisiecki
Delma Stoner
Doris Williams
Mary Zeigler

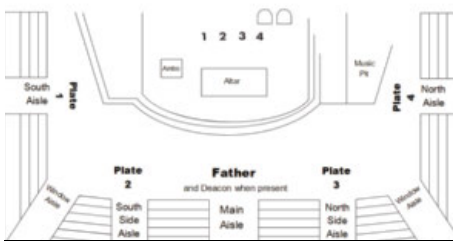
Rosary Reciter
Norm Svoboda

Altar Servers
Need Sub
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Carole Lisiecki
Doris Williams

Vocations Crucifix
John Roll

EMHC STATION MAP



EMHC Positions (see diagram above):

- 1) South Aisle
- 2) South Side Aisle
- 3) North Side Aisle
- 4) North Aisle
- 5) Main Aisle—Father and Deacon when present

If you are unable to serve at your assigned time, please find a substitute. The Parish Office greatly appreciates your help, support and patience as we work together in providing Mass to our parish family!

The Vocations Crucifix can be picked up after any of the weekend Masses from the Sacristy, and should be returned before the following weekend.

PENTECOST



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Gretna, Nebraska

PARISH STAFF

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Fr. Gregory P. Baxter.....402-332-4444, x205
gpbaxter@archomaha.org
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402-332-4428 or 531-466-2453

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Deacon Larry Heck (*Retired*).....402-689-9676

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ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

PARISH BREAKFASTS *Special Father's Day Breakfast*



You are invited to join us in the Parish Center for a special Father's Day breakfast on June 15, from 9 AM to 12 PM for a delicious breakfast. It's a perfect way to gather after Sunday Mass, get to know other parishioners here at St. Patrick, and celebrate the fathers of our parish. Volunteers are needed.

VENI HOLY HOUR *Archomaha Young Adults*

All young adults in the archdiocese (ages 21-39) are invited to Veni, an evening of



Adoration and fellowship at St. Cecilia Cathedral (701 N 40th St, Omaha) on Friday, June 13. Adoration begins at 7:30 PM in the Cathedral with a brief reflection from a priest and is followed by an after party in the parish center! Veni is held every second Friday of the month at the Cathedral. More information about getting involved in the Archdiocese Young Adult activities can be found at <https://www.archyoungadults.org>.

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.

BE A BRIDGE TO SOMEONE *What Does the Title Supreme Pontiff Mean?*

During these days since the election of Pope Leo XIV, I've been reflecting on one of his many titles: Supreme Pontiff of the Universal Church (*Summus Pontifex Ecclesiae Universalis*). It raises the question, what's a pontiff? Pontiff comes from the Latin word *pontifex*. Breaking it down, *pons* means "bridge" and *fex* is a suffix which refers to the word that means "to make". The title, then, "Supreme Pontiff," reveals that the Holy Father is the "greatest bridge maker." But where are these bridges going?



A simple answer takes me back to my days of college seminary. I remember the Vice Rector often saying, "Be bridges, not obstacles, men." It was a reference to St. John Paul II's exhortation *Pastores Dabo Vobis* (translated "I will give you all shepherds," a reference to Jeremiah 3:15). In the exhortation, John Paul addresses both men preparing to become priests and men who have already been ordained. Among the many salient points for reflection, one stands out, especially one that answers our question about where the Holy Father is called to build bridges to. John Paul writes: "In order that his ministry may be humanly as credible and acceptable as possible, it is important that the priest should mold his human personality in such a way that it becomes a bridge and not an obstacle for others in their meeting with Jesus Christ the Redeemer of humanity (section 43)."

We see, then, that the Holy Father is called to be a bridge to Jesus Christ. Like every priest, all the Holy Father's undertakings have Christ as their end, so that others may meet Christ in this life. For John Paul, the priest is an effective bridge when he molds his human personality into the very bridge to encounter Jesus.

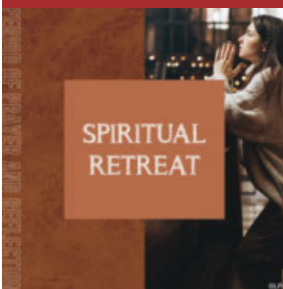
The effects should be obvious—the more a priest develops the virtues that make his humanity flourish, the easier it will be for souls to encounter Christ in him. The priest, then, becomes a living image of Christ, an image of the one his people will receive and encounter in the Sacraments.

This bridge-building, however, is not reserved only for priests and the Holy Father. In fact, the Second Vatican Council explains that every Christian is meant to build up the Church, principally by leading the world to Christ, each in his respective vocation. To be an effective "bridge maker," John Paul II draws up a list of virtues and characteristics that are helpful for every Christian who seeks character formation. He lists: affability, hospitality, sincerity in words and heart, prudence and discretion, generosity and readiness to serve, capability of opening oneself to relationships, and lastly, that the bridge maker be quick to understand, forgive, and console (section 43). Regarding vices, he especially mentions that one should not be arrogant or quarrelsome.

As we hope and pray, then, that our newly elected Pope be an effective "bridge maker," may we also pray for ourselves. Whether priest or layperson, may each of us have the necessary virtues to become a bridge to Jesus Christ, the someone we all knowingly or unknowingly yearn for.

—Article by Dominican Journal

CATHOLIC DEVOTIONS EXPLAINED *Spiritual Retreats*



Spiritual retreats are an act of removing oneself from one's daily life for a period of prayer and reflection, with the intent of returning to that daily life transformed.

It was Christ Himself who was the greatest and earliest advocate of spiritual retreat. In the Gospels, He is constantly depicted as withdrawing from other people to be alone in prayer. Likewise, participants in a modern retreat most often go somewhere like a retreat center to seek silence, solitude, and communion with God. There are many different varieties of retreats; they can be guided and take place in a group

setting, or they can be undertaken alone by just one person. Some are focused on a specific topic or theme; some are defined by periods of total silence. Though clerics are compelled by canon law to go on retreat regularly, all faithful are encouraged to make retreat part of their spiritual life.

WHY WOULD A SAINT NEED A SPIRITUAL DIRECTION? *Core of Christian Theology*

Dear Father John, I have heard that most saints have had spiritual directors in their lives. Why would a saint need spiritual direction? Is there something about the human condition that does not allow spiritual progress without this kind of assistance?

Let me answer your question with a question: Why did God choose to save us from sin through the incarnation of His eternal Son? Is there something about the human condition that required God to become man in order to redeem us?



You can see that your question about why saints need spiritual direction touches the very core of Christian theology. God is all-powerful, all-loving, and all-knowing. As a result, He could have chosen any number of ways to redeem our fallen world. He was not constricted by some higher law, outside of Himself, that forced Him to send the Second Person of the Holy Trinity among us through the incarnation. Rather, He chose to do it that way. He chose to administer the redemption through a mediator who was fully human (Jesus Christ). And having chosen that path, He was consistent with that choice; the Church is an extension of this same method of redemption. Through the sacraments and Sacred Scripture, God continues to communicate His grace to us through material realities; He saves and sanctifies us in a manner that respects our human nature, by which we are a unity of spirit and matter (in philosophical terms, that means the human person is a spiritual soul informing a material body).

Granted that choice, the strange phenomenon of saints needing spiritual directors makes more sense. It's God continuing to reach out to us through a language that we can easily understand, through contact with another human being. And you are right, every saint received their faith and their formation in the faith from God, through the mediation of others. Certainly, they made excellent use of what others were teaching and showing them, unlike so many mediocre Christians, but still, they needed a spiritual director, a spiritual father, a confessor, a mentor... This is how God has chosen to work. As St. Augustine put it: "He willed to create us without our assistance, but He wills to save us with our assistance."

One particularly eloquent example of this divine methodology is found among the women mystics. St. Faustina and St. Margaret Mary, for example, were both privileged with extraordinary visions in which Our Lord Himself appeared and spoke to them, conversationally, many times. He entrusted to each of them a difficult mission, and didn't spare them a healthy share of His cross. Part of their cross consisted in suffering misunderstanding and poor guidance at the hand of inept superiors or confessors. Jesus promised each of them that He would send a worthy confessor (spiritual director) who would be His faithful instrument in guiding them. But why? If the Lord was already communicating directly with these chosen souls, why did He make their spiritual advancement depend so heavily on other guidance that would come from a merely human source? These are stark cases of God showing that he chooses to work in our souls in ways appropriate to our human nature.

The beauty of this divine pedagogy is often more apparent when we look at it from a distance than when we are in the middle of it. We have all been irritated, at times, by the all-too-human failings and foibles of priests, confessors, and spiritual directors. Sometimes their imperfections are so glaring that we almost completely forget that God has purposely chosen to work through flawed instruments, to mediate His perfect, divine grace through imperfect, human messengers.

Much theological reflection has gone into probing God's possible motives for doing things this way. And there is still plenty of room for more. It may be a good topic of meditation for you, and if you like the idea, I would suggest starting with one of the Bible's most famous verses, in which God Himself tells us about His motives: "For God so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Yours in Christ, Father John Bartunek, LC

—Article by *Spiritual Direction*

**"In order to be an image of God, the spirit must turn to what is eternal, hold it in spirit, keep it in memory, and by loving it, embrace it in the will."
—St. Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)**



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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.

ONE MILLION HOLY HOURS *Pray for Pope Leo XIV*



Be a part of offering one million Holy Hours by the Feast of the Assumption on Friday, August

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ARCHDIOCESE ANNUAL APPEAL *Halfway to Our Parish Goal*

To date,
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towards our goal of \$123,802.80 for this year's Archdiocese Annual Appeal. That means we are a little over halfway to our parish goal. Please help us reach our participation goal of 30%. Your support of this annual appeal directly impacts parishes, schools, and ministries throughout northeast Nebraska as they work to become missional communities. Thank you for your generosity!



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AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

HEALING MASS—ST. GERALD, RALSTON, JUNE 13

His Global Love Prayer Communities invite you to a Healing Mass on Friday, June 13 at St. Gerald Catholic Church (9602 Q St, Ralston). The Rosary will begin at 6:15 PM with praise and worship to follow, and Mass at 7 PM. Fr. Kevin Joyce from His Global Love Ministry will be presiding. All are welcome. Questions, contact Frances Mignon at 402-515-8000.



HIS WAY AT WORK CONSECRATION—ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR, JUNE 14



The Mass of Consecration is intended for business owners who want to consecrate their companies to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on Saturday, June 14 St. Stephen the Martyr (16701 S St, Omaha) at 10 AM with a reception to follow. Please register at <https://www.osvhub.com/stephen/forms/his-way-at-work-consecration-mass-registration> so that we have an accurate count of attendance at Mass; you can include the names of family members that will be in attendance as well. After registration, you are encouraged to watch an online video series by His Way At Work to prepare your heart and mind for this celebration. To access the videos visit, <https://hwaw.com/prepare>. Registration must be submitted by June 10. For more information on His Way At Work, please visit: www.hwaw.com. If you have additional questions, please contact Adam Ybarra at a.ybarra@stephen.org.

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION—ST. WENCESLAUS, JUNE 22

The third annual West Omaha Corpus Christi Procession will take place on Sunday, June 22, at 2 PM. The procession will begin at Dowd Chapel at Boys Town (13943 Dowd Dr, Boys Town) and end at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church (15353 Pacific St, Omaha) with Benediction at St. Wenceslaus. Refreshments and a free bus ride back to Boys Town will be provided.



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.

HEALING THE WHOLE PERSON VIRTUAL RETREAT—VIRTUAL, AUGUST 4-8

Led by Dr. Bob Schuchts and Sr. Miriam James Heidland, the Healing the Whole Person Virtual Retreat is a weeklong experience that you can engage in from the comfort of your home, local chapel, or other safe space. Through a series of eight pre-recorded talks, live Q&A sessions, group prayer experiences, individual prayer ministry, a comprehensive workbook, and opportunities to share and connect with other retreat participants, this uniquely engaging format will help you see and experience God's healing love from anywhere in the world. Registration is open now at <https://jpiihealingcenter.org/hwpvirtual>.



SEEKING TRUTH CATHOLIC BIBLE STUDY—ST. LEO'S, SEPTEMBER 11

Seeking Truth Catholic Bible Study is a metro-wide program in its 18th year. This year's study will last 16 weeks (calendar on website) and will be covering the Gospel of Matthew. The study is unique in that it takes a canonical approach connecting both Old and New Testaments as well as catechism and papal writings. We'd love to have you join us for this foundational Gospel and study of the Catholic Faith. Registration is open and filling quickly at www.SeekingTRUTH.net. Begins on September 11 with day and evening live classes available at St. Leo's Parish (1920 N 102nd St, Omaha). Please come and bring a friend!



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