

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET GRETNA, NE 68028



14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“The kingdom of God is at hand for you.”
- Lk 10:9

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

JULY 6, 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.....@stpatrickgretna
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

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING (Is 66:10-14C)

Isaiah speaks of God's love and care for Jerusalem as a loving mother who feeds and comforts her child. What are some favorite memories or images you have of your mother?

SECOND READING (Gal 6:14-18)

Paul ends his letter to the Galatians emphasizing that believers are part of God's "new creation," no longer defined by circumcision and uncircumcision. How does your faith community encourage or energize you to think differently?

GOSPEL (Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 OR 10:1-9)

The 72 followers of Jesus succeeded in their work to preach the Kingdom of God and heal the sick and demon possessed. What does a successful parish look like today?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



In the days after the awful 2020 killing of George Floyd, a Catholic friend remarked, "Racism is today's great evil. We should put all our energy into fighting it." I admired her intuition that the church must stand firmly against evil. Amen, I thought. At the same time, something felt wrong. As months went by, I saw her steadily slide into bitterness and anger. Soon, despondency. She spoke of giving up the fight. Don't we too wonder how to fight evil without losing our joy or energy?

Jesus' words this week help. He says, "Rejoice not that you have power over demons, but that your names are written

in Heaven" (Luke 10:20). Notice the asymmetry in where he wants our focus: on the latter, not the former. Should we confidently embrace our God-given power to overcome evil? Absolutely. But even more so, we should emphasize the positive element of our relationship to God. It is tempting but dangerous to define ourselves by what we oppose. It is better to define ourselves by—to rejoice in—what we celebrate: in Jesus, God has written our names in Heaven. This sustains our battles.

This week, our marching orders are: fight evil. But more deeply, rejoice that God knows and loves us personally, individually. We allow this joyful knowledge to undergird our fight against the darkness of our day. Then we enjoy long-term stability to be cheerful warriors, who never forget the reason for the contests we are called to fight and win: love.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

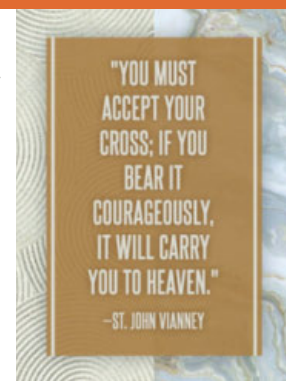
As Catholics, we talk a lot about "redemptive suffering" and "carrying your cross." What does that mean practically in daily life?

ANSWER:

When Jesus spoke these words, they would have sounded quite intense to his hearers. "Pick up your cross daily and follow me." At the time, Jesus hadn't yet been crucified. A cross was a Roman torture instrument. "Pick up the thing that tortures you the most," Jesus seemed to say. Unfortunately, most of us have no real shortage of these in our life. To take up the cross isn't to seek out new sufferings in our life. It's to accept the life we have.

Of course, unjust or unhealthy circumstances should be rectified when possible. But there are always circumstances that remain out of our immediate control. It could be pain management, the defiance of our teenage child, or an unhealthy work environment... but you need the paycheck to pay the bills. In difficult circumstances, it can be easier to blame, complain, or daydream our way out of it. None of these are real solutions, since none of them accept the reality of the situation at hand. Those options only add to our suffering, since they damage relationships, fixate on the problem, or set up unrealistic expectations.

Instead, Jesus invites us to take up our cross—to look at the uncomfortable situation square in the eyes, take a deep breath, and do our best to be present to God's grace in the moment. To love those in our path. To take things one step at a time.



BLESSED POPE BENEDICT XI

Pope



Blessed Pope Benedict XI (1240-1304) was born in Italy with the name Nicholas Boccasini. At the age of 14 he entered the Dominican Order, and went on to become a theology professor before being named Master General of the Order in 1296. As Master of the Dominicans, Boccasini defended Pope Boniface VIII when the hostility of secular rulers towards the Roman Pontiff grew, especially during the pope's open conflict with the King of France. In reward for his loyalty, Boccasini was elevated to Cardinal and then

Bishop of Ostia. When Hungary was torn with civil war, Boccasini was sent there by the Holy See to restore peace. When he returned to Rome, the Pope's conflict with France reached its height; Boniface VIII was seized, beaten, and driven from the Sacred Palace by his enemies, while Boccasini was one of only two cardinals who defended the Holy Father to the end. After Boniface VIII died, Boccasini was elected in his place and took the name Pope Benedict XI. He excommunicated all those who had taken part in the seizure and abuse of his predecessor, while at the same time restoring peace with the French court. In this time of tumult he repaired the damage with leniency, yet without compromising the Holy See or the good memory of the previous pope. His reign was brief; he died suddenly of a suspected poisoning after only eight months in office. Bl. Pope Benedict XI was the author of a volume of sermons and commentaries on the Gospel of Matthew, Psalms, Job, and Revelation. His feast day is July 7.

SAINT KILIAN

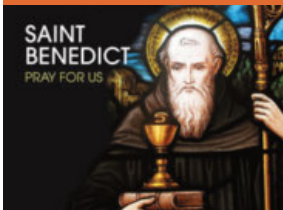
Bishop and Martyr

St. Kilian (c. 640-689 A.D.), also known as St. Cillian, was born to a noble family in Ireland. As a child he was known for his piety and love of study, which led him to the priesthood. He became a traveling bishop on the island, and in 686 A.D. left Ireland with eleven companions to travel throughout Gaul (present day France and parts of Germany) to preach the Gospel. From there he traveled to Rome to get official sanction from the Pope to become a missionary. Once obtained, St. Kilian returned north and settled in Würzburg as his base of activity along with two of his original companions. He began his work evangelizing the pagans in large parts of Franconia and Thuringia (north and central Germany), earning the name 'Apostle of Franconia.' St. Kilian converted the Duke of Würzburg and convinced him to end his unlawful marriage. This greatly angered the Duke's wife, who resisted St. Kilian's attempts to convert her. While her husband was away, she had St. Kilian and his two missionary companions beheaded as they were preaching. A cathedral was built on the spot of their martyrdom by the first bishop of Würzburg. On St. Kilian's feast his relics, along with those of his two companions, are paraded through the streets and put on display in the Würzburg Cathedral, which is dedicated to him. St. Kilian's feast day is July 8.



SAINT BENEDICT OF NURSIA

Religious



St. Benedict of Nursia (480-547 A.D.) and his twin sister, St. Scholastica, were born to a Roman nobleman and his wife in Nursia, Italy. He spent his childhood with his parents in Rome. As a young man he found in himself a strong desire to escape the trifling things of the world and serve God. He left his family and wealth and settled in the mountainous region of Subiaco. After three years living in solitude as a cave-dwelling hermit, he was asked to lead a monastery in the place of an abbot

who had died. Benedict did as they asked, but his way of life was too extreme for the monks and they tried to poison him. He thwarted their evil designs by blessing the poisoned cup, rendering it ineffective. Benedict returned to his cave, where news of his sanctity and miracles began to spread. Soon a community of men surrounded him wanting to adopt his way of life. To house them Benedict established twelve monasteries, including the world-famous Monte Cassino, and gave them a rule of life to live by, known as the Rule of St. Benedict. His Rule—still observed by Benedictines today—helped form the civilization and culture of Europe. Because of the organization, structure, and discipline he brought to the monastic life, he is known as the Founder of Western Monasticism. He is the patron saint of monks, students, farmers, all of Europe, and more. He is also especially known for his intercession against poison, temptations, and witchcraft. His feast day is July 11 in the Latin rite, while the Benedictines celebrate his feast on March 21.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Gn 28:10-22a/Ps 91:1-2, 3-4, 14-15ab/
Mt 9:18-26

TUESDAY: Gn 32:23-33/Ps 17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, 8b
and 15/Mt 9:32-38

WEDNESDAY: Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a/Ps
33:2-3, 10-11, 18-19/Mt 10:1-7

THURSDAY: Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5/Ps
105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 10:7-15

FRIDAY: Gn 46:1-7, 28-30/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28,
39-40/Mt 10:16-23

SATURDAY: Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a/Ps 105:1-2, 3-
4, 6-7/Mt 10:24-33

NEXT SUNDAY: Dt 30:10-14/Ps 69:14, 17, 30-31,
33-34, 36, 37 (see 33)/Col 1:15-20/Lk 10:25-37

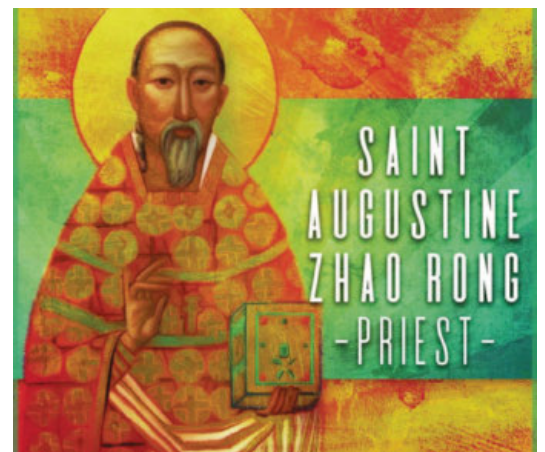


OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY: St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest, and
Companions, Martyrs

FRIDAY: St. Benedict, Abbot

NEXT SUNDAY: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

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, July 11. 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>.

PARISH COOKBOOKS FOR SALE A Great Gift for All Occasions



Purchase your copy of the parish cookbook during regular parish office hours for \$25 (cash or check—checks can be made payable to St. Patrick Church). They make great gifts for all occasions—700+ family favorite recipes. All proceeds benefit St. Patrick Preschool.

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 **Cynthia Lujan** (Missionary Benedictines) from St. John Paul II Newman Center in Omaha.



"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few." (Luke 10:2) God's vineyard is overflowing with opportunities, and there's a heartfelt need for dedicated laborers. Could Christ be inviting you to join this vital work? Take a moment to consider a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life. Your unique gifts could make a profound difference! Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.



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

Mitchell Mann and Olivia Lang.....6/27/2025

Sam McDermott and Lindie Strickler.....6/28/2025

FR. SSONKO FUNDRAISER—INVEST IN HOPE Join Us This Friday!

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 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!



Invest in Hope: Educate Youth for Brighter Tomorrows
St. Patrick Catholic Church Gretna
Friday, July 11, 2025

CREIGHTON PREP HONOR ROLL STUDENTS Congratulations



Congratulations to the students of Creighton Prep High School who earned First or Second Honor Roll this semester. A student earning a GPA of 3.82 or above merits First

Honors and a student earning a GPA between 3.25 and 3.81 merits Second Honors. Receiving First Honors this semester are Gavin Liewer, son of Choan and Susanne Liewer, and Jake Reeve, son of Pat and Kim Reeve. Receiving Second Honors this semester are Tyler Lenz, son of Phil and Kari Lenz, and Maxwell Reeve, son of Pat and Kim Reeve. Congratulations again and keep up the good work. God bless you!

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.



"To begin is for everyone. To persevere is for saints." —St. Josemaria Escriva

MISSION CO-OP PREACHER—JULY 5-6

St. Charles Lwanga Junior School, Chekalini, Kenya



St. Charles Lwanga Junior School is in a remote village called Chekalini in Western region of Kenya. The school was established four years ago to compliment public schools that are far from this village and have no Catholic integral education. This school currently ranges from 1st through 4th grade. They have four temporary classroom structures.



This is the home Parish of Fr. Vincent Sunguti, the associate Pastor at St. Patrick Church, Gretna.

Your support will highly be appreciated for bringing change to many lives and a smile to the masses. Our appeal is for three classrooms; each classroom construction cost is \$10,000. As of now, we need four classrooms. Please look at the pictures to see why we



need safer classrooms. Roof and walls are made of corrugated iron sheets or metals, and it gets so hot in the day making everyone uncomfortable. We have 83 students and six teachers. Our big challenge is classrooms.

This weekend we invite Father Henry Sunguti, Father Vincent's brother, as our visiting mission priest here at St. Patrick. Father Henry is welcomed to the Archdiocese of Omaha for the summer as one of the Propagation of the Faithful mission co-operation preachers. We appreciate your support for Father Vince and Father Henry's home Parish.

"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" —John 7:38

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HOW TO REGISTER FOR AN ACCOUNT IF YOU'RE NEW TO FORMED:

Go to formed.org/signup
Select your parish (using zip code is easiest)
Register with your name and email address
Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED

HOW TO LOG INTO FORMED IF YOU PREVIOUSLY HAD ACCESS:

Go to formed.org
In the upper right corner, select "Sign In"
A new "Sign In" screen appears and user enters their email address and selects "Next"
A message appears for user to "Check your email!"
Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED



STEWARDSHIP REPORT

See Future Bulletin for Updated Report



We were unable to print this week's Stewardship Report. We apologize for any inconvenience and please know that we will publish this week's report in a future bulletin. Thank you for your patience.



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, Andy Pearson at apearson709@gmail.com, Eric Devlin at delineric62@gmail.com or Seth Boardman at 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. 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 along with the brats, burgers, and hotdogs while the Gretna Optimist Club is sponsoring 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



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, JULY 7TH

7:30 AM † Marcelyn Hurst

TUESDAY, JULY 8TH

6:00 PM † Henry Sedlacek

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9TH

7:30 AM † Donna Leinen

THURSDAY, JULY 10TH

7:30 AM † Mark Little

FRIDAY, JULY 11TH

9:00 AM † Constance and Eldon Wesely

SATURDAY, JULY 12TH

5:00 PM INT Hlavacek Family

SUNDAY, JULY 13TH

8:00 AM † John and Virginia Malisewski

10:00 AM For Our Parishioners

12:00 PM † Pam Ostransky

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 Gary, Sharon Haney, Annie Sova, 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, 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

MONDAY, JULY 7TH

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

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM Preschool Culinary Creations Summer Camp—Preschool

TUESDAY, JULY 8TH

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM Preschool Culinary Creations 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, JULY 9TH

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 Culinary Creations Summer Camp—Preschool

THURSDAY, JULY 10TH

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

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM Preschool Culinary Creations Summer Camp—Preschool

6:00 PM to 8:30 PM Knights of Columbus Meeting—Father Hitch Room

FRIDAY, JULY 11TH

6:30 AM to 7:30 AM Men's Faith Sharing—Father Hitch Room

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

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Women's Faith Sharing—Father Hitch Room

5:30 PM to 9:00 PM Fr. Ssonko Fundraiser—Parish Center and Kitchen

SATURDAY, JULY 12TH

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 13TH—15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary

12:00 PM to 5:00 PM Private Event—Parish Center A

WHAT IS A LIFE ROSARY?

There is a Powerful Prayer that Saves Lives

We recently celebrated the 3rd anniversary of the 2022 landmark decision overturning Roe v. Wade. Let us continue to give thanks to God for the progress the pro-life movement has made in the United States. There is still so much work to be done. However, one of the most effective things you can do is also one of the easiest: praying the Rosary.



Think of the power of the Rosary for the pro-life movement: each Hail Mary is a call to the Virgin Mary, who is revered as the mother of all humanity. This invocation seeks her intercession for the protection of unborn children and the conversion of hearts and minds towards a culture that respects life from conception to natural death. The Rosary also provides a unifying prayer for the pro-life community. At pro-life gatherings such as the March for Life and 40 Days for Life campaigns, the Rosary is often a central component. These communal prayers create a beautiful sense of solidarity and shared purpose among participants.

Even in private prayer, the Rosary is a powerful tool for change and unity. A particularly impactful method of praying it for the pro-life cause is the Life Rosary. This simply involves adding brief meditations before each Mystery that help direct your prayer to the intention of increasing respect for innocent human life in our society. If you would like to begin praying the Life Rosary, you can visit the USCCB's site for a guide: <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/rosaries/pro-life/rosaries>. They have a separate guide for each set up mysteries: Luminous, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Joyful.

—Article by The Catholic Company

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

JULY 12TH
5:00 PM

Sacristan
Linda Schrinier

Lectors
Andy Pearson
(Read the 1st Reading)
Eric Hittner
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Julene Crockett
Diane Sherwood
Bridget Blum
JoAnn Koch

Ushers
Ken Beckman
Linda Schrinier
Jeff Wollenburg
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Need Sub

Altar Servers
Shailynn Gatewood
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Chris Gatewood
Need Sub

JULY 13TH
8:00 AM

Sacristan
Carol Zeleny

Lectors
Duane Benes
(Read the 1st Reading)
Carol Zeleny
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Mike Siegel
Paula Siegel
Carrie Hubert
Deb Benes

Ushers
Greg Jones
Ron Kotrous
Pat Shurtliff
Christopher Wilson

Rosary Reciter
Kathy Schwarting

Altar Servers
Matthew Farwell
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Mary Brown
Need Sub

Hilcrest SR/HL
Mike Siegel
Paula Siegel

JULY 13TH
10:00 AM

Sacristan
Andi Towey

Lectors
Theresa Gulizia
(Read the 1st Reading)
Michael Chatterson
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Andi Towey
Darcy Skrdla
Judy Weier
Tom Nienaber
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Clint Bollock
Jim Hain
Bruce Jefferies
Norm Svoboda

Rosary Reciter
Jolene Jefferies

Altar Servers
Need Sub
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Andrew Brei
Carol Zeleny

JULY 13TH
NOON

Sacristan
Ginny Giebelhaus

Lectors
Stephanie Lampe
(Read the 1st Reading)
Need Sub
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Delma Stoner
Ginny Giebelhaus
Norma Hintz
Need Sub

Ushers
Ginny Giebelhaus
Carole Lisiecki
Delma Stoner
Marty White

Rosary Reciter
Norm Svoboda

Altar Servers
James Janda
Thomas Janda
Need Sub

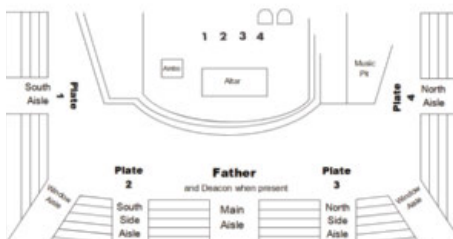
Greeters
Carole Lisiecki
Marty White

Vocations Crucifix
Steve Ference

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.

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

14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

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

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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>.



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THE SAINTS ON PURGATORY AND HOPE IN AFTERLIFE

What the Saints can Teach us About Purgatory

"[Judas Maccabeus] took up a collection... to provide for a sin offering. In doing this he acted very well and honorably, taking account of the resurrection. For if he were not expecting that those who had fallen would rise again, it would have been superfluous and foolish to pray for the dead." —2 Maccabees 12:43-44



When loved ones die, many people experience, in addition to grief and loneliness, a concern over the state of those loved ones, particularly if those departed souls weren't the saintliest people in their lifetime or if they died sudden, unprovided deaths. What has become of these souls? Those who are left behind wonder. The Church has always taught the existence of Purgatory, a place or state of existence after death, where, if necessary, we're cleansed of any remaining effects of our sins and made ready to enter into Heaven. Moreover, as Scripture attests, our prayers and sacrifices can be of immense spiritual help to the persons undergoing this purification process; we can pray for specific persons, such as deceased loved ones, or for the souls in Purgatory in general. Because God loves us and wants us to be with Him in Heaven, there must be some opportunity for us to finish being healed, or purged of our sins, after death, should this be necessary. This cleansing process is what we call Purgatory. The saints believed without reservation in this reality. They themselves, because of their immense love of God, were ready to enter Heaven immediately after death, but they were mindful of those who were not as fortunate; after all, this is one of the signs of true love: caring for those in need, whether that need be physical or spiritual.

St. Elizabeth of Portugal, who reigned as queen of that country at the beginning of the fourteenth century, had a much-loved daughter named Constance. The young princess died very suddenly after being married, causing Elizabeth and her husband, King Denis, much grief. Soon after this, a hermit came to the queen with a shocking story: while he was praying, Constance had appeared to him, beseeching him to take a message to her mother. She was suffering terribly in Purgatory and would remain there a very long time unless Mass was offered for her each day for a year. The king responded, "I believe that it is wise to do that which has been pointed out to you in so extraordinary a manner. After all, to have Masses celebrated for our dear deceased relatives is nothing more than a paternal and Christian duty." Elizabeth accepted this advice, and arranged for the Masses to be said by a holy priest. One year later her daughter appeared to her, clothed in a brilliant white robe, and said, "Today, dear mother, I am delivered from the pains of Purgatory and am about to enter Heaven." St. Elizabeth gave thanks to God and expressed her gratitude by distributing alms to the poor.

A number of saints (plus other mystics and visionaries) have allegedly seen Purgatory (and also Heaven and Hell). St. Frances of Rome was granted such a vision; she said that it consists of three levels. The lowest level is like a vast burning sea, where the persons undergo various sufferings related to the sins they committed on earth. The middle level is less rigorous, but still unpleasant. The highest level of Purgatory is populated by those who are closest to being released. These persons suffer mainly the pain of loss: that of yearning for God and of not yet truly possessing Him. There's consolation in all three levels, but especially in the highest. The souls in Purgatory know that, sooner or later, they'll be with God in Heaven and that all their present sufferings are valuable and redemptive. Other saints and visionaries confirm this description, adding that our prayers and sacrifices—because they're freely given—are immensely helpful to those in Purgatory, for God greatly values each one of our freely offered sacrifices, no matter how small. Some mystics have supposedly learned that when we pray for specific persons who are in Purgatory, they see us at that instant and are strengthened by the knowledge that we're remembering them.

Many of the saints are said to have had experiences that confirmed the Church's teaching on Purgatory. For instance, St. Louis Bertrand, a seventeenth-century priest, offered Masses, prayers, and sacrifices for his deceased father until finally he was granted a vision of his entry into Heaven. This happened only after eight years of prayer on his part. In the twelfth century, the famous Irish bishop St. Malachy learned that his sister was destined to suffer a long time in Purgatory, for she had lived a very sinful life before repenting; his prayers eased her sufferings, but did not significantly lessen her time there. In the fifteenth century, the sister of St. Vincent Ferrer appeared to him as she was about to enter Heaven and revealed that had it not been for the many Masses he offered on her behalf, her time in Purgatory would have been much longer. A story is told about St. Teresa of Avila in this regard. A priest she knew had just died, and God revealed to her that he would remain in Purgatory until a Mass was said for him in the chapel of a new Carmelite house that was to be built. Teresa hurried to the site and had the workmen begin raising the walls of the chapel immediately, but as this would still take too long,

Continued on next page—>

THE SAINTS ON PURGATORY AND HOPE IN AFTERLIFE

Continued From Page 8

she obtained permission from the bishop for a temporary chapel to be erected. Once this was done, Mass was celebrated there, and while receiving communion, Teresa saw a vision of the priest thanking her most graciously before entering God's Kingdom.

Showing concern for the dead and the dying is a great sign of love. Bl. Raymond of Capua, the biographer of St. Catherine of Siena, wrote that she attended her father, Jacomo, during his final hours. Learning in a revelation that this holy man nonetheless would require some purification in Purgatory, Catherine begged God to let her suffer pains of expiation on his behalf so that he might enter Heaven immediately. God agreed; Jacomo, who had been suffering greatly, thereupon experienced a happy and peaceful death, while Catherine was seized with violent pains that remained with her for the rest of her life. Raymond witnessed her suffering, but he also took note of her incredible forbearance and patience, along with her great joy on her father's behalf. An incident from the life of the Italian priest St. Padre Pio indicates that souls in Purgatory may request our prayers. One day in the 1920s, he was praying in the choir loft when he heard a strange sound coming from the side altars of the chapel. Then there was a crash as a candelabra fell from the main altar. Padre Pio saw a figure he assumed to be a young friar. But the figure told him, "I am doing my Purgatory here. I was a student in this friary, so now I have to make amends for the errors I committed while I was here, for my lack of diligence in doing my duty in this church." The figure said that he had been in Purgatory for sixty years, and after requesting Padre Pio's prayers, he vanished. Many other souls in purgatory are said to have asked for his assistance, including four deceased friars sitting around the fireplace in a state of great suffering; Padre Pio spent the night in prayer, securing their release.

Other saints are said to have had similar experiences, including St. Odilo, the eleventh-century abbot who began the practice of offering Mass for all the souls in Purgatory on what is now known as All Souls Day, the day after the feast of All Saints. Our prayers for those who suffer there can be spiritually valuable to them. Because the saints believed in both sin and redemption, mercy and justice, they also acknowledged the existence of Purgatory and did everything possible to relieve those undergoing purification there. As the saints were far more conversant with the ways of Divine Providence than any of us could honestly claim to be, we would do very well to follow their example.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

"All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of Heaven." —Catechism of the Catholic Church, par. 1030

"It cannot be doubted that the prayers of the Church, the Holy Sacrifice, and alms distributed for the departed relieve those holy souls and move God to treat them with more clemency than their sins deserve. It is the universal practice of the Church, a practice that she observes as having received it from her forefathers—that is to say, the holy Apostles." —St. Augustine

"Many [Doctors of the Church] affirm with great probability that we should believe that God reveals our prayer to those holy souls so that they may pray for us. The souls in Purgatory, being beloved of God and confirmed in grace, have absolutely no obstacle to prevent their praying for us. If we desire the help of their prayers, it is only fair that we should remember to help them with our prayers and good works." —St. Alphonsus Liguori

—Article adapted from a chapter in *Saintly Solutions* by Fr. Joseph M. Esper which is available from Sophia Institute Press

CATHOLIC DEVOTIONS EXPLAINED

Prayer Before Meals



Anyone who has ever dined in a Catholic home has probably heard the prayer before meals that begins with the famous words: "Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts." These words in particular are first found in the *Galesian Sacramentary*, a book of Christian liturgy that dates to the seventh or eighth century, but the practice of praying before meals is Biblical, harkening back to the Jewish ritual washing of hands before eating. In the Gospels, Jesus is shown praying before the Last Supper and other meals, setting an example followed by Paul in Acts 27:35.

In his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis urged the faithful "to return to this beautiful and meaningful custom." "That moment of blessing," he wrote, "reminds us of our dependence on God for life; it strengthens our feeling of gratitude for the gifts of creation...(and) reaffirms our solidarity with those in greatest need."



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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.

DESIRE TO BECOME CATHOLIC

Order of Christian Initiation Adults



Have you ever wanted to learn more about the Catholic Faith? The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults or OCIA (formally RCIA) is a process through which unbaptized adults and children over the age of 7 are formed in the teachings and practices of Catholicism and are initiated into the Catholic Church. This is for anyone who wishes to join the Catholic Church or anyone who would like to know more about the Catholic faith. Classes will begin in September. Registration is now open, visit our parish website, stpatricksgretna.org, to sign up. If you'd like more information, contact Jonathan Wotipka at 402-332-4444 ext. 212 or jjwotipka@archomaha.org.





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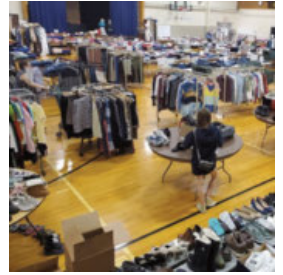
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AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

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 you 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.



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



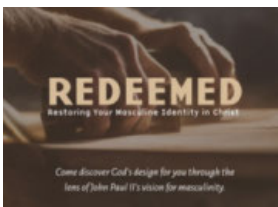
The Way is a healing retreat for survivors of abuse. This three-day guided meditation and prayer experience is designed for those whose abuse by another has deeply affected their hearts, minds, bodies, and souls. The next retreat is for women and will be held July 18-20 at the Our Lady of Good Counsel 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. 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).



REDEEMED MEN'S RETREAT—ST. PATRICK, FREMONT, AUGUST 1-2



St. Patrick Parish in Fremont is hosting REDEEMED: Restoring Your Masculine Identity in Christ retreat on Friday, August 1, from Noon to 8 PM and Saturday, August 2, from 9 AM to 3:30 PM. The retreat is for men 18 and older and is designed to help participants discover their identity as beloved sons of the Father. For more information, contact JP2RetreatFremontNE@gmail.com. To register, visit <https://jpiihealingcenter.org/event/redeemed-fremont-august-2025>.

EPS BREAKFAST FOR LIFE—ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH CENTER, AUGUST 9

Join Essential Pregnancy Services on Saturday, August 9 at the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Center (14330 Eagle Run Dr, Omaha) for the EPS Auxiliary's 15th Annual Breakfast for Life, featuring keynote speaker, Coleen Kelly Mast, MS, DHL. Doors open at 8:30 AM, and the program begins at 9:15 AM. Registration is \$40 per person or \$25 for high school and college students up to age 24. Register, sponsor, and donate at bidpal.net/BFL2025. For event questions, contact Sherilyn Park at spark@essentialps.org or 531-239-3129.



WHY CATHOLICISM—ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE, AUGUST 23



Listen, learn, and be inspired at Why Catholicism on Saturday, August 23 at 6:15 PM at the St. Robert Bellarmine Parish (11802 Pacific St, Omaha). The evening will consist of five priests sharing the powerful truths at the heart of the Roman Catholic faith. Whether you are exploring, reconnecting with or curious about the Catholic faith, this evening is for you. Cocktails and appetizers will follow in the Mainelli Center.

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