

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET

GRETN, NE 68028



33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all
your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute."

- Lk 21:15

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

NOVEMBER 16, 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

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING (MAL 3:19-20A)

The prophet Malachi tells us that those who “fear” the Lord will be spared at God’s coming judgment. What does it mean to “fear the Lord”?

SECOND READING (2 THES 3:7-12)

Paul gave the Thessalonians some very practical advice: work quietly and eat your own food! Are you open to taking advice from a loved one?

GOSPEL (LK 21:5-19)

Jesus forewarned His followers that they will be persecuted for their faith in Him, even with relatives and friends. How do you support friends and co-workers who are fellow believers?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



When I was a kid growing up in New England, I’d occasionally go on a whale watch. Once we went out with calm waters and clear skies. But on the way back in, the sea got rough. I was just a kid, and I remember thinking we should turn left or right toward the shoreline I could see. But the pilot of the boat kept going straight—right into the waves—focused on a small, discouragingly distant lighthouse. Even when it flickered in and out of sight, he stayed the course. He knew where he was going.

That image comes to mind when I hear Jesus’ words in today’s Gospel regarding false messiahs: “Do not follow them” (Luke 21:8). In times of chaos or uncertainty, there are always voices offering easier routes, promising false safety, claiming to speak for God. But Jesus isn’t found in the loudest voice or the nearest shoreline. He is steady, like a lighthouse in the storm.

The tribulation of which Jesus speaks—it’s real. It happened to the Temple, it happened to Him, it happens in the Church, and it will come to each of us. But the command is not to panic. It’s to endure. To keep steering toward Him. Faith isn’t about having all the answers or dodging every wave. It’s about knowing where the lighthouse is—and trusting it enough to keep going, especially when false safety beckons us to stop.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

Why do Catholics call priests Father?

ANSWER:

One of the common objections evangelical Christians have to Catholics is our practice of calling priests by the title Father. They will often cite a passage in Matthew’s Gospel in which Jesus tells His followers: “Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven” (23:19). It seems pretty straightforward, but when we put this verse in context, we see that Jesus is speaking out against religious leaders who had forgotten what their proper role was and who were bad examples through their own hypocrisy and elitist attitudes.

In other Gospels, we find Jesus Himself using the title father for different characters, such as in the Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man (Luke 16:19-31) and the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). If we put the verse from Matthew into the full scope of Jesus’ teachings, He isn’t saying that we can’t use words like “father,” “rabbi,” or “master.” Rather, He is telling us that we should be mindful of the full meaning of those titles and not to misuse them.

To call a priest “Father” is more than a sign of respect for the office of the priesthood. It goes all the way back to the way St. Paul understood his own work as a missionary and evangelizer. Paul wrote, “I am writing you in this way not to shame you but to admonish you as my beloved children... It was I who begot you in Christ Jesus through my preaching of the Gospel. I beg you, then, be imitators of me. This is why I have sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful son in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 4:14-17).

Yes, we have God alone as our Heavenly Father, but there are also those here with us who nurture and nourish our faith through their teaching and



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CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Continued From Page 2

care. This is why the title of Father has been applied to the church's pastors in different ways since the earliest days of the Church, including monks and nuns using the title "abbot" and "abbess" (from *abba*) for their spiritual leaders and Christians around the world recognizing the "Holy Father" or "pope" (from *papa*) as the head of the family that is the Church. The title Father is a reminder that priests have a special responsibility to care for, protect, feed, listen to, and nourish those who have been entrusted to them, all after the example of our Father in Heaven who never ceases to give us what we truly need.

SAINT GERTRUDE THE GREAT

Religious

St. Gertrude the Great (1256-1302), also known as Gertrude of Helfta, was born on the feast of Epiphany in Thuringia (modern Germany). She was sent to be educated at the Benedictine monastery in Helfta at the age of four or five, possibly as an orphan or as a child dedicated to God by her parents. She proved to be an extremely bright and determined student who became engrossed in her secular studies, but was negligent of her prayer life. She remained in the monastery and made her profession as a nun. At the age of 26 she entered a time of spiritual crisis, after which she began to receive visions of Christ who chastised her for not leaving room for God in her academic pursuits. This caused Gertrude to abandon her secular studies in total devotion to Sacred Scripture and the works of the Church Fathers. These theological studies, along with continued visions and messages from Jesus, became the basis of her work as one of the great writers and mystics of the 13th century. St. Gertrude had a lasting impact on the Church in an age where academic and religious literature was dominated by men, and she is the only female saint to earn the title "The Great." She was one of the early saints who, along with her companion in the monastery, St. Mechtilde of Hackeborn, spread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. St. Teresa of Avila chose St. Gertrude the Great, the patron saint of nuns, as her model and guide. Her feast day is November 16.



SAINT ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY

Religious



St. Elizabeth of Hungary (1207–1231) was born in Hungary, the daughter of King Andrew II of Hungary and his wife Gertrude. As a child she was sent to Thuringia (now Germany) to be brought up with Prince Ludwig of Thuringia, whom she was to marry at the age of 14 in order to solidify a political alliance between the two nations. Their marriage was a very happy one, and they had three children together. Although Elizabeth was a princess surrounded by a magnificent court, she lived a humble life

serving the sick and poor outside her castle walls. No amount of disapproval from those who considered this behavior beneath her royal status could dissuade her from her faithfulness to this task. One day, on her way to feed the poor, her husband stopped her and asked to see what she concealed beneath her mantle. The food she carried was miraculously replaced by roses, signifying God's approval of her charity. When her husband, after six years of marriage, tragically died on his way to join the crusade in Jerusalem, Elizabeth was grief-stricken. She vowed to never remarry, and eventually left her life of nobility to join the Secular Franciscans as a penitent. She continued her charitable works to an even greater degree, and helped Thuringia recover from a famine by giving them a huge gift of grain. It was this act, along with her habit of distributing bread to the poor, that made her the patron saint of bakers. She is also the patron of hospitals, the homeless, widows, charities, and nursing homes. St. Elizabeth of Hungary's feast day is November 17.

"For all, regenerated in Christ, are made kings by the Sign of the Cross; they are consecrated priests by the oil of the Holy Spirit, so that beyond the special service of our ministry as priests, all spiritual and mature Christians know that they are a royal race and are sharers in the office of the priesthood. For what is more king-like than to find yourself ruler over your body after having surrendered your soul to God? And what is more priestly than to promise the Lord a pure conscience and to offer him in love unblemished victims on the altar of one's heart?"

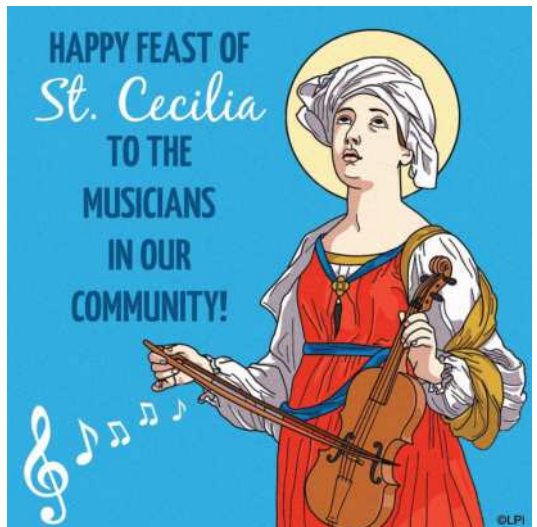
—St. Leo the Great



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158/Lk 18:35-43
TUESDAY: 2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 19:1-10
WEDNESDAY: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15/Lk 19:11-28
THURSDAY: 1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/Lk 19:41-44
FRIDAY: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Lk 19:45-48
SATURDAY: 1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19/Lk 20:27-40
NEXT SUNDAY: 2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

MONDAY: St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious
TUESDAY: The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles; St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin
FRIDAY: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
SATURDAY: St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr
NEXT SUNDAY: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

**"THE MORE I REFLECT
ON THE GRACES I HAVE
RECEIVED, THE MORE
THEY ASTONISH ME."**

—ST. ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

THANKSGIVING DONATIONS *Bring Food for Food Bank*

In the very early days of Christianity, when people gathered to celebrate the Eucharist, it became customary to bring offerings of food for the poor to the table of the Lord. This

Thanksgiving Day we are asking our parishioners to reenact this tradition by bringing nonperishable food items to place before the altar before Mass. All donations will be given to the Gretna Neighbors Food Pantry. Thank you for considering. Please call Joan Ingram 402-203-3604 with questions.



ADVENT GIVING TREE *Pick up an Ornament This Weekend*



There are still a few ornaments from our Advent Giving

Tree in the narthex. Please remember to return your wrapped gifts by Monday, December 1. Thank you for your donations to reach out to those in need during this holiday season. Questions can be directed to Joan Ingram at 402-203-3604.

SEMINARIAN PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Omaha.

This week let us pray for **Kyle Wozniak** (Configuration I) from St. Columbkille in Papillion.

"By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

(Luke 21:19) Consider the hidden yet powerful witness of those in cloistered religious life. Is God calling you to a life of prayer and contemplation? Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.



 *Pray for our Seminarians*

WE ARE GETTING A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY! *Sign Up for a Photography Session Today*

We are happy to announce that we are working on getting an updated Church Directory and we need your help! As a member of our parish, our directory would not be complete without you in it. Photography dates have been set, now is the time to schedule your photography session. Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time. Thank you!



PHOTOGRAPHY DATES

Tuesday—Saturday, January 6-10
Tuesday—Saturday, January 20-24
Tuesday—Saturday, January 27-31
Tuesday—Saturday, February 3-7
Tuesday through Friday photography sessions will be from 2 PM to 8:30 PM and Saturday sessions will run from 10:30 AM to 5 PM. If you have six or more in your family, we ask that you please sign up for two consecutive time slots. Please NO pets.

Everyone who participates in the photography sessions at the Church will receive one complimentary 8x10 portrait that has been touched up and a Church Directory. There will be an opportunity to purchase additional portraits. You'll be able to see the proofs of your photos right after your photography session. The whole process takes 45 minutes to an hour.

If you are unable to attend any of the photography sessions but would still like to be included in our new Church Directory, there is an option to submit your own digital picture for a \$15 fee. Please call the office for more information.

ONLINE SCHEDULING AVAILABLE

The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday. To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to www.ucdir.com, click on the red "Photography Session Sign-Up" button, enter **ne293** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time.

WE REMEMBER AND HONOR OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED *Add Your Loved Ones' Names to the Book During November*

We remember and honor our beloved faithful departed in the month of November. The Church holds the month of November in dedication and remembrance of our beloved faithful departed. The book of the names of the dead will be placed in front of the ambo throughout the month of November. We honor with great respect the memory of those names already in the book. Please feel free to add any **new** loved ones you wish to remember by signing their name on the sheets in the narthex. If you have added their name to the book in previous years, it need not be added again.

May perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithfully departed rest in peace. Amen.



HOLY HOUR TO PRAY FOR PRIESTS AND SEMINARIANS *Show Your Support of Vocations*



Join the Serra Club of West Omaha for a beautiful Holy Hour for Priests and Seminarians at St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church (1248 S 10th St, Omaha) on Monday, November 17. We will gather at 5:30 PM in the narthex followed by the Holy Hour at 6 PM. The presider will be Fr. Tom Weisbecker, Chaplain of the Serra Club of West Omaha. Our priests are chosen by God to bring us the Sacraments which help us gain

Heaven. Without them, we would not be able to worship at Holy Mass and receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Through our prayers, priests and seminarians can be strengthened to live their vocation well and as God calls them to live it—in a way that is holy and pleasing to Him. Please show your support and invite your family, friends, and guests to join us! If you are interested in helping to build the Church locally through vocations support, contact John Lingo, Serra VP, at westomaha@serrainternational.org. Learn more at serrawestomaha.org and follow us on Facebook @serrawestomaha.

3RD ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESE ROSARY RALLY

Throughout the Month of November



The Archdiocese of Omaha Vocations Office is leading its third-annual, month-long Rosary Rally in November to help encourage young men and women discerning vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We are seeking to increase our rosaries prayed this year to 50,000! All are invited to join in asking for Our Lady's intercession in support of those discerning and living out their vocation!

This isn't a single event, but a month-long campaign in November bringing the people of the Archdiocese together in person and online to pray the rosary for vocations.

HOW THE ROSARY RALLY WORKS:

1. Pray the Rosary in November for Vocations.
2. Log your Rosary on OmahaVocations.org/rosary-rally. (You can also record it by emailing rosary@archomaha.org or calling 402-513-8569.)

Check out the Omaha Vocations website, omahavocations.org, for more information about the rally, the Rosary, and to find the list of names of our seminarians and the men and women discerning religious life. Let's come together to support these young men and women in striving to find and live out their vocation.

WORLD DAY OF CLOISTERED LIFE—NOVEMBER 21

Praying for and Rejoicing in this Powerful Witness of Faith

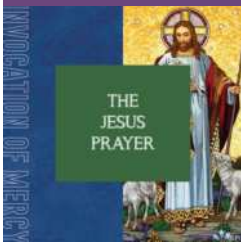
The Church celebrates World Day of Cloistered Life (the Memorial of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple), an ecclesial event for all Catholics worldwide to commemorate the hidden lives of contemplative religious in cloisters and monasteries.

A few years ago at a general audience in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis reminded the Church, "Let us give thanks to the Lord for the powerful testimony of cloistered life." He also urged the faithful to lend their spiritual and material support to these brothers and sisters of ours "so that they can carry out their important mission."



CATHOLIC DEVOTIONS EXPLAINED

The Jesus Prayer



The Jesus Prayer is a short invocation of mercy in the name of Jesus: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner." The exact origins of the prayer are unclear, though it is often attributed to the tradition of Eastern Christianity, possibly via the Desert Fathers (early Christian ascetics who dwelled in Egypt). The prayer has been important to the traditions of both the Eastern Orthodox and the Eastern Catholic faithful. The text echoes the words of the publican in the parable from Luke 18:9-14, whose humble manner of prayer was praised by Jesus. Its short form and simple wording make it ideal for meditative prayer. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, in paragraph 2667, highlights the Jesus Prayer, saying that "by it the heart is opened to human wretchedness and the Savior's mercy."

Stewardship Report

Nov 5-Nov 11, 2025

Current Fiscal Year - July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

General Contributions	Nov 5-Nov 11 2025	Fiscal YTD thru Nov 11
Sunday Offering	\$25,159.26	\$445,879.97
Other Contributions	\$717.60	\$27,534.17
Total General Contributions	\$25,876.86	\$473,414.14 *
Surplus/Deficit	(\$1,623.14)	(\$49,085.86)

* Our budget requires an average weekly income of \$27,500.

'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 is held in the Fr. Hitch Room every two weeks with the next meeting being on Sunday, November 16 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 devlineric62@gmail.com or Seth Boardman at sethd99@hotmail.com.

WINTER GEAR DRIVE

SHARE THE WARMTH
SUPPORT THE GRETNA COMMUNITY



Now is a good time to start preparing for colder weather and to look through your closet for Winter gear. The donation boxes in the narthex from October 18 through November 23 for this year's Knights of Columbus and Gretna Community Winter Gear Drive. Things we are in need of for this year's Winter Gear Drive include new or gently used: winter coats, hoodies, stocking hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, blankets, sleeping bags, and socks. It would be appreciated if your donations are put in bags or trash sacks when dropping off inside the donation boxes. It makes for easier handling, pick up, delivery, and transport of the donated items.

Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight, John Schaffert III.....402-672-7903
Deputy Grand Knight, Tim Hall.....307-214-3714
Financial Secretary, Steve Otto.....402-212-1267
Chancellor/Membership, Larry Sibley.....402-957-8770
Century Club Admin, 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, NOVEMBER 17TH

7:30 AM † Lynn Baldwin

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH

6:00 PM † Marcelyn Hurst

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH

7:30 AM † Howard Degener

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH

7:30 AM † Pete Stec

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST

7:30 AM † Wayne and Jeri Childers

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND

5:00 PM † Janet Woster

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD

8:00 AM INT Steve and Joan Ingram
10:00 AM For Our Parishioners
12:00 PM † Linda Ladzinski and † Rodney and Gerald Hintz

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 Meridith Haney, Cheryl Schram, Steve N, Joe Carney, Ian McGovern, 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, NOVEMBER 16TH—33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM Religious Education Classes—RE Classrooms, Basement Commons
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary and Narthex
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM COR Men's Group—Father Hitch Room

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM Amazing Athletes—Basement Commons

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM Amazing Athletes—Basement Commons
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM Rosary Guild—Father Hitch Room
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM Project Linus—Basement Commons
1:00 PM to 2:30 PM Women's Small Group—Father Hitch Room
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, NOVEMBER 19TH

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
8:00 AM to 9:30 AM 55+ Club Outing—Offsite
9:00 AM to 10:30 AM Faith Connection—Parish Center C
1:00 PM to 2:30 PM Women's Small Group—Father Hitch Room
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM Religious Education Classes—RE Classrooms, Basement Commons
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM OCIA Class—Parish Center C

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST

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, NOVEMBER 22ND

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, NOVEMBER 23RD—OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM Religious Education Classes—RE Classrooms, Basement Commons

SECOND COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES

This Weekend—November 15-16

This weekend, November 15-16, we will have a second collection to support Catholic Charities of Omaha. We will only be collecting monetary donations here at the Church, but if you would like to donate food or other essentials directly to their food pantries, they would be grateful.



For nearly a century, whenever there are people in need, Catholic Charities has been there. Due to the government shutdown and the discontinuation of SNAP food assistance, Catholic Charities of Omaha is preparing for a sharp increase in pantry visits. Please consider donating shelf-stable food items, canned proteins, rice, beans, cereal, and hygiene essentials to its Market Choice Pantry locations: St. Juan Diego Community Center (5211 South 31st St), or St. Teresa of Calcutta Campus, (9223 Bedford Ave). Ideal drop-off times are 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday. Please call 402-554-0520 with questions. Thank you for helping to meet this immediate need.

Catholic Charities relies on the generosity and compassion of many donors, employees, and volunteers. Together harnessing the strength of the human spirit and the power of community to shine a light for those in darkness. Please be generous during this collection.

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

NOVEMBER 22ND 5:00 PM NOVEMBER 23RD 8:00 AM NOVEMBER 23RD 10:00 AM NOVEMBER 23RD NOON

Sacristan
Linda Schriener

Lectors
Rebecca Campbell
(Read the 1st Reading)

Eric Hittner
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Tracy Wollenburg
Jocelyn Pearson
Linda Schriener
Julene Crockett

Ushers
Ken Beckman
Andy Pearson
Jeff Wollenburg
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Kathy Dauner

Altar Servers
Aslyn Ronk
Kenley Ronk
Need Sub

Greeters
Carol Zeleny
Need Sub

Sacristan
Tony Schultz

Lectors
Barb Applegate
(Read the 1st Reading)

Joan Ingram
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Rob Polak
Deb Benes
Cari Kaup
Amy Beran

Ushers
Kevin Kaup
Ron Kotrous
Tony Schultz
Pat Shurtliff

Rosary Reciter
Duane Benes

Altar Servers
Carson Kaup
Ethan Kaup
Will Kaup

Greeters
Mary Maw
Gordon Yager

Hilcrest SR/HL
Mike Siegel
Paula Siegel

Sacristan
Jim Hottovy

Lectors
Judy Weier
(Read the 1st Reading)

Sandra Tiefenthaler
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Veda Scharpenburg
Carol Hoover
Jim Hottovy
Darcy Skrdla

Ushers
Russ Eusterwiemann
Jim Hain
Norris Hoover
John Schaffert

Rosary Reciter
Tam Hottovy

Altar Servers
Harper Dickes
Nev Dickes
Need Sub

Greeters
Tony Tiefenthaler
Carol Zeleny

Sacristan
Larry Neppel

Lectors
Jayne Schram
(Read the 1st Reading)

Stephanie Lampe
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Larry Neppel
Delma Stoner
Leann Otto
Steve Otto

Ushers
Carole Lisiecki
Larry Neppel
Delma Stoner
Doris Williams

Rosary Reciter
Jayne Schram

Altar Servers
Need Sub
Need Sub
Need Sub

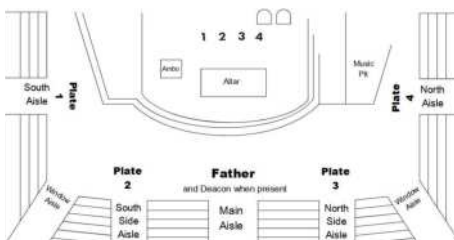
Greeters
Carole Lisiecki
Doris Williams

Vocations Crucifix
Paul Duin

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

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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Gretna, Nebraska

PARISH STAFF

PASTOR

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

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

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vasunguti@archomaha.org
Residence.....531-466-2453

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

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DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

Amanda Scardina.....402-332-3050
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ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL
Please Give Generously



Archbishop McGovern invites you to participate in the Archbishop's Annual Appeal this year to support the work of the Church in our own diocese. Together, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we will create a culture of unity, evangelization, leadership, and mercy. Our parish has currently committed \$19,119 towards our goal of \$123,802.80. Thank you for saying yes to being a disciple and living mercy to our neighbors across the archdiocese.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL
Pick Up in Narthex

Advent will be here before you know it. Do you know how you will be preparing the coming of Jesus this year? Pick up an Advent Devotional in the narthex. This devotional also includes daily reflections throughout the whole Christmas season.



SICK OR SUFFERING?
Prayer Shawls in the Parish Office

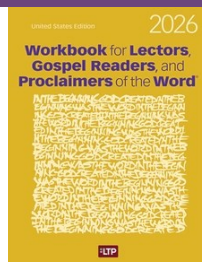


Did you know that our church has blessed prayer shawl blankets, that can be shared with any of your family members or friends, who are sick and suffering physically, spiritually, emotionally? If you know of anyone who would benefit from this gift of comfort and prayer, please

stop by the office Monday-Friday between 8 AM and 4:30 PM and choose a prayer shawl blanket for your loved one.

ATTENTION: LECTORS
New Lector Workbooks Are In

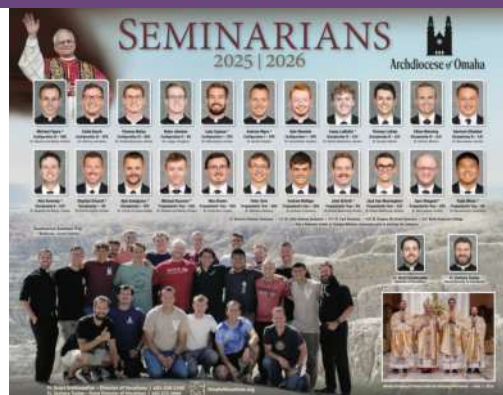
The new 2026 Lector Workbooks are here. The church year begins on November 29 with the 1st Sunday of Advent. All weekend lectors can pick up their copy of the lector workbook from the Sacristy, beside the stained glass windows.



STAGES OF SEMINARY FORMATION

What are the New Stages and What Do They Mean?

The goal of seminarian formation is to create holy, healthy, and happy priests. Seminary formation is focused on establishing a good foundation. According to the sixth addition of *The Program of Priestly Formation (PPF)*, there are four stages of formation for the Roman Catholic priesthood: the Propaedeutic Stage, the Discipleship Stage, the Configuration Stage, and the Vocational Synthesis Stage. In general, human formation happens in a threefold process of self-knowledge, self-possession, and self-gift—and all of this in faith. As the process unfolds, the human person becomes more perfectly conformed to the perfect humanity of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.



PROPAEDEUTIC STAGE (ONE YEAR)

The Propaedeutic Stage is the first stage of seminary formation "with its own specific character" (*Ratio fundamentalis* 59) which "seeks to provide seminarians with the basic groundwork they need to engage in priestly formation" (*Program of Priestly Formation* 119). The word propaedeutic means preparatory; thus, this stage provides an initial foundation in formation in preparation for each of the subsequent stages. During this stage, formation focuses particularly on the human and spiritual dimensions, which "allows the seminarians to lay a foundation for a new way of life by developing a life of prayer, study, fraternity, and appropriate docility to formation" (*PPF* 120).

DISCIPLESHIP STAGE (2-4 YEARS)

The Discipleship Stage builds upon the foundation laid in the Propaedeutic Stage and further prepares a man to enter the Configuration Stage. This stage provides the man with "a systematic and rigorous formation that has at its core the goal of growing in an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ... as well as the training of one's character in Christian virtue" (*PPF* 132). During this stage, seminarians study philosophy and complete the necessary pre-theology requirements. An intense discernment accompanies this stage, and by its conclusion, the seminarian "can clearly articulate his call and his conviction to be a priest" (*PPF* 134).

CONFIGURATION STAGE (3 1/2 YEARS)

During the Configuration Stage, seminarians move beyond discernment and embrace priestly formation and proximate preparation for Holy Orders, seeking to be configured to Jesus Christ, the High Christ. The seminarian "models his life on the self-donation of Jesus Christ, Shepherd and Servant," and cultivates a "properly priestly spirituality" (*PPF* 135-136). This stage demands the integration of the various dimensions of formation into the seminarian's "greater awareness and personal assumption of priestly identity" (*PPF* 136). Theological studies accompany the formation in this stage, as well as the conferral of the ministries of Lector and Acolyte. At the conclusion of this stage, a man petitions for Diaconate Ordination and is approved for Holy Orders.

VOCATIONAL SYNTHESIS STAGE (6 MONTHS)

Upon successful completion of the configuration stage and having received Diaconate Ordination, the man transitions into the Vocational Synthesis Stage. This time of formation allows the newly ordained Deacon "to enter into the life of a cleric, incorporating the entirety of the formation he has received from the moment of Baptism until his reception of Holy Orders" (*PPF* 138). The Vocational Synthesis Stage provides the opportunity for the Deacon "to adjust well to the life of ministry before advancing to Priestly Ordination" (*PPF* 138). This stage occurs "outside the seminary building" and "within the ecclesiastical entity," as the Deacon "resides full-time in a pastoral setting, usually the parish" for six months (*PPF* 139; 137). Periodic returns to the seminary during this stage allow seminary formators to continue to accompany the Deacon and provide opportunities for "prayer, group reflection, and fraternity in order to process the experience of diaconal ministry and engage in sacramental and pastoral practice" (*PPF* 143).

"Faith is the key that puts every other truth into its proper place. Triumphs become opportunities for gratitude instead of pride. Tragedies become opportunities for growth instead of despair. Life just makes more sense and our faith in God gives us joy even when we face what can feel like insurmountable trials."

—Matt Fradd, *How to Be Happy, Saint Thomas' Secret to a Good Life*, p.96

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

A Devotion that Heals the World



Every year, on the Saturday after the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Catholics celebrate the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It's more than a feast—it's a reminder that in a wounded world, all humanity has a mother who never stops loving, interceding, and pointing us back to her Son.

The feast became widely embraced after Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to Mary's Immaculate Heart during World War II and established the memorial in 1944. However,

it has roots deep in Church tradition. From the early Christians reflecting on Mary's sorrow at the Cross, to saints like Bernard of Clairvaux, Francis de Sales, and John Eudes articulating her spiritual beauty, the Church has long seen Mary's heart as a symbol of her love, purity, and total trust in God.

Mary's Immaculate Heart is more than sentiment; it's about mission. As the Church teaches, her heart is united to Jesus' own Sacred Heart, mirroring His love for humanity and sharing in His redemptive suffering. Simeon's prophecy that a sword would pierce her heart wasn't poetic exaggeration; it was a prophecy of the real pain she would endure with active, loving cooperation in God's saving plan.

At Fatima in 1917, Mary echoed this message with urgency. She called for prayer, penance, and consecration to her Immaculate Heart—not for her sake, but so that hearts might return to God. She promised that this devotion would bring peace and save souls. That call is just as urgent today.

The modern world serves up many different battles—loneliness, moral confusion, family division—but Mary's answer remains the same: Turn to her heart to find Christ. Her example of trust, humility, and steadfast love offers a blueprint for how to live with integrity and hope.

To honor her heart is to learn how to love more deeply, to say "yes" to God even in confusion, and to bring peace to others through prayer and sacrifice. Mary's heart is not only a refuge; it's a school of discipleship.

To honor Our Lady on this feast, Catholics can:

- Pray the Rosary, as Mary requested at Fatima.
- Offer small daily sacrifices for others.
- Celebrate First Saturdays with confession, Holy Communion, and meditation.
- Consecrate themselves, their families, or communities to her Immaculate Heart.
- Reflect on Mary's virtues, especially her humility, purity, and courage.

Pope Pius XII wrote in the decree instituting the feast that he hoped devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart would bring "peace among nations, freedom for the Church, the conversion of sinners, the love of purity and the practice of virtue."

His decree also states: "With this devotion the Church renders the honor due to the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, since under the symbol of this heart she venerates with reverence the eminent and singular holiness of the Mother of God and especially her most ardent love for God and Jesus her Son and moreover her maternal compassion for all those redeemed by the divine Blood."

In a 1986 audience, Pope St. John Paul II quoted the same passage and added, "Thus it can be said that our devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart expresses our reverence for her maternal compassion both for Jesus and for all of us her spiritual children, as she stood at the foot of the Cross."

—Article by CatholicVote

"The name by which this most blessed spiritual being is honored, Michael, means 'Who is like God?' for when Lucifer, impelled by pride and envy against God, wished to become like Him, this most powerful archangel, burning with ardent zeal and indignant at the offense given to the Most High, exclaimed, 'Who is like God?' By this, he meant, 'Who is so arrogant and bold that he should dare to compare himself to God?' By asking this rhetorical question, he expressed the manifest and holy truth that there is no created being, either in Heaven or anywhere else in the entire universe, who can rival the one, supreme God." —St. Aloysius Gonzaga



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Megan Seamann.....meseamann@archomaha.org

ADVERTISE FOR YOUR MINISTRY GROUP

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

ART CONTEST

Spirit Catholic Radio

Young artists can submit their prayer card designs anytime before December 12! Students grades Kindergarten through 8th Grade who are attending a Catholic school, Religious Education class, and/or are homeschooled are eligible to participate.



Submit to Spirit Catholic Radio a hand-drawn 6.5" wide x 8" tall design. This year's theme is *The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary*. Artists can pick between the two mysteries for their grade range below:

- K—2nd Grade: The Agony in the Garden or The Holy Rosary
- 3rd—5th Grade: The Crowning of Thorns or The Carrying of the Cross
- 6th—8th Grade: The Scourging at the Pillar or The Crucifixion

Submit your artwork by December 12. Winners receive prizes and winning art is displayed on prayer cards that will be distributed to Catholic elementary schools across our listening area and be displayed at Spirit Catholic Radio events during 2026! Visit <https://spiritcatholicradio.com/art2025> for more information.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

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Website.....leastofmybrethren.org
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Retrouvaille.....www.helpourmarriage.org
- MASS TIMES NATIONWIDE**
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Website.....nebraskahomeschool.org
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AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

IXIM MISSION TRIP MEETING—VARIOUS LOCATIONS, VARIOUS DATES



Since 2004, parishioners from across the Archdiocese of Omaha have gone to our sister diocese in Huehuetenango, Guatemala to work alongside our sisters and brothers in Christ. Our 21st trip will be June 11-22, 2026. Learn more about our mission trip at an upcoming information meeting on Sunday, November 16 at 1 PM at St. Frances Cabrini Parish Center (1248 S 10 St, Omaha); Monday, December 8 at 7 PM at St. Leo Parish Center (1920 N 102 St, Omaha); or join one of our Zoom meetings all at 7 PM: Tuesday, December 2, Wednesday, December 17, or Tuesday, January 6. Contact Charlie for Zoom links or to reserve a spot at an in-person information meeting at cpetro@archomaha.org or call or text 531-218-6354.

HEAR THE HERBECKS—ST. JAMES, OMAHA, NOVEMBER 19

This fall, Spirit Catholic Radio will be bringing in father and daughter duo, Peter Herbeck and his daughter Rachel Herbeck. Hear wisdom from Peter's experiences and from the fresh, vibrant perspective Rachel brings in ministering to young adults. It's going to be a unique, faith-filled evening of inspiration, connection, and growth. This duo will be in Columbus at St. Bonaventure (1565 18th Ave, Columbus) on Tuesday, November 18 and at St. James (4710 N 90th St, Omaha) on Wednesday, November 19. Tickets are \$10 each or 5 for \$40. Find out more and get your tickets today at <https://spiritcatholicradio.com/herbecks>.



REKINDLE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT DISCERNMENT NIGHT—ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON, OMAHA, NOVEMBER 22



The St. James/St. Elizabeth Ann Seton youth ministry team is hosting a free event, "Rekindle: A night to discern God's will in your life," for teens and young adults across the Archdiocese of Omaha on Saturday, November 22, from 6:30 PM to 11 PM. The event will be held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish (5419 N. 114th St, Omaha) and feature nationally-renowned speaker Jackie Francois Angel. The night will include a keynote speaker, break-out sessions, Mass, and social time with pancakes. Register for free at rekindleomaha.com. Questions? Email sjseasyouthministry@gmail.com.

SEEK CONFERENCE 2026—DENVER, JANUARY 1-5

Archbishop Michael McGovern will be at SEEK 2026 in Denver! This is a great opportunity for parishioners ready to grow their vision for missional parishes. SEEK26 is scheduled for Thursday-Monday, January 1-5. A SEEK26 Event Pass is \$625 until November 30 and \$675 after November 30. This does not include housing or travel. You can book a hotel through the SEEK portal after registration or explore other options. More information is on the FAQ page, <https://seek.focus.org/faq>.



PILGRIMAGE—ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND, APRIL 20-30



Come along April 20-30, 2026 as we visit some of the most beautiful and historical places in all of Europe. We will visit the prehistoric Stonehenge, Stratford, the home of William Shakespeare, Edinburgh and its famous Scottish Castle, Big Ben in London, Buckingham Palace, and so much more! We will have Mass each day in great Churches and Cathedrals along the way. Cost is \$5,169 with departure from Omaha.

For a brochure and more information, contact Fr. Dan Guenther (276 Country Club Dr, Lake Park, Iowa 51347) or call 712-899-6870 or email frdanguenther@gmail.com.

CATHOLIC YOUTH CAMP—PANORA, IA, JUNE-AUGUST

Each summer, over 1,700 youth ages 8–18 come together for unforgettable weeks filled with faith, fun, and friendship. At Catholic Youth Camp (CYC), campers experience the joy of the Gospel in action—from daily Mass, prayer, and small group ministry, to ziplines, campfires, and lake adventures. Each week is designed for a specific age group (elementary, junior high, or high school), helping campers grow in faith and confidence alongside new and old friends. Our mission is simple yet powerful: to create joy-filled missionary disciples of Christ who carry the love of Jesus into the world! Registration is now open. To learn more visit <https://stmcenter.com>.



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