

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET GRETNA, NE 68028



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know
on which day your Lord will come.” - Mt 24:42

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

NOVEMBER 30, 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

1st Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING (Is 2:1-5)

The prophet Isaiah envisioned a future with no more wars and nations united in belief and worship of Israel's God. What does a world totally at peace look like?

SECOND READING (ROM 13:11-14)

Paul encouraged the Romans to live with a sense of urgency in anticipation of their own salvation. What motivates you to live a moral life?

GOSPEL (MT 24:37-44)

Jesus taught his disciples that no one knows when the Son of Man will return, so you must always be prepared. How do you plan to use the season of Advent this year to welcome Jesus into your life?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



A few years ago, my house was broken into on Super Bowl Sunday. Turns out, it's a great day for burglars. If the TV isn't on, people are probably watching the game somewhere else, so... easy pickins'. I'll never forget walking into my bedroom and realizing someone had been there. My stuff was thrown all over the floor. The closet was torn apart. It was disorienting and disturbing—someone had invaded the space I thought was secure. After that, I bought an alarm system. And every Super Bowl Sunday since, I'm extra careful to lock the doors and keep the lights on. That experience made me more alert. Not scared. Just attentive.

That's much like the spiritual place Jesus wants us to be on this First Sunday of Advent. He doesn't start the season with soft candlelight and cozy manger scenes. He starts with two brutal images: a flood and a thief. In other words, chaos and violation.

Why? Because life will flood us. Chaos will come. And in the midst of it, Christ will come like a thief—not to steal from us, but to steal us back. He is the intruder we should want. The one who breaks in, not to ransack, but to rescue.

Christ presents Himself as the thief but also the new Noah. He builds the ark of the Church to carry us through the flood. And He invites us to join Him. How? By participating fully in our parishes. By making our homes places of prayer. By guarding our hearts with truth. By refusing to let spiritual complacency leave us exposed. By repentance.

This Advent, don't just stay vaguely "awake." Prepare. Build. Watch. The flood will come. But so will He.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

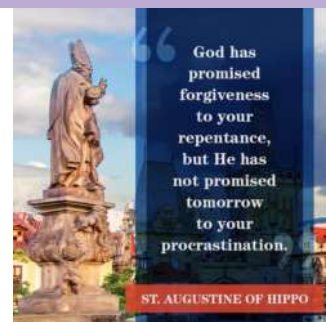
When we say the Penitential Act at Mass, why do we strike our chest three times?

ANSWER:

Our rituals and liturgical celebrations are filled with a variety of symbols, some of which also relate to our gestures and physical postures (e.g. kneeling, sitting, processing, making the Sign of the Cross). The custom of striking our breast three times during the "I Confess" of the Penitential Act of the Mass is one of those gestures that is loaded with symbolism.

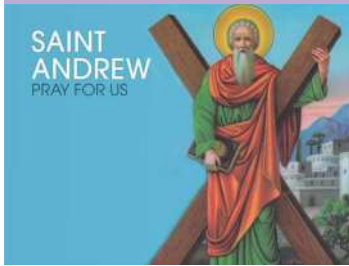
The tradition of Christian's striking the breast (above the heart) is rooted in the image of Sacred Scripture, especially texts like Psalm 51 which speak of a "humbled contrite heart" or how God heals broken hearts, binding up our wounds (see Psalm 147:3). Early Christian writers like St. Augustine of Hippo and St. Jerome also refer to this custom in their writings.

Ultimately, this practice is an expression of our sorrow for those times when we have been guilty of faults and a sign that we are willing to take responsibility for our sins and failings. That we all perform this gesture together is also an act of solidarity, recognizing that none of us, regardless of where we are on our journey of faith, is without fault and the need for grace and forgiveness.



SAINT ANDREW

Apostle and Martyr



St. Andrew (1st c.) was the first of the twelve Apostles to follow Jesus, after being a disciple of St. John the Baptist, the Precursor of Christ. St. Andrew was a fisherman by trade and the younger brother of St. Peter. Andrew recognized Jesus as the prophesied Messiah and left his fishing trade behind to follow Jesus, convincing his brother Simon Peter to do the same. After Jesus' Ascension into Heaven, Andrew preached the Gospel throughout the world as commanded by Christ. He ministered and preached in

Asia Minor before finally being martyred by crucifixion in the city of Patras in Achaia, Greece. He was tied to an X-shaped cross by request, not deeming himself worthy to die on the same kind of cross as his Savior. Andrew suffered for two days before dying, while continuing to preach Christ from his cross. St. Andrew's feast day is November 30.

SAINT FRANCIS XAVIER

Priest

St. Francis Xavier (1506–1552) was born in his family castle in Navarre in what is today Spain. While studying in Paris he met St. Ignatius of Loyola and joined him in the foundation of the Society of Jesus. Instead of devoting himself to academic pursuits as he had planned, and in which he enjoyed great success, he became the first Jesuit missionary priest. His missionary activity began in Goa, India and extended across the Orient. St. Francis Xavier was known throughout the Far East for his humility, care of the poor, and miracles including healings, speaking in tongues, and prophetic powers. His passion for Christ and zeal for souls won him many converts to the faith. It is said that during his missionary journeys he baptized over 40,000 people. He is considered by many to be one of the Church's greatest missionaries since St. Paul the Apostle. In his travels he left behind flourishing churches that were the foundations of the Catholic Church in Asia. He is the patron saint of navigators, missionaries, African missions, India, Japan, China, and New Zealand. St. Francis Xavier's feast day is December 3.



SAINT BARBARA

Martyr



St. Barbara (3rd c.) was born in Nicomedia in modern day Turkey. According to tradition, after the death of her mother she was raised by her rich and tyrannical pagan father who, because of her beauty and intelligence, guarded her closely, keeping her locked away in a tower to protect her from the outside world. She was educated by tutors and came to reject the false gods she was taught to worship in favor of the true God for whom she yearned and wished to discover, dedicating her life and virginity to this

purpose. She developed a prayer life and resisted her father's attempts to have her marry. Believing Barbara to be negatively affected by the seclusion, her father allowed her more freedom to associate with the world. She soon discovered Christians, and, recognizing the Creator she sought, and was baptized in secret. After informing her father that she was a Christian, he denounced her to the authorities under the persecution of Roman Emperor Maximian. She was imprisoned and cruelly tortured, but remained steadfast in her faith. During the night she would pray fervently, and her wounds would miraculously heal. This only subjected her to greater torments, followed by more miraculous interventions. She was finally beheaded by her own father, and afterward he was struck and killed by lightning as punishment. St. Barbara is the patron saint of firemen, armorers, artillerymen, military engineers, miners, and others who work with explosives. She is also the patron against storms, lightning, and fire, to name a few. St. Barbara's feast day is December 4.

"Make friends with the angels, who though invisible are always with you. Often invoke them, constantly praise them, and make good use of their help and assistance in all your temporal and spiritual affairs."

—St. Francis de Sales



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 8:5-11

TUESDAY: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

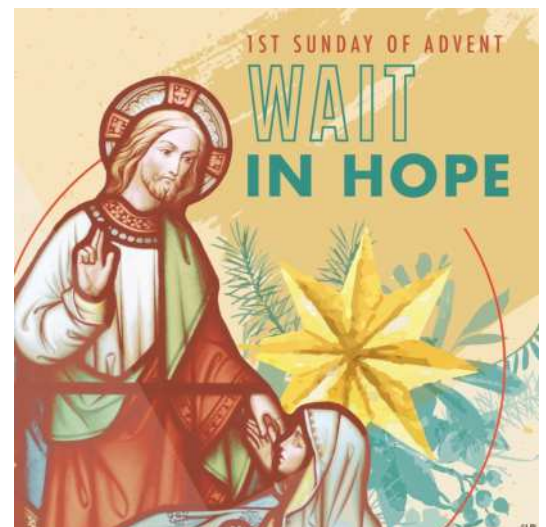
WEDNESDAY: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 15:29-37

THURSDAY: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/Mt 7:21, 24-27

FRIDAY: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

SATURDAY: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

NEXT SUNDAY: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY: St. Francis Xavier, Priest

THURSDAY: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church

SATURDAY: St. Nicholas, Bishop

NEXT SUNDAY: 2nd Sunday of Advent





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 \$30,472 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. May God transform our simple gifts to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal this year.

ADVENT GIVING TREE *Return Gifts by Monday, December 1*



Thank you to every one who picked up an ornament from our Giving Tree.

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 **Thomas LaSala** (Discipleship IV) from St. Gerald in Ralston.



"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." (Matthew 24:42) God calls us to be vigilant, ready to respond to His invitation. Could He be stirring your heart toward priesthood or consecrated life, to serve His Church with unwavering dedication? Stay awake to His call through prayer. 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! *Free Family Photo and Church Directory*

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.

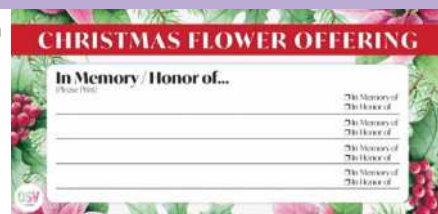
If you are unable to attend any of the photography sessions but would still like to be included in our new Church Directory, there is an option to submit your own digital picture for a \$15 fee. Please call the office for more information.

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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING *Make a Gift in Memory or in Honor of Someone*

If you receive giving envelopes from the parish you may have seen this envelope to donate to the Christmas Flower Offering. Anyone who wishes to be recognized in a future bulletin with their loved ones listed "In Memory/Honor Of" can easily do so by filling out the offering envelope and including your donation inside or by filling out the form below and returning it to the Parish Office with your donation by December 31. If you are donating online please fill out the form below and return it to the Parish Office. We greatly appreciate your donation to help decorate our beloved Church during the Christmas season and to remember/honor our loved ones.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING In Memory/Honor Of...

_____ In Memory / Honor of (please circle)
_____ In Memory / Honor of (please circle)
_____ In Memory / Honor of (please circle)
_____ In Memory / Honor of (please circle)
_____ In Memory / Honor of (please circle)

Your Name _____

(Please Circle)— Donated Online / Check Included / Cash Included

Amount included: \$ _____

GIVING OPTIONS AT ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Celebrate Giving Tuesday, December 2

Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, **Giving Tuesday** kicks off the charitable holiday spirit and motivates end-of-year giving. At a time when we are all experiencing the challenges of a tight economy and high inflation, generosity is what brings people of all races, faiths, and political views together across the globe. Generosity gives everyone the power to make a positive change in the lives of others and is a fundamental value anyone can act on.

GIVING TUESDAY

St. Patrick Church asks all parishioners to prayerfully consider their return to God and His Church through stewardship consisting of these equally important elements—Prayer and Presence, Gifts of Service or Time and Talent, and Financial Gift or Treasure. We are a tithing parish and recommend 5% of a family's gross income go to our parish, 1% to the Omaha Archdiocese, and 4% to other charities of your choice.

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER (EFT)

Through EFT, the parish office manages your online tithing account for you where you authorize St. Patrick to debit your bank account or credit card, allowing an automatic deposit into the bank account of St. Patrick. This is referred to as a "Managed Account." If interested, visit the home page of our parish website and click on the Online Giving button, then under Electronic Funds Transfer, click on the "EFT Form" button. Print out and return this completed authorization form to the parish office with your voided check or savings deposit slip or provide your credit card information on this same form.

ONLINE GIVING

Online Giving allows you to directly manage your own account where you can make contributions without writing checks or worrying about cash donations. This is referred to as an "Independent Account." You can access the St. Patrick online contributions page where you can set up and directly manage an account for automatic giving via checking, savings, or credit card, determine the timing or amount of your recurring gifts, or provide one-time donations for special collections or causes. Simply go to the home page of our parish website and click on the Online Giving button, and under Online Giving, click on the "Sign Up Now" button.

ENVELOPES

If electronic or online giving is not an option for you, St. Patrick offers church offering envelopes on a bi-monthly basis (e.g., a pack of a two-month supply of envelopes are mailed to you every other month). This occurs automatically upon registration as a parishioner unless the parish office has been notified that you do not wish to receive envelopes due to your choice of one of the other giving options. As you know, St. Patrick also gladly accepts cash donations at Mass. However, if you want us to record your contribution and include it on giving statements for income tax purposes, we can only do so if you use envelopes, contribute by check, EFT, or online giving. Contact Judy Weier at 402-332-4444, x201, or email her at jaweier@archomaha.org for assistance.

"The one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God, for the administration of this public service is not only supplying the needs of the holy ones but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God."

—2 Corinthians 9:10-11

Stewardship Report

Nov 12-Nov 18, 2025

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

General Contributions	Nov 12-Nov 18, 2025	Fiscal YTD thru Nov 18
Sunday Offering	\$30,808.35	\$476,688.32
Other Contributions	\$481.16	\$28,015.33
Total General Contributions	\$31,289.51	\$504,703.65 *
Surplus/Deficit	\$3,789.51	(\$45,296.35)

* 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 30 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.

GREENERY AND GLITTER



The Knights of Columbus will be serving soups, hot dogs, and hot cider in the Peterson Park (201 Cherokee Dr, Gretna) on Sunday, December 7 from 4 PM to 6 PM in partnership with the Gretna Chamber of Commerce Greenery and Glitter event. There will also be a park lights tour, photo ops, a scavenger hunt with prizes, and a tree lighting ceremony at 5:45 PM. Check out all of the events and handmade vendors coming to Greenery and Glitter at www.gretnane.org or on the City of Gretna, NE Events on Facebook.

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, DECEMBER 1ST

7:30 AM † Carol Tramp

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

6:00 PM † Connie Wildhagen

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

7:30 AM INT Special Intention

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

9:00 AM † Mark and Debbie Nowka

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

7:30 AM † Mary Emanuel

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

5:00 PM † Paul Rockwell

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

8:00 AM † George M. and Kay Schram
10:00 AM For Our Parishioners
12:00 PM † Robert Davis

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 Paul Kneifl, Pam Fogel, 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 30TH—1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT—NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM COR Men's Group Meeting—Father Hitch Room

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

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
4:00 PM to 8:30 PM Jesus Caritas—Parish Center A and Kitchen
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM Jesus Caritas Fraternity Evening Prayer—Sanctuary and Narthex
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM Advent Women's Small Group Father Hitch Room

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Outreach Ministry Meeting—Parish Center
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM Amazing Athletes—Basement Commons
5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus Holy Hour of Prayer—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 6:40 PM Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting—Parish Center AB

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3RD

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
8:00 AM to 8:15 AM Liturgy of the Hours—Behind the Tabernacle
9:00 AM to 10:30 AM Faith Connection—Parish Center C
1:00 PM to 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, DECEMBER 4TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Project Linus—Basement Commons
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM OCIA Class—Parish Center C

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

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
12:00 PM to 10:00 PM Private Event—Parish Center AB

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH

8:00 AM to 11:00 PM Knights Christmas Party—Parish Center AB and Kitchen
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Outreach Ministry Meeting—Parish Center
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

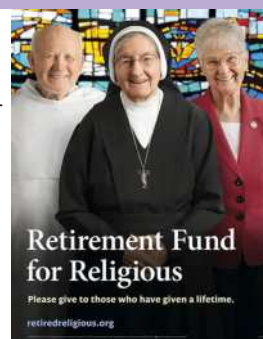
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH—2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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
2:00 PM to 10:00 PM Private Event—Parish Center and Kitchen

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS Second Collection Next Weekend

Our senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests need your help. Decades of caring for other with little or no pay have left many communities without sufficient retirement savings. Over 20,500 elderly religious depend on the Retirement Fund for Religious for healthcare, medication, and daily living expenses. Your gift helps ensure they receive the care they deserve. Please give back to those who have given a lifetime. Your generosity today is not just a donation—it's a way of thanking them for their lifelong service. To learn how your donation helps, visit retiredreligious.org.

"Thanks to your generosity, we can provide the very best care to the sisters in our community," says Sister M. Stephanie Belgeri, 73, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, Illinois.



LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

2nd Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 6TH 5:00 PM DECEMBER 7TH 8:00 AM DECEMBER 7TH 10:00 AM DECEMBER 7TH NOON

Sacristan
Linda Schrinier

Lectors
Barb Applegate
(Read the 1st Reading)

Bridget Blum
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Steve Otto
Leann Otto
Diane Sherwood
Pat Gilmore

Ushers
Andy Pearson
Linda Schrinier
Need Sub
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Ellie Clines

Altar Servers
Aslyn Ronk
Kenley Ronk
Need Sub

Greeters
Nancy Kirkpatrick
Tim Kirkpatrick

Sacristan
Carol Zeleny

Lectors
Cari Kaup
(Read the 1st Reading)

Joan Ingram
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Laura Fisher
Jamey Kennel
Christa Pichler
Marilyn Havel

Ushers
Greg Jones
Kevin Kaup
Ron Kotrous
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Duane Benes

Altar Servers
Carson Kaup
Ethan Kaup
Will Kaup

Greeters
Tony Schultz
Gordon Yager

Hilcrest SR/HL
Marty Stednitz
Sally Stednitz

Sacristan
Jim Hottovy

Lectors
Jolene Jefferies
(Read the 1st Reading)

Sandra Tiefenthaler
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Phil Lenz
Kari Lenz
Dennis Cannon
Phyllis Cannon
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Russ Eusterwiemann
Bruce Jefferies
John Schaffert
Tony Vanek

Rosary Reciter
Tam Hottovy

Altar Servers
Kalla Kassmeier
Kameron Kassmeier
Klayton Kassmeier

Greeters
Tony Tiefenthaler
Andrew Urban

Sacristan
Ginny Giebelhaus

Lectors
Eric Hittner
(Read the 1st Reading)

Kathy Broz
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Kathy Broz
Darcy Skrdla
Delma Stoner
Ginny Giebelhaus
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Ginny Giebelhaus
Delma Stoner
Marty White
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Carol Zeleny

Altar Servers
Need Sub
Need Sub
Need Sub

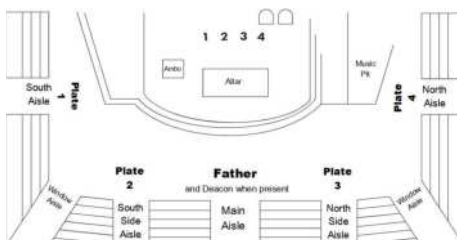
Greeters
Marty White
Need Sub

Vocations Crucifix
Merrill Neary

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

CHRIST THE KING



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

PARISH STAFF

PASTOR

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

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

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

DEACONS

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

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

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

HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

John Schaffert III.....402-672-7903
schaff333@gmail.com



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

CATHOLIC FAMILY VACATION Holy Family Fest Reimbursements

Do you know there is a place where you can go to have a Catholic family vacation? Our parishioner and fellow Knight, Randy Christensen, is the Director and President of the Apostolate for Family Consecration (AFC) where Holy Family Fest is hosted. For several years, the Council has reimbursed several families a portion of their expenses to attend this camp. Below you will find information about Holy Family Fest. If you are interested in attending and want to learn more about how the Council can offset some of your expenses, please contact Tony Tiefenthaler at tonytiefen@gmail.com.



HOLY FAMILY FEST
Immerse your family in Catholic culture for a week and encounter God's love through beautiful daily Masses and Eucharistic Adoration. Enjoy sports tournaments, a campfire Rosary, and a family dance night along with more than a hundred other families. Pick the cozy cabin, an RV, or tent campsite that's right for your family. You'll get to know like-minded Catholics lodging right next door! Find out more and reserve your spot today at <https://afc.org/catholic-family-vacation>.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC SURVEY *Let Your Voice be Heard*



The Annual Catholic Survey is a popular survey for Catholics and non-Catholics alike. It is not designed to provide an accurate snapshot of the Church as a whole, but to provide as many Catholics as possible an opportunity for their voice to be heard. Last year's survey found that 92% of participants are proud to be Catholic and another 7.53% of participants said they had

considered leaving the Church but decided to stay. Another key takeaway showed that 30% of participants rarely or never feel inspired before leaving Mass. Finally, out of thousands who took this survey last year, only 13.1% believed they could have a significant impact on the future of the Catholic Church in America—a sad downward trend. But the truth is, God transforms the Church one person at a time, beginning with you and me. Do you believe you can have an impact on the future of the Catholic Church? We want to hear from you! Take the survey today at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025AnnualCatholicSurvey>.

LEAST OF MY BRETHREN ADVENT FOOD BAGS

Purchase at Gretna Fareway



Least of My Brethren food pantry has partnered with Gretna Fareway this year for our annual food drive. Simply go to the Gretna Fareway from December 1-24, purchase the Advent Food Bag, and we will pick it up! The shopping is already done and you don't even have to deliver it to the church!

The \$50 Advent Food Bag contents are shown in the picture. This represents everything we include in each tub that we send out to needy families.

If you prefer to purchase individual items at a store of your choice, items of greatest need include: peanut butter, jelly, pancake mix, syrup, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, hamburger helper, canned chicken, and canned fruit. Thank you for your continued support!

ST. ANDREW'S NOVENA

Pray from November 30 through December 24

The St. Andrew's Novena—which begins on this Apostle's feast day—consists of a short, beautiful prayer that is recited fifteen times a day in honor of Our Lord's Nativity. It is not a novena in the literal sense of the word, because it lasts much longer than nine days—beginning on November 30 and finishing on Christmas Eve, which makes it 25 days long. (If you're a numbers person, that means this novena prayer is recited a total of 375 times!)



The tradition is of uncertain origin, but possibly began in Ireland about a century ago and has become immensely popular. Like most novenas, it is not only a sincere act of devotion, but also a way to offer God the intentions that are close to your heart. It is piously believed that those who pray this novena faithfully will receive what they ask.

The prayer is as follows:

Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour vouchsafe, I beseech Thee, O my God, to hear my prayer and grant my desires, through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His blessed Mother. Amen.

You can pray the fifteen iterations all at once, rosary-style, or you can break them up throughout the day.

—Article by The Catholic Company

CATHOLIC DEVOTIONS EXPLAINED

Advent Wreath



The Advent Wreath as we know it today is a modern spin on an ancient practice—or rather, several of them.

Christians have always utilized candles to illustrate the metaphor of Christ as the “great light” shining on a people waiting in darkness (Isaiah 9:2). Historians tell us that pre-Christian societies in Europe also viewed candles as symbolic of the coming light of spring, and may have used wreaths of natural material along with these candles. Traditions and rituals surrounding an “Advent Wreath” are often thought to have originated in the Lutheran tradition in 16th-century Germany. Today, Advent Wreaths are a practice embraced by most Christians in the Western world.

An Advent Wreath consists of a circle of evergreen and four candles, one for each week of Advent. Three of the candles are purple; one is rose, representing Gaudete Sunday, a time of rejoicing at the closeness of Christmas. In Catholicism, Advent Wreaths are blessed on the First Sunday of Advent. For Advent Wreaths in private homes, it is appropriate for a family member to perform the blessing.

APPRECIATED STOCK DONATIONS

St. Patrick Has Our Own Edward Jones Broker-age Account

St. Patrick gratefully accepts stock donations. Did you know we have our own Edward Jones broker-age account for ease in gifting shares of stock directly from your brokerage account to our broker-age account? Before making such a gift, here are some simple questions and answers that will help you as you discern your gift.

Appreciated stock donations



1. *If I gift stocks, will I still incur any capital gains taxes?* No. If the stock has appreciated in value, you can avoid paying the capital gains tax by giving the stock as a gift.
2. *What methods are used to gift stocks?* If you hold the shares in brokerage account, you can simply re-title the shares in the name of the organization—such as St. Patrick Catholic Church of Gretna—to whom you want to gift the stock. You can even set up regular gifts at predetermined intervals. Another way to gift stock is to transfer assets directly to your beneficiaries at the tie of your death with a Transfer on Death Agreement (TOD).
3. *What tax deduction can I get for gifting stocks to charitable groups?* If you donate appreciated stocks that you've held for more than a year to a "public" charity—such as a religious organization—you can typically take a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stocks, up to 50% of your adjusted gross income for that year.

So, as you can see, gifting stock is a great way to give to St. Patrick. Please consult your tax advisor for specifics.

FIRST FRIDAY AFTERNOON MASS AND ANNOINTING

Gretna - Springfield Family of Parishes



On First Fridays, St. Joseph (100 9th St, Springfield) has a 2 PM Mass with Anointing of the Sick available and confessions beforehand. This Mass is specially scheduled to accommodate older and limited mobility persons who may have difficulty attending an early morning Mass or sitting through an entire Sunday Mass. The church and parking are easily accessible. All are welcome.

CENTURY CLUB NOVEMBER CASH PRIZE WINNERS

Much to be Thankful For

Happy Thanksgiving! There are so many things to be thankful to our Lord and Savior for! Each and everything we see, and don't see, was created by Jesus, the Son of God, and the Father! Every tree, blade of grass, insect, and you and me. The thing that makes us special is that we were created in His image! What a blessing this is!

As you know, the part about being Century Club Administrator is sending out \$6,000 in CASH (checks) over the course of the year. The part I like least... sending out the letters asking for your contributions. So, I thought I would let you know where the funds were spent in 2025. Things like upgrades to St. Patrick Wi-Fi network, college scholarships for three St. Patrick Parish students, building a door in St. Patrick Parish Center (construction has not started on this yet), an Eagle Scout project, and funds given to the Hospitality committee for Trunk or Treat. And I can never stress enough, the \$6,000 in CASH winnings! All this from your contribution of \$60! That's less than the cost to eat at a really expensive restaurant! So, stay tuned and don't block your post office box from receiving letters from Century Club. November's CASH prize winners were drawn by Terry Dolnicek, thank you Terry!

\$150—Martin Ostransky
\$100—Corliss Lovstad
\$75—Marilyn Krajicek
\$50—Joe Marik
\$25—Josh Westra
\$25—Louis Farragutti
\$25—Dottie Engler
\$25—Donald Towey
\$25—Lois Rongish

Congratulations to all and remember, we're all winners in God's eyes! Also, pray for everyone as everyone needs prayer!

Jim Hottovy, Century Club Administrator



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jjwotipka@archomaha.org

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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.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Pick Up in Narthex

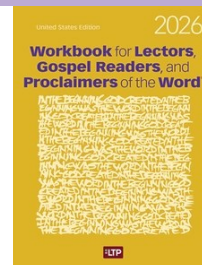


Advent is officially here! As we celebrate the 1st Sunday of Advent this weekend, consider picking up an Advent Devotional in the narthex. This devotional also includes daily reflections throughout the whole Christmas season. It's the gift that keeps on giving!

ATTENTION: LECTORS

New Lector Workbooks Are In

The new 2026 Lector Workbooks are here. The church year begins this weekend 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.



Follow St. Patrick
on Instagram at
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ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

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- BOYS TOWN NATIONAL HOTLINE**
Phone.....1-800-448-3000
Website.....www.boystown.org
- CATHOLIC ANSWERS**
Phone.....1-888-318-7884
Website.....www.catholic.com
- CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**
Grief & Healing Counselor.....402-391-3711
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Gretna.....402-332-3475
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Website.....ccomaha.org
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Website.....holyfamilyshrine.com
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Website.....leastofmybrethren.org
- MARRIAGE RESOURCES**
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Retrouvaille.....1-800-470-2230
Retrouvaille.....www.helpourmarriage.org
- MASS TIMES NATIONWIDE**
Phone.....1-858-207-6277
Website.....www.masstimes.org
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AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

NATIVITY SCENES AND CHRISTMAS SHOPPING—ST. BENEDICT CENTER, SCHUYLER, NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 14

Check out this free special two-week opportunity to do Christmas shopping at the St. Benedict Center (1123 Road I, Schuyler), Monday through Friday from 2 PM to 6:30 PM, or Saturday and Sunday from 10 AM to 7 PM. There will be a great variety of crafts and gifts made by area artists on sale. The Book and Gift Store will also be open. Plus view a unique display of nativity scenes from around the world! View God's love made visible in nativity scenes from the Holy Land, Africa, Asia, South and North America, and Europe, and pray for peace, which our world so urgently needs.



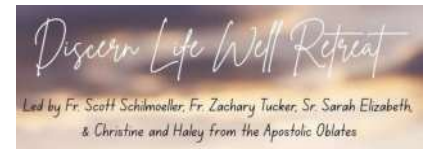
PRAYER SERVICES—RESURRECTION CEMETERY, DECEMBER 3, 10, 17



If you have experienced the loss of a loved one, please know our thoughts and prayers are with you. During this season of Advent, we are offering three Wednesday evening prayer services on December 3, 10, and 17 each at 6 PM in the Holy Angels Mausoleum Rotunda in Resurrection Cemetery (7800 W Center Rd, Omaha). Music shared prayer, community, and a shared journey not necessarily of our choosing but shared in the love for God as we prepare for this Holy Season. For further details, please call Catholic Cemeteries at 402-391-3711.

DISCERN LIFE WELL RETREAT—IMMACULATA MONASTERY, NORFOLK, DECEMBER 5-7

College students and young adults up to age 30 are invited to the Discern Life Well Retreat December 5-7 at the Immaculata Monastery (300 N 18th St, Norfolk). The retreat focuses on St. Ignatius' Rules of Discernment and will be led by Fr. Scott Schilmoeller, Fr. Zachary Tucker, Sr. Sarah Elizabeth, and Christine and Haley from the Apostolic Oblates. Sign up by November 27 at <https://www.mbsmissionaries.org/vocations/discern-life-well-remaining-with-the-lord.html>. Cost is \$50 for food and lodging. Questions, contact Sister Sarah Elizabeth at 402-992-7839.



ADVENT SHOP AND SING—HOLY FAMILY SHRINE, DECEMBER 20



Celebrate the joy and anticipation of the Advent Season! Join the Holy Family Shrine (23332 Fishery Rd, Gretna) for their Advent Shop and Sing on Saturday, December 20 from 1 PM to 4 PM—an afternoon filled with shopping, sweets, and song. Your ticket includes: exclusive access to our holiday gift shop items—featuring unique and handcrafted gifts perfect for last minute Christmas shopping; delicious seasonal treats—enjoy Christmas cookies, hot chocolate, warm cider, and other festive snacks; and a live a cappella choir performance for the JPPI Newman Center Chamber Choir. The choir will perform the same program twice at 1:45 PM and again at 3 PM. Plan to attend one of the two performances then enjoy shopping and refreshments before or after the concert. Buy tickets at

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/cloistersontheplatte/event/cloisterscommunityadventshoppings>.

V2 BOYS SUMMER CAMP—CAMP KATERI, MCCOOL JUNCTION, JULY

Virtus et Veritas Ministries (V2) Camp is a Catholic summer camp for young men entering 6th-9th grade in the fall. The camp is seven days, six nights and is full of fun, engaging activities, personal growth, inspiring worship and spiritual development. Join us July 19-25 or July 26- August 1 at Camp Kateri Tekakwitha (1305 Rd 3, McCool Junction). Scholarship assistance is available. Get a discount for registering before the end of the year. Youth and adult volunteers—Sophomore men and older—are need too. Visit <https://v2ministries.org/adventures> for more information and to register now!



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