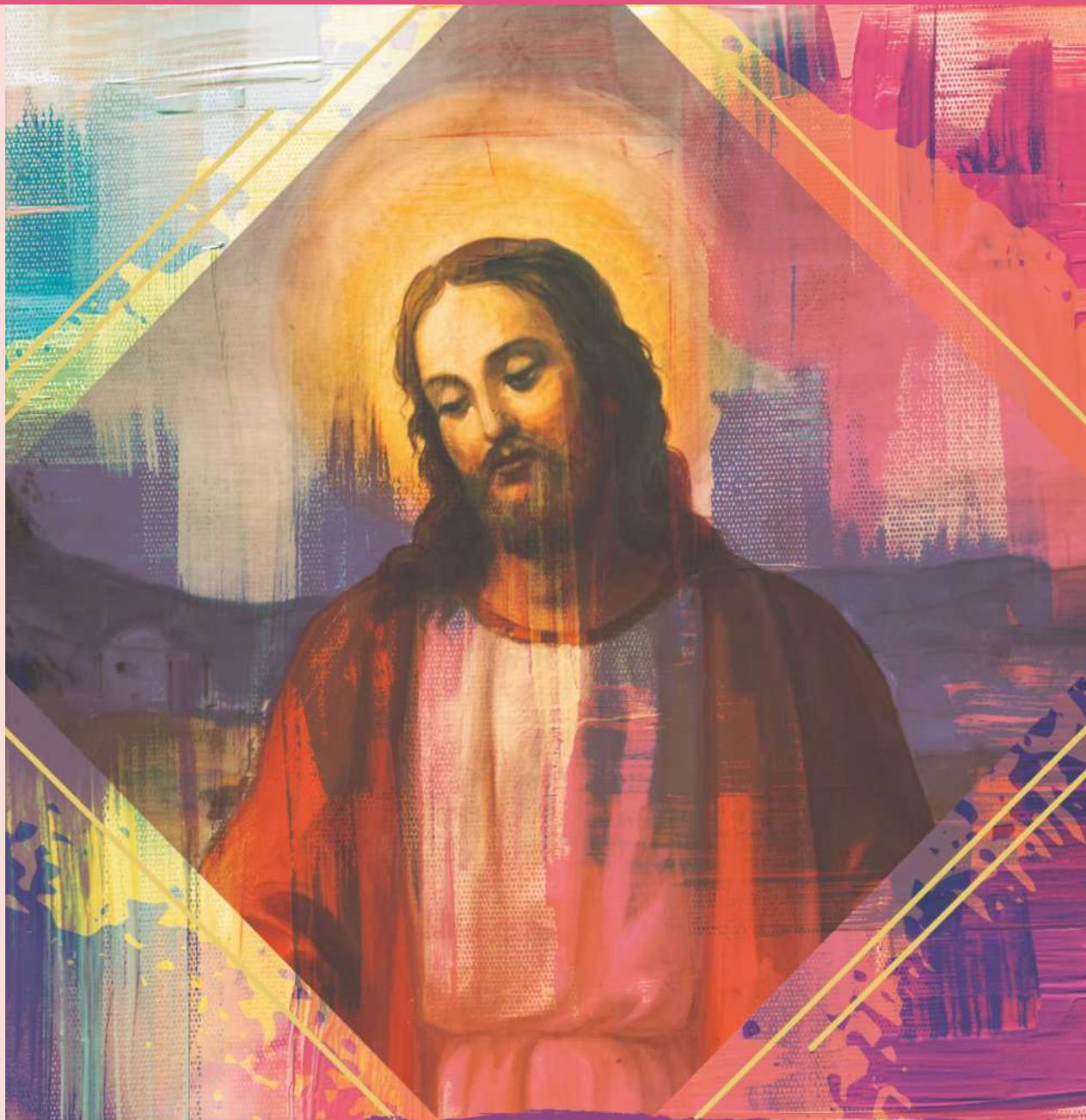


# ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET      GRETNA, NE 68028



## 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see." - Mt 11:4

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

**DECEMBER 14, 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

### 3rd Sunday of Advent

#### FIRST READING (Is 35:1-6A, 10)

The prophet Isaiah taught his community to “be strong, fear not!” because God has planned a remarkable future where both the people and the land will be restored. Is there a friend or co-worker who needs your encouragement this week?

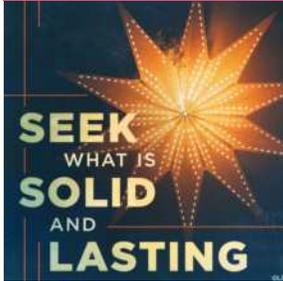
#### SECOND READING (JAS 5:7-10)

James encourages his community to be patient and firm of heart in waiting for the coming of the Lord. What are you waiting for during this Advent season?

#### GOSPEL (MT 11:2-11)

In prison, John the Baptist seemed uncertain about who Jesus is. Who do you talk to when you have questions about Jesus?

## GOSPEL MEDITATION



When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort... for this?

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: “What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?” (Matthew 11:7). He’s not just describing the crowd’s mis-aimed pursuit. He’s naming our tendency to chase after what’s flashy but flimsy.

What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can’t satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn’t a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real. This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting—that which points to Christ?

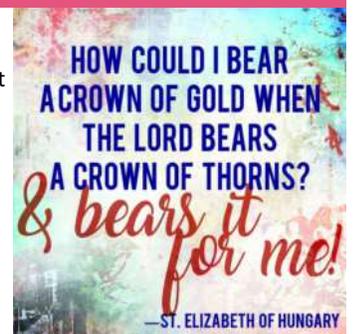
## CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

### QUESTION:

Our prayer group has been reading the lives of some saints, and we were struck by how some of them thought they were such sinners. Why would someone so holy think they had such serious sin?

### ANSWER:

Professional athletes practice the fundamentals of their sport over and over again, reaching for better form, consistency, and performance. They focus on the basics, review past performances, and visualize greater success. Practice makes better, if not perfect!



Spiritual masters such as the saints also looked for perfection. They practiced their faith in the search for holiness, grace, and virtue. Through sacraments, prayer, study, good works, and penance, they raised their level of awareness and their sensitivity to the presence of God, the demands of the Gospel, and the workings of the Holy Spirit. They examined their consciences daily, reviewing the day for moments of failure and times that they could have been more virtuous in one way or another. They resolved to do better, be more attentive, and alert!

Therefore, anything that would distract them or interfere with their relationship with God would be like a small black spot on a bright white wall—you can't miss it! The great saints were aware of sin and the presence of evil because they were so tuned into the struggle between good and evil that was fought in their own lives, hearts, and souls.

## SAINT VIRGINIA CENTURIONE BRACELLI

*Religious*

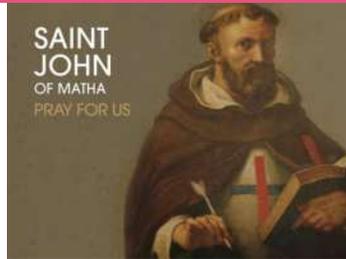


St. Virginia Centurione Bracelli (1587–1651) was born in Genoa, Italy, to an aristocratic family. She was pious and desired the religious life, however, at the age of fifteen she was forced into an arranged marriage. Her husband, a wealthy and illustrious man, lived dissolutely as a drinker and a gambler despite Virginia’s good example. After having two daughters, Virginia was widowed at the age of twenty. Refusing another arranged marriage, Virginia took a vow of celibacy and began charitable works in service of the sick and poor while raising her children. Once her daughters were grown, she used her wealth to found a refuge center for the suffering which grew into a large hospital, and soon into two religious congregations: the Sisters of Our Lady of Refuge in Mount Calvary, and the Daughters of Our Lady on Mount Calvary. Virginia was committed not only to serving the poor and destitute—even to the point of seeking them out in the streets—she was also committed to training the underprivileged with skills so that they could attain a better way of life. She also worked as a peacemaker to help settle the frequent bloody rivalries which rose up between noble families. St. Virginia Centurione Bracelli’s feast day is December 15.

## SAINT JOHN OF MATHA

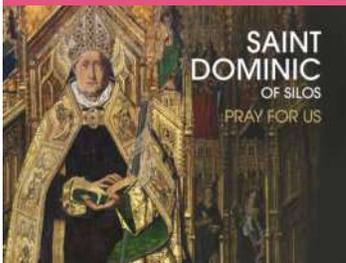
*Religious*

St. John of Matha (1154-1213) was born near Provence, France to noble and pious parents, and was dedicated to God from his birth. He learned the arts of a nobleman and advanced in Christian virtue, tending the sick and giving alms to the poor. Through his study of theology at the University of Paris he discerned a call to Holy Orders and became a priest. On the day of his first Mass he had a vision which encouraged him to devote his life to ransom Christians who had been captured by Muslims and forced into slavery. After time spent in prayer and fasting, he went to Rome to gain the Pope’s approval for a new religious order dedicated to this purpose. Pope Innocent III deliberated and ordered a fast, afterwards concluding that John’s mission was inspired by God. He gave his approval for the foundation of the Order of the Holy Trinity, or the Hospitaler Order of the Most Holy Trinity and of Captives (Trinitarians). The habit of the order, a white scapular with a two-toned blue and red cross on the chest, was chosen according to what St. John saw in his vision. St. John of Matha and the Trinitarians collected alms and traveled to Moor-controlled areas, ransoming and encouraging many Christian captives. His feast day is December 17.



## SAINT DOMINIC OF SILOS

*Bishop*



St. Dominic of Silos (1000–1073 A.D.) was born in Navarre, Spain, to a peasant family. He grew up herding his father’s sheep in the Pyrenees mountains. This work endeared in him a love of solitude, leading him to enter the local Benedictine monastery in Navarre. He eventually became its prior, but was driven out when the King of Navarre seized its lands. Dominic then fled to another monastery under the protection of King Ferdinand I of Leon. Though the monastery was dilapidated, he became abbot and restored it both materially and spiritually, turning it into a significant center of scholarship and charity to the poor. The funds of the monastery were used to ransom Christian captives who were enslaved by Muslims. St. Dominic of Silos was known during his life and after death as a miracle worker, making him a popular Spanish saint. The Spanish mother of St. Dominic de Guzmán, founder of the Dominican Order, prayed for a son at St. Dominic of Silos’ shrine; when she conceived, she named her son after him. St. Dominic of Silos’ special patronage became connected with pregnancy, and until 1931 his crozier was used to bless the queens of Spain, and was placed beside their beds when they were in labor. St. Dominic of Silos is also the patron of prisoners and shepherds. His feast day is December 20.

**“Not everyone can join a convent or spend all their waking hours in prayer, penance, and contemplation, but everyone can deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow the Lord.” —Emily Cavins, *Lily of the Mohawks***



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

## READINGS THIS WEEK

**MONDAY:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27  
**TUESDAY:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32  
**WEDNESDAY:** Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17  
**THURSDAY:** Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25  
**FRIDAY:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25  
**SATURDAY:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38  
**NEXT SUNDAY:** Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

**IT'S  
ROSE**

*Happy Gaudete Sunday*

## OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

**NEXT SUNDAY:** 4th Sunday of Advent

*Where there is  
no love, put in  
love and you will  
draw love out.*

—ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS



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](mailto: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>.

### SEMINARIAN PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Omaha.

This week let us pray for **Harrison Elhabbal** (Discipleship III) from St. Wenceslaus in Omaha.



"Behold, you will conceive and bear a son..." (Luke 1:31)

Mary's openness to God's plan shows how saying 'Yes' can change the world. All vocations, priesthood, consecrated life, or sacramental marriage, begin with a generous response to God's call. Pray for guidance and courage to follow where He leads. Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email [vocations@archomaha.org](mailto:vocations@archomaha.org).

**"PRAY ALWAYS AND DO NOT LOSE HEART."**

*Pray for our Seminarians*

# Baptisms

Since our last update on December 7, two children have been baptized into the Body of Christ. We congratulate the parents and family members, and we welcome your little ones into the Family of Faith! We are praying our Lord Jesus will bless, guide and inspire each of you in His love as you travel along your faith journey. Congratulations!



Name.....Date

Chloe Jane Barbaretta.....12/7/2025

Nora Josephine Goosshaw.....12/7/2025

### 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!

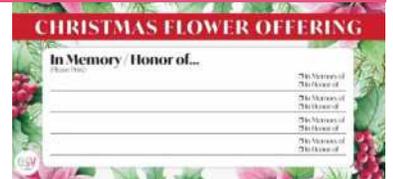
The \$50 Advent Food Bag contents are shown in the picture. This represents everything we include in each tub that we send out to needy families.

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!

### 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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## 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. As of right now, 248 of our 1590 registered parish families have scheduled their photography appointments. That's about 15%, but we would love to see at least 50% of our parishioners sign up. Schedule your photography session as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time. We look forward to having a new full parish directory. 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 a digital picture for a \$15 fee. Contact Megan Seamann, meseamann@archomaha.org, 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](http://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.

## DONATE FROM YOUR IRA THIS CHRISTMAS

### Thank You for Your Support

**You can donate from your IRA and support St. Patrick Catholic Church of Gretna this Christmas!**

- \* Donate directly from your IRA by December 31
- \* Save income tax on your gift

If you have any questions, please contact Jolene Jefferies, Parish Manager, at 402-332-4444, ext. 203 or email her at [jmjefferies@archomaha.org](mailto:jmjefferies@archomaha.org).

**Thank you for your support!**



### Stewardship Report

Nov 26-Dec 2, 2025

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

General Contributions	Nov 26-Dec 2, 2025	Fiscal YTD thru Dec 2
Sunday Offering	\$13,583.50	\$524,749.15
Other Contributions	\$5,916.61	\$32,881.69
Total General Contributions	\$19,500.11	\$557,630.84 *
Surplus/Deficit	(\$7,999.89)	(\$47,369.16)

\* 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, December 14 at 7 PM. Come join your brother parishioners for prayer and fraternity! If you have additional questions, please reach out to Matthew Henry at [mattnhenry@gmail.com](mailto:mattnhenry@gmail.com), Andy Pearson at [apearson709@gmail.com](mailto:apearson709@gmail.com), Eric Devlin at [devlineric62@gmail.com](mailto:devlineric62@gmail.com) or Seth Boardman at [sethd99@hotmail.com](mailto:sethd99@hotmail.com).

#### UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION



Have you changed your email address or phone number within the last year? We want to make sure that you are able to stay informed with everything that the Knights are doing. Contact Steve Otto by phone at 402-212-1267 or

by email at [thegretnaottos@gmail.com](mailto:thegretnaottos@gmail.com) with any updated information.

#### MONTHLY MEETING

All Knights are invited to join us for our monthly Knights of Columbus meeting that occurs every first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM in the St. Patrick Parish Center. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 6 after the 6 PM daily Mass.

#### WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A KNIGHT

We are Catholic men who lead, serve, protect, and defend. We share a desire to be better husbands, fathers, sons, neighbors, and role models and to put charity and community first.

#### 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 15TH**

7:30 AM † Kurt Pfeifer

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH**

6:00 PM † Nancy Sis

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH**

7:30 AM † Merlyn Linder

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH**

7:30 AM † William Zeleny

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH**

7:30 AM † Father Randy Soto

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH**

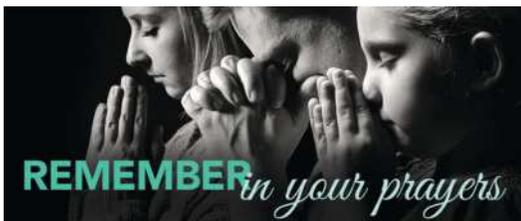
5:00 PM † Tom Selze

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST**

8:00 AM † Delbert and Irene Schwaninger  
10:00 AM For Our Parishioners  
12:00 PM † Oliver Djondo

**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 Donna Doolittle, Paul Kneifl, Pam Fogel, 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, DECEMBER 14TH—3RD 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  
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM RE Christmas Program Practice—Basement Commons  
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Parish Breakfast—Parish Center and Kitchen  
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM COR Men's Group Meeting—Father Hitch Room

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 15TH**

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary  
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM Homebound Ministry Meeting—Parish Center C  
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM Advent Confession Times—Confessional  
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Gingerbread House Making Preschool Family Night—Parish Center  
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM Advent Confession Times—Confessional  
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM Advent Women's Small Group—Father Hitch Room

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH**

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Project Linus—Basement Commons  
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM Rosary Guild—Father Hitch Room  
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM Advent Confession Times—Confessional  
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  
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM Advent Confession Times—Confessional

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17TH**

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  
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM Advent Confession Times—Confessional  
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM RE Christmas Program and Reception—Sanctuary, Parish Center  
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM Religious Education Classes—RE Classrooms, Basement Commons  
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM Advent Confession Times—Confessional  
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18TH**

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary  
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM Advent Confession Times—Confessional  
5:00 PM to 6:00 PM Women's Small Group—Father Hitch Room  
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM Advent Confession Times—Confessional  
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM OCIA Class—Parish Center C

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19TH**

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  
10:30 AM to 11:30 AM Preschool Christmas Program—Sanctuary  
11:00 AM to 12:00 PM Preschool Christmas Cookie Reception—Parish Center AB  
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM Advent Confession Times—Confessional

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH**

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 21ST—4TH 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  
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM RE Christmas Program—Basement Commons  
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary  
2:00 PM to 7:00 PM Private Event—Parish Center A

**"Whoever confesses his sins... is already working with God. God indicts your sins; if you also indict them, you are joined with God. Man and sinner are, so to speak, two realities: when you hear 'man'—this is what God has made; when you hear sinner'—this is what man himself has made. Destroy what you have made, so that God may save what He has made... When you begin to abhor what you have made, it is then that your good works are beginning, since you are accusing yourself of your evil works. The beginning of good works is the confession of evil works. You do the truth and come to the light." —The Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1458**

# LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

## 4th Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 20TH 5:00 PM    DECEMBER 21ST 8:00 AM    DECEMBER 21ST 10:00 AM    DECEMBER 21ST NOON

**Sacristan**  
Linda Schriner

**Lectors**  
Jayne Schram  
(Read the 1st Reading)

Eric Hittner  
(Read the 2nd Reading)

**EMHCs**  
Tracy Wollenburg  
JoAnn Koch  
Kevin Riley  
Janie Vipond

**Ushers**  
Chris Lingbloom  
Linda Schriner  
Jeff Wollenburg  
Need Sub

**Rosary Reciter**  
Jayne Schram

**Altar Servers**  
Shailynn Gatewood  
Colin Lingbloom  
Need Sub

**Greeters**  
Chris Gatewood  
Chris Lingbloom

**Sacristan**  
Lori Frederick

**Lectors**  
Carrie Hubert  
(Read the 1st Reading)

Barb Applegate  
(Read the 2nd Reading)

**EMHCs**  
Gene Schwarting  
Kathy Schwarting  
Paul Hubert  
Mitchell Hubert

**Ushers**  
Kevin Kaup  
Ron Kotrous  
Christopher Wilson  
Need Sub

**Rosary Reciter**  
Carol Zeleny

**Altar Servers**  
Drew Garcia  
Luke Hubert  
Paul Joseph Hubert

**Greeters**  
Tony Schultz  
Gordon Yager

**Hilcrest SR/HL**  
Gene Schwarting  
Kathy Schwarting

**Sacristan**  
Jim Hottovy

**Lectors**  
Tony Tiefenthaler  
(Read the 1st Reading)

David Burke  
(Read the 2nd Reading)

**EMHCs**  
Rosie Stec  
Jolene Jefferies  
Bruce Jefferies  
Jim Hain

**Ushers**  
Russ Eusterwiemann  
Jim Hain  
Tom Nienaber  
Need Sub

**Rosary Reciter**  
Judy Weier

**Altar Servers**  
Harper Dickes  
Nev Dickes  
Gavin McGregor

**Greeters**  
Carol Zeleny  
Need Sub

**Sacristan**  
Ginny Giebelhaus

**Lectors**  
Stephanie Lampe  
(Read the 1st Reading)

Kathy Broz  
(Read the 2nd Reading)

**EMHCs**  
Steve Otto  
Leann Otto  
Doris Williams  
Kathy Broz  
Deacon Ken Broz

**Ushers**  
Ginny Giebelhaus  
Carole Lisiecki  
Doris Williams  
Need Sub

**Rosary Reciter**  
Carol Zeleny

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

**Greeters**  
Carole Lisiecki  
Doris Williams

**Vocations Crucifix**  
Ron VanOeveren

*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.*



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Gretna, Nebraska

### PARISH STAFF

**PASTOR**

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

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

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

**DEACONS**

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

**PARISH OFFICE**

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

Megan Seamann, Communications Associate

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

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

**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Shane Fagan.....402-332-3454  
smfagan@archomaha.org

**DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION**

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

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

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

**DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC**

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

**PARISH CENTER COORDINATOR**

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

**FACILITY MANAGER**

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

**EVANGELIZATION COORDINATOR**

Jean Hlavacek.....402-504-4222  
jihlavacek@archomaha.org

**PASTORAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

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

**FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

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

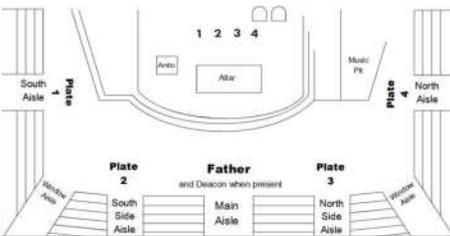
**HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY**

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

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

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

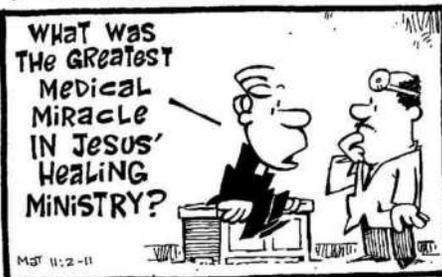
EMHC STATION MAP



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

3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT





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

**HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION**  
*Christmas/New Year's Day*



**THE NATIVITY OF JESUS (CHRISTMAS)**

The Nativity of Jesus or Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation. Wednesday, December 24, we will have two Masses—4 PM and 6 PM. Thursday, December 25, we will have two Masses—8 AM and 10 AM. The Parish Office will be closing early on December 24 and will be closed on December 25 and 26 in observance of the Nativity of the Lord.

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD (NEW YEAR'S DAY)**

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, or New Year's Day is a Holy Day of Obligation. We will not have a vigil Mass but will have two Masses on Thursday, January 1 at 8 AM and at 10 AM. The Parish Office will be closed on January 1 and 2 in observance of this great Solemnity.

**THANKSGIVING DONATIONS**  
*Gretna Neighbors Gratitude*

Gretna Neighbors Food Pantry would like to express gratitude for all of the donations brought before the altar at our Thanksgiving Day Mass this year. And to all those who helped load the donations, thank you.



Dear Members of St. Patrick's Church  
Thank you for your most generous donation of food on Thanksgiving! What a wonderful outpouring. All taken to the Gretna food pantry to be shared with families and individuals visiting the pantry. What a gift of kindness to help those in need in our community!  
Sincerely, Gretna Neighbors  
P.S. Thanks to all helping load \*



Follow St. Patrick on YouTube at **@StPatrickCatholicChurchNE**

**ADDITIONAL CONFESSION TIMES THIS ADVENT**

*Prepare for the Coming of Jesus*

As we prepare to receive Jesus into our hearts this Christmas, let us prepare spiritually by cleaning our souls through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We will offer additional times to receive this great sacrament of healing during the following days and times:

**RECONCILIATION TIMES**

- Monday, December 15: 3 - 4 PM
- Monday, December 15: 6:30 - 7:30 PM
- Tuesday, December 16: 3 - 4 PM
- Tuesday, December 16: 6:30 - 7:30 PM
- Wednesday, December 17: 3 - 4 PM
- Wednesday, December 17: 6:30 - 7:30 PM
- Thursday, December 18: 3 - 4 PM
- Thursday, December 18: 6:30 - 7:30 PM
- Friday, December 19: 3 - 4 PM
- Saturday, December 21: 4 - 4:40 PM
- Monday, December 22: 3 - 4 PM
- Monday, December 22: 6:30 - 7:30 PM
- Tuesday, December 23: 3 - 4 PM
- Tuesday, December 23: 6:30 - 7:30 PM



**Gretna Parishes' Advent Confessions**

GREEN = St. Patrick (SP)

BLUE = St. Charles Borromeo (SCB)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6
	Confessions with no end time indicated will conclude as soon as no one is in line.	SCB After Noon Mass	SCB After Noon Mass	SCB After Noon Mass SCB 5:30-6:30pm	SCB After Noon Mass SCB 7:30-8:00pm	SP 4:00-4:50pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		SCB After Noon Mass	SCB After Noon Mass SCB 7:00-8:00pm	SCB After Noon Mass SCB 5:30-6:30 p.m.	SCB After Noon Mass SCB 5:30pm	SCB 8:30-9:30am SP 4:00-4:50pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	SP 3:00-4:00pm SP 6:30-7:30pm	SCB After Noon Mass SP 3:00-4:00pm SCB 5:30-6:30pm SP 6:30-7:30pm	SCB After Noon Mass SP 3:00-4:00pm SP 6:30-7:30pm SCB 7:00-8:00pm	SCB After Noon Mass SP 3:00-4:00pm SCB 5:30-6:30pm SP 6:30-7:30pm	SCB After Noon Mass SP 3:00-4:00pm SCB 6:30pm	SCB 8:30-9:30am SP 4:00-4:50pm SCB After 5pm Mass
21	22	23	24	25		
SCB After 9am Mass SCB After 11am Mass	SCB 9:30am SCB After Noon Mass SP 3:00-4:00pm SP 6:30-7:30pm SCB 6:30-7:30pm	SCB After Noon Mass SP 3:00-4:00pm SP 6:30-7:30pm SCB 6:30-7:30pm	Christmas Eve No Confessions	Christmas Day No Confessions		

**PEACE, LOVE, PRESCHOOL**  
*St. Patrick Preschool Fundraiser*

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

Join our Preschool for their Annual St. Patrick Preschool Fundraiser: Peace, Love, Preschool on Saturday, February 14 at 6 PM! This is going to be a fun night full of great food catered by Josh and Tara Westra, dancing, games, and a live and silent auction that will benefit our Preschool! Grab your tickets now at [stpatricksgretna.org](http://stpatricksgretna.org)! Tickets are \$50/person or \$350 for a table of 8!



**DONATIONS NEEDED**

Please consider donating items for the live and silent auctions. Contact Amanda Scardina for more information about donating items at 402-332-3050 or [acscardina@archomaha.org](mailto:acscardina@archomaha.org).

**PARISH COOKBOOKS FOR SALE**  
*Makes for a Great Christmas Gift*

Purchase your copy of the St. Patrick 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, and we all know Christmas is just around the corner! Don't miss the 700+ family favorite recipes. All proceeds benefit St. Patrick Preschool.



## MAKE QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

*Donate by December 31*



### WHAT IS A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD)?

Generally speaking, a QCD is a non-taxable distribution made directly from a traditional IRA (other than an ongoing SEP or Simple IRA) to a qualified charitable organization, such as St. Patrick Catholic Church of Gretna.

### WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

QCDs reduce your adjusted gross income and potentially reduce your taxable income and the tax due. If you file a joint return, your spouse can also have a QCD. You Qualify if:

- You are over age 70 ½
- You are taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from a traditional IRA
- You are making charitable contributions
- The QCD is paid directly by the trustee of your IRA to the charitable institution

### CAN A QCD SATISFY MY RMD FROM AN IRA?

Yes, your QCD can satisfy all or part of the amount of your RMD from your IRA. For example:

- If your 2025 RMD was \$10,000, and you made a \$10,000 QCD in 2025, you would have satisfied your 2025 RMD.
- If your 2025 RMD was \$10,000, and you made a \$5,000 QCD in 2025, you would have had to withdraw another \$5,000 to satisfy your 2025 RMD.

### HOW TO MAKE A QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION TO ST. PATRICK

1. Contact your IRA trustee or financial institution for its procedures for QCDs.
2. Determine the amount that you want to contribute (up to \$100,000) and advise your IRA trustee or financial institution.
3. Keep proof of your contributions such as a statement from the charitable institution and from the paying institution.

### WHEN PREPARING YOUR TAX RETURN

1. Your 1099-R will likely show the full amount of the distribution as taxable income. Note: There may be exceptions that you will need to verify with your payor.
2. Tell your tax preparer the amount of the QCD. The taxable amount on the 1099-R will need to be *reduced* by this amount.
3. Only the reduced taxable amount will be included in your income.
4. Include proof of your contributions with tax documents for the year.
5. For more information, see IRS Publication 590-B, Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs).

If you have any questions, please consult with your tax advisor. Thank you for your support!

## YOUR YEAR-END GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

*Contribute Before December 31, 2025 for This Year's Statement*

As 2025 draws to a close, we remember all the special things about being a registered parishioner of



St. Patrick. We've been able to share many wonderful faith and community experiences, build close relationships, and spend time together praising our Lord in worship and doing the things we love.

As we consider these moments, it's also important to remember the value of giving. Here at St. Patrick, we can't begin to thank you enough for taking the time to give and support our wonderful parish and all that we do. If you have not yet made a gift to St. Patrick, don't worry, there is still time to give before 2026 makes its grand entrance. Contributions received by December 31, 2025, will be posted to 2025 stewardship. Any contribution received after December 31, 2025, will be posted to 2026 stewardship. Please plan accordingly.

A year-end gift to St. Patrick is not only a tax-deductible gift, it is an opportunity to support your fellow parishioners and all those served by our faith community by giving the gift of faith and building the Kingdom of God in our midst. Thank you for all you do for St. Patrick!



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

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

### LAY LITURGICAL MINISTRY

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

### PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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

### LEAST OF MY BRETHREN

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

### CHURCH CLEANING

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

### ADVERTISE FOR YOUR MINISTRY GROUP

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

## HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS

*Provide Support for Those in Need*



AseraCare Hospice needs volunteers in our area to provide support to terminally ill patients and their families. Volunteers can visit, read to the patient, participate in a favorite

activity, or simply sit alongside them in their journey. We also have several virtual and behind the scenes opportunities available. Volunteers are a vital part of our hospice care mission. They are provided with extensive training and continued support throughout their tenure. To sign up or find out more, please contact Jen Vogt at 402-943-6871 or jen.vogt@amedsys.com or apply online at <https://btrr.im/sjmwww>.

## ARCHDIOCESE ANNUAL APPEAL

*Please Be Generous*

To date, 98 donors have committed \$37,059



towards our goal of \$123,802.80 for this year's Archdiocese Annual Appeal. Your support of this annual appeal directly impacts parishes, schools, and ministries throughout northeast Nebraska as we work to become missional communities. Thank you for your generosity!



## ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

### HELPFUL RESOURCES

**AL-ANON (ALCOHOLIC FAMILY SUPPORT—OMAHA)**  
Phone.....402-553-5033  
Website.....al-anon.org

**BOYS TOWN NATIONAL HOTLINE**  
Phone.....1-800-448-3000  
Website.....www.boystown.org

**CATHOLIC ANSWERS**  
Phone.....1-888-318-7884  
Website.....www.catholic.com

**CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**  
Grief & Healing Counselor.....402-391-3711  
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Gretna....402-332-3475

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES—OMAHA**  
Phone.....402-554-0520  
Website.....ccomaha.org

**CATHOLIC VOICE ONLINE**  
Website.....catholicvoiceomaha.com

**COURAGE (PASTORAL SUPPORT—SAME-SEX ATTRACTION)**  
Phone.....402-557-5692  
Website.....couragerc.org

**EWTN (GLOBAL CATHOLIC TELEVISION NETWORK)**  
Phone.....1-800-447-3986  
Website.....www.ewtn.com

**HEARTS RESTORED (HEALING AFTER ABORTION)**  
Phone.....402-783-4673  
Website.....heartstorestordnebraska.org

**HOLY FAMILY SHRINE**  
Phone.....402-332-4565  
Website.....holyfamilyshrine.com

**LEAST OF MY BRETHREN (SUPPORT HOMELESS)**  
Phone.....402-681-5424  
Website.....leastofmybrethren.org

**MARRIAGE RESOURCES**  
For Your Marriage.....www.foryourmarriage.org  
Retrouvaille.....1-800-470-2230  
Retrouvaille.....www.helpourmarriage.org

**MASS TIMES NATIONWIDE**  
Phone.....1-858-207-6277  
Website.....www.masstimes.org

**NEBRASKA HOMESCHOOL NETWORK**  
Website.....nebraskahomeschool.org

**POPE PAUL VI INSTITUTE (FERTILITY HELP)**  
Phone.....402-390-6600  
Website.....www.popepaulvi.com

**SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO—FM 102.7**  
Phone.....402-571-0200  
Website.....www.spiritcatholicradio.com

**ST. BENEDICT CENTER (RETREATS IN SCHUYLER)**  
Phone.....402-352-2177  
Website.....christthekingpriory.com/sbcabout

**ST. JOHN PAUL II NEWMAN CENTER**  
Phone.....402-557-5575  
Website.....jpiiomaha.org

**STRIVE (BREAK FREE FROM PORNOGRAPHY)**  
Phone.....989-720-8000  
Website.....strive21.com

**WOMEN'S CENTER FOR ADVANCEMENT  
(DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, ETC.)**  
24/7 Hotline.....402-345-7273  
Website.....wcaomaha.org

## AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

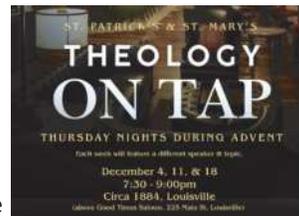
### PRAYER SERVICES—RESURRECTION CEMETERY, DECEMBER 17



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 a Wednesday evening prayer service on December 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.

### THEOLOGY ON TAP—CIRCA 1884, LOUISVILLE, DECEMBER 18

St. Patrick's in Manley and St. Mary's in Elmwood welcome you to Theology on Tap on Thursday nights during Advent (December 18) from 7:30 PM to 9 PM at Circa 1884, above Good Times Saloon (225 Main St, Louisville). The venue is ADA accessible. Matt Simmons will be the speaker on December 18 speaking on how *The Truth Will Set You Free*. Matt is the President of Sacred Heart Ministries in Lincoln, where he offers his expertise in inner healing and deliverance ministry, and gives retreats and spiritual direction.



### ADVENT SHOP AND SING—CLOISTERS ON THE PLATTE, DECEMBER 20

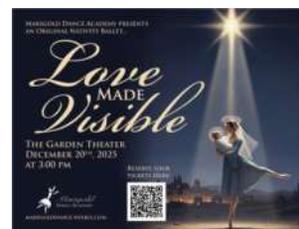


Celebrate the joy and anticipation of the Advent Season! Join the Cloisters on the Platte (23332 Fishery Rd, Gretna) for their Advent Shop and Sing on Saturday, December 20 from 1 PM to 4 PM—an afternoon filled with shopping, sweets, and song. Your ticket includes: exclusive access to our holiday gift 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 JP II 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/cloisterscommunityadventshopsis>.

### NATIVITY BALLET—THE GARDEN THEATER, DECEMBER 20

If you are looking for a family friendly event to get your heart ready for the Christ Child, please come support the dancers of Marigold Dance Academy as they perform "Love Made Visible", an original Nativity Ballet. Tickets are just \$10 (lap babies are free) and the show will be held at The Garden Theater (3125 Oak View Dr, Omaha) on Saturday, December 20 at 3 PM. Tickets can be reserved online at [www.marigolddance.weebly.com](http://www.marigolddance.weebly.com).



### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND—LINCOLN, FEBRUARY 20-22



Need the perfect gift for your spouse this Christmas? Give your spouse the gift of your time and love by taking them on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend to make your relationship even better than it is today! Upcoming 2026 dates: February 20-22 in Lincoln, NE; April 18-19 in Lakewood, CO; June 19-21 in Golden, CO; August 7-9 in Wichita, KS; September 18-20 in Grand Island, NE; and November 6-8 in

Grand Junction, CO. Call or text 402-370-5839 for more information and to purchase a gift certificate to give to your spouse or married family and friends! For information about Worldwide Marriage Encounter, please visit [www.wmme.org](http://www.wmme.org).

### YOUNG ADULT RETREAT—IMMACULATA MONASTERY, NORFOLK, MARCH 13-15

The Immaculata Monastery Spiritual Center in Norfolk is hosting a Theology of the Body ECHO Weekend Retreat for Young Adults on March 13-15. For more information or to register, visit <https://www.echocommunity.us/>.



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