

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET GRETNA, NE 68028



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John the Baptist appeared...saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" - Mt 3:1a, 2

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

DECEMBER 7, 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 A 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

2nd Sunday of Advent

FIRST READING (Is 11:1-10)

Isaiah foresaw God's future when the world will be ruled by a new and ideal 'King David' ("a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse") and the earth will be filled with knowledge of the Lord. What do you hope for in your future?

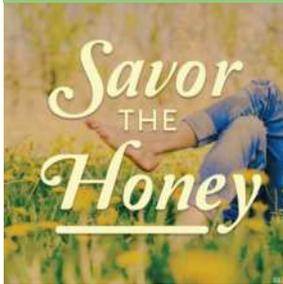
SECOND READING (ROM 15:4-9)

Paul encouraged the community of believers in Rome to be in harmony with each other in thought and mind. Are there relationships in your life you consider to be harmonious?

GOSPEL (MT 3:1-12)

John the Baptist taught the people to prepare for the Kingdom of Heaven by repenting of sins and producing "good fruit." What could you do this second week of Advent to make a positive impact?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating "locusts and wild honey" (Mark 1:6). It's not just a strange historical detail. It's a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

I remember working with a young couple preparing for marriage. They were sincere, but raw—barely beginning to discover faith. Part of me wanted to rush them ahead, to fill in all the gaps, to bombard them with Scripture and Church documents. I swallowed that instinct. It was like eating locusts. But I also recall them light up as they spoke about each other, about their first child, then their second. And they wanted to be close to God. Something innocent and beautiful was unfolding. That was the honey. I knew God was asking me to savor it.

This Advent, maybe we're each being invited to accept both locusts and honey. Maybe it's time to stop avoiding the difficult parts of faith—prayer that feels dry, the call to repentance, the patience with the troublesome. It's time to eat some locusts. But we also need to notice the small gifts God gives us: a peaceful moment, a good conversation, the joy of serving someone else, new life, good intentions of our friends. That's the honey. Savor it!

John didn't avoid either. He took it all in. And so can we. What are your locusts? Your honey? If we let God feed us with both, we'll be ready—really ready—for the coming of Christ.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

I've heard people call Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit being "immaculately conceived." Is that what the Immaculate Conception is?

ANSWER:

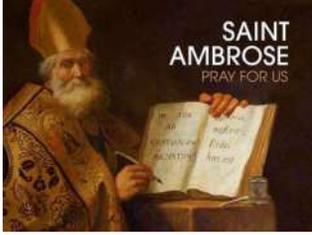
While these two events are often confused, they are not the same thing. We celebrated the conception of Jesus on March 25, the feast of the Annunciation. While that was surely miraculous, it isn't what we refer to as the "immaculate conception." The Immaculate Conception is Mary's conception, and we typically celebrate it on December 8. If the 8 happens to be a Sunday, the Church moves the feast to December 9. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Why does the Church consider it so important to celebrate?

Mary's conception is immaculate because she was conceived without original sin. The angel Gabriel acknowledges this when he hails Mary as "full of grace" (Luke 1:28). Scripture scholars identify several theological ideas that confirm this. In the Old Testament, the sacred, pristine Ark of the Covenant held the presence of God. The presence of God is now held within a new "arc"—the womb of Mary. Genesis 3 also prophesies of a woman who would oppose the devil and whose child would crush the devil's head. Christ is the "New Adam." This passage sets up Mary, then, as the "New Eve." Jesus and Mary are the beginnings of a new creation, one we all can participate in through the grace of our baptism. After all, God's love is more "original" than our sin!



SAINT AMBROSE OF MILAN

Bishop and Doctor of the Church

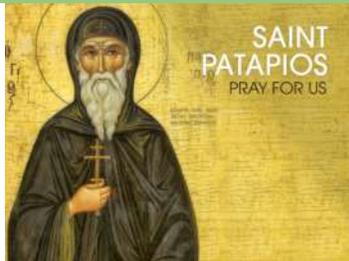


St. Ambrose of Milan (c. 340–397 A.D.) was born in Gaul (modern France) and became a successful lawyer and governor in Milan, Italy. When the bishop of Milan died in 374 A.D., a movement arose among the people to demand that Ambrose take his place. At the time Ambrose was only a catechumen preparing for baptism; he was not yet a Christian. He went into hiding in an attempt to escape the ecclesiastical appointment. His attempts to hide were unsuccessful; the emperor forbade anyone to give him shelter, which forced him to give himself up and submit to the will of the people to be their bishop. Ambrose quickly received the sacraments, including Holy Orders, and was ordained the Bishop of Milan a week later. He became a very holy leader, giving his property to the poor and his land to the Church, and making himself directly available to the needs of all people. He also worked tirelessly to defend orthodox doctrine, especially against the pervasive Arian heresy which denied the divinity of Christ. St. Ambrose was the saint who introduced *lectio divina*, the practice of prayerfully meditating on the Sacred Scriptures, into the Latin Church. This informed his eloquent writing, preaching, and teaching, earning him the nickname “honey-tongued doctor.” Ambrose was the bishop who converted and baptized St. Augustine of Hippo. He is one of the four original Doctors of the Church, and his statue is one of four that upholds the Chair of St. Peter inside St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. St. Ambrose’s feast day is December 7.

SAINT PATAPIOS

Religious

St. Patapios (4th c.) was born in Thebes, Egypt. His parents were prominent Christians, and his father was the governor of the region. Patapios was well-educated by the best tutors, and his learning awakened in him a desire to shun the world and its materialism and seek a life of asceticism. Inspired by the manner of life of the Church Fathers, Patapios became a desert hermit upon his father’s death. He later moved away to live in a cave near Corinth, and then sailed to Constantinople to live as a simple monk in the Monastery of Blachernae. There he fasted, prayed, and performed miracles until his death at the age of 83. In the early 20th century, a local priest planning renovations discovered his relics after the saint appeared to him in a dream and informed him where they were located. His relics were found the next day holding a large wooden cross on his chest and a parchment scroll bearing his name. St. Patapios’ feast day is December 8.



SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS

Doctor of the Church



St. John of the Cross (1542–1591) was born to a poor family in Old Castile, Spain. His father married below his rank and was disinherited as a result. After his father’s early death, John was raised in poverty by his mother. He studied and served at a local hospital while committing himself to severe penances. Uncertain of his life’s direction, he was told in prayer that he should enter religious life in order to bring reform. John joined the ancient Carmelite Order and received permission to observe their original rule of life, quickly earning a reputation for his humility, obedience, and religious fervor. He later met St. Teresa of Avila, a reforming Carmelite abbess who recognized the greatness of John’s virtue and requested his assistance to found a monastery of friars under the primitive Carmelite rule, as she had done for her nuns. Together they founded the Discalced Carmelites, a contemplative order of strict religious observance. His reforms began to spread, and as a result John was captured, imprisoned, and physically abused by his fellow friars. His sufferings helped him to write his most famous work, *Dark Night of the Soul*. After nine months he made a miraculous escape and he went on to found and govern several Carmelite monasteries. St. John of the Cross became an authority on the spiritual life, and his profound writings and poetry are considered among the greatest of all Spanish literature. Because of his invaluable writings he was named a Doctor of the Church and the patron saint of mystics, contemplatives, and Spanish poets. His feast day is December 14.

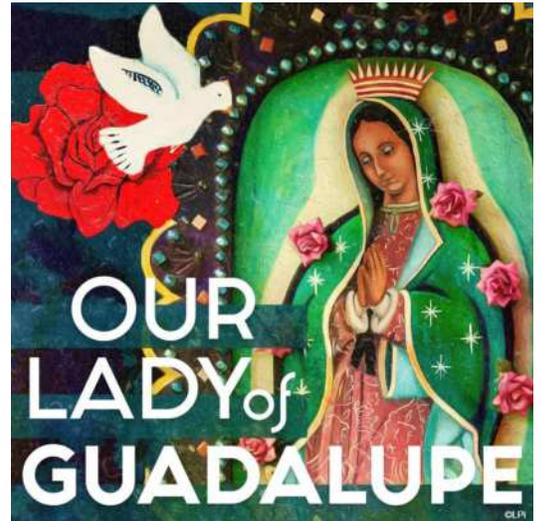


ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Gretna, Nebraska

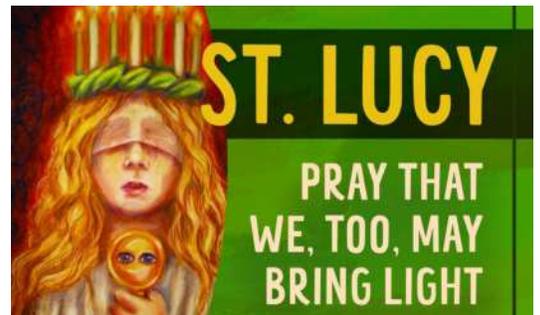
READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38
TUESDAY: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/Mt 18:12-14
WEDNESDAY: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/Mt 11:28-30
THURSDAY: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/Mt 11:11-15
FRIDAY: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
SATURDAY: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
NEXT SUNDAY: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

MONDAY: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
TUESDAY: St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
WEDNESDAY: Our Lady of Loreto
THURSDAY: St. Damasus I, Pope
FRIDAY: Our Lady of Guadalupe
SATURDAY: St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
NEXT SUNDAY: 3rd Sunday of Advent





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>.

SEMINARIAN PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Omaha.

This week let us pray for **Ethan Menning** (Discipleship IV) from St. Patrick in Elkhorn.



"The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2) John's call to prepare for Christ echoes in every family. In holy matrimony, love and faith creates the foundation where God's Kingdom flourishes. Is God calling you to build a holy family? Ask Him to show you His way by praying for your (future) spouse and children. But if He is calling you to the priesthood or religious life, talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.



Baptisms

Since our last update on November 23, 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

Rose Elizabeth Costello..... 11/29/2025

Eleanor MacKenzie Wachal..... 11/30/2025

PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

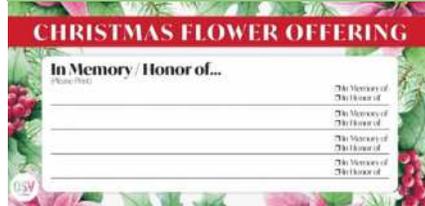
We, the community of St. Patrick, continue to pray for all our parishioners and their deceased family members and loved ones.



Name.....Date of Death.....Place of Burial

Sharon Laughlin.....11/26/2025.....Sheffer Pioneer Cemetery, Greenwood

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 _____

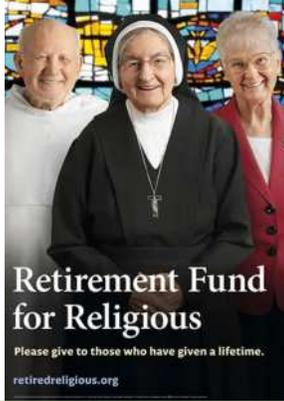
(Please Circle)— Donated Online / Check Included / Cash Included

Amount included: \$ _____

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Second Collection This 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.

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.

Stewardship Report

Nov 19-Nov 25, 2025

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

General Contributions	Nov 19-Nov 25, 2025	Fiscal YTD thru Nov 25
Sunday Offering	\$22,851.45	\$509,265.65
Other Contributions	\$3,462.55	\$31,837.88
Total General Contributions	\$26,314.00	\$541,103.53 *
Surplus/Deficit	(\$1,186.00)	(\$36,396.47)

* 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, 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 8TH

7:30 AM † Henry Sudbeck
6:00 PM † Dennis Mattes

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

6:00 PM † Jeri Childers

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

7:30 AM INT Special Intention

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

7:30 AM † Kurt Pfeifer

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

7:30 AM † Deceased Members of the Mann and Hottovy Families

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

5:00 PM † Erwin W. and Frances Rehder,
† Edward and Jean Prucha, and
† Erwin E. Rehder

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

8:00 AM † Dorothy O'Brien
10:00 AM For Our Parishioners
12:00 PM INT Max Rocha

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 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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8TH—IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY—HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION—OFFICE CLOSED

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM Advent Women's Small Group—Parish Center C
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Baptism Class—Father Hitch Room

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

3:00 PM to 10:00 PM Private Event—Parish Center
5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 6:40 PM Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion—Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10TH

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 RE Christmas Program Practice—Sanctuary
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM Religious Education Classes—RE Classrooms, Basement Commons
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM St. Rose Guild Meeting—Father Hitch Room
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH

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 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 Breakfasts—Parish Center and Kitchen
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM COR Men's Group Meeting—Father Hitch Room

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!

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

3rd Sunday of Advent

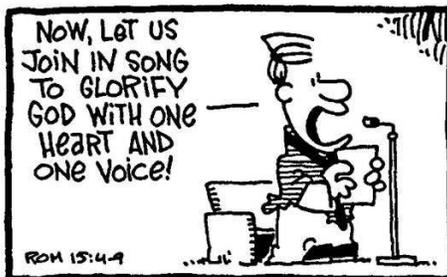
DECEMBER 13TH 5:00 PM	DECEMBER 14TH 8:00 AM	DECEMBER 14TH 10:00 AM	DECEMBER 14TH NOON
Sacristan Pat Gilmore	Sacristan Carol Zeleny	Sacristan Mitch Wendlandt	Sacristan Larry Neppel
Lectors Tammi Hall <small>(Read the 1st Reading)</small>	Lectors Joan Ingram <small>(Read the 1st Reading)</small>	Lectors Theresa Gulizia <small>(Read the 1st Reading)</small>	Lectors Stephanie Lampe <small>(Read the 1st Reading)</small>
Rebecca Campbell <small>(Read the 2nd Reading)</small>	Theresa Huttmann <small>(Read the 2nd Reading)</small>	Michael Chatterson <small>(Read the 2nd Reading)</small>	Jayne Schram <small>(Read the 2nd Reading)</small>
EMHCs Jocelyn Pearson Pat Gilmore Kevin Riley Christine Walstrom	EMHCs Mike Siegel Duane Benes Deb Benes Paula Siegel Deacon Ken Broz	EMHCs Dan Dauner Cleo Nienaber Kathy Wendlandt Mitch Wendlandt	EMHCs Doris Williams Larry Neppel Delma Stoner Norma Hintz
Ushers Ken Beckman Chris Lingbloom Andy Pearson Jeff Wollenburg	Ushers Greg Jones Pat Shurtliff Bob Sis Christopher Wilson	Ushers Norris Hoover Tom Nienaber Chris Reinig Need Sub	Ushers Larry Neppel Delma Stoner Marty White Doris Williams
Rosary Reciter Need Sub	Rosary Reciter Theresa Huttmann	Rosary Reciter Kathy Dauner	Rosary Reciter Jayne Schram
Altar Servers Shailynn Gatewood Lydia Hall Colin Lingbloom	Altar Servers Jacob Kula Nick Kula Sarah Kula	Altar Servers Owen Deming Vinnie Nelson Austin Votruba	Altar Servers James Janda Thomas Janda Need Sub
Greeters Chris Gatewood Chris Lingbloom	Greeters Mary Maw Need Sub	Greeters Andrew Urban Need Sub	Greeters Joann Dalley Marty White

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

DECEMBER 8TH 7:30 AM Sacristan Larry Neppel Lectors Jolene Jefferies <small>(Read the 1st Reading)</small> Joan Ingram <small>(Read the 2nd Reading)</small> EMHCs Norm Svoboda Larry Neppel Diane Sherwood	Ushers Need Sub Need Sub DECEMBER 8TH 6:00 PM Sacristan Jim Hottovy Lectors Judy Weier <small>(Read the 1st Reading)</small> Kelly Eby <small>(Read the 2nd Reading)</small>	EMHCs Jim Hottovy Christine Walstrom Carol Zeleny Therese Nisbet Ushers Need Sub Need Sub Need Sub Need Sub Rosary Reciter Carol Zeleny	Altar Servers Need Sub Need Sub Need Sub Greeters Need Sub Need Sub Vocations Crucifix John Roll Hilcrest SR/HL Mike Siegel Paula Siegel
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2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Gretna, Nebraska

PARISH STAFF

PASTOR

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

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 vasunguti@archomaha.org
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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

PARISH BREAKFASTS
Monthly Breakfast



You are invited to join us in the Parish Center every second Sunday of the month, this month December 14, from 9 AM to 12 PM for a delicious breakfast. It's a perfect way to gather after Sunday Mass and get to know other parishioners here at St. Patrick.

VENI HOLY HOUR
Archomaha Young Adults

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



Adoration and fellowship at St. Cecilia Cathedral (701 N 40th St, Omaha) on Friday, December 12. Adoration begins at 7:30 PM in the Cathedral with a brief reflection from a priest and is followed by an after party in the parish center! Veni is held every second Friday of the month at the Cathedral. More information about getting involved in the Archdiocese Young Adult activities can be found at <https://www.archyoungadults.org>.

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION
Immaculate Conception/Christmas



THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Monday, December 8 is a Holy Day of Obligation for the Immaculate Conception of the

Blessed Virgin Mary. We will offer two Masses on Monday, at 7:30 AM and 6 PM. The Parish Office will be closed in honor of this great Solemnity and feast day of the United States of America.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

THE NATIVITY OF JESUS (CHRISTMAS)

The Nativity of Jesus or Christmas is a Holy Day of Obligation. Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24, we will have two Masses—4 PM and 6 PM. Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25, we will have two Masses—8 AM and 10 AM.

NATIONAL NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR LIFE

Monday, December 8



Unite in prayer with Catholics all across the country to ask Mary to establish a culture of life in America. The hours of 8 PM to Midnight, were chosen to coincide with Our Lady of Guadalupe's appearance to St. Juan Diego; uniting the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the feast of St. Juan Diego.

11 PM to Midnight, CST, is referred to as the "hour of unity," during which we will be united across the country in prayer to end abortion, and to restore God's blessings of life, liberty, the faith, and His peace in America and from here, the entire world. Prayer packets can be found in the narthex to be able to join in prayer from home. Included are meditations by Dr. Edward Sri for each mystery of the Rosary.

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		

DON'T RESPOND TO SPAM

Double Check the Email

If you have received a message from Father Baxter from any email other than gpbaxter@archomaha.org or via text message that looks suspicious, DON'T RESPOND. It is spam! Father Baxter would never email or text a parishioner for a "special request" or "need a favor". Unfortunately, spammers have been masking themselves as Father Baxter, and using fake emails or phone numbers. If it seems out of the ordinary, chances are it isn't genuine.

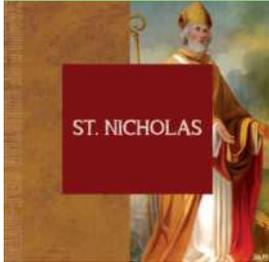


THANKSGIVING DAY DONATIONS For Gretna Neighbors Food Pantry

Thank you for your food donations to the Gretna Neighbors Food Pantry at the Thanksgiving Day Mass. Per Joyce Clark at the Gretna Neighbors this was another great collection on Thanksgiving Day from St. Patrick Church! May God bless you for your generous ways.
—Your St. Patrick Outreach Ministry



CATHOLIC DEVOTIONS EXPLAINED St. Nicholas Day



St. Nicholas was a fourth-century Christian bishop who lived in modern-day Turkey. There is minimal historical scholarship dating to the period of his life, but stories and traditions that developed after his death emphasize his profound spirit of generosity, especially towards the poor. One particularly famous oral tradition tells that St. Nicholas saves three young women from a life of destitution and ruin by secretly giving them a dowry so they could marry. His popularity increased in the centuries following his death, and by the medieval period he was a beloved model of Christian charity invoked in a

particular way during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. On his feast day, December 6, children often wake up to find small gifts or treats in their shoes or Christmas stockings, a tradition which has variations across different ethnic groups. In the United States, St. Nicholas gift-giving practices are especially popular in places where large numbers of German and Dutch immigrants settled.

FATHER SSONKO DORMITORY UPDATE Making Progress on the New Dormitory



Fr. Ssonko sends greetings to all with an update on the St. Mary's dormitory: "The dinner's contributions boosted the construction! I am happy to inform you that we are done with the roofing of the dormitory. We are really very grateful to all the people who are helping us especially for the donations that we get from St. Patrick and all our friends who usually come in to assist us. We are very grateful. May God bless you all! Fr. John Baptist Ssonko"

The above images show the progress of the dormitory leading up to our Fr. Ssonko fundraiser this past July. To the right is an image of the dormitory now. Please continue to pray for this mission. There are prayer cards in the narthex. If you would like to make a donation to our sister parish in Uganda at any time, visit our parish website, <https://stpatricksgretna.org/father-ssonko>.



PRAY COMPLINE—NIGHT PRAYER—THIS ADVENT For Gretna Neighbors Food Pantry



As we enter this holy season of Advent, prepare for the coming of the Lord Jesus at Christmas by joining Archbishop Michael McGovern in praying Compline, or Night Prayer, every night. Archbishop McGovern is encouraging all Catholics across the Archdiocese of Omaha to join him in prayer. The prayer guide can be found at ArchOmaha.org/advent.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

LAY LITURGICAL MINISTRY

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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.

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 \$37,059 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.

PEACE, LOVE, PRESCHOOL St. Patrick Preschool Fundraiser

Save the Date! The Annual St. Patrick Preschool Fundraiser: Peace, Love, Preschool is 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! Tickets go on sale December 14.





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Gretna, Nebraska

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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)**
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Website.....couragerc.org
- EWTN (GLOBAL CATHOLIC TELEVISION NETWORK)**
Phone.....1-800-447-3986
Website.....www.ewtn.com
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Website.....heartsrestorednebraska.org
- HOLY FAMILY SHRINE**
Phone.....402-332-4565
Website.....holyfamilyshrine.com
- LEAST OF MY BRETHREN (SUPPORT HOMELESS)**
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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
- NEBRASKA HOMESCHOOL NETWORK**
Website.....nebraskahomeschool.org
- POPE PAUL VI INSTITUTE (FERTILITY HELP)**
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Website.....www.popepaulvi.com
- SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO—FM 102.7**
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Phone.....402-352-2177
Website.....christthekingpriory.com/sbcabout
- ST. JOHN PAUL II NEWMAN CENTER**
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Website.....jpiiomaha.org
- STRIVE (BREAK FREE FROM PORNOGRAPHY)**
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Website.....strive21.com
- WOMEN’S CENTER FOR ADVANCEMENT (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, ETC.)**
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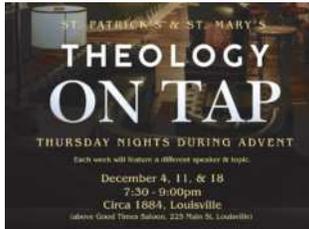
AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

PRAYER SERVICES—RESURRECTION CEMETERY, DECEMBER 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 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.



THEOLOGY ON TAP—CIRCA 1884, LOUISVILLE, DECEMBER 11, 18



St. Patrick’s in Manley and St. Mary’s in Elmwood welcome you to Theology on Tap on Thursday nights during Advent (December 11 and 18) from 7:30 PM to 9 PM at Circa 1884, above Good Times Saloon (225 Main St, Louisville). The venue is ADA accessible. The speaker on December 11 is Fr. Joe Wahlmeier on the topic of *The Ancient O Antiphons of Advent*. Fr. Wahlmeier is the Pastor of St. Mary’s in Davey and teaches at St. Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward.

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 MORNING OF REFLECTION—CHRIST THE KING, DECEMBER 13

The Institute for Priestly Formation invites you to a “mini-retreat”, an opportunity to enrich your Advent season by meditating on the life of St. Pier Giorgio Frassati whom St. John Paul II dubbed “The Man of the Beatitudes.” Deacon Omar Gutiérrez will draw from the life and letters of this newly canonized saint to help you go deeper into Advent on Saturday, December 13 at Christ the King (654 S 86th St, Omaha). A continental breakfast will be served after 8:15 AM Mass. There is no cost for the Morning of Reflection. To help with planning purposes, please register at <https://priestlyformation.org/resources/events-news/calendar-of-events/advent-morning-of-reflection.html> if you plan to attend. Questions? Contact Dawn at 531-272-8498 or by email dsledge@priestlyformation.org.



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/cloisterscommunityadventshopsing>.

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.



“Prayer is the best armor we have, it is the key which opens the heart of God.” —St. Padre Pio

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