

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET

GRETNA, NE 68028



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

And when he had said this, he cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" - Jn 11:43

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

MARCH 22, 2026



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

5th Sunday of Lent

FIRST READING (EZ 37:12-14)

We hear from the prophet Ezekiel the Lord's promise to raise His people from the dead. What gives you hope in this promise?

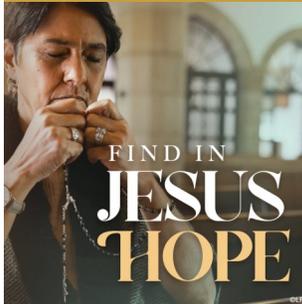
SECOND READING (ROM 8:8-11)

Paul teaches that the Holy Spirit dwells in those who believe in Jesus and that same Spirit will raise our mortal bodies from the dead. How should this impact the way we live our lives today?

GOSPEL (JN 11:1-45 OR 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33B-45)

Despite her grief over the death of Lazarus, Martha believes that Jesus is the resurrection and the life, the Son of God. How has this season of Lent strengthened your faith in Jesus?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



A friend of mine wrote an imaginative reflection on the raising of Lazarus that caught me off guard. She proposed that when Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb, the man was not joyful but angry and annoyed. After so much suffering, maybe death felt like a release. He had finally escaped the pain. And then, suddenly, Jesus' voice cuts through the silence: "Lazarus, come out!" (John 11:43) The light stings his eyes. The pain returns. And now he is dragged back into a world that had broken him.

It startled me at first, but the more I sat with it, the more it made sense. Sometimes, people do not want to be raised.

Not at first. Think of those in the grip of addiction, despair, or numbness. The tomb can feel safer than the risk of living again. Yet Jesus, moved by the grief and faith of others (Martha, Mary, the community) calls the dead man out. Lazarus obeys. But he is still bound, head to foot. Jesus says to the bystanders, "Untie him and let him go" (John 11:44).

That is often how healing happens: slowly, reluctantly. Not just by a personal decision, but through the love and persistence of others. Resurrection is not always euphoric. It may begin in protest and confusion and only later turn to gratitude and freedom. But Christ's voice breaks through, anyway.

Lenten challenge: Who in your life needs to be called back to life? Pray for them. If that person is you, listen for the voice. It is calling even now.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

Why is the Vatican sometimes called the "Holy See?"

ANSWER:

A little background in ecclesiology will help explain why we call the Vatican the Holy See. The Church is very structured and organized in its hierarchy. A diocese is a geographic area governed by a bishop appointed by the Pope. Each diocese is further broken down into parishes, which have pastors who represent the bishop in his teaching authority.



THE
CHAIR
of
ST. PETER
THE
APOSTLE

The diocese of Rome has a particular role in the Church because of its importance and antiquity. The Pope is head of the Church because he is the Bishop of Rome. Every bishop has a seat or throne, which is the symbol of his teaching authority and is located in the cathedral of each diocese. The Latin word for seat is *sedes*. So each diocese can be referred to as a *see*. Most people think that St. Peter's is the cathedral of Rome, but St. John Lateran Basilica is actually the cathedral of the Archdiocese of Rome. This is where the Pope's seat or throne as Bishop of Rome is found. So, the Holy See is a reference to the chair of Peter, the Pope's Chair.

"Stop disqualifying yourself because you feel ordinary. God can do more through a willing, trusting heart than through raw talent. Holiness isn't reserved for the gifted—it's for the available."

—Matthew Kelly, 33 Days of Miracles, Wonders, and Grace

SAINT NICHOLAS OWEN

Martyr



St. Nicholas Owen (d.1606) was born in England, the son of an Oxford carpenter. He became a carpenter himself, and joined the Jesuits as a lay brother during the era when Catholicism was outlawed in England. After serving jail time for defending the martyred St. Edmund Campion, Nicholas began working for and traveling with the Jesuits, staying in Catholic houses where he made repairs during the day and secretly constructed well-disguised 'priest-holes,' or hiding places for hunted priests, during the night.

He was so skilled at his craft that his priest holes saved hundreds of lives over his 20 years of work. While on a trip to London with a Jesuit priest they were betrayed by a household servant, captured, and tortured. After Nicholas' release he masterminded the priest's escape from the Tower of London. Years later, after the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, Nicholas was again a wanted man. He hid along with a priest in one of his priest holes, and although 100 men searched for them diligently, they were not discovered. After eight days of hiding without food, Nicholas left the hole disguised as a priest in order to protect the real priest who was still concealed. He was captured and tortured on the rack in the Tower of London. Day after day he refused to give up any information about the underground Catholic Church in England. He died a martyr after his entrails burst open. St. Nicholas Owen is one of the 40 Martyrs of England and Wales. Father John Gerard wrote of him: "I verily think no man can be said to have done more good of all those who labored in the English vineyard. He was the immediate occasion of saving the lives of many hundreds of persons, both ecclesiastical and secular." His feast day is March 22.

SAINT CATHERINE OF SWEDEN

Religious

St. Catherine of Sweden (1331-1381) was the fourth of eight children born to St. Bridget of Sweden and her husband, Ulfo. As a child she was sent by her parents to be educated in a convent, and was later given in marriage to a German nobleman. Catherine was able to persuade her husband, a virtuous young man, to live together in a mutual vow of perpetual chastity. They lived happily together in complete devotion to God. After the death of her father, and with her husband's consent, Catherine accompanied her mother to Rome. While there, Catherine's husband died. She continued to be a companion to her mother and rejected further offers of marriage. Her mother worked to establish a new religious order, called the Order of the Holy Savior, or the Bridgettines. After her mother's death, Catherine took her body back to Sweden for burial while continuing the work of establishing the Bridgettines. She later traveled back to Rome to advocate for her mother's canonization and for Pope Urban VI to ratify her Order. While in Rome she became great friends with St. Catherine of Siena. St. Catherine of Sweden finally returned to Sweden and became abbess of the newly founded Bridgettines, living the rest of her days as a model of prayer and penance. St. Catherine of Sweden is the patron saint against abortions and miscarriages. Her feast day is March 24.



SAINT JOHN OF EGYPT

Religious



St. John of Egypt (4th c.), also known as John the Hermit or John the Anchorite, worked alongside his father, a carpenter, until he was twenty-five years old. He then discerned a call from God to go out into the desert and become a hermit. He spent sixteen years in spiritual training under the care of a religious superior who commanded him to perform difficult and unreasonable tasks, which John obeyed with childlike simplicity. After this time of spiritual training he withdrew into greater solitude in a small cell at the top

of a cliff, praying incessantly and avoiding contact with people for the last fifty years of his life. He had the gift of prophecy and could perform miracles, and foretold to Emperor Theodosius his future victories as well as the time of his death. People traveled from afar for his counsel or blessings, and to hear him preach. He would receive visitors two days a week from a tiny window in his cell. He became so famous for his holiness that St. Augustine wrote of him, making reference to the devils who came to tempt John continually. St. John of Egypt's feast day is March 27.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11

TUESDAY: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30

WEDNESDAY: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

THURSDAY: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59

FRIDAY: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42

SATURDAY: Ez 37:21-28/Jr 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13Jn 11:45-56

NEXT SUNDAY: Mt 21:1-11 (37)/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mt 26:14-27:66 or 27:11-54



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

MONDAY: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

WEDNESDAY: The Annunciation of the Lord

NEXT SUNDAY: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord; Holy Week begins

WHAT IS THE ANNUNCIATION?

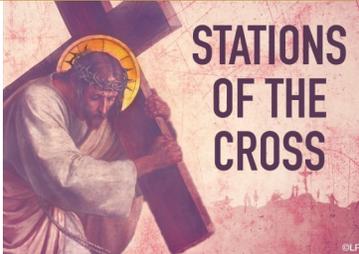
The Annunciation of the Lord refers to the angel Gabriel's visit to young Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of Jesus.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
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STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Every Friday at 6 PM

Join us every Friday during Lent at 6 PM in the Church for the Stations of the Cross. The only exception will be on Good Friday, April 3, when Stations will be at 3 PM instead of 6 PM.



BLESSED PALMS TO BE BURNED
Return Your Old Palms



During this season of Lent, we ask that you bring in any old blessed palms you no longer desire to keep. A basket labeled "old palms" will be made available in the narthex for collection throughout the Lenten season. As a reminder any blessed objects you no longer wish to keep can be brought to the parish office for proper disposal during regular office hours.

VOCATION PRAYER CORNER

Lord, you are a good and loving Father, so I have great confidence that you are listening to me. Today we need many priests and consecrated men and women to serve your Church. I offer my sufferings, my illness, the infirmities of old age, and my personal inconveniences, for your greater honor and glory. Give a spirit of generosity to our youth. Give them a vision, your vision, of how they can serve their brothers and sisters in Christ. Give to your Church dedicated priests, sisters, brothers, and missionaries, ardent but gentle servants of the Gospel, to spend and consume themselves for Christ. O God, give me strength to pray constantly, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. Discerning the call, talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.



Pray for all Vocations

Baptisms

Since our last update on March 8, one child has been baptized into the Body of Christ. We congratulate the parents and family members, and we welcome your little one 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

Kate Marie Nelson.....3/15/2026

LANDSCAPING TEAM FIRST MEETING OF THE SEASON
Join the Team



The St. Patrick Landscaping Team is looking forward to another Spring and the many opportunities to bring the parish grounds to a fresh season. If you love working with landscape and would like to see our church surrounded in fresh greenery and color, this is a ministry for you. We invite you to join us to join us making our parish grounds the first door of hospitality to all who come to worship here. Our volunteer efforts join those of Judy Stephens, our Facility Manager, and BCS Lawn and Landscape Company in maintaining our vast property.

How can you help? Our projects connect year around. We are looking for members to grow our team, helpers to do various projects, and supporters who want to financially help our

projects come alive! Many of you love seeing the grounds develop new ideas... we welcome your ideas as well.

Our first team meeting of the season will be on Monday, March 30 at 7 PM in the Father Hitch Room. Please mark your calendar now and plan to come join us. For more information or questions to pass on to our Landscaping Team members, contact the Parish Office.

A HOOLEY LOT OF THANKS
Irish Person of the Year Awarded

Congratulations to Sharon Wuerfele, our Irish Person of the Year, who was awarded at the beginning of our St. Patrick's Day Family Hooley on Wednesday, March 11! Thank you for all that you do for our parish!



It was a grand day for St. Patrick at the Hooley thanks to so many volunteers. To those who helped with prep and cooking: Ann and Pat Cockerill and Diane Sherwood. Those who helped with desserts, drinks, and other things in the kitchen: Carrie Sousek, Chad Stafford, Ann Nun, Katie Larson, and Marilyn Havel. The food servers:



members of the Sarpy County Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. The dining room and game area supervisors: Ashlie Bresette and Melissa Zitek. Our dishwashers: Kelsey Noonan, Sarah Kula, and Ty DeBates. All the 7th and 8th graders who helped bus tables and run games. A special thanks to Linda Stafford who put in a full day in the kitchen Wednesday. Great thanks and many compliments to Lisa VanOeveren for three days of cooking our delicious dinner.



For all your efforts, an Irish Blessing:
*May your blessings outnumber
The Shamrocks that grow
And may trouble avoid you
Wherever you go.*

LAST LENTEN FISH FRY OF THE SEASON

Dine-in and Drive Thru Options Available

Join us every Friday during Lent, February 20 through March 27 from 5 PM to 7:30 PM for our Lenten Fish Frys. Dine-in and Drive Thru options are available. Menu includes: fried or baked Alaskan pollock*, scalloped potatoes* or French fries*, green beans*, mac and cheese, coleslaw*, bread, and coffee, tea, or lemonade. (*Gluten Free) Beer, wine, and mixed drinks will be available for purchase. Adult plates are \$15 and children (ages 6-10) are \$8. There will be kids activities provided by the St. Patrick Youth Group. Volunteers are needed, see the parish website for details.



LENTEN CONFESSION TIMES

St. Patrick and St. Charles

Between St. Patrick and St. Charles Borromeo we have several Confession opportunities from now until Holy Week. You can pick up a larger print of this calendar of Confession times in the narthex at St. Patrick.



Gretna Parishes' Lenten Confessions

GREEN = St. Patrick (SP)

BLUE = St. Charles Borromeo (SCB)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 15	16	17 SCB 12:30 p.m. ending when no one in line SCB 5:30 p.m. ending when no one in line	18 SCB 12:30 p.m. ending when no one in line SCB 5:30 p.m. ending when no one in line	19 SCB 12:30 p.m. ending when no one in line SCB 5:30-6:30 p.m.	20 SCB 12:30 p.m. ending when no one in line SCB After 6pm Stations ending when no one in line	21 SP 4:00-4:40 p.m.
22 SCB After 9am Mass ending when no one in line SCB After 11am Mass ending when no one in line	23 SP 3:00-4:00 p.m. SCB 5:30-6:30 p.m. SP 6:30-7:30 p.m.	24 SCB 12:30 p.m. ending when no one in line SCB 5:30-6:30 p.m. SP 6:30-7:30 p.m.	25 SCB 12:30 p.m. ending when no one in line SCB 5:30-6:30 p.m. SP 6:30-7:30 p.m.	26 SCB 12:30 p.m. ending when no one in line SCB 5:30-6:30 p.m. SP 6:30-7:30 p.m.	27 SCB 12:30 p.m. ending when no one in line SCB After 6pm Stations ending when no one in line	28 SP 4:00-4:40 p.m.
29 PALM SUNDAY	30 SP 3:00-4:00 p.m. SCB 5:30-6:30 p.m. SP 6:30-7:30 p.m.	31 SCB 8:30 a.m. ending when no one in line SCB 12:30 p.m. ending when no one in line SP 3:00-4:00 p.m. SCB 5:30-6:30 p.m. SP 6:30-7:30 p.m.	April 1 SCB 8:30 a.m. ending when no one in line SCB 12:30 p.m. ending when no one in line SP 3:00-4:00 p.m. SCB 5:30-6:30 p.m. SP 6:30-7:30 p.m.	2 HOLY THURSDAY SCB 12:00-1:00 p.m.	3 GOOD FRIDAY	4 HOLY SATURDAY

**"The fast of Lent has no advantage to us unless it brings about our spiritual renewal. It is necessary while fasting to change our whole life and practice virtue. Turning away from all wickedness means keeping our tongue in check, restraining our anger, avoiding all gossip, lying and swearing. To abstain from these things—herein lies the true value of the fast."
—St. John Chrysostom**

Stewardship Report

Mar 11-Mar 17, 2026

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

General Contributions	Mar 11-Mar 17, 2026	Fiscal YTD thru Mar 17
Sunday Offering	\$11,699.00	\$990,536.32
Other Contributions	\$10,193.45	\$111,220.40
Total General Contributions	\$21,892.45	\$1,101,756.72 *
Surplus/Deficit	(\$5,607.55)	\$84,256.72

* 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



JOIN THE COR MEN'S GROUP DURING LENT



For Lent this year our Cor Men's Group will be meeting weekly on Sunday nights here at St. Patrick to strengthen our faith and build a strong men's community here within our parish. All

men of the parish are invited to join us for prayer, formation, and fraternity. We'll see you in the Father Hitch Room every Sunday night at 7 PM from February 15 through March 29. Are you ready to go deeper? For more information, please reach out to Matthew Henry at mattnhenry@gmail.com, Andy Pearson at apearon709@gmail.com, Eric Devlin at devlineric62@gmail.com or Seth Boardman at sethd99@hotmail.com.

WHY AM I A KNIGHT?

Simply, it makes me a better Catholic, husband, and father. The Knights of Columbus are centered on four pillars: charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. In a



busy secular world that desensitizes us to those virtues, the Knights are a dedicated group of men, humbly focused on rejecting our tendency, as men, to selfishly retract from life. Instead, they provide an avenue for selfless giving of our time and ourselves to better serve our God, our church, our families, and our community. If you desire greater fulfillment as a man of faith, I encourage you to consider knighthood. Feel free to join us at our next monthly meeting—we meet on the first Tuesday of every month at 7 PM in the Parish Center (dinner served immediately following). To become a Knight, contact Larry Sibley or Tim Hall, see below for contact information.

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, MARCH 23RD

7:30 AM † Katy Brown

TUESDAY, MARCH 24TH

6:00 PM † Carol J. Tramp

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25TH

7:30 AM † Lyle Johnson

THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH

7:30 AM † Alan Koenig

FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH

7:30 AM † Kurt Pfeifer

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH

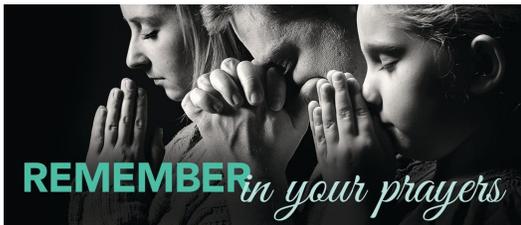
5:00 PM † Joe Krajicek Jr.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH

8:00 AM † Sandy Biga
10:00 AM For Our Parishioners
12:00 PM † Scot Stoner

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 Mary, Nicole, Suzanne Orosco, Ted Swanson, Amber Janda, Meredith Haney, Norma Hintz, Rita Kalkowski, Steve N, Joe Carney, Ian McGovern, Ronald Baxter (Fr. Baxter's dad), Paul Polt, and Leanne Robb. Pray for John and Wanda Jonas, Ed, 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, MARCH 22ND—5TH SUNDAY OF LENT—NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

MONDAY, MARCH 23RD

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM Piano Tuning—Sanctuary
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM Lenten Confession Times—Sanctuary and Confessional
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM Lenten Confession Times—Sanctuary and Confessional
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Revelation Bible Study—Parish Center AB and Kitchen

TUESDAY, MARCH 24TH

1:00 PM to 2:30 PM Bible Study Group—Father Hitch Room
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM Lenten Confession Times—Sanctuary and 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 Lenten Confession Times—Sanctuary and Confessional

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25TH

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
8:30 AM to 11:00 AM Faith Connection—Father Hitch Room
1:00 PM to 2:30 PM Women's Small Group—Father Hitch Room
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM Lenten Confession Times—Sanctuary and Confessional
3:30 PM to 5:30 PM Confirmation Interviews—Father Hitch Room
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM Religious Education Classes—RE Classrooms, Basement Commons
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM Religious Education Stations of the Cross—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM Lenten Confession Times—Sanctuary and Confessional
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM Lenten Small Group—Father Hitch Room
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

THURSDAY, MARCH 26TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Private Meeting—Father Hitch Room
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM Lenten Confession Times—Sanctuary and Confessional
3:30 PM to 4:30 PM Confirmation Interviews—Father Hitch Room
6:00 PM to 8:30 PM Knights of Columbus Fish Fry Prep—Parish Center A and Kitchen
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM Lenten Confession Times—Sanctuary and Confessional
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM OCIA Class—Parish Center C

FRIDAY, MARCH 27TH

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
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM Lenten Confession Times—Sanctuary and Confessional
5:00 PM to 7:30 PM Knights of Columbus Fish Fry—Parish Center and Kitchen
6:00 PM to 6:30 PM Stations of the Cross—Sanctuary

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH

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, MARCH 29TH—PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

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—RE Classrooms, Basement Commons
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM Religious Education Stations of the Cross—Basement Commons
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM COR Lenten Meeting—Father Hitch Room

LENTEN ALMSGIVING—\$40 GIFT CARDS

The Least of My Brethren Lunch Ministry is having a Fareway gift card drive throughout Lent. The cards will be used to purchase food for our monthly lunches. You can help us by giving one dollar a day for the 40 days of Lent towards a gift card. If you would like to participate in this project, please drop off the \$40 Fareway gift card to the parish office during regular office hours. If Fareway is not convenient for you, gift cards from places like Hy-Vee, Walmart, and Costco are also appreciated.

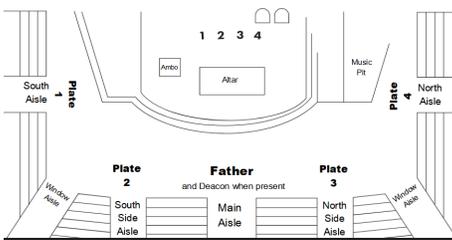


LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

MARCH 28TH 5:00 PM	MARCH 29TH 8:00 AM	MARCH 29TH 10:00 AM	MARCH 29TH NOON
Sacristan Linda Schriener	Sacristan Carol Zeleny	Sacristan Mitch Wendlandt	Sacristan Larry Neppel
Lectors Tammi Hall <i>(Read the 1st Reading)</i>	Lectors Duane Benes <i>(Read the 1st Reading)</i>	Lectors Tony Tiefenthaler <i>(Read the 1st Reading)</i>	Lectors Stephanie Lampe <i>(Read the 1st Reading)</i>
Crystal Schroeder <i>(Read the 2nd Reading)</i>	Theresa Huttmann <i>(Read the 2nd Reading)</i>	Sandra Tiefenthaler <i>(Read the 2nd Reading)</i>	Need Sub <i>(Read the 2nd Reading)</i>
EMHCs Bridget Blum Sue Korth Tim Hall Julene Crockett	EMHCs Deb Benes Marilyn Havel Greg Jones Amy Beran Deacon Ken Broz	EMHCs Abby Kenner Diana Alderson Nancy Arp Jim Hain	EMHCs Larry Neppel Leann Otto Steve Otto Wendy Neppel
Ushers Ken Beckman Andy Pearson Linda Schriener Jeff Wollenburg	Ushers Ron Kotrous Pat Shurtliff Bob Sis Christopher Wilson	Ushers Clint Bollock Chris Reinig John Schaffert Tony Vanek	Ushers Linda Gardner Carole Lisiecki Lary Neppel Need Sub
Rosary Reciter Kathy Dauner	Rosary Reciter Theresa Huttmann	Rosary Reciter Theresa Gulizia	Rosary Reciter Need Sub
Altar Servers Lydia Hall Need Sub Need Sub	Altar Servers Jacob Kula Nick Kula Sarah Kula	Altar Servers Harper Dickes Nev Dickes Gavin McGregor	Altar Servers James Janda Thomas Janda Need Sub
Greeters Nancy Kirkpatrick Tim Kirkpatrick	Greeters Mary Brown Mary Maw	Greeters Andrew Urban Need Sub	Greeters Joann Dalley Carole Lisiecki
	Hilcrest SR/HL Gene Schwarting		Vocations Crucifix David Hubert

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

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.

5TH SUNDAY IN LENT



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

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 jmjefferies@archomaha.org

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Judy Weier, Secretary.....402-332-4444, x201

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 smfagan@archomaha.org

DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

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

PASTORAL MINISTRY (LITURGY, YOUTH GROUP & FAITH FORM)

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 jjwotipka@archomaha.org

DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC

Laura Rau.....402-332-4444, x216
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FACILITY MANAGER

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

EVANGELIZATION COORDINATOR

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

PASTORAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Clint Bollock.....402-206-1757

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

GET A PARISH DIRECTORY *Accepting Pre-Orders Now*

Thank you to everyone who got their photo taken or submitted a digital photo to be printed in our new parish directory! We are in the process of getting the directories designed and printed, which will take a couple months. If you got a photo taken or submitted a digital photo, you already have a directory being reserved for you at no additional cost. If you are a registered parishioner and will not have a photo in the directory but would still like a copy, we are now accepting pre-orders for \$25. These are being sold to registered parishioners only and each family is allowed one directory. To make your pre-order, submit the short form on the parish website, stpatricksgretna.org. Payments can be made via cash or check made payable to St. Patrick Church and dropped off in the Parish Office, or by credit card. Please submit pre-orders no later than Friday, May 1.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH GRETNA, NE
2020 Parish Directory



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE *Join us for the Triduum*

Holy Week Schedule



Join us during these special and sacred services leading up to Easter Sunday.

- Holy Thursday, April 2: 7 PM
- Stations of the Cross, April 3: 3 PM
- Good Friday, April 3: 7 PM
- Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil, April 4: 7 PM
- Easter Sunday, April 5: 8 AM, 10 AM, Noon

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WEDDING COORDINATOR POSITIONS AVAILABLE *Excellent Pay and Flexible Scheduling*

The wedding season is fast-approaching, and St. Patrick is in need of a few good people to serve as a Wedding Coordinator. Our goal is to hire three coordinators so we can have flexibility in scheduling each coordinator, based on their availability throughout the wedding season. Having more than one coordinator trained and on hand is a 'win-win' for all of us.



WE'RE HIRING
WEDDING COORDINATOR

One Wedding Coordinator is assigned to each wedding at St. Patrick. The Wedding Coordinator assists the priest, the bride and groom, and the wedding party in the logistics of the rehearsal and wedding day to ensure a smooth ceremony. There are a few basic responsibilities to complete prior to the rehearsal and wedding, during the rehearsal, and during the wedding day. For a detailed job description, go to our parish website at stpatricksgretna.org.

Interested candidates are encouraged to apply for the position by April 17. Simply send an email to our Parish Manager, Jolene Jefferies, at jmjefferies@archomaha.org, expressing your interest in the opportunity and why you'd like to be considered for the position. Please provide your full mailing address, including your email and phone number.

The Wedding Coordinator position is classified as an independent contractor. All couples getting married at St. Patrick are required to hire one of our Wedding Coordinators for a flat fee of \$300. The couple will pay the assigned Wedding Coordinator directly (full payment must be made two weeks prior to the wedding day).

If you have any questions, contact Jolene Jefferies at 402-332-4444, ext. 203 or stop by the parish office for more information.

***"Two are better than one: They get a good wage for their toil. If the one falls, the other will help the fallen one. But woe to the solitary person! If that one should fall, there is no other to help. Where one alone may be overcome, two together can resist. A three-ply cord is not easily broken."* — Ecclesiastes 4: 9-10, 12**

EASTER FLOWER OFFERING *Make a Gift In Memory/Honor Of...*



If you receive giving envelopes from the parish you may have seen this envelope to donate to the Easter 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 April 1. 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 Easter season and to remember/honor our loved ones.

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- _____ 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: \$ _____

OUR LADY OF AGONY

Marian Title Closely Related to Our Lady of Sorrows



Most Catholics are familiar with Our Lady of Sorrows. But there is another, lesser-known title closely connected to it: Our Lady of the Agony. The name may sound unfamiliar, yet the devotion carries a profound meaning.

In Viana do Castelo, Portugal, fishermen have invoked Mary under the title *Nossa Senhora da Agonia*—Our Lady of the Agony—since the eighteenth century. Life at sea has always carried danger. Violent storms could appear without warning, and families lived with the constant possibility that those who sailed might never return.

So, they turned to Mary. They prayed to her during the “agony” of the storm, the terrifying moments when the sea seemed stronger than the boat. They believed that the Mother who stood at the Cross understood fear, suffering, and the helplessness that comes when life hangs in the balance.

Each August, the city still celebrates a remarkable festival in her honor. One of its most striking moments is a maritime procession, when the statue of Our Lady is carried out to sea so she may bless the waters that have both sustained and threatened the lives of generations.

But the title Our Lady of the Agony also carries a deeper spiritual meaning. It recalls Mary at the foot of the Cross, witnessing the final suffering of her Son. Because she remained with Jesus in that moment, the Church has long invoked her as a powerful intercessor for those facing their own “last agony”—the difficult and sacred passage from this life to the next.

For this reason, Catholics have sometimes prayed to Our Lady of the Agony as a patroness of a happy death, asking that she remain with them at life’s final hour just as she remained with Christ.

The title is closely related to Our Lady of Sorrows, but with a slightly different emphasis. The Seven Sorrows devotion reflects Mary’s lifelong participation in the suffering of Christ. Our Lady of the Agony focuses more directly on the intense moment of suffering itself—the struggle that accompanies death, danger, or profound trial. In both cases, the message is the same: Mary does not flee suffering. She stands within it.

Few images express this truth more beautifully than the Pietà, the scene where Mary holds the lifeless body of Christ after the Crucifixion. In that moment of silent grief, we see the depth of her love, and the reason Christians have always trusted her in their darkest hours. We can bring this to mind especially on Fridays during Lent. Calling to mind this powerful moment of sorrow and faith invites us to remember that Mary, who stood with Christ in His agony, also stands with us in ours.

—Article by the Catholic Company

GET EQUIPPED TO GO ON MISSION

Archdiocese Mentorship Program

The Mentorship Program of the Archdiocese of Omaha equips lay people to confidently and fruitfully share their faith through friendship and deep investment in others. Applicants commonly say one or all of the following things: “I really want to grow in prayer and a deeper relationship with the Lord.” “I really want to grow my ability to evangelize and/or minister to others.” “I really want to grow my ability to know where God is calling me.” If any of these struck a chord, I challenge you to apply, or at least learn more at <https://archomaha.org/mentorship>. Application deadline for the 2026-2027 program year is May 1.



COME LEARN ABOUT THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Is the Mentorship Program right for you? Come and see on Thursday, March 26 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM at the Chancery (2222 N 111 St, Omaha), please RSVP by March 23. Or on Sunday, March 29 from 5 PM to 7 PM at Sacred Heart Parish Center (2301 Madison Ave, Norfolk), please RSVP by March 25. Discover how this program equips Catholics across the Archdiocese to share their faith through friendship and deep investment in others. Meet graduates, hear testimonies of the impact, and share a meal. Dinner will be followed by a short talk (similar content to what is covered in program sessions).



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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jjwotipka@archomaha.org

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

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

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CHURCH CLEANING

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

ADVERTISE FOR YOUR MINISTRY GROUP

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

CLOISTERS ON THE PLATTE

Stations of the Cross

As we journey through this sacred season, we invite you to



spend time reflecting on Christ’s path to the cross. Located at The Cloisters on the Platte (23332 Fisher Rd, Gretna), the Stations of the Cross is a 2,500 foot long walking tour with audio meditations, comprised of 14 sculpture stations that represent Christ’s trial through his burial. Find comfort and strength by meditating on the Passion and suffering of Jesus Christ this Lent. Visitors may remain at the Stations for up to an hour after closing time. Visitors are encouraged to donate \$10 or more per person. For more information, please visit cloistersontheplatte.com.

REGULAR HOURS:

Monday—Wednesday: 9 AM to 4 PM
Thursday: 9 AM to 1 PM
Sunday: 2 PM to 5 PM

SPECIAL HOLY WEEK HOURS:

Palm Sunday: 2 PM to 5 PM
Monday—Holy Thursday: 9 AM to 4 PM
Good Friday: 9 AM to 6 PM
Holy Saturday: 9 AM to 2 PM
Easter Sunday: CLOSED



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- AL-ANON (ALCOHOLIC FAMILY SUPPORT—OMAHA)**
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Website.....al-anon.org
- BOYS TOWN NATIONAL HOTLINE**
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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**
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Website.....ccomaha.org
- CATHOLIC VOICE ONLINE**
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Website.....heartsrestorednebraska.org
- HOLY FAMILY SHRINE**
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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**
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AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE—ST. PIUS X, MARCH 23

Join us at St. Pius X Church (6905 Blondo, Omaha) for our monthly Taizé (Ty-zay) prayer service on Monday, March 23, at 5:30 PM. Taizé is a prayer form that consists of meditative music, readings, and periods of silence. In our world filled with conflict and noise, Taizé offers an opportunity to be still and hear the voice of God. Invite a friend and find some peaceful prayer time during Lent! Questions? Contact Margaret Hoarty at 402-709-4624.



HEALING MASS—OUR LADY OF LOURDES, MARCH 27

His Global Love Prayer Communities invite you to a Healing Mass on Friday, March 27 at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church (2110 S 32nd Ave, Omaha). Stations of the Cross will be at 6 PM with praise and worship to follow. Mass will begin at 7 PM and Fr. Kevin Joyce from His Global Love Ministry will preside. All are welcome. Questions, contact Frances Mignon at 402-515-8000.

ENCOUNTER SCHOOL OF HEALING—CHRIST THE KING, MARCH 27-28

Developed as an invitation into a communion lifestyle, this weekend school is not simply a class but an awakening into your true identity as a beloved son or daughter rooted in the heart of Christ and drawing from elements of the Encounter School of Ministry’s “Identity and Transformation” quarter. It is designed to renew your mind and teach you how to live from righteousness received—not achieved. The Friday night session will run from 5:30 PM until 9 PM and then Saturday’s session will begin at 9 AM and end at 9 PM with breaks for meals and Mass. There will be a Healing Service that is open to the public at 7 PM on Saturday. Register today for \$30 at <https://ablazehouse.regfox.com/encounter-school-of-healing>.



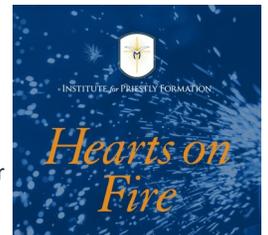
WAY OF THE CROSS—ST. MARGARET MARY, APRIL 3



Join Archbishop Michael McGovern at the annual outdoor Way of the Cross led by the ecclesial movement Communion and Liberation on Good Friday, April 3. The Way of the Cross will begin at 9 AM inside St. Margaret Mary Church (6116 Dodge St, Omaha) and proceed through Memorial Park, ending by 11 AM. All ages are welcome. We will be walking on a stroller-friendly walking path. With any questions, please email omahawayofthecross@gmail.com.

IPF HEARTS ON FIRE—ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, APRIL 9

The Institute for Priestly Formation (IPF) will hold its annual Hearts on Fire dinner on April 9. Taking place at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church (14330 Eagle Run Dr, Omaha), this fundraiser seeks to provide support for programs that IPF offers to serve seminarians. As part of this year’s event, we will be honoring Fr. Richard Gabuzda with the St. John Vianney Award for Priestly Service. Opportunities to sponsor and purchase tickets are available at <https://one.bidpal.net/HOFDinner2026/welcome>.



HEALING THE WHOLE PERSON—NORTH AMERICAN MARTYRS, LINCOLN, APRIL 16-18



Led by renowned speakers and authors Dr. Bob Schuchts, Sr. Miriam James Heidland SOLT, and Bart Schuchts, this 3-day retreat will help you see and experience God’s healing love through teaching, prayer, personal reflection, adoration, worship, and the sacraments. Come experience the depth of the Father’s love for you on Thursday, April 16 through Saturday, April 18 at North American Martyrs (1101 Isaac Dr, Lincoln). Find out more and register today at <https://jpiihealingcenter.org/event/healing-the-whole-person-weekend-2026-lincoln-ne>. There is also an option to register for the Day of Equipping companion event during the day on Friday, April 17 at the same location. Livestreaming is also an option.

**“Let us love God, but with the strength of our arms, in the sweat of our brow.”
—St. Vincent de Paul**

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