

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET GRETNA, NE 68028



6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“And whoever loves me will be loved by my
Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him.”

- Jn 14:20-21

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

MAY 10, 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 STPATGRETNA 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

6th Sunday of Easter

FIRST READING (ACTS 8:5-8, 14-17)

We hear how even the Samaritans came to believe in Jesus and received the gift of the Holy Spirit. When have you been surprised by God?

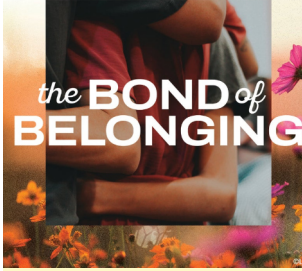
SECOND READING (1 PT 3:15-18)

Peter taught his community to learn how to explain their faith to others, even if they are hostile. Do you feel confident defending the faith?

GOSPEL (JN 14:15-21)

Jesus assures His disciples that God gives us the Holy Spirit to serve as our Advocate. What might you pray for this week from the Holy Spirit?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



In my family, we can hardly speak about orphans without tears. My father was adopted as a baby. He frequently told us stories of how his parents welcomed him not just into their home but into their hearts. It was never merely a relocation or a legal transaction. It was the joy of being chosen, of receiving a family, a name, and a place where he belonged forever. Even in his later years, recalling that gift still moves him to tears of tender gratitude.

That is the kind of tenderness behind Jesus' words in today's Gospel: "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:18) He is going away, but not abandoning us.

Instead, He sends us the Advocate, the Holy Spirit—His own Spirit, shared with the Father—who dwells in us. Through the Spirit, Christ is present in us, and we are present in Him. His Spirit gives us a home and a family.

We deepen this knowledge in the sacraments, in prayer, and in the daily life of the Church. The Spirit is the bond of belonging, the power that makes us God's sons and daughters, not spiritual orphans. And this is not a one-time event. There is always a deeper outpouring of the Spirit available to us, a fresh appropriation of the promise that we are never abandoned.

If only we could be as grateful as my dad is for his adoption, realizing that we have been adopted by God Himself. In Christ, we are never left as orphans.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

One of my coworkers said that Catholics believe we kill Christ again when we celebrate the Mass, since it is His sacrifice. I know that is not right, but how do we explain it?

ANSWER:

We do indeed believe that the Mass is the unbloody sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, and we believe that the sacrifice is made present again on the altar—not to repeat it, but to join ourselves to it. We are joined to the saving work of Christ, not just simply remembering it.



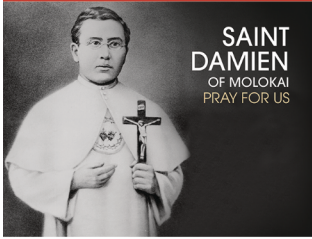
The closest thing we might have in our culture is when a couple saves some wedding cake in the freezer, and on their first anniversary, they may watch their wedding video and eat the cake, all to recapture the moment. The Jews celebrate a Seder meal, not to remember the Passover, but to participate in it through the ritual foods, questions, and readings. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* describes the Mass as the "Holy Sacrifice, because it makes present the one sacrifice of Christ" (CCC 1330). To think that we must sacrifice Christ over and over again would negate what He did on Calvary. To celebrate and renew it each day allows us to participate in it. That is the "source and summit" of Christian life (CCC 1324).

"Amendment of life is the proof of true conversion. Without it, confession and satisfaction are useless. Confession removes the obstacles to the attainment of grace, and the self-sacrifice characteristic of satisfaction is efficacious only when undergone by the soul united to God. Repentance without amendment is mere sentiment."

—John Kane, *How to Make a Good Confession*, pg. 89

SAINT DAMIEN OF MOLOKAI

Priest



St. Damien de Veuster (1840–1889), also known as St. Damien of Molokai, was a priest from Belgium belonging to the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. He had a special devotion to St. Francis Xavier and desired, like him, to be a missionary. His desire was fulfilled when he was sent to minister in Hawaii in place of his brother, a religious of the same congregation, who was assigned to go but was unable due to illness. The island was suffering from an influx of unknown diseases brought by foreigners, among them Hansen’s disease (leprosy). The island of Molokai became quarantined as a leper colony, and all lepers were forcibly exiled there. The local bishop believed that the people living on the island, numbering over 800 at the time, needed a priest. Yet, the bishop knew that ministering to a people of this contagious and deadly disease would be a death sentence for the priest who went. The bishop asked for priests to volunteer to serve in Molokai. After serving in Hawaii for nine years, Fr. Damien was the first to volunteer. He began his ministry to the lepers in 1873. He built a church on the island and did much to improve the morale and joy among the people. St. Damien lived and ministered at the Kalaupapa leper colony for 15 years, fully knowing that this decision would eventually cause him to contract and die of the horribly mutilating disease. St. Damien died of leprosy in 1889 at the age of 49. He became known as a “martyr of charity” and the “Apostle to the Lepers.” He was canonized during the Year of Priests in 2009. His feast day is May 10.

SAINT DYMPHNA

Virgin and Martyr

St. Dymphna (7th c.) was the daughter of a pagan Irish chieftain and a beautiful Christian noblewoman. Dymphna was raised as a Christian, and she consecrated her virginity to Christ at a young age. Dymphna’s father loved his wife deeply. When her mother died, Dymphna’s father was so overcome with grief that he became mentally unstable. Unable to find another suitable wife of equal character and beauty to his first wife, he attempted to marry Dymphna due to her close resemblance to her mother. Upon learning of his wicked plan, Dymphna fled across the sea into Belgium along with her tutor and confessor, Father Gerebran. Her father pursued them and eventually discovered their location by tracing the foreign money they used along the way. He killed Dymphna’s confessor and pleaded with his daughter to return with him to Ireland to be his wife. When she refused, he cut off her head in a mad rage. St. Dymphna’s church still stands on the place of her burial near Antwerp. There have been numerous accounts of those afflicted with epilepsy and mental illness visiting her tomb and receiving miraculous cures through her intercession. Because of this, St. Dymphna is the patroness of those suffering from mental and neurological disorders and illnesses, as well as of mental health professionals. Her feast day is May 15.



SAINT SIMON STOCK

Religious



St. Simon Stock (1165-1265) was born in Kent, England. He was strongly drawn to God as a child, and at the age of twelve he began to live as a hermit in the hollow of an oak tree. After two decades of this solitary and penitential life, he entered the world again to study theology and become a priest. His studies complete, he then returned to his hermitage. At this time the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him, instructing him to join the Carmelite Order that was just entering England. St. Simon became a Carmelite in 1212. By 1215 he became the order’s leader and worked to establish it across Europe, especially at the great universities. He also traveled to Rome and Mt. Carmel in the Holy Land, and revised the Carmelite Rule to make them mendicant friars instead of hermits. Tradition holds that the Virgin Mary appeared to him again and presented him with a brown scapular, the habit of his order, promising that those who wore it would not be eternally lost in hell. This apparition is known as Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and her “scapular promise” is that she will intercede with her Son to ensure that the wearer of the scapular obtains the grace of final perseverance, that is, of dying in a state of grace. This is the origin of the Brown Scapular devotion which soon spread to the laity to obtain the graces promised by Our Lady, a devotion later encouraged by many popes. St. Simon Stock’s feast day is May 16.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Jn 15:26-16:4a
TUESDAY: Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138: 1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Jn 16:5-11
WEDNESDAY: Acts 17:15, 22-18:1/Ps 148: 1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15
THURSDAY: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26/Ps 113: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Jn 15:9-17
FRIDAY: Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 16:20-23
SATURDAY: Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47: 2-3, 8-9, 10/Jn 16:23b-28
NEXT SUNDAY: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47: 2-3, 6-7, 8-9/Eph 1:17-23/Mt 28:16-20



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

TUESDAY: Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr
WEDNESDAY: Our Lady of Fatima
THURSDAY: The Ascension of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation in some U.S. dioceses); St. Matthias, Apostle
FRIDAY: St. Isidore
SATURDAY: Armed Forces Day
NEXT SUNDAY: The Ascension of the Lord; 7th Sunday of Easter; World Communications Day





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

SPIRITUAL MOMS PROGRAM Institute of Priestly Formation

Registration is now open to become a "Spiritual Mom" for an Institute for Priestly Formation summer seminarian. We



need 120 women to offer one Hail Mary for a specific seminarian, by name, every day while he participates in the spirituality program with IPF this summer. We also need women from around the country to pray for all the summer seminarians with one Hail Mary a day. If you feel called to pray for a seminarian, visit <https://priestlyformation.org/support-ipf/get-involved/sp-moms.html> or call Lisa at 402-980-3283.

MOTHER'S DAY BLESSING Praying for all Mothers



Today we pray for all mothers—spiritual, adoptive, godmothers, grandmothers, mothers who have lost a child, estranged mothers, mothers to be, step mothers, foster mothers. Where would we be without our mothers?

May God richly bless you for being His light and His love to the world. Momma Mary, mother to us all, we ask for your intercession for all mothers and for all those who long to be.

VOCATION PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the men and women of the Archdiocese of Omaha in formation for Consecrated Life.

This week let us pray for **Br. Paul Hotovy** (Salesians of Don Bosco) from St. Leo the Great in Omaha.

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments." (John 14:15) Christ's

command to love shapes the priesthood, where priests pour out their lives for God's people. Could this be your path to love others as Christ does? Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.



COME AND SEE EVENT FOR PROSPECTIVE DEACONS Have You Considered this Vocation

Learn More
About Becoming
a Deacon:

Tuesday,
May 12 at
7 PM in the
St. Patrick
Parish
Center



Are you a Catholic man aged 31-55 discerning a call to serve the Church as a permanent deacon? You and your wife are invited to a special "Come and See" event on Tuesday, May 12 at 7 PM in the St. Patrick Church in Gretna Parish Center (508 Angus St, Gretna). Deacon Tim McNeil, the Director of the Deaconate Program, will offer an opportunity to:

- Discover the "character" and ministry of the deacon.
- Understand the requirements for entering the diaconate formation program.
- Learn about the evaluation and application timeline for the class beginning in September 2027.
- Explore the four-year diaconate formation program in detail.

If you are interested in attending, please notify Fr. Greg Baxter, gpbaxter@archomaha.org, in advance so we have an accurate count for refreshments.

DIAPER DRIVE FOR MOTHERS IN NEED Supplying Organizations Supporting Mothers Choosing Life

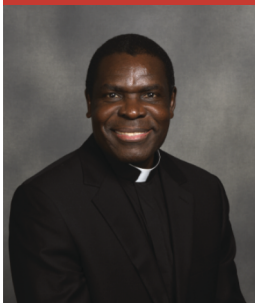
The St. Patrick Outreach is organizing a Diaper Drive. The items received will help mothers and children in need. We would be helping to supply diapers and supplies to three different organizations: Bethlehem House, Essential Pregnancy Services, and Assure Women's Center. We will have a playpen in the narthex to place these items. We're asking for the following items:



- Diapers: sizes 3, 4, 5, 6, and pull-ups (We are asking for larger diapers, for we all know they do not stay little very long.)
- Unscented baby wipes
- Gift cards to Walmart or Amazon

Items can be brought to Church any time between May 2 thru May 17. If you have questions, please contact one of the following Outreach members: Colleen Karmazin, 402-984-3003, Lauri Charvat, 402-250-1798, or Joan Ingram, 402-203-3604.

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING CLERGY CHANGES Effective July 1, 2026



Dear Parishioners,

I write to inform you of clergy changes that will take place effective July 1, 2026 at St. Patrick Parish. Our Associate Pastor, Father Vincent Sunguti, will become Pastor of St. Gerald Parish in Ralston. We will miss Father Vince as he moves to his new assignment, but we are most grateful for all that he has shared with us as our Associate Pastor.

Also effective July 1, 2026, Father Matthew Pohlman will become Associate Pastor of St. Patrick Parish.

Father Matthew will not have duties as an Associate Pastor of St. Charles, but he will have duties as Chaplain at Skutt Catholic. In addition to this, Father Matthew will be studying Canon Law at the Catholic University of America in Washington DC during the summer months of June and July over a four year period. We look forward to having him as our new Associate Pastor.

Fr. Baxter



"Be one of the small number who find the way to life, and enter by the narrow gate into Heaven. Take care not to follow the majority and the common herd, so many of whom are lost. Do not be deceived; there are only two roads: one that leads to life and is narrow; the other that leads to death and is wide. There is no middle way."

—St. Louis de Montfort

NEBRASKA CATHOLIC DAY OF GIVING

Online Giving Closes on Wednesday, May 13

We are once again participating in the Nebraska Catholic Day of Giving. This special giving day is one of a kind, with all three dioceses of Nebraska included. It's a day to be grateful for being a Catholic in Nebraska and showing support to your favorite parishes and Catholic organizations throughout the state! Although the actual giving day was Wednesday, May 6, the extended giving period goes until Wednesday, May 13. Donations can be made online on the igivecatholic.org giving day page or via cash or check made payable to St. Patrick Church and dropped off in the parish office.



This year's funds will all go towards the new sound system in the Church. They are nearly finished with the work on getting the new system in place. We look forward to having a better quality sound throughout the Church going forward. The total cost of updating our sound system is \$152,767. There is a full break down of the cost on our giving day webpage, which can be found on our parish website, stpatricksgretna.org. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN

Second Collection Next Weekend, May 16-17



Next weekend, May 16-17, we will have a second collection to support the Catholic Communications Campaign. This campaign represents a mission of love to share the gospel message of hope with people in the United States using the internet, television, radio, and print media. Half of the money we collect remains here in the Archdiocese of Omaha to fund local communications efforts. The other half supports the communication activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and other projects across the United States. Your help spreads the gospel message! Learn more at www.usccb.org/cc.

NEW STAFF POSITION AT ST. CHARLES

Director of Communications and Youth Ministry

St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Gretna is looking to hire a new full-time Director of Communications and Youth Ministry. Responsibilities include:

- Implementing the communications plan for the parish
- Overseeing production of print and digital content
- Promoting events, highlighting parish life, and strengthening the parish brand
- Coordinating the youth ministry program for teens
- Organizing mission trips, retreats, or other youth events



Contact the St. Charles Borromeo Parish Office at parish@scbccomaha.org or 402-916-9730 for more information, for an application, and to submit your resumé by Saturday, May 30.

Stewardship Report

Apr 29-May 5, 2026

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

General Contributions	Apr 29-May 5, 2026	Fiscal YTD thru May 5
Sunday Offering	\$18,143.85	\$1,148,521.25
Other Contributions	\$23,303.35	\$166,085.04
Total General Contributions	\$41,447.20	\$1,314,606.29 *
Surplus/Deficit	\$13,947.20	\$104,606.29

* 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, May 17 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 Seth Boardman at sethd99@hotmail.com.

HEALING CHAIR PROGRAM

The Gretna Knights of Columbus have two powerlift recliners that are offered to any member of St. Patrick parish or our local community on a temporary basis. These "Healing Chairs" can be used by anyone for recovery from any surgery, injury, or medical need. The Knights will provide and deliver the reclining lift chair to the home of the person in need and pick it up when the lending period expires, at no cost to the user. The Knights also have a battery powered wheelchair that was donated. This too is available for any member of St. Patrick parish or our local community on a temporary basis. Please contact a member of the Gretna Knights of Columbus Council #10047 or John Schaffert, 402-672-7903, if you or someone you know has a need for one of these devices.



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 Hottov.....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, MAY 11TH
7:30 AM + Kurt Pfeifer

TUESDAY, MAY 12TH
6:00 PM + Jerry Pivovar

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13TH
7:30 AM + Dean Schwaninger

THURSDAY, MAY 14TH
7:30 AM + Judy McLaughlin
6:00 PM + Jerry Burke

FRIDAY, MAY 15TH
7:30 AM + Jerry Pivovar

SATURDAY, MAY 16TH
5:00 PM + Robert and Debra Capps

SUNDAY, MAY 17TH
8:00 AM + Charlotte Osburn
10:00 AM For Our Parishioners
12:00 PM Living and Deceased Members of the Weier and Andersen Family

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 Celeste Baumert, Sh-Shaw McDonnell, 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, MAY 10TH—6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER—MOTHER'S DAY

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary

MONDAY, MAY 11TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Baptism Class—Father Hitch Room

TUESDAY, MAY 12TH

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
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Prospective Deacon Come and See—Parish Center AB and Kitchen

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13TH

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
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM St. Rose Guild Meeting—Father Hitch Room
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM St. Patrick Preschool Graduation Mass—Sanctuary
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM St. Patrick Preschool Cookie Reception—Parish Center AB
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

THURSDAY, MAY 14TH—HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION—THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD—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 8:30 PM Confirmation Practice—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Mystagogy Session—Parish Center A and Kitchen

FRIDAY, MAY 15TH

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, MAY 16TH

1:00 PM to 5:00 PM Private Event—Parish Center A
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, MAY 17TH—7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary and Narthex
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM COR Men's Group Meeting—Father Hitch Room

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION—MAY 14
The Ascension of the Lord

This Thursday, May 14, is a Holy Day of Obligation for The Ascension of the Lord. Join us for Mass at either 7:30 AM or 6 PM. The parish office will be closed in observance of this Holy Day.

ASCENSION REFLECTION

A person's 20s are the most impactful decade of one's life. For example, a twenty-something who waits until she has absolute clarity before making commitments typically drifts and regrets it later. But those who dive into something meaningful—even with doubts and questions—tend to grow and find joy and better outcomes in life. In other words, it takes courage, not perfect certainty, to move forward (*The Defining Decade* by Dr. Meg Jay). As we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, that insight comes alive in a new way. Matthew tells us: "When they saw Him, they worshiped, but they doubted." (Matt 28:17) Even standing before the risen Christ, the disciples were a mixture of adoration and hesitation. It is as though they were in their spiritual 20s... unsure, doubting, but nonetheless called to act in worship and mission. Here is the key: Jesus does not tell them to wait until they are sure of things. He sends them anyway: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." (Matt 28:19) The mission of the Church begins not with perfect certainty but with imperfect disciples who wonder and worship. Then they get going. That is us, too. We may feel unsure of ourselves, perhaps full of hesitation about following Christ more fully. But now is not the time to wait for perfect clarity. Now is the time to worship and to go, trusting that He is with us always, even to the end of the age.



LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

7th Sunday of Easter

MAY 16TH 5:00 PM	MAY 17TH 8:00 AM	MAY 17TH 10:00 AM	MAY 17TH 12:00 PM
Sacristan Linda Schriener	Sacristan Carol Zeleny	Sacristan Mitch Wendlandt	Sacristan Ginny Giebelhaus
Lectors Crystal Schroeder <small>(Read the 1st Reading)</small>	Lectors Sandy Scheef <small>(Read the 1st Reading)</small>	Lectors Theresa Gulizia <small>(Read the 1st Reading)</small>	Lectors Need Sub <small>(Read the 1st Reading)</small>
Tammi Hall <small>(Read the 2nd Reading)</small>	Duane Benes <small>(Read the 2nd Reading)</small>	Jim Hain <small>(Read the 2nd Reading)</small>	Stephanie Lampe <small>(Read the 2nd Reading)</small>
EMHCs Tracy Wollenburg Bridget Blum Pat Gilmore Karen Wiehl	EMHCs Carol Zeleny Carrie Hubert Paul Hubert Mitchell Hubert Deacon Ken Broz	EMHCs Cleo Nienaber Kathy Wendlandt David Burke Mitch Wendlandt	EMHCs Doris Williams Ginny Giebelhaus Delma Stoner Need Sub
Ushers Ken Beckman Tim Hall Linda Schriener Jeff Wollenburg	Ushers Greg Jones Ron Kotrous Tony Schultz Pat Shurtliff	Ushers Clint Bollock Tom Nienaber Chris Reinig Tony Vanek	Ushers Delma Stoner Marty White Mary Zeigler Need Sub
Rosary Reciter Kathy Dauner	Rosary Reciter Theresa Huttman	Rosary Reciter Judy Weier	Rosary Reciter Need Sub
Altar Servers Need Sub Need Sub Need Sub	Altar Servers Owen Deming Matthew Farwell Drew Garcia	Altar Servers Harper Dicks Nev Dicks Need Sub	Altar Servers James Janda Thomas Janda Need Sub
Greeters Nancy Kirkpatrick Tim Kirkpatrick	Greeters Greg Jones Mary Maw	Greeters Need Sub Need Sub	Greeters Marty White Mary Zeigler

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

The Ascension of the Lord

MAY 14TH 7:30 AM	Ushers Need Sub Need Sub	Lectors Eric Hittner <small>(Read the 1st Reading)</small>	Rosary Reciter Carol Zeleny
Sacristan Joan Ingram	Rosary Reciter Norm Svoboda	Jolene Jefferies <small>(Read the 2nd Reading)</small>	Altar Servers Need Sub Need Sub Need Sub
Lectors Carol Zeleny <small>(Read the 1st Reading)</small>	Hilcrest SR/HL Gene Schwarting Kathy Schwarting	EMHCs Larry Neppi Christine Walstrom Greg Jones Need Sub	Greeters Need Sub Need Sub
Need Sub <small>(Read the 2nd Reading)</small>			
EMHCs Joan Ingram Diane Sherwood Delma Stoner	MAY 14TH 6:00 PM	Ushers Linda Schriener Need Sub Need Sub Need Sub	Vocations Crucifix Charlie Canfield
	Sacristan Larry Neppi		

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER



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Emergencies (if facing danger or death), call:
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ASSOCIATE PASTOR

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

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



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

RE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN
Volunteer Opportunities for RE

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION 2026-2027

Classes are offered for all children of the parish to help them grow in knowledge and love of Jesus and His Church. These



weekly classes meet in grade levels lead by a volunteer Catechist from September thru May. Sessions are offered on Wednesdays at 4 PM, 5:30 PM, and 7 PM, and on Sundays at 8:55 AM. All classes are 1 hour.

Registration is now open online, stpatricksgretna.org/religious-education. Remember, some classes fill up, and students are placed first come first served, so if you need a specific session, sign up soon! your family is needing any accommodations or different options for Religious Education we can work with you.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS FOR 2026-2027

With over 500 kids in Religious Education each week, many volunteers are needed. Catechists and assistants help plan and present lessons. We also need help outside of the classroom: in the office during class, as hall and parking lot monitors, and babysitters for any catechist's younger children. Sometimes, we have to call upon a substitute to fill in for a class, too.

Aside from the benefit of feeling good about helping our kids grow in faith, all regular, weekly volunteers receive free Religious Education tuition for all of their children. If any of these volunteer options sound like a way you could help the young people of St. Patrick Parish please sign up at stpatricksgretna.org/religious-education! (All volunteers must complete Safe Environment Training thru the Archdiocese.)

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HOW TO CELEBRATE EASTER ALL SEASON LONG
Without Burning Out

If Lent feels like a marathon, the Easter season can feel like a sprint you didn't train for. We spend 40 days fasting, praying, refocusing, and then Easter Sunday arrives in a burst of joy that can quickly fade into normal life. Meanwhile, the Church keeps celebrating for 50 full days of richness and purpose, inviting us to linger in the Resurrection instead of rushing past it. The challenge is not that Easter is too long but that we often don't know how to live it out. Here's how to stay in the spirit of Easter all season long, without exhausting yourself along the way.



1. ADD ONE SIMPLE CHURCH TRADITION: THE REGINA CAELI

If you're looking for one practice to anchor your Eastertide days, try the *Regina Caeli*. This short, beautiful prayer is traditionally said during the Easter season in place of the *Angelus*. It centers on rejoicing with Mary in the Resurrection and gently reminds us, even in the middle of busy days, that Christ is risen and present. Pray it once a day—morning, lunch break, or evening. If even that feels like too much, simply return to one word throughout your day: *Alleluia*. Let it joyfully interrupt your stress, your routine, or your distractions.

2. CELEBRATE THE EIGHT SUNDAYS OF EASTERTIDE

The Sundays of Easter are unique, each revealing a different facet of the Resurrection. From Divine Mercy Sunday to Good Shepherd Sunday and finally Pentecost, the Church is telling a story week by week. Instead of letting these Sundays pass like any other day, treat them as small celebrations. Savor the Scripture readings from Mass, enjoy a themed meal, dessert, or family activity related to the day. Every Sunday is a mini Easter, a return to Resurrection joy.

3. WATCH AN EASTER MOVIE (OR SHOW)

Storytelling is one of the easiest ways to stay connected to a season, especially when energy is low. Choose a movie or show to enjoy that brings the Easter message to life. That could be a classic like *The Robe* (1953) or *Ben-Hur* (1959), a series like *The Chosen*, or something engaging for children along the lines of *The King of Kings* (2025) or *The Prince of Egypt* (1998). Bring out the popcorn, dim the lights, and let it be a moment of relaxation, connection, and discussion.

4. FIRE AND CANDLELIGHT

Relive the striking imagery and serene beauty of the Easter Vigil and await the coming of the Holy Spirit as Pentecost approaches by bringing more fire into your home. Light candles at dinner or evening prayer time on Sundays or feast days during Eastertide. Host a bonfire party with s'mores or just take in the crackling flames of your fireplace on a spring evening. There's something about fire that invites stillness and reflection.

5. DECORATE WITH PURPOSE

Create a contrast to Lent's penitential tone by letting the beauty of spring and new life burst forth in your home. Bring in fresh flowers or fragrant branches, open windows, clean and refresh rooms, or add a beautiful light throw or touch of new color. Easter is meant to feel different from Lent, not just spiritually, but visibly. If you decorate for Easter Sunday, leave the decor up for the full 50 days. You can also look ahead to Pentecost by incorporating symbols like bright reds, flames, or doves. These simple visual cues reinforce the season and remind you that something is still unfolding.

6. CELEBRATE NEW LIFE

Easter is, at its heart, about new life, and there are countless ways to experience that in tangible ways. Plant something and watch it grow. Visit a local farm to see baby animals. Take a walk or drive to see the signs of spring as trees blossom and flowers reappear. Support a family who just welcomed a new baby with a meal, gift, or simply your presence.

7. PARTY LIKE IT'S PENTECOST

As the season continues, begin to look ahead to its grand finale: Pentecost. Pray the novena to the Holy Spirit for the nine days leading up to Pentecost, asking for renewal and guidance. Reflect on what has changed in your heart since Lent, even in small ways. Then celebrate. Host a Pentecost party, or share a special meal to mark the end of the season and rejoice in whatever transformation Christ has made in you as you move into ordinary time. This isn't really the end. You have a mission to accomplish, and are being sent forth once more in the Spirit.

EASTER EVERY DAY

May the joy of Christ's Resurrection remain within our hearts, not just for a day, but as a steady, sustaining presence throughout the season and beyond.

—Article by Zeale.co

HOLY HOUR TO PRAY FOR ORDINANDI Support Our Future Priest



The Serra Club of West Omaha invites all the faithful to join us for a special Holy Hour to Pray for Ordinandi and Seminarians on Wednesday, May 20, at St. James Catholic Church (4710 N 90th St, Omaha). Join us in the narthex at 6:30 PM for greetings, followed by the Holy Hour at 7 PM. Archbishop Michael McGovern will preside, assisted by Father Tom Weisbecker, Chaplain of the Serra Club of West Omaha.

This special Holy Hour is to pray for Rev. Mr. Michael Figura who will be ordained to the Priesthood on Saturday, June 6; seminarian Caleb Kosch, who will be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on Friday, May 29; and seminarian Thomas Matya, who will be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate this fall in Rome, Italy. Be sure to join us as we pray together for these men before the exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament in a special monstrance blessed by Pope St. John Paul II. Please show your support and invite your family, friends, and guests to join us! All are welcome! For questions, contact Lori Hamilton, Serra VP, at bobxlori@aol.com or 402-699-5027. For more information visit serrawestomaha.org.

"The end for which God has instituted the priesthood has been to appoint on earth public persons to watch over the honor of His divine majesty, and to procure the salvation of souls." —St. Alphonsus Liguori

ANNUAL GOLF, TENNIS, AND PICKLEBALL OUTING Join Priests, Seminarians, and Consecrated Religious



The Serra Clubs of Omaha and West Omaha will host their Annual Golf, Tennis, and Pickleball Outing, followed by a cocktail hour, dinner, and awards at The Pines Country Club in Valley on Monday, June 8 (best ball format) with sign-in beginning at 11 AM. Tennis will be at Genesis Health Club, and Pickleball will be at ACE Pickleball Club, both starting at 2 PM. All proceeds received support the vocations programs of the Archdiocese of Omaha. Early registrations are welcome!

To register as a player and/or a sponsor and to pay online, go to: serrawestomaha.org/golf. If you wish to pay by check, go to the website to download the PDF Registration Form and mail your completed form and check per the instructions at the bottom of the form. For questions, contact Joe Grier at 402-680-6654. Make this event one of your priorities this summer!



LIFT THEM TO LOURDES GALA FUNDRAISER Including Mass and a Gourmet Dinner June 28

Lift Them To Lourdes



Join us on Sunday, June 28, for a benefit dinner to lift up the sick and suffering from Nebraska and sponsor their pilgrimage to the healing waters of Lourdes. Event includes 5 PM Holy Mass at The Cloisters on the Platte (23332 Fishery Road, Gretna) celebrated by Fr. Ben Boyd, concelebrated by Fr. Tom Weisbecker,

and followed by a sponsored cocktail hour and gourmet dinner service. Individual tickets are \$150. A Sponsored Table (seating 6) is \$1,500. Learn more and register at <https://bit.ly/LT2L-June28> or scan the QR code. For questions or more information please email LiftThemToLourdes@gmail.com.



"We all have wounds that need healing. And like Jesus, we carry them with us. It's Jesus who can stop the bleeding, but we have to invite Him in... Let us sit still and see what happens when Jesus shows up."
—Anne Costa, Healing Promises



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Gretna, Nebraska

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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.

LOST AND FOUND Unclaimed Items Donated May 18

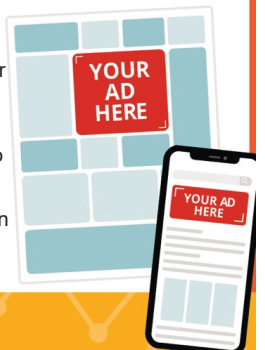


Have you lost something at Church or during Religious Education classes, Youth Group, or at Preschool? Stop by and check out the table in the narthex this week. All unclaimed items will be donated on Monday, May 18.

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Gary Stang from LPI, our bulletin printer, will be in our office securing new ads for our church. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on ParishesOnline.com.



Gary Stang
320-266-0520
gstang@4lpi.com



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- CATHOLIC ANSWERS**
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Website.....www.catholic.com
- CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**
Grief & Healing Counselor.....402-391-3711
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Gretna....402-332-3475
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AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

OACCW SPRING MEETING—ST. EDWARD, MAY 12



All women are invited to the OACCW (Omaha Archdiocese Council of Catholic Women) Meeting on Tuesday, May 12 at St. Edward Catholic Church (805 Washington St, St. Edward). Registration will begin at 9:30 AM. \$10 includes coffee/rolls and lunch. The Executive Meeting will also begin at 9:30 AM and then at 10 AM the OACCW Meeting will be in the St. Ed Parish Hall (hosted by RSW Deanery ladies). Mass will be at 11:30 AM with lunch to follow. The afternoon guest speakers are Don and Wilma Vakoc. Don has a wonderful collection of Biblical coins and artifacts, such as an oil lamp dating back to the time of Christ. Service, Legislative, and Spirituality Commission Reports will also take place in the afternoon. Please join us for this day of spirituality and visiting with our sisters in Christ as we continue to “Be the Light” of Christ. RSVP encouraged by May 1 for lunch count to Leonarda Arens, OACCW President, via email at@hotmail.comtext to 402-253-5120.

HEALING MASS—MARY OUR QUEEN, MAY 29

His Global Love Prayer Communities invite you to a Healing Mass on Friday, May 29 at Mary Our Queen Catholic Church (3405 S 118th St, Omaha). We will begin with a Rosary at 6:15 PM with praise and worship to follow. Mass will begin at 7 PM. Fr. Kevin Joyce from His Global Love Ministry will be presiding. All are welcome. Questions, contact Frances Mignon at 402-515-8000.



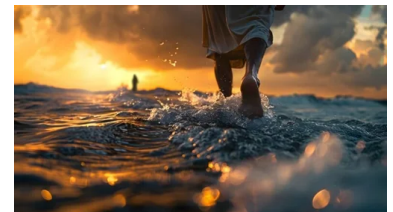
STEEPLECHASE RUN AND WALK—SPRINGFIELD, JUNE 13



Lace up your running shoes and join us for a morning of fun and fitness at the Steeplechase 5k Run and 1-Mile Walk on Saturday, June 13, in the charming town of Springfield. Whether you choose to run or stroll, this event promises to be a wonderful way to engage with friends, family, and neighbors during the Springfield Days town celebration. Don't miss out! Bring your non-perishable food item the day of the race. All proceeds will go to support the Springfield Methodist Food Pantry. This event is organized by the St. Joseph Knights of Columbus. For more information or to register, visit <https://stjosephspringfield.org/steeplechase>.

ANCHORED IN HOPE RETREAT—ST. BENEDICT CENTER, SCHUYLER, JUNE 12-14

The Saint Benedict Center (1126 Co Rd I, Schuyler) is hosting an Anchored in Hope Retreat with Tonya Labenz, Mary Guynan, and Brianna Rerucha on June 12-14. Join us for a transformative weekend retreat, where women of all ages are invited to find peace and resilience in life's storms. Through powerful Biblical imagery—like Peter walking on water and Jesus calming the storm—we'll journey together toward deeper faith and becoming more anchored to His love and presence in our life. Expect a blend of reflective journaling, small group discussions, and meaningful prayer experiences. Take this time to pause, reflect and be renewed in hope. This retreat will begin on Friday, June 12 at 7:30 PM and will end on Sunday, June 14 after lunch. Register now at www.StBenedictCenter.com or call (402) 352-8819.



STRAWBERRY BRUCH—ST. PATRICK'S, ELKHORN, JUNE 13




The 17th Annual Strawberry Bruch—the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Omaha's sole fundraising event of the year—will be held on Saturday, June 13 beginning at 10 AM at St. Patrick's Catholic Church (18602 W Maple Rd, Elkhorn). This joyful morning features a delicious brunch buffet, auctions, raffles, and fellowship, all in support of our large downtown food pantry and the families it serves. Registration is now open, and all are warmly invited. Guests may attend individually or with family, friends, or colleagues. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$150 per couple, and reserved tables for eight or ten guests include one complimentary seat. For full event details or to register, please visit: www.ssvpomaha.org. For assistance, Rebecca at our District Office (402-779-8499, ext.109) is happy to help with registration by phone.



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