

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET GRETNA, NE 68028



7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I revealed your name to those whom you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.” - Jn 17:5-6

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

MAY 17, 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

7th Sunday of Easter

FIRST READING (ACTS 1:1-11)

We hear how the Apostles gathered in prayer with others (including Mary) in Jerusalem shortly after Jesus' Ascension into Heaven. When do you find yourself being called to prayer?

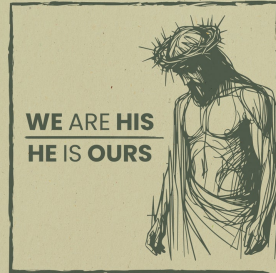
SECOND READING (EPH 1:17-23)

Peter teaches that we may suffer insults and ridicule for our belief in Jesus. Have you ever been insulted by others for your faith?

GOSPEL (MT 28:16-20)

We hear Jesus praying for us to His Heavenly Father. Have you ever prayed for Jesus in prayer?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



Not long after my brother's first child was born, a beautiful little girl named Mary Elise, I asked him what it was like. Was he nervous? Overwhelmed? He said, "When I first held her, I was in such shock. I think I just said, 'I am your dad. I am your dad.'" That moment marked a deep transformation for him. He was not just holding a baby; he was stepping into a new identity. Over the years, I have seen him live his fatherhood with quiet sacrifice, joy, and faithfulness. It started with that moment of truth.

This, I propose, is a glimpse of what Jesus means when He prays, "Consecrate them in the truth." (John 17:17) To be consecrated is to be set apart in love, not taken out of the world. Consecration sends us into it with a new identity, always one that binds us to Him and to others in love. Our bond to Jesus and others is the deep truth that He continually renews.

Whenever we speak deep truths about ourselves, we experience this renewal: "I have sinned;" "I need help;" "I forgive you;" "I take you as my husband;" "I believe in one God..." Whether in confession, in the liturgy, or in a recovery group, truth heals and transforms.

And the deepest truth of all? That we belong to the Risen and Ascended Christ. Our lives are no longer just ours. We are His and He is ours.

Name one truth you need to step into more deeply, about yourself, someone else, or God. Maybe put it on a note on your mirror. Let that truth consecrate you this week.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

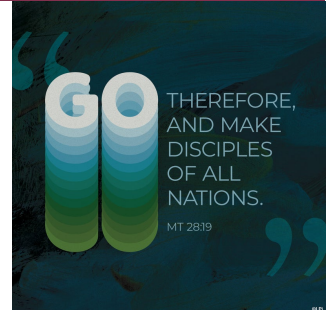
QUESTION:

Couldn't Jesus have done more good if He stayed on earth, rather than Ascended into Heaven?

ANSWER:

This is an interesting question! During His earthly life, Jesus gave sight to the blind, healed paralytics, drove out demons, and fed thousands with only a few loaves of bread. Imagine what He could have done if He'd never Ascended into Heaven! Imagine what our world could be! It's an interesting thought to consider, especially as the world faces challenges that only seem to deepen and expand. Yet at the Last Supper, Jesus says, "It is better for you if I go." Why? His response must have seemed strange to the Apostles at the time. In His place, Jesus says, He will send the Paraclete, the Comforter, the Advocate. He promises to send the Holy Spirit.

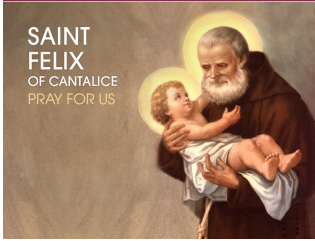
Jesus' departure allows the Apostles to become the leaders He has formed them to be. Jesus is no longer situated in only one geographical location, and His Church will never be a political kingdom. Soon after the Ascension, we celebrate Pentecost—the descent of the Holy Spirit and the radical empowerment of the followers of Jesus. We share in that empowerment and in that mission. Jesus is present in the Sacraments, and He is present in us. Through our faith, hope, and love, we are called to be the good He does here on earth!



"Work as if everything depends on you, but trust as if everything depends on God."
—Gerard Verschuuren

SAINT FELIX OF CANTALICE

Religious

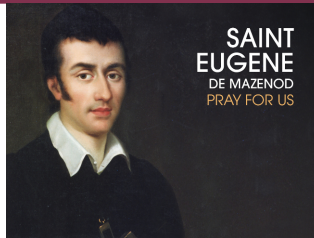


St. Felix of Cantalice (d. 1587) was born to a pious peasant family in Italy. He grew up tending sheep and was hired out to work for a farmer at the age of nine, which he did for twenty years. He evidenced signs of holiness and spent his free time in prayer. He had a friend read him the lives of the saints from which he drew much inspiration. Felix eventually joined the Capuchin Franciscans and served in Rome as the Order's official beggar. Although he could not read, and received no formal study, he had great influence over the Roman people because of his piety and the labors he undertook to convert even the most hardened sinners. Felix also encouraged those he met to lead greater lives of virtue, regardless if they were dignitaries or peasants. Men who lived scandalous lives retreated from his presence, lest he convict them of their sins. St. Felix's special apostolate was among the children of the city to whom he gave religious instruction with childlike humility and simplicity. He was a contemporary and friend of St. Philip Neri, who declared Felix to be the Church's greatest living saint. St. Felix served in this way for 42 years. He was beatified immediately after his death, becoming the first Capuchin Franciscan ever canonized. His body rests under an altar dedicated to him in the church of the Immaculate Conception in Rome. His feast day is May 18.

SAINT EUGENE DE MAZENOD

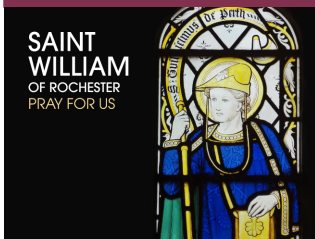
Bishop

St. Eugene de Mazenod (1782-1861) was born in southern France to a noble family. When he was eight years of age his family was forced to flee the turmoil of the French Revolution and seek political asylum in Italy. Leaving their possessions behind, the family struggled financially as they relocated from city to city. A sympathetic priest took it upon himself to educate Eugene and stir in him a love for God. The family returned to France when Eugene was twenty. They were distressed to find a dramatically altered society, and their social status no greater than ordinary citizens. The family was also plagued with in-fighting which culminated in divorce, a rarity at the time. While Eugene's father remained in Italy, Eugene's mother fought to regain the family's former possessions. She also attempted to force Eugene to marry a wealthy heiress. St. Eugene, deeply affected by how the Revolution had decimated the Church in France, decided to enter the seminary instead. After his ordination he sought out other zealous priests and together they went as missionaries into the countryside villages, calling themselves the "Missionaries of Provence" which was later approved by the pope as the "Oblates of Mary Immaculate." St. Eugene went on to become the Bishop of Marseilles. He did much work in restoring his diocese by building and repairing churches, doubling the number of priests, and bringing in religious communities. He also worked to weaken the government's monopoly on education, and supported the rights of the Holy See. Eugene de Mazenod is the patron saint of dysfunctional families. His feast day is May 21.



SAINT WILLIAM OF ROCHESTER

Martyr



St. William of Rochester (d. 1201), also known as St. William of Perth, was born in Perth, Scotland. He was a wild youth who matured into a devoted man of God. He became a baker, and out of his charity he would always set aside bread to feed the poor. One day, while walking into the church for Mass, he found an abandoned baby boy on the church steps. He adopted the child, raised him, and taught him his trade. Years later St. William made a vow to visit the sacred sites of Our Lord's life on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, along with his adopted son. The two set out on their journey. While traveling through England his son deceived him, slit his throat, and stole the money he had saved for their pilgrimage. William's abandoned body was discovered and mourned over by a mentally deranged woman. She made a crown of flowers and placed it on the head of William's murdered corpse, then afterwards put the garland on her own head. Upon doing this, she was immediately cured of her mental illness. The local monks learned of this miracle and carried William's body to the Rochester cathedral to give him the proper burial of a saint. His shrine later attracted many pilgrims. St. William of Rochester is the patron of adopted children. His feast day is May 23.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab/Jn 16:29-33
TUESDAY: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11a
WEDNESDAY: Acts 20:28-38/ Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab/Jn 17:11b-19
THURSDAY: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Jn 17:20-26
FRIDAY: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab/Jn 21:15-19
SATURDAY: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7/Jn 21:20-25
NEXT SUNDAY: *Vigil:* Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24 and 35, 27-28, 29b-30/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 *Extended Vigil:* Gn 11:1-9/Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b/Ez 37:1-14/Jl 3:1-5/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 (see *Lectionary for Mass Supplement*, 62) *Day:* Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1 and 24, 29-30, 31 and 34/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

MONDAY: St. John I, Pope and Martyr
WEDNESDAY: St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest
THURSDAY: St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
FRIDAY: St. Rita of Cascia, Religious
NEXT SUNDAY: Pentecost Sunday





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

FR. SSONKO FUNDRAISER Friday, July 10



We are once again hosting a fundraiser this summer (Friday, July 10) to support Fr. John Baptist Ssonko and our sister parish, St. Mary's in

Busaabala, Uganda. Thanks to many generous donors over the last couple of years they have been able to build a kitchen for the school and now a four-story dormitory for the students of St. Mary's. Funds from this year's fundraiser will help to furnish the classrooms and dormitory, increase security around the school, and provide transportation assistance for the students.

This year's menu for the fundraising dinner includes a whole hog! Also new this year, we will have a few live and silent auction items you won't want to miss.

Unfortunately, this year Fr. Ssonko will not be able to join us due to travel restrictions. This also means he will be unable to raise funds from surrounding parishes like he usually does while in Nebraska.

Our fundraising goal this year is \$200,000. Even if you are unable to attend the dinner and auction, please consider a donation to Invest in Hope: Educate Youth for Brighter Tomorrows. Tickets are now available for purchase on our parish website, stpatricksgretna.org. Get a group of your friends together—they don't even have to be parishioners—and register for a table!

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. Charlie Jarosik** (Capuchin Franciscans) from St. Patrick in Elkhorn.



"All things that are mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them." (John 17:10) Jesus invites us into a profound sharing of His life and mission. Those called to priesthood and consecrated life participate in this intimate union, offering their lives so that Christ may be glorified in the world. Pray for openness and discern God's invitation in your life. Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDI Pray for Those Getting Confirmed This Week

May you each experience the grace of the Sacrament of Confirmation—holy boldness to be a witness to the Truth. May the Holy Spirit, who already lives within you, be stirred to new life bringing wisdom, understanding, knowledge, fortitude, counsel, piety, and fear of the Lord. May your life be a living testimony of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Congratulations on receiving this last Sacrament of Initiation. We are all praying for you.

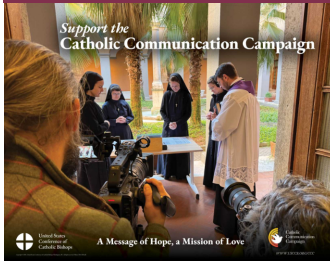


CONGRATULATIONS
NEWLY CONFIRMED!

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Hadley Raphael Anderson | Rowan Elizabeth Heavican |
| Keira Jude Bates | Garrett Joseph Hecker |
| Beckett Hubert Batt | Evan Sebastian Hoffman |
| Gracie Jude Beach | Zane John Howell |
| Ryan Patrick Behrens | Daphne Gertrude Jackson |
| Michael Michael Berg | Kamden Nicholas Janssen |
| Brinley Teresa Blair | Samuel Sebastian Johnson |
| Max Joseph Bresette | Olivia Marie Kahm |
| Will Fabian Callison | Ethan Andrew Kaup |
| Jack Hubert Chace | Lilah Cecilia Kowalewski |
| Laynie Angela Cotton | Katelyn Anne Kramer |
| Ryann Michael Delezene | Ethan Martin Kuzel |
| Benjamin Sebastian Drummond | Ryan Patrick Kuzel |
| Archie James Dzingle | Evelyn Clare Larson |
| Jacie Agnes Evans | Lily Margaret Lomax |
| Ryan Patrick Foresman | Jack Joseph Mason |
| Andrew Leo Garcia | Scarlet Martha McCord |
| Lily Bibiana Grace | Blake Sebastian Miles |
| Isadora Isidore Hahn | Hayden Jude Miles |
| Kaitlyn Rose Hahne | Peyton Josephine Miles |
| Megyn Colette Hamele | Hudson Anthony Nienaber |
| John Maximilian Harnisch | Hattie Joseph Oberdorfer |
| Brady Luke Harrahill | Annamarie Catherine Palumbo |
| Callen Peter Harrahill | Keely Adelaide Pfeifer |
| Griffinn Francis Haynie | Keira Monica Pfeifer |
| | Easton Lawrence Pritchard |

- Claire Mary Ramirez
 Carson Joseph Reicks
 Kinsley Elizabeth Ann Secora
 Tate Michael Sheldon
 Gabrielle Agatha Sousek
 Caroline Jadwiga Stanek
 Gavin Olympias Stangl
 Kardyn Grace Swanson
 Xavier Francis Taylor
 Megan Elizabeth Terrell
 Brayden Michael Tex
 Peighton Elizabeth Thompson
 Pierce Lawrence Van Wart
 Aiden Thomas Voegele
 Vada Margaret Whisler
 Jacob Sebastian Whiteing
 Carolyn Dymphna Widhalm
 Alexandria Mary Magdalene Wilson
 Gabriella Elizabeth Wilson
 Sean Sebastian Wilwerding
 Rowan Faith Winton
 Aubriana Anne Worner
 Kallie Kateri Zeleny

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN Second Collection This Weekend, May 16-17



This 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/ccc.

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

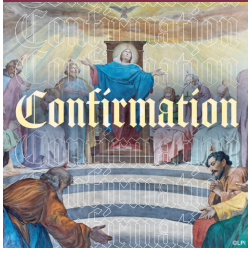
The St. Patrick Outreach is organizing a Diaper Drive. The items received will help mothers and children in need. We are helping to supply diapers and supplies to three different organizations: Bethlehem House, Essential Pregnancy Services, and Assure Women's Center. We will have a playpen in the narthex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

WHERE IS CONFIRMATION IN SCRIPTURE
Check Out the Book of Acts



"I've never read anything about the Sacrament of Confirmation in Scripture, so why do Catholics do it?" The Sacrament of Confirmation has a lot of Biblical basis, especially in the book of Acts.

On Pentecost Sunday in Acts 2, Jesus's apostles and disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus' followers then shared the Holy Spirit by laying their hands on others. Later in Acts 8, when the Apostle Philip would hear of people's conversions and baptisms in Samaria, Peter and John would lay their hands on these new converts to receive the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:14-17 explains how these newly baptized Christians had not yet received the Holy Spirit, which is why Peter and John would then lay hands on those who had been baptized. Thus, the act of receiving the Holy Spirit through laying of hands (i.e., Confirmation) is a separate Sacrament from Baptism.

While Baptism and Confirmation are two distinct Sacraments, they can be celebrated together, just as when St. Paul baptizes a group and then lays his hands on them in Acts 19:5-6. We also see these two Sacraments performed in sequence when we attend an Easter Vigil Mass, as OCIA participants receive their Baptism and then their Confirmation.

Catholic practices and customs are based on Scripture and the rich traditions of our Church. The Sacrament of Confirmation pours the Holy Spirit into practicing Catholics and gives them the graces to live out their faith as they enter adulthood.

For more information about the Biblical roots of the seven Sacraments, check out Monsignor Charles Pope's book *Catholic And Curious: Your Questions Answered*.
 —Article by The Catholic Company

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 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.)

Stewardship Report

May 6-May 12, 2026

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

General Contributions	May 6-May 12, 2026	Fiscal YTD thru May12
Sunday Offering	\$9,957.54	\$1,176,402.12
Other Contributions	\$8,239.05	\$174,869.09
Total General Contributions	\$18,196.59	\$1,351,271.21 *
Surplus/Deficit	(\$9,303.41)	\$113,771.21

* 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 18TH

7:30 AM † Gidget and Domingo Cordero

TUESDAY, MAY 19TH

7:00 PM INT Confirmandi

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH

7:30 AM INT Bruce and Jolene Jefferies

THURSDAY, MAY 21ST

7:30 AM † Cardine Svajgl

FRIDAY, MAY 22ND

7:30 AM † Kevin Weber

SATURDAY, MAY 23RD

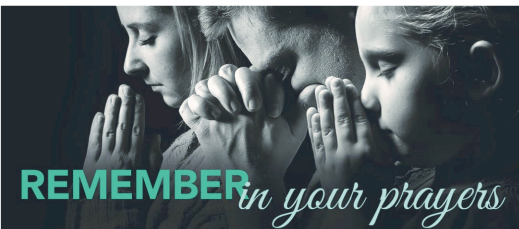
5:00 PM † Butch Curtis

SUNDAY, MAY 24TH

8:00 AM † James Eggerling
10:00 AM For Our Parishioners
12:00 PM † Harry Unrein

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 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

MONDAY, MAY 18TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary

TUESDAY, MAY 19TH

8:00 AM to 6:00 PM Confirmation Set Up—Parish Center
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Project Linus—Basement Commons
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM Rosary Guild Meeting—Father Hitch Room
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Confirmations Pictures—Parish Center
6:30 PM to 6:50 PM Rosary (before Confirmation Mass begins at 7:00 PM)—Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
8:00 AM to 8:15 AM Liturgy of the Hours—Behind the Tabernacle
8:00 AM to 9:30 AM 55+ Club Outing—Offsite
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
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

THURSDAY, MAY 21ST

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

FRIDAY, MAY 22ND

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 23RD

2:00 PM to 7:00 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 24TH—PENTECOST SUNDAY

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

CONGRATULATIONS SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Drumroll please...



Sarah Kula

Nolan Hammers

Jackson Dart

Klayton Kassmeier

St. Patrick Church community congratulates the following scholarship winners:

- ◆ \$1,000 *St. Patrick Church* scholarship winner is Sarah Kula
- ◆ \$500 *St. Patrick Century Club* scholarship winner is Nolan Hammers
- ◆ \$500 *St. Patrick Century Club* scholarship winner is Jackson Dart
- ◆ \$500 *St. Patrick Century Club* scholarship winner is Klayton Kassmeier

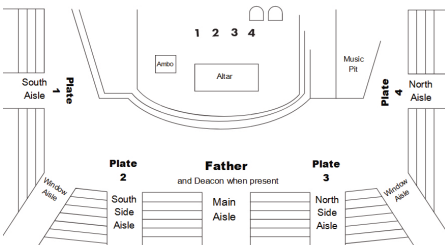
Congratulations to all graduating seniors! We pray all will keep Christ as your guiding light as you venture onward to meet tomorrow's challenges.

"Help me to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown. Give me the faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with You."—St. Brendan

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE Pentecost Sunday

MAY 23RD 5:00 PM	MAY 24TH 8:00 AM	MAY 24TH 10:00 AM	MAY 24TH 12:00 PM
Sacristan Pat Gilmore	Sacristan Joan Ingram	Sacristan Andi Towey	Sacristan Larry Neppel
Lectors Barb Applegate (Read the 1st Reading) Lezlie Thomas (Read the 2nd Reading)	Lectors Cari Kaup (Read the 1st Reading) Joan Ingram (Read the 2nd Reading)	Lectors Sandra Tiefenthaler (Read the 1st Reading) Judy Weier (Read the 2nd Reading)	Lectors Lori Wewel (Read the 1st Reading) Jayne Schram (Read the 2nd Reading)
EMHCs Sue Korth Nancy Arp Therese Nisbet Ken Beckman Deacon Ken Broz	EMHCs Mike Siegel Paula Siegel Sandy Scheef Therese Nisbet	EMHCs Rosie Stec Norm Svoboda Andi Towey Neill Votruba	EMHCs Larry Neppel Wendy Neppel Leann Otto Steve Otto
Ushers Ken Beckman Need Sub Need Sub Need Sub	Ushers Kevin Kaup Bob Sis Need Sub Need Sub	Ushers Clint Bollock Bruce Jefferies John Schaffert Norm Svoboda	Ushers Linda Gardner Ginny Giebelhaus Delma Stoner Mary Zeigler
Rosary Reciter Ellie Clines	Rosary Reciter Carol Zeleny	Rosary Reciter Jolene Jefferies	Rosary Reciter Jayne Schram
Altar Servers Aslyn Ronk Kenley Ronk Need Sub	Altar Servers Carson Kaup Ethan Kaup Will Kaup	Altar Servers Gavin McGregor Need Sub Need Sub	Altar Servers Need Sub Need Sub Need Sub
Greeters Carol Zeleny Need Sub	Greeters Steve Ingram Sally Stednitz	Greeters Andrew Urban Need Sub	Greeters Ginny Giebelhaus Mary Zeigler
	Hilcrest SR/HL Mike Siegel Paula Siegel		Vocations Crucifix Paul Duin

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.

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER



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gpbaxter@archomaha.org
Residence.....402-332-4428
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vasunguti@archomaha.org
Residence.....531-466-2453

DEACONS

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

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SINGING THE MASS Continued From the Right Column

PARTICIPATING IN THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST

What are the concrete attributes of sacred music? The (CCC 1157) teaches that sacred music fulfills its task according to three criteria: 1) the beauty expressive of prayer, 2) the unanimous participation of the assembly at the designated moments, and 3) the solemn character of the celebration. All three criteria link sacred music intimately to the work of Christ in the liturgy and in our hearts.

- **The beauty expressive of prayer.** As we have seen, sacred music is the Church's liturgical prayer in sung form. When we hear sacred music, we hear prayer. We hear the liturgy itself. In the Mass, we hear that most beautiful of prayers: Christ's prayer of self-offering to the Father. Music can express any number of things; but sacred music expresses something utterly unique: the saving and sacrificial prayer of Christ and the Church in the liturgy.
- **Unanimous participation.** As I addressed in previous articles on the new English translation of the Mass, liturgical participation is primarily participation with and in Christ Himself, rooted by the deep interior participation of each person. Sacred music powerfully aids us in this union of the heart and mind with whatever liturgical action is taking place exteriorly. "Unanimous" means "of one mind/soul"; thus sacred music aims to unite us all to the soul of Christ in perfect love for the Father at every step of the Mass.
- **Solemn character.** In the sacred liturgy, Christ our Lord performs the work of our redemption through sacramental signs. The liturgy then is a solemn experience, and therefore sacred music bears this character. Far from meaning cold, unfeeling, or aloof, the solemn character of sacred music refers to its earnest, intense, and festive focus on the great Mystery which it serves: Christ's redemptive and transformative love for His Church.

... I offer my heartfelt thanks to all pastors, priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful who enthusiastically study, encourage, and seek new ways to implement sacred music in the life of the Church. This is an ongoing task, an essential part of authentic liturgical renewal since the Second Vatican Council, and a sure means of drawing many souls to the beauty of Christ, who invites us into His unending song of love to the Father.

—Article by Catholic Culture

(For more about sacred music through the years and how it differs from religious music, read the full article at <https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?recnum=9963>)

SINGING THE MASS

What is Sacred Music and How Do We Participate

St. Augustine recounts in his autobiography, *Confessions*, an experience he had during the singing of the Mass: "How I wept, deeply moved by your hymns, songs, and the voices that echoed through your Church! What emotion I experienced in them! Those sounds flowed into my ears, distilling the truth in my heart. A feeling of devotion surged within me, and tears streamed down my face—tears that did me good." How can we explain this overwhelming and transforming experience that led one of our greatest saints to the Church? Clearly, this was much more than a man simply being moved by a well-performed song. His entire being was penetrated and transformed through music. How can this be?

AT MASS, CHRIST SINGS TO THE FATHER

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (1157) makes a direct reference to St. Augustine's experience when it teaches that the music and song of the liturgy "participate in the purpose of the liturgical words and actions: the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful." The Mass itself is a song; it is meant to be sung. Recall that the Gospels only tell us of one time when Jesus sings: when He institutes the Holy Eucharist (Cf. Mt 26:30; Mk 14:26). We should not be surprised, then, that Christ sings when He institutes the *Sacramentum caritatis* (the Sacrament of love), and that for the vast majority of the past 2,000 years, the various parts of the Mass have been sung by priests and lay faithful. In the 1960s, the Second Vatican Council strongly encouraged a rediscovery of the ancient concept of singing the Mass: "[The musical tradition of the universal Church] forms a necessary or integral part of solemn liturgy" (*Sacrosanctum Concilium* 112). The Mass is most itself when it is sung.

This recent rediscovery of "singing the Mass" did not begin with the Second Vatican Council. Following a movement that stretches back at least to Pope St. Pius X in 1903, Pope Pius XII wrote in 1955, "The dignity and lofty purpose of sacred music consists in the fact that its lovely melodies and splendor beautify and embellish the voices of the priest who offers Mass and of the Christian people who praise the Sovereign God" (*Musicae Sacrae Disciplina* 31). In the years immediately following the Council, there arose the need to highlight and clarify the Council's teaching regarding the importance of liturgical prayer in its native sung form. In 1967, the Sacred Congregation for Rites wrote: "Indeed, through this form [sung liturgical prayer], prayer is expressed in a more attractive way, the mystery of the Liturgy, with its hierarchical and community nature, is more openly shown, the unity of hearts is more profoundly achieved by the union of voices, minds are more easily raised to Heavenly things by the beauty of the sacred rites, and the whole celebration more clearly prefigures that Heavenly Liturgy which is enacted in the holy city of Jerusalem" (*Musica Sacram* 5).

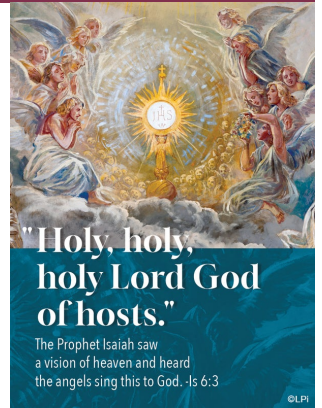
In other words, sung liturgical prayer more effectively reveals the mystery of the Liturgy as well as more easily accomplishes its Heavenly purposes. In this way, sung liturgy is a revelation of Christ as well as a vehicle for profound participation in His saving work.

WHAT IS SACRED MUSIC?

Sacred music is, in the narrowest sense, that music created to support, elevate, and better express the words and actions of the sacred liturgy. The Council praises it as music "closely connected... with the liturgical action" (*Sacrosanctum Concilium* 112), for example, the Order of Mass (dialogues between ministers and people, the unchanging framework of the Mass), the Ordinary of the Mass (*Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei*), and the Proper of the Mass (the priest's sung prayers, the Responsorial Psalm, Alleluia and verses, the antiphons and psalms prescribed for the processions).

Sacred music is distinct from the broader category of what we may call "religious" music, that which aids and supports Christian faith but is not primarily a part of the sacred liturgy. "Religious" music includes various devotional music, such as much popular hymnody, "praise and worship" music, as well as a host of other musical forms.

The Council's enthusiastic rediscovery and promotion of sacred music was not meant to discourage "religious" music but rather to encourage it—assuming the clear distinction and proper relationship between them. Just a few years before the Council, Pope Pius XII wrote: "We must also hold in honor that music which is not primarily a part of the sacred liturgy, but which by its power and purpose greatly aids religion. This music is therefore rightly called religious music... As experience shows, it can exercise great and salutary force and power on the souls of the faithful, both when it is used in churches during non-liturgical services and ceremonies, or when it is used outside churches at various solemnities and celebrations." (*Musicae Sacrae Disciplina* 36)



Continued on the left-hand column—>

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



Gala Fundraiser 2026

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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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

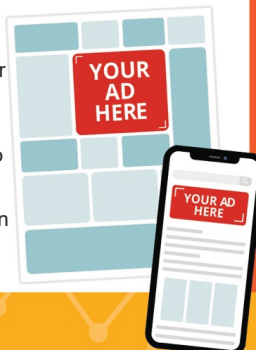


Have you lost something at Church or during Religious Education classes, Youth Group, or at Preschool? Stop by and check out the table in the narthex this week. All unclaimed items will be donated on Monday, May 18.

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