

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET GRETNA, NE 68028



12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.” - Mt 10:31-33

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

JUNE 21, 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

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING (JER 20:10-13)

Jeremiah trusts in the Lord despite his fear of being attacked and persecuted. Can you think of a time when you had to totally trust in God?

SECOND READING (ROM 5:12-15)

Paul compares and contrasts the impact of Adam and Christ on our lives. Who would you say has made the biggest impact on your life so far?

GOSPEL READING (MT 10:26-33)

Jesus warns His disciples against spiritual forces that seek to destroy both the body and the soul. Where do you see malevolent spiritual forces at work in our world?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



Jean Améry, a Holocaust survivor tortured by the Nazis, later wrote about the abyss of human evil. He described his reaction as an “indignant despair.” Haven’t we all, to some degree, felt that abyss opened beneath us? A sudden loss, a violent headline, a moment of loneliness or panic, when the world feels fragile and meaning seems to collapse?

It is to this fear that Jesus speaks in today’s Gospel: “Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body.” (Matthew 10:28) He does not deny evil or pretend we will never suffer. Instead, He reframes the abyss: do not fear those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Your life is seen, known, and counted by the Father. Even the hairs of your head, even the sparrow’s fall.

This is no superficial comfort. Jesus Himself has entered the abyss: suffering, death, even our sense of forsakenness, and He has come through it. That is why His words, “Do not be afraid,” hold such weight. They do not erase the abyss but build a bridge across it.

Faith is not pretending everything is fine. It is staring into the abyss and still choosing trust. And in that trust, we discover we are never alone. Christ stands with us, and the Father’s care surrounds us. That is the only comfort deep enough for our (often fearful) hearts.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

Why are only men allowed to be priests or deacons in the Church?

ANSWER:

One of the most debated and—in some circles—contentious teachings of the Church is that only men can be ordained as priests and deacons. Critics see it as a way of strengthening a patriarchal system in which women have little or no voice.

Those who support this teaching look to New Testament teaching (where we read of Jesus choosing only men to be apostles) and the long-standing practice of the Church. This was certainly the perspective of St. John Paul II who, in his 1994 apostolic letter, *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*, closed the discussion on the possibility of ordaining women as priests.

In the letter, he reflected on the dignity of women and their call to share in the life and mission of the Church, but he concluded by solemnly declaring that “the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgement is to be definitely held by all the Church’s faithful” (no. 4). This position was upheld by Pope Francis in interviews, most notably as he returned from his 2016 visit to Sweden.

The ordination of women to the diaconate is another question and one which is being studied. In 2016, Pope Francis created a 12-member commission to study the question from several perspectives (theological, liturgical, historical, etc.). The commission issued an initial report for Pope Francis who later said that the commission had not yet produced a “definite response” to the question because of a lack of agreement on the role of female deacons in the Early Church.

For now, however, regardless of what changes might come from ongoing study and debate, the Church continues to reserve ordination to the diaconate to men only, recognizing a vital link between the diaconate and the priesthood and the lack of certainty about the presence and function of female deacons throughout history.



SAINT JOSEPH CAFASSO

Priest

SAINT
JOSEPH
CAFASSO
PRAY FOR US



St. Joseph Cafasso (1811–1860) was born in Castelnuovo d’Asti, Italy, to a peasant family. He was born with a physical deformity of the spine, which caused him to grow into a stunted and crippled man. Discerning a call to Holy Orders, he entered the seminary in Turin where he later met another famous saint—John Bosco. Joseph taught John Bosco and encouraged him in his mission to minister to the town’s impoverished street youth. Joseph was an excellent professor of moral theology, as well as a famed preacher and

confessor. He performed his duties so well that he became known as the “Priest’s Priest.” He spent entire days preaching in prisons, offering comfort to the prisoners, hearing their confessions, and even advocating to improve the poor conditions of the prison. For this work he also earned the name, “Priest of the Gallows.” St. Joseph Cafasso is the patron saint of prisoners, prisons, and prison chaplains. His feast day is June 23.

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Devotion of the Month

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is one of the most popular Catholic devotions. Although it was beloved in previous centuries, Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in 1673, showing her a vision of the now-famous image of His Sacred Heart, surrounded by flames. He said to her: “My Heart is so full of love for men that it can no longer contain the flames of its burning love. I must discover to men the treasures of My Heart and save them from perdition.” She was given the special mission to spread devotion to His Sacred Heart throughout the Church. Jesus gave St. Margaret Mary many promises associated with this devotion, and requested that a feast day in honor of His Sacred Heart be instituted on the Friday after the Octave of Corpus Christi. In 1856, the Feast of the Sacred Heart was spread to the Universal Church, and in 1899 Pope Leo XIII solemnly consecrated all mankind to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, calling it “the great act” of his pontificate.



PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS:

O most holy heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, I adore You, I love You, and with lively sorrow for my sins, I offer You this poor heart of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure and wholly obedient to Your will. Grant, good Jesus, that I may live in You and for You. Protect me in the midst of danger. Comfort me in my afflictions. Give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, Your blessing on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death. Amen.

SAINT LASZLO

Religious



SAINT
LASZLO
PRAY FOR US

St. Laszlo (c. 1040-1095), also known as St. Ladislaus I of Hungary, was born to a royal family in Krakow, Poland. His father became King Bela of Hungary, and his mother was the daughter of the King of Poland. He was raised as a Christian, spending his childhood in the court of the Polish king. After the death of his father and brother, he became the King of Hungary in 1077 and also later the King of Croatia in 1091. He was a beloved king, highly regarded as a moral and pious man and a great leader. He is remembered for his accomplishments in bringing

peace and stability to his country following the strife of civil war, for his success in defending the kingdom of Hungary against the invading Cumans, and for politically and financially supporting the spread of Christianity in his kingdom. According to legend, while in battle he witnessed a Cuman warrior abducting a Hungarian girl. He pursued the enemy, defeated him, and liberated the girl. Because of his skills in military and diplomacy, as well as his religious devotion and chivalry, St. Laszlo was chosen to lead the first Crusade to the Holy Land, but died before the mission commenced. He was canonized by Pope Celestine III. His feast day is June 27.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: 2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18/Ps 60:3, 4-5, 12-13/Mt 7:1-5

TUESDAY: 2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36/ Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 10-11/Mt 7:6, 12-14

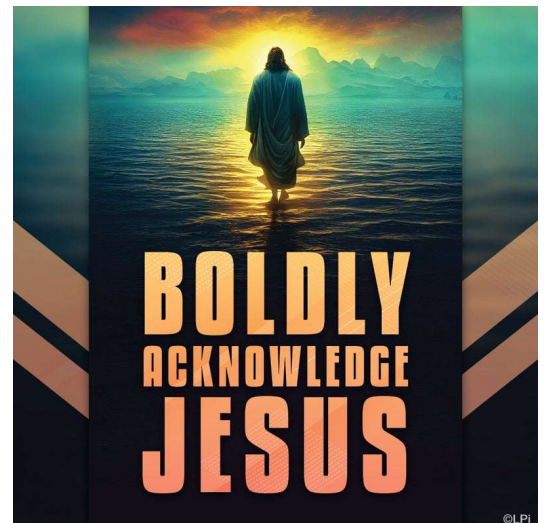
WEDNESDAY: *Vigil:* Jer 1:4-10/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab and 17/1 Pt 1:8-12/Lk 1:5-17 *Day:* Is 49:1-6/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15/Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80

THURSDAY: 2 Kgs 24:8-17/ Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/Mt 7:21-29

FRIDAY: 2 Kgs 25:1-12/ Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Mt 8:1-4

SATURDAY: Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19/ Ps 74:1b-2, 3-5, 6-7, 20-21/Mt 8:5-17

NEXT SUNDAY: 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a/Ps 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19/Rom 6:3-4, 8-11/Mt 10:37-42)



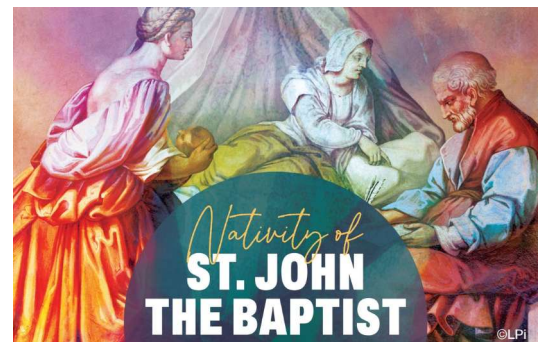
OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

MONDAY: St. Paulinus of Nola, Bishop; Sts. John Fisher, Bishop, and Thomas More, Martyrs

WEDNESDAY: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

SATURDAY: St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

NEXT SUNDAY: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

PARISH BREAKFASTS
Special Father's Day Breakfast



You are invited to join us in the Parish Center for a special Father's Day breakfast on Sunday, June 21 from 9 AM to 12 PM for a delicious breakfast. It's a perfect way to gather after Sunday Mass, get to know other parishioners here at St. Patrick, and to celebrate all of the fathers—both physical and spiritual—of our parish.



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 **Haley Mendlik** (Apostolic Oblates) from St. Stephen the Martyr in Omaha.



"Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows." (Matthew 10:31)

Holy Matrimony calls spouses to place Christ at the center of their lives and to reflect His love by cherishing and serving one another. Could God be inviting you to this vocation of faithful love and self-sacrifice? If so, seek guidance from a married couple you admire and ask how they live out their commitment to each other and to Christ. Or could God be calling you to serve as a priest or in consecrated life? Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.

"PRAY ALWAYS AND DO NOT LOSE HEART."



ST. PATRICK IS SEEKING A PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR
Be a Part of the Parish Staff



PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

After three years of serving as our Preschool Director, Amanda Scardina is leaving St. Patrick for a new career opportunity that allows her to spend more time with their new baby boy. We wish you the very best, Amanda, thank you! As Amanda opens an exciting new chapter in starting their own family, this presents an opportunity for our parish to hire a new Preschool Director.

St. Patrick Preschool is a mission outreach of St. Patrick Catholic Church to the children and families of the parish and the surrounding community of Gretna. The mission of St. Patrick Preschool is to equip and engage children and families to join God in His mission to bring all people into an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ by providing a developmentally appropriate Christ-centered program. The Preschool Director is a full-time, 12-month salaried position with benefits, serving ages 3 to 5-years-old, that requires on site presence and availability during the hours 7 AM to 3:30 PM (M-F) as well as some evening meetings and weekend events. The Preschool Director is supervised by the Parish Manager and directly accountable to the Pastor. The Director will have at least a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, or a related field with all required certifications, a successful experience as a preschool classroom teacher and/or as a preschool director, and will live a Catholic life that gives witness to the Lord Jesus Christ, be a servant leader, and support the vision and ministries of St. Patrick Catholic Church.

For a detailed job description, visit our parish website, stpatricksgretna.org. To apply, send your cover letter explaining your desire and interest in the Preschool Director job opportunity, along with your resume and salary expectations to Jolene Jefferies, Parish Manager, jmjefferies@archomaha.org, by June 19. For questions, call Jolene at 402-332-4444, ext. 203.

PAY AND BENEFITS

St. Patrick offers competitive pay and an excellent benefits package to full-time employees including health, dental, vision, life, accidental death, and dismemberment, long term disability, and a tax deferred 403(b) retirement plan. For health and dental coverage, St. Patrick pays 95% of the premium for the employee. Family coverage is available, but the employee pays 100% of the premium for additional dependents. We offer 10 days of vacation up to 5 years of service, and more beyond 5 years of service. We also observe 8 paid holidays including some additional paid time off for Holy Days of Obligation.

FR. SSONKO FUNDRAISING DINNER—FRIDAY, JULY 10
Support Our Sister Parish in Uganda

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!

JUNE CENTURY CLUB CASH PRIZE WINNERS

We Were Made for Love Not Anger

For those of you who are not aware, I am a “cradle Catholic.” My wife, Tam, is a long-time convert. We recently went through OCIA, led by Jonathan Wotipka. One of the topics was violence on TV and the internet. He made a comment about this that made us all think. “God never meant for us to witness such violence. He created us for love.” Think about that. God is all loving. Why would He want us to witness anger and hate? He wouldn’t. This is one of many choices we all make every day. We can choose how we want to live. Do you want to be filled with anger at someone? Being angry is a choice. Often times, the person we are angry with doesn’t even know or care. Sometimes your anger feeds them.

It isn’t always easy, but we need to keep our focus on God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. Jesus could very well have made the choice to be angry with those that tormented and tortured Him, hung Him on that cross. Instead, He chose love. His quote, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do” shows such pure love. You think legions of angels weren’t ready to come down and defend Him? Those words calmed even them. Let His words calm us all. Jesus set an example for us to follow. Instead of being angry, forgive. Not always an easy task. Believe me, I know. That’s why I always ask you to pray for everyone as everyone needs prayer. You, me, Fr. Baxter, Pope Leo XIV, our political leaders... EVERYONE!

Now try to imagine a smooth transition from praying for everyone to Century Club CASH prize winners, because I cannot come up with one. I would like to thank Bob Perry for drawing our nine CASH prize winners this month.

- \$150—Joe Krajicek
- \$100—Jerry Priebe
- \$75—Steve Ingram
- \$50—Maxine Burke
- \$25—Fredrick Puetz
- \$25—Jerry Thoendel
- \$25—Christopher P. Wilson
- \$25—Ronald Karmazin
- \$25—Jack Koke

Thank you all for taking time to read my thoughts.

As always, pray for everyone as everyone needs prayer.
 Jim Hottovy, Century Club Administrator



PETER’S PENCE COLLECTION

Second Collection Next Weekend—June 27-28



Next weekend, June 27-28, we will take up the Peter’s Pence Collection to support the Universal Church and the work of the Holy See, including the charitable works of Pope Leo XIV. These works benefit our brothers and sisters on the margins of society, including victims of war, oppression, and disasters. According to last year’s report, thanks to donations to Peter’s Pence, it has been possible to fund 239 projects in 66 countries. Be a sign of hope with your generosity. For more information, visit www.obolodisanpietro.va/en.html.

Stewardship Report

Jun10-Jun 16, 2026

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

General Contributions	Jun 10-Jun 16, 2026	Fiscal YTD thru Jun 16
Sunday Offering	\$15,944.00	\$1,292,500.10
Other Contributions	\$371.49	\$184,423.14
Total General Contributions	\$16,315.49	\$1,476,923.24 *
Surplus/Deficit	(\$11,184.51)	\$101,923.24

** 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, August 9 at 7 PM. Come join your brother parishioners for prayer and fraternity! If you have additional questions, please reach out to Matthew Henry at mattnhenry@gmail.com, Andy Pearson at apearson709@gmail.com, Eric Devlin at devlineric62@gmail.com, or Seth Boardman at sethd99@hotmail.com.

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.



MONTHLY MEETING

All Knights are invited to join us for our monthly Knights of Columbus meeting that occurs every first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM in the St. Patrick Parish Center.

Knights of Columbus

- Grand Knight, Tim Hall.....307-214-3714
- Deputy Grand Knight, Jeff Harpenau....402-214-3062
- 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, JUNE 22ND   
7:30 AM † Sister Frances Sedlacek


TUESDAY, JUNE 23RD 
6:00 PM † Ken Merkel

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24TH 
7:30 AM INT Sharon Wuerfele






THURSDAY, JUNE 25TH 
7:30 AM INT Alan and Karen Meyerott

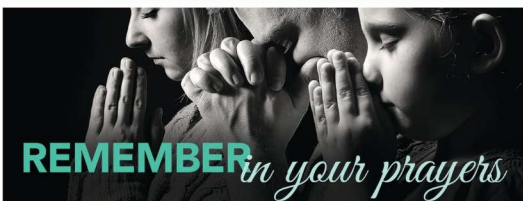
FRIDAY, JUNE 26TH 
7:30 AM † Tom Rongisch

SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH  
5:00 PM † Frank and Mildred Ostransky

SUNDAY, JUNE 28TH 
8:00 AM INT Fr. Vince Sunguti
10:00 AM For Our Parishioners
12:00 PM † Jerry Schram

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 Susan Hottovy, Nate, Todd Jarosz, 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, JUNE 21ST—12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—FATHER'S DAY

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Father's Day Breakfast—Parish Center and Kitchen
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary and Narthex

MONDAY, JUNE 22ND

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
9:00 AM to 11:30 AM Preschool Summer Camp—God Bless America—Preschool Area
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Faith Formation Study—Parish Center A and Kitchen

TUESDAY, JUNE 23RD

9:00 AM to 11:30 AM Preschool Summer Camp—God Bless America—Preschool Area
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 8:00 PM Service Project—Father Hitch Room

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24TH

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
9:00 AM to 11:30 AM Preschool Summer Camp—God Bless America—Preschool Area
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, JUNE 25TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
9:00 AM to 11:30 AM Preschool Summer Camp—God Bless America—Preschool Area

FRIDAY, JUNE 26TH

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
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Project Linus—Basement Commons
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal—Sanctuary and Narthex

SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Knights Officer Meeting—Father Hitch Room
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM Wedding Prep—Sanctuary, Narthex, Father Hitch, Bride's Room
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM Wedding—Sanctuary and Narthex
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

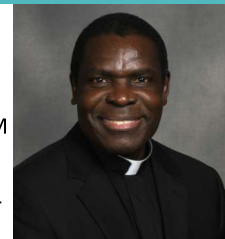
SUNDAY, JUNE 28TH—13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM Fr. Vince's Farewell Open-House—Parish Center and Kitchen

FAREWELL OPEN-HOUSE FOR FR. VINCE SUNGUTI
Meet and Greet for Fr. Matthew Pohlman

FAREWELL OPEN-HOUSE FOR FR. VINCE SUNGUTI

Join us for a farewell open-house to celebrate Fr. Vince Sunguti and to wish him well as he prepares for his move to St. Gerald's Parish as their new Pastor. St. Patrick and St. Charles Borromeo parishes will host a joint open-house event on Sunday, June 28 from 1 PM to 3 PM in the St. Patrick Parish Center. Come enjoy cake and coffee as we share our gratitude for Fr. Vince's ministry to our two parishes over the last two years. We are sad to see Fr. Vince go, but are excited for him in his new role as Pastor.



MEET AND GREET FOR FR. MATTHEW POHLMAN

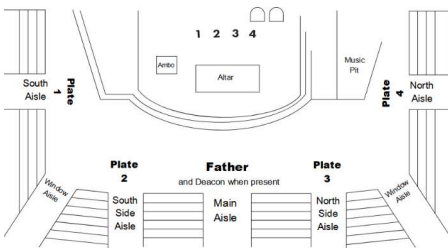


We will be hosting a meet and greet event to welcome Fr. Matthew Pohlman as our new Associate Pastor on Sunday, July 5 after the 8 AM and 10 AM Masses in the St. Patrick Parish Center. Join us for coffee and donuts and an opportunity to meet Fr. Matthew. We are excited to welcome Fr. Matthew to the St. Patrick Parish staff and look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for us with this new transition. We pray for a smooth transition for all parishes experiencing priest changes this summer and for smooth transitions for the priests in their moves as well.

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

JUNE 27TH 5:00 PM	JUNE 28TH 8:00 AM	JUNE 28TH 10:00 AM	JUNE 28TH 12:00 PM
Sacristan Linda Schriener	Sacristan Tony Schultz	Sacristan Mitch Wendlandt	Sacristan Larry Neppel
Lectors Crystal Schroeder (Read the 1st Reading) Lori Wewel (Read the 2nd Reading)	Lectors Claudia Perchal (Read the 1st Reading) Theresa Huttmann (Read the 2nd Reading)	Lectors Kelly Eby (Read the 1st Reading) Judy Weier (Read the 2nd Reading)	Lectors Stephanie Lampe (Read the 1st Reading) Karen Meyerott (Read the 2nd Reading)
EMHCs Sheri French Tracy Wollenburg Sue Korth Bridget Blum Jamey Kennel	EMHCs Amy Beran Christa Pichler Tim Kruse Nancy Kruse Deacon Ken Broz	EMHCs Bruce Jefferies Jolene Jefferies David Burke Norm Svoboda	EMHCs Darcy Skrdla Wendy Neppel Larry Neppel Carol Zeleny
Ushers Tim Hall Linda Schriener Jeff Wollenburg Need Sub	Ushers Pat Calvert Pat Shurtliff Need Sub Need Sub	Ushers Clint Bollock Russ Eusterwiemann Chris Reinig Tony Vanek	Ushers Linda Gardner Larry Neppel Delma Stoner Mary Zeigler
Rosary Reciter Kathy Dauner	Rosary Reciter Duane Benes	Rosary Reciter Jim Hottovy	Rosary Reciter Carol Zeleny
Altar Servers Shailynn Gatewood Aslyn Ronk Kenley Ronk	Altar Servers Owen Deming Drew Garcia Matthew Farwell	Altar Servers Kalla Kassmeier Kameron Kassmeier Klayton Kassmeier	Altar Servers Need Sub Need Sub Need Sub
Greeters Chris Gatewood Need Sub	Greeters Mary Maw Gordon Yager	Greeters Andrew Urban Need Sub	Greeters Joann Dalley Mary Zeigler
	Hilcrest SR/HL Tim Kruse Nancy Kruse		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.

BIRTH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

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Fr. Gregory P. Baxter.....402-332-4444, x205
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Deacon Larry Heck (*Retired*).....402-689-9676

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

HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY
Jerry Thoendel.....402-332-3475

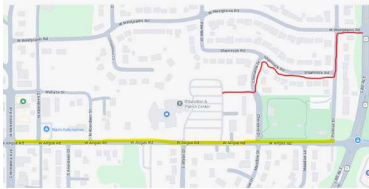
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Steve Otto.....402-212-1267
thegretnaottos@gmail.com



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

ROAD CONSTRUCTION ON ANGUS *Throughout the Month of June*

Road Construction



The City of Gretna has been working on road construction on Angus Street throughout the month of

June. They have been redoing the road from Pontiac Drive to McKenna Avenue. You will still be able to get to St. Patrick, but you may have to go through the neighborhood and come into the parking lot on Cherokee Drive. We apologize for any inconvenience.

WHAT DOES METANOIA MEAN? *Why Might it Challenge Us?*

“From that time, Jesus began to preach, saying, ‘Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.’”

These lines from Matthew’s Gospel are immediately recognizable.



Matthew marks this line as the beginning of Jesus’ public preaching. Opening up His public ministry, Christ calls us to repent. However, although easy to recognize, these words are difficult to truly understand. A part of this difficulty lies in the use of the word *repent*. For English-speakers, repentance has a connotation of sorrow accompanied by action. However, in the original Greek, the first spoken word of Christ’s public ministry is *metanoia*, which, when translated literally, means to go beyond the mind you have. *Metanoia* is formed by combining two smaller Greek words: *meta* (beyond) and *nous* (mind or spirit). *Metanoia* connotes something more than what we typically mean by the word *repent*. *Metanoia* hints at a change occurring on a deeper and more fundamental level of one’s being. Rather than urging us to a single instance of sorrow, Jesus is urging us to change our way of seeing and knowing, to go beyond ourselves. Christ is calling us to go beyond our own mind, to see things from God’s perspective. Our mind is a human mind, a broken and weak mind. But with the advent of Christ, Who took on our nature and transformed it, everything is changed. With Christ, we receive grace. Grace enables us to think and act beyond our fallen human mind and ways. With Christ, we can truly repent with a spirit that is beyond our own. This is true conversion. This is the way Christ called us from the start of His public ministry. When we act in accordance with Christ, following His call to *metanoia*, we can be transformed, and transform the world along with us!

—Article by The Catholic Company

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MASS AND DINNER—JULY 21 *Let Us Serve You!*



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Tuesday, July 21

Families are welcome
Kindly RSVP by Wednesday, July 15

We can’t say thank you enough to the many many volunteers that we have here at St. Patrick Church! From our Religious Education catechists and Youth Group leaders, to our Liturgical Ministers at Mass on the weekend, to the many volunteers who come in weekly to help keep our beloved Church clean. To all the silent volunteers working behind the scenes, our Funeral luncheon volunteers, to all the Knights of Columbus members who do so much, all the Least of My Brethren volunteers,

and all those who regularly help decorate, bake, and serve at various events held by the Church. To you all, we say thank you! Your service and generosity of spirit do not go unnoticed.

To show our gratitude for all that you do for our parish, Fr. Baxter and the Parish Staff invite you to a special Mass and Dinner in your honor. Join us on Tuesday, July 21 for the 6 PM Mass that will be said in honor of all St. Patrick volunteers. The Rosary before Mass, beginning at 5:30 PM, will also be offered on your behalf and for your intentions. Then, after Mass join us in the Parish Center for a delicious pasta dinner—where we the staff will serve you. Families are invited. Please RSVP by Wednesday, July 15 so that we know how many to plan for. An RSVP link can be found on our parish website, or call the office to let us know that you are planning on attending. Thanks again! We can’t wait to serve you!

RESEARCH FINDS RELIGIOUS INVOLVEMENT *Strongly Correlates with Mental Health Improvements*

Sustained involvement with religion can dramatically improve mental health and provide a positive way of coping with stress and anxiety, according to a new report summarizing decades’ worth of investigations. Medical and social science research repeatedly demonstrates that deeply held religious beliefs correlate with healthy mental states, with positive associations between religion and mental health outnumbering negative ones by about 10 to one, according to the report.



The report is the first of three investigations into religion’s impact on health, conducted by the Wheatley Institute at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. The institute noted that while harmful or coercive forms of religion exist, “the overall pattern across the best available studies is clear: religious belief and practice are overwhelmingly associated with better mental and emotional well-being.” Loren Marks, the report’s lead author, confirmed the pattern, stating in a press release that the “empirical record” on religion is “remarkably consistent.”

The analysis of the different studies discovered that more-religious people have lower suicide rates compared with less-religious individuals. They also tend to have less anxiety, depression, and negative coping mechanisms for stress. According to some researchers, about 40% of the U.S. suicide rate’s increase may be accounted for by Americans’ declining interest in weekly religious commitments.

Another study found that female health professionals who attended religious services weekly were 75% less likely to commit suicide over 16 years, while male health professionals were 48% less likely over 26 years. In addition to preventing negative mental health outcomes, research suggests that engagement with religion promotes life satisfaction, happiness, hope, self-esteem, and optimism, according to the release.

The report also notes that studies suggest those who are highly engaged in their religion for long periods of time have better mental health across several age groups, various racial and ethnic demographics, and different faith traditions.

Considering religion’s apparent benefits for mental health, the researchers suggested establishing bridges between mental health treatments and religious participation and encouraging congregations to work to prevent suicide and substance abuse. They also highlighted the importance of protecting religious freedom in order to safeguard and promote “the benefits that religion brings to individuals and society.”

—Article by Zeale

HOW TO PREVENT THE “SPIRITUAL SUMMER SLIDE” Keep a Habit of Prayer During Busy Summer Months Too

It's 2 PM on a Tuesday, you're driving to the third activity of the day, and suddenly you realize you haven't prayed yet today. Ever been there? When the school year ends and the kids are home for summer vacation, it can feel like your whole schedule has gone out the window! But there are lots of things we can do to prevent the “spiritual summer slide” and keep our faith central to family life. How can you keep up with your family's faith life when your usual routines aren't in place? Here are 7 ideas. (Want the Cliff Notes? Here's a checklist to inspire you!)

1) Look up local churches and Mass times before traveling—If you're planning any summer travel, make a plan for getting to Mass on vacation. The website (and app!) [Masstimes.org](https://www.masstimes.org) is absolute gold for planning Mass ahead of time. Encourage your kids to change their mindset from “we have to go to Mass on vacation” to “we get to see Jesus at Mass and check out a cool new church in a place we've never been to before!” Then grab a local treat after Mass to make the Sunday outing even more fun. We usually go for donuts!

2) Listen to saint stories and Catholic books—Audiobooks are a lifesaver on road trips with kids, and you can include them in daily quiet time at home or on shorter drives closer to home. Picking a faith-related listen is an easy and fun way to bring your faith with you throughout the summer. Check out options from *Hallow*, *Merry Beggars*, *JuiceBox Catholic Bedtime Stories*, the *Catholic Sprouts* podcast, or the *Saints Alive* stories.

3) Sign up for a Catholic camp—If you're planning for the kids to go to summer camp, check out what your local churches have to offer. Catholic camp is a great way to nurture your kids' faith with friends in a fun atmosphere. Vacation Bible School or Totus Tuus are great options for the younger crowd, and there are lots of great Catholic sleep-away camps for older kids, too.

4) Sign up for a summer service project—Summer is super busy for some families, so this might not make sense for you. But if your family has some down time this summer, see if you can participate in a local service project. You might volunteer at a food pantry or with a local religious order, pick up litter, water the community garden, or donate to a food drive. Check out more kid-friendly ways to volunteer here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/resources/kid-friendly-volunteering>. Our favorite way to volunteer is to take dinner to someone through a meal train. The kids love helping make and deliver food, especially if there's a cute new baby to see!

5) Follow Catholic media—Seeing a post on social media or getting a newsletter in your email inbox can be a helpful source of inspiration. Follow or subscribe to Catholic media accounts for a little faith boost through the summer months. Here are a few suggestions: *Aleteia*, *Our Sunday Visitor*, *Word on Fire*, *Catholic News Agency*, *National Catholic Register*, *Catholic All Year*, or *Be A Heart*. There are countless other great accounts to follow, too!

6) Stop to see Jesus during the day—When you're on the way to the splash pad or playground, what about swinging by your local Adoration chapel to say hello to Jesus for a minute or two? Weaving a visit with Jesus into the everyday fabric of family life is a powerful witness to our children that God is the most important part of life and connected to everything we do.

7) Anchor prayer to other daily habits—It can be hard to remember to pray when you don't even know what time it is most days! I've found it helpful to anchor our family's prayer routine to other daily habits. For example, we always pray the St. Michael prayer when our kids are going in bed. Anchoring nightly prayer to our kids' bedtimes helps me remember to make it happen every day... even when bedtime is much later than usual! You might anchor prayer to mealtimes, or getting up in the morning, or getting in the car. Finding something you do every day and anchoring prayer to that is a great way to keep your family prayer going through the unstructured summer months.

Which of these will you try first? We would love to hear what YOUR family is doing to practice your faith this summer!

—Article by Aletia



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Gretna, Nebraska

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

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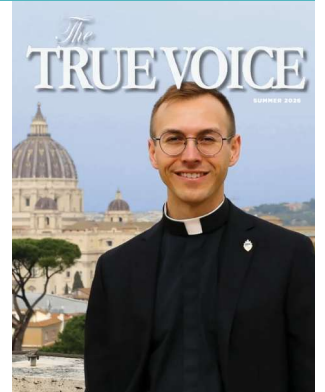
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Megan Seamann.....meseamann@archomaha.org

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.

THE TRUE VOICE MAGAZINE Available for Pick-up Now

The latest edition of *The True Voice* magazine, featuring inspiring stories that reveal the vibrancy of Catholic life in northeast Nebraska, is available for pickup at parishes now. One of the featured stories in this summer edition of *The True Voice*, is about the Archdiocese of



Omaha's newly ordained priest, Fr. Michael Figura, and his reflection on what it means to have a heart of a Father. Pick up a copy today to read his thoughts. Copies can be found in the St. Patrick narthex, or you can download a copy by visiting <https://online.flippingbook.com/view/685404501>. This magazine is published in tandem with CatholicVoiceOmaha.com.



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- STRIVE (BREAK FREE FROM PORNOGRAPHY)**
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- WOMEN’S CENTER FOR ADVANCEMENT (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, ETC.)**
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AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

MONASTIC EXPERIENCE FOR WOMEN—CLYDE, MO, JUNE 26-28

The Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration invite single women, ages 18-40 who are curious about religious life, to their Monastic Experience June 26-28 at their monastery in Clyde, Missouri. It’s a chance to experience the daily rhythm of monastic life where participants can join the Sisters in praying the Divine Office, Daily Mass and Eucharistic Adoration, as well as experiencing Lectio Divina (praying with Scripture) and gaining wisdom from the Benedictine tradition. There is no cost to attend, and more details are available at <https://benedictinesisters.org/come-let-us-adore>. To register, please contact Sister Nancy Rose at 660-944-2221 ext. 142 or vocation@benedictinesisters.org or complete the form on their website.



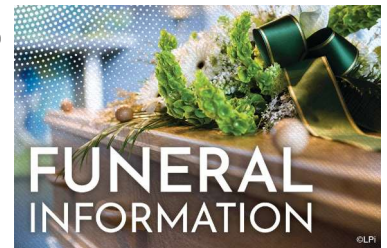
JOURNAL WRITING RETREAT—ST. BENEDICT CENTER, SCHUYLER, JUNE 27



Remembering God’s Action: Journal Writing as Prayer on Saturday, June 27 is a one-day retreat at the St. Benedict Center (1126 Co Rd I, Schuyler) with Mary Gales Askren. We live in difficult times—political polarization, growing intolerance and violence, climate change precipitating natural disasters. In the midst of this, God says through His Word and through His action in our lives: “Do not be afraid.” Journal writing with prayer can help us to remember this and to say with the psalmist, “I will remember the works of the Lord” (Psalm 77:11). Learn ways to use journal writing with prayer to remember God’s work in your life at this one-day retreat. Lunch is available at the Center for \$14.77 (includes tax). Register now at <https://www.christthekingpriory.com/retreat-schedule/remembering-gods-action-journal-writing-as-prayer-mary-gales-askren> or call 402-352-8819.

PRE-PLANNING AND FUNERAL RITES WORKSHOP—CALVARY CEMETERY, JUNE 27

Catholic Cemeteries is hosting a Pre-Planning and Funeral Rites workshop on Saturday, June 27 at 10:30 AM in the Calvary Cemetery office (7710 W, Center Rd, Omaha). This workshop will demonstrate how faith, liturgy and practical cemetery planning can assist you in the immediacy of the death of a loved one. To register or to receive more information, please contact Deacon Jim Tardy at 402-391-3711 or jtardy@catholiccem.com. Catholic Cemeteries—our faith is at the heart of all that we do.



ST. PIUS X PARISH GARAGE SALE—ST. PIUS X, JULY 17-19



Come check out St. Pius X’s Huge Parish Garage Sale and Ann’s Attic Clothing Sale beginning on Thursday, July 16, from 9 AM to 6 PM; Friday, July 17, 9 AM to 6 PM; and Saturday, July 18, 9 AM to Noon. We will have a gym full of gently used clothes for all ages and sizes. Sold by the bag. Friday we will have a sale: buy one bag, get the second bag 50% off. Saturday’s deal will be: free clothes for a free will offering. The Parish Center will be full of very useful and unique items, including furniture and pictures. Discover hidden treasures! Find furniture, all sizes of clothes, shoes, home items, books, toys, and more at great prices. Don’t miss out on unique finds at bargain deals. Use the North entrance. Parking is available on 70th and Blondo. Both sales are in large air-conditioned spaces. For more information, contact: 402-558-8446, or visit www.stpiusxomaha.org.

ENCOUNTER SCHOOL OF MINISTRY SUMMER INTENSIVE—ST. PATRICK, ELKHORN, JULY 21-24

Are looking for more out of your identity as a son or daughter of God? Do you hear about miracle and wish you could witness more of God’s power in your life? Come check out the Encounter School of Ministry Summer Intensive. This is four nights to encounter God’s love and healing while getting a taste for this two-year program. Come to any or all of the nights Tuesday, July 21 through Friday, July 24 at St. Patrick (18602 W Maple Rd, Elkhorn) beginning at 5:30 PM each night and ending at 9 PM. Invite a family member or friend to join you! Register today at www.ablazeworship.org.



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