

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET GRETNA, NE 68028



13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.” - Mt 10:37-38

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

JUNE 28, 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

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING (2 KGS 4:8-11, 14-16A)

The Shunammite woman is rewarded for her hospitality to the prophet Elisha. Is there a friend or colleague who needs your kindness this week?

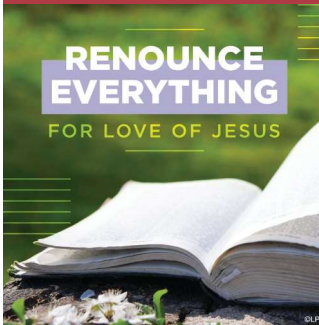
SECOND READING (ROM 6:3-4, 8-11)

Paul teaches the Romans that as believers, we have died and risen in Christ and now look forward to living in "newness of life." Is there something you are really looking forward to?

GOSPEL READING (MT 10:37-42)

Jesus sets a high standard for those who choose to follow Him. What have you found most rewarding about following Jesus?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



I still remember the first homily I ever preached as a new deacon. It was at the seminary, and the Gospel was this one: "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me." (Matthew 10:37-38) Standing before more than 200 classmates and professors, I stumbled awkwardly through my words and realized how strange—almost insane—this teaching sounded. If anyone else said it, we would call it narcissistic or cultish.

And that is the point. I felt the weight of those words in my own heart then, as I still do today. Am I willing to live as though Christ's claim on my love is absolute? Are you?

Over the years, I've learned that the more I do, the more everything else makes sense. Family, friendships, vocation, even my very self: all of it falls into place when my love for Jesus comes first.

That is why He dares to speak this way. Our Lord is not a cult leader hungry for control. He is the Son of God, the source of life and love itself. To put Him before everything else is not to lose, but to find... everything, and everyone, in him.

This week, name one thing or one person you are tempted to place before the Lord. Then consciously offer it back to Him in prayer.

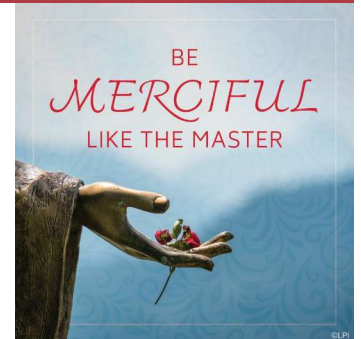
CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

I've heard of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. What are they, and what's the difference?

ANSWER:

As God has shown us mercy, so too are we called to show mercy to those we encounter. We see mercy throughout the Gospels, but the parable in Matthew 25 forms the foundation for the first set of Works of Mercy. This parable of the last judgment shows each person being asked how well they cared for those around them, and being reminded that this care for those in need is care for God Himself. Each person is asked if they have fed the hungry, given drink to the thirsty, clothed the naked, sheltered the stranger, cared for the sick, and visited the imprisoned. These—along with burying the dead—are the Corporal Works of Mercy, as they primarily concern the physical life of a person.

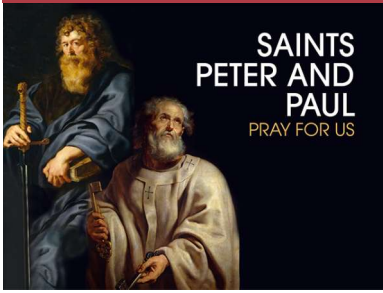


The list of the Spiritual Works of Mercy developed later. These actions of love primarily concern the inner life of a person. They are instructing the ignorant, counseling the doubtful, admonishing sinners, bearing wrongs patiently, forgiving offenses, comforting the afflicted, and praying for both the living and the dead. All of these actions are concrete ways of bringing the love of God into the world.

"At the heart of man, there is an innate silence, for God abides in the innermost part of every person... God carries us, and we live with Him at every moment by keeping silent. Nothing will make us discover God better than His silence inscribed in the center of our being. If we do not cultivate this silence, how can we find God?"

—Robert Cardinal Sarah, *The Power of Silence Against the Dictatorship of Noise*

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL
Apostles and Martyrs



St. Peter and St. Paul (1st c.) were the foremost Apostles of Jesus Christ; St. Peter was the leader of the Twelve, while St. Paul followed Christ after His Ascension into Heaven. Together the two saints are the founders of the Church in Rome through their apostolic preaching, ministry, and martyrdom in that city. They are the solid rock on which the foundation of the Catholic Church is built, and they will forever remain her protectors and guides. To them Rome owes her true greatness, for it was under God's providential guidance that they

transformed the capital of the Roman Empire into the heart of the Church, with the mission to radiate the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ throughout the world. Both saints were martyred in close proximity to one another; Peter first, then Paul, though some traditions claim they were killed on the same day. St. Peter was crucified upside down and buried on the hill of the Vatican where St. Peter's Basilica now stands. St. Paul was beheaded on the via Ostia and buried where the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls now stands. St. Peter and St. Paul are the patron saints of Rome and they share a feast day on June 29, a tradition going back to the earliest centuries of the Church.

BLESSED GENNARO SARNELLI
Priest

Blessed Gennaro Sarnelli (1702 – 1744) was born to a noble family in Naples, Italy. He was very well educated, and completed his doctorate in civil and canon law at the age of 20. He gave much of his time to caring for the incurably sick, through which he discerned a call to the priesthood. He was ordained in 1732. He became good friends with St. Alphonsus Liguori, founder of the Redemptorists. Shortly afterward, Blessed Gennaro became a Redemptorist priest. Gennaro's special work was preaching to those who were the most spiritually deprived, while also caring for the temporal needs of impoverished children. He was a great defender of the dignity of women, and worked intensely to free women and girls from forced prostitution. Blessed Gennaro was also a talented writer, penning over 30 books ranging in subjects such as theology, law, prayer, spiritual direction, and contemporary moral issues. He worked so hard that his health suffered, and he died when he was only 42 years old. He was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II in 1996. His feast day is June 30.



FIRST MARTYRS OF ROMAN CHURCH
Martyrs



A great number of Christians perished at the hands of the Roman Emperor Nero during the terrible persecution that lasted from 64-68 A.D. This was the first of many major persecutions of the newly founded Church at Rome. The holy men and women who first died for the Gospel of Jesus Christ are also called the "Protomartyrs of Rome." Some were burned as living torches in the Emperor's gardens; some were crucified; others were fed to wild animals. Many died even before Sts. Peter and Paul, and therefore it is said of them that they are the

"Disciples of the Apostles... whom the Holy Roman Church sent to their Lord before the Apostles' death." God used the sacrifice of these holy men and women, who suffered like their savior Jesus Christ, to lay the indestructible foundation of His Church. Their bold witness for the Christian faith as they endured a brutal death won many converts and caused the Church to grow and spread throughout the world. The feast day of the First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church is June 30.

"The invitation to lift up our hearts at the most important part of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is an invitation by Jesus through the voice of the priest to give our hearts to the Father, as He gave His life for us. We prepare to make our hearts and lives a total self-gift to the Father as Jesus made Himself a total gift to the Father for us on the Cross."
—Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila, *Meditations Before Mass*



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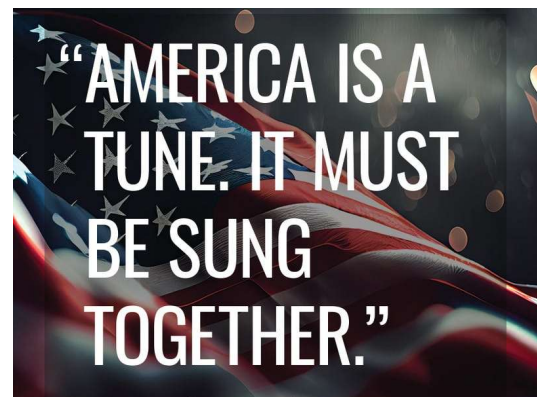
READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: *Vigil:* Acts 3:1-10/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Gal 1:11-20/Jn 21:15-19 *Day:* Acts 12:1-11/ Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19
TUESDAY: Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12/Ps 5:4b-6a, 6b-7, 8/Mt 8:23-27
WEDNESDAY: Am 5:14-15, 21-24/Ps 50:7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 16bc-17/Mt 8:28-34
THURSDAY: Am 7:10-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 9:1-8
FRIDAY: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 20:24-29
SATURDAY: Am 9:11-15/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 9:14-17
NEXT SUNDAY: Zec 9:9-10/Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14/Rom 8:9, 11-13/Mt 11:25-30



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Sts. Peter And Paul, Apostles
TUESDAY: The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church
WEDNESDAY: St. Junípero Serra, Priest
FRIDAY: St. Thomas, Apostle
SATURDAY: Independence Day
NEXT SUNDAY: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time



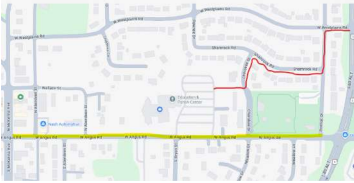


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ROAD CONSTRUCTION ON ANGUS
Throughout the Month of June

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.

Road Construction



PRAY FOR THE NATION
Pick-up a Flag and Pray



To celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation on July 4, we ask that each family take one of the flags from the vases that will be in the narthex this weekend and next. Attached to each flag you will find a short prayer intention. We ask that you display this flag in your home as a reminder to pray for the intention as a family daily throughout the month of July.

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 **Sr. Mary Chiara** (Sisters of Christ the King) from St. Charles Borromeo in Gretna.



“Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.” (Matthew 10:38)
Following Christ means embracing sacrifice. Are you willing to carry your cross, offering your hopes and dreams in order to follow Him and discover true peace and purpose? Have you asked God what He is calling you to in your 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.”



PETER’S PENCE COLLECTION
Second Collection This Weekend—June 27-28



This 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.obolodisanietro.va/en.html.

FR. SSONKO FUNDRAISING DINNER—FRIDAY, JULY 10
Volunteers are Needed / Join Us in Prayer

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.



Invest in Hope:
Educate Youth for Brighter Tomorrows
(Fundraiser to Support Fr. Ssonoko)

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 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!

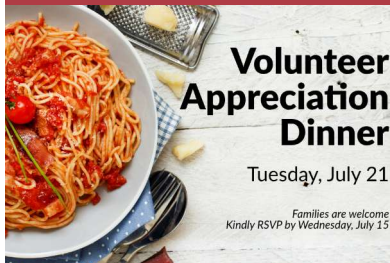
VOLUNTEERS

We are in need of volunteers for the evening. As a volunteer, you will receive a complimentary ticket to attend and partake in the meal. A sign-up is available on our parish website, <https://stpatricksgretna.org/father-ssonko-fundraiser>. If you have any questions, please call the parish office.

NOVENA

Whether or not you will be attending this year’s fundraiser, we do ask if you would join us in praying for the success of this fundraiser, for the students and staff of St. Mary’s Primary School, and for Fr. Ssonko’s intentions. We have a special Novena Prayer from July 2-10 that can be found on our website or on our social media accounts each day of the novena.

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!

THE HOLIEST, MOST NECESSARY SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Practicing the Presence of God



“By this short and sure means I advanced in the knowledge of God with whom I resolved to remain forever.”

A prime example of living the grace of the present moment was Carmelite Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection. This 17th-century soldier turned sandal-maker started religious life in the priory kitchen as a cook—a task he was not cut out for. Brother

Lawrence admits: “When I began my work I said to God with filial trust: “My God, since you are with me, and since I must apply myself to these duties by your order, I beg you to give me the grace to remain with you and keep you company. Even better, my Lord, work with me, accept my efforts and take possession of all my affections.” Thus during my work I continued to speak intimately with Him, offering Him my services, asking Him for His graces.”

Brother Lawrence came to be convinced that “we do not have to be in church to be with God. We can make of our hearts an oratory where we can withdraw from time to time to converse with Him, gently, humbly, and lovingly. Everyone is capable of these familiar conversations with God.” Through them, Brother Lawrence found himself growing: “By this short and sure means I advanced in the knowledge of God with whom I resolved to remain forever.”

Brother Lawrence shows us how to practice the presence of God, which he calls “the holiest, most common, most necessary practice in the spiritual life: “The practice of the presence of God is to take delight in and become accustomed to His divine company, speaking humbly and talking lovingly with Him at all times, at every moment, without rule or system and especially in times of temptation, suffering, spiritual aridity, disgust and even of unfaithfulness and sin. By this continual mindfulness of God we shall crush the head of the devil and cause his weapons to fall from his hands. These interior retreats to God gradually free us by destroying self love. Since you know God is with you in all your actions, that He is in the deepest recesses of your soul, why not, from time to time, leave off your external activities and even your spoken prayers to adore Him inwardly, to praise Him, to petition Him, to offer Him your heart, and to give Him thanks?”

Follow Fr. Peter John Cameron O.P.’s series, *Prayer Is*, here: <https://aleteia.org/tag/prayer-is>. For more on Brother Lawrence’s teaching on practicing the Presence of God, check out his book, *The Practicing the Presence of God: The Best Rule of Holy Life*

—Article by Aleteia

FIRST FRIDAY AFTERNOON MASS AND ANOINTING

Gretna - Springfield Family of Parishes

On First Fridays, St. Joseph (100 9th St, Springfield) has a 2 PM Mass with Anointing of the Sick available and confessions beforehand. This Mass is specially scheduled to accommodate older and limited mobility persons who may have difficulty attending an early morning Mass or sitting through an entire Sunday Mass. The church and parking are easily accessible. All are welcome.



Stewardship Report

Jun17-Jun 23, 2026

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

General Contributions	Jun 17-Jun 23, 2026	Fiscal YTD thru Jun 23
Sunday Offering	\$12,462.88	\$1,314,038.98
Other Contributions	\$649.89	\$185,088.03
Total General Contributions	\$13,112.77	\$1,499,127.01 *
Surplus/Deficit	(\$14,387.23)	\$96,627.01

* 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 29TH (E) (P)
7:30 AM † Sue Orosco

TUESDAY, JUNE 30TH (E) (P) (G)
6:00 PM INT The Wear Family

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1ST (E) (P) (G)
7:30 AM Deceased Members of Ingram and Bruck Families

THURSDAY, JULY 2ND (E) (P)
7:30 AM † Russell Eggerling

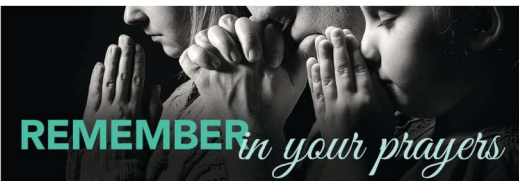
FRIDAY, JULY 3RD (E) (P)
7:30 AM † Charles and Marie Soula

SATURDAY, JULY 4TH (E) (P) (G)
5:00 PM † Christopher Kappius

SUNDAY, JULY 5TH (E) (P)
8:00 AM INT Fr. Matthew Pohlman
10:00 AM For Our Parishioners
12:00 PM † Jack Schmit

LITURGICAL VESTMENT COLORS

- (E) **White**—JOY—Christmas, Easter, Mary, Saints
- (P) **Red**—LOVE—The Passion, Holy Spirit, Martyrs
- (G) **Green**—HOPE—Ordinary Time
- (V) **Violet**—HUMILITY—Advent, Lent
- (R) **Rose**—JOY—Gaudete, Laetare Sundays



Let us pray for Riley Rhode, 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 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

MONDAY, JUNE 29TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Faith Formation Study—Parish Center A and Kitchen

TUESDAY, JUNE 30TH

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM Funeral Luncheon—Parish Center and Kitchen
9:15 AM to 10:00 AM Funeral Visitation and Rosary —Sanctuary and Narthex
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM Funeral—Sanctuary and Narthex
5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 6:40 PM Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion—Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1ST

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
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

THURSDAY, JULY 2ND

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, JULY 3RD—OFFICE CLOSED

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, JULY 4TH—INDEPENDENCE DAY

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, JULY 5TH—14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

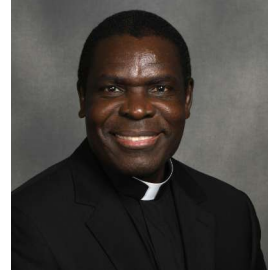
7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Meet and Greet Fr. Matthew Pohlman—Parish Center and Kitchen
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary and Narthex

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. Many blessings to you in this new position.



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.

"Seeking God's will is not something that's done once or twice in a lifetime. Seeking and responding to the Lord's voice is something we have the opportunity to do every day."
—Gary Zimack

LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

JULY 4TH
5:00 PM

Sacristan
Linda Schriener

Lectors
Eric Hittner
(Read the 1st Reading)

Barb Applegate
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Pat Gilmore
Tim Hall
Tammi Hall
Ken Beckman

Ushers
Ken Beckman
Tim Hall
Chris Lingbloom
Linda Schriener

Rosary Reciter
Jayne Schram

Altar Servers
Lydia Hall
Addison Lingbloom
Colin Lingbloom

Greeters
Need Sub
Need Sub

JULY 5TH
8:00 AM

Sacristan
Carol Zeleny

Lectors
Kathy Schwarting
(Read the 1st Reading)

Theresa Huttmann
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Joan Ingram
Duane Benes
Sandy Scheef
Marilyn Havel

Ushers
Pat Calvert
Tony Schultz
Christopher Wilson
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Kathy Schwarting

Altar Servers
Drew Garcia
Jacob Kula
Sarah Kula

Greeters
Steve Ingram
Need Sub

Hilcrest SR/HL
Marty Stednitz
Sally Stednitz

JULY 5TH
10:00 AM

Sacristan
Andi Towey

Lectors
Jim Hain
(Read the 1st Reading)

Michael Chatterson
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Andi Towey
Nancy Arp
Kari Lenz
Bridget Chatterson
Phil Lenz

Ushers
Russ Eusterwiemann
Norris Hoover
Tom Nienaber
John Schaffert

Rosary Reciter
Tam Hottovy

Altar Servers
Harper Dicks
Nev Dicks
Vinnie Nelson

Greeters
Andrew Urban
Need Sub

JULY 5TH
12:00 PM

Sacristan
Ginny Giebelhaus

Lectors
Kathy Broz
(Read the 1st Reading)

Karen Meyerott
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Delma Stoner
Steve Otto
Leann Otto
Darcy Skrdla
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Ginny Giebelhaus
Delma Stoner
Doris Williams
Mary Zeigler

Rosary Reciter
Norm Svoboda

Altar Servers
James Janda
Thomas Janda
Need Sub

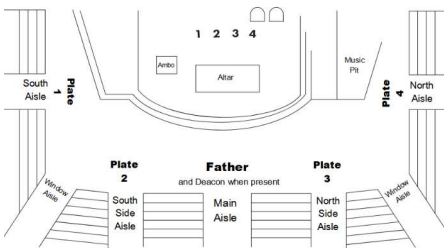
Greeters
Doris Williams
Mary Zeigler

Vocations Crucifix
Jan Wear

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.

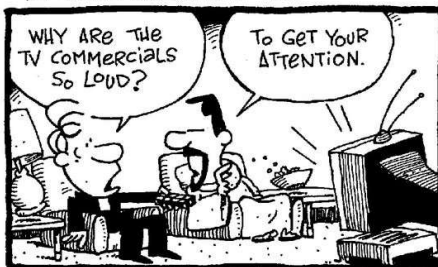
EMHC STATION MAP



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

13th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

PARISH STAFF

PASTOR

Fr. Gregory P. Baxter.....402-332-4444, x205
gpbaxter@archomaha.org
Residence.....402-332-4428
Emergencies (if facing danger or death), call:
402-332-4428 or 531-466-2453

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Fr. Vincent A. Sunguti.....402-332-4444, x204
vasunguti@archomaha.org
Residence.....531-466-2453

DEACONS

Deacon Ken Broz.....402-676-1025
Deacon Larry Heck (*Retired*).....402-689-9676

PARISH OFFICE

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jmjefferies@archomaha.org

Megan Seamann, Communications Associate
meseamann@archomaha.org...402-332-4444, x202

Judy Weier, Secretary.....402-332-4444, x201
jaweier@archomaha.org

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Shane Fagan.....402-332-3454
smfagan@archomaha.org

DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

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

PASTORAL MINISTRY (LITURGY, YOUTH GROUP & FAITH FORM)

Jonathan Wotipka.....402-332-4444, x212
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DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC

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FACILITY MANAGER

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EVANGELIZATION COORDINATOR

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

PASTORAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

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

HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY

Jerry Thoendel.....402-332-3475

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Tim Hall.....307-214-3714
tshallnj10@gmail.com
Steve Otto.....402-212-1267
thegretnaotots@gmail.com



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

LINK BETWEEN ORDINARY TIME
And Jesus' Unknown Years



The ordinariness of Jesus' childhood, adolescence and young adulthood provide ample material for meditation. For many of us, Ordinary Time can feel well, "ordinary," not particularly special. While we may thoroughly enjoy the beautiful seasons of Easter and Christmas, Ordinary Time does not elicit the same feelings. As a result, Ordinary Time is often overlooked and not given its chance to shine. However, this time of the Church's year has great potential and can give us a profound insight into our own lives.

JESUS' UNKNOWN YEARS

One topic for meditation during this season is to focus on the "unknown years" of Jesus' life. The Gospel accounts focus almost exclusively on the final three years of Jesus' ministry and give us hardly any details of His first 30 years. The Church has pointed to these hidden years and the connection it has to our "ordinary" life.

"During the greater part of His life Jesus shared the condition of the vast majority of human beings: a daily life spent without evident greatness, a life of manual labor. The hidden life at Nazareth allows everyone to enter into fellowship with Jesus by the most ordinary events of daily life." (CCC 531)

In this way Jesus sanctified "ordinary" life, showing us that the Kingdom of God is accessible to everyone, no matter their situation. The key is to realize that your life can be made holy by inviting God into it. Even the most mundane tasks can be turned into a beautiful offering to God.

St. Therese of Lisieux was an expert at this "little way" of holiness. She wrote in her *Story of a Soul*, "Above all I endeavored to practice little hidden acts of virtue; thus I took pleasure in folding the mantles forgotten by the Sisters, and I sought for every possible occasion of helping them." In this way an ordinary task can be turned into an opportunity of extraordinary love.

If you are looking for something to meditate on during Ordinary Time, ponder the hidden years of Jesus, His sanctification of the ordinary, and how you can transform every aspect of your life into a sacrifice to God. No matter what situation you may find yourself in, you can sanctify it and give it to God.

—Article by Aletea

CARDINAL BURKE HEADLINES "VIRTUE OF PATRIOTISM"
Celebrating the U.S. 250th Anniversary

A new video series featuring Cardinal Raymond Burke is exploring the Catholic understanding of patriotism as the U.S. approaches the 250th anniversary of its Declaration of Independence on July 4. Titled "The Virtue of Patriotism," the eight-part series is produced by the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and focuses on the relationship between faith, civic responsibility, and love of country.



The series is part of CatholicVote's Zeale for America 250 campaign, and viewers can sign up to view it for free here: <https://lp.catholicvote.org/america250>. The initiative invites Americans to pray daily to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and cultivate the virtue of patriotism ahead of the nation's 250th anniversary. In the videos, Cardinal Burke describes patriotism as a moral virtue rooted in gratitude and ordered toward the common good, distinguishing it from purely political or emotional expressions of national identity.

"True patriotism calls us to love our country rightly, to seek her true good, and to labor for her renewal, according to the moral law written by God upon the human heart," Cardinal Burke says in the first episode. "Patriotism ennobles the heart. Patriotism becomes a path of holiness, uniting earthly duty to heavenly hope."

The first episode, "The Meaning of Patriotism," introduces themes that continue throughout the series, including the distinction between patriotism and nationalism, the role of moral law in public life, and the responsibilities of citizens.

Each episode includes discussion questions designed to prompt reflection on civic duty, gratitude for one's homeland, and ways to promote the common good. All eight episodes can be found at <https://zeale.co/shows/the-virtue-of-patriotism>.

—Article by Zeale.co

HABIT STACKING: THE CATHOLIC WAY
Include More Prayer Habits in Your Daily Life



With so many things to do during the day and only 24 hours, it can be hard to fit everything in, especially when it comes to prioritizing prayer amidst the other demands of life. Creating habit systems is a crucial part of building your day to include the most important parts.

The book *Atomic Habits* by James Clear took the world by storm in 2018 with promises to teach people a way to build powerful systems and transform their lives. The cover of the book says "An Easy and Proven Way to Build Good Habits and Break Bad Ones." While the book's main focus is to help create a more productive life, it also contains a key concept adaptable to a life with God. The idea of habit stacking isn't just for professionals and entrepreneurs. It can also be applied to develop a robust prayer life.

"Habit stacking is a special form of an implementation intention," Clear writes. "Rather than pairing your new habit with a particular time and location, you pair it with a current habit." For example, if you want to read more consistently, find a habit you do during your day (like drinking a cup of coffee) and attach your reading to that action. Say "I will read one chapter of this book every morning while I drink my cup of coffee."

Maybe your prayer life right now includes a lot of rote prayer such as the rosary, and you're looking to balance it with more contemplative prayer. First, decide what you will focus on during contemplative prayer (specific scripture, a mystery of the rosary, etc.). Then, attach contemplative prayer to your habit of praying the rosary. "When I finish praying the rosary I will spend ten minutes in contemplative prayer."

Seemingly simple, habit stacking helps us to develop systems in our lives that become automatic, taking away the need to make as many choices in a day. Having fewer choices in a day frees up more of our mind to focus on what is right in front of us.

Adding in habits won't happen overnight and won't automatically reshape your prayer life, but by staying disciplined and devoted in faith, you'll create an opportunity for God to work through your habits and, ultimately, transform you! "It is not the actual physical exertion that counts toward a man's progress, nor the nature of the Task," wrote St. Francis Xavier, "but the spirit of faith with which it is undertaken."

—Article by CatholicVote

HIRING A PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR AND TEACHER ASSISTANT

Be a Part of the Parish Staff

ST. PATRICK PRESCHOOL MISSION

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.

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.



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. 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.



PRESCHOOL TEACHER ASSISTANT

The Preschool Teacher Assistant position is a part-time, hourly position during the school year (mid-August through mid-May) serving ages 3 to 5-years-old that requires on site presence and availability during the hours 8 AM to 3:30 PM. (M-F; hours are flexible depending if we have afternoon classes) as well as just a few evening meetings and weekend events. The average hours worked per week is approximately 20-24 hours. The

Preschool Teacher Assistant is supervised by the Preschool Director but serves and assists the Teacher in the classroom. The Preschool Teacher Assistant will be Roman Catholic, love God, love others, love self, and will have an active faith in God and respect for all who enter our doors. Experience in early child development or a related field is a plus but not mandatory.

For a detailed job description, visit our website at stpatricksgretna.org. To apply, send your cover letter explaining your desire and interest in the Preschool Teacher Assistant job opportunity, along with your resume and salary expectations to Jolene Jefferies, Parish Manager, jmjefferies@archomaha.org, by July 17. For questions, call Jolene at 402-332-4444, ext. 203.

"If you do not hope, you will not find what is beyond your hopes." —St. Clement



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

LAY LITURGICAL MINISTRY

Jonathan Wotipka.....402-332-4444, x212
jjwotipka@archomaha.org

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Ann Ball.....402-619-1248
annball1018@gmail.com

LEAST OF MY BRETHREN

Link to volunteer.....<https://www.leastofmybrethren.org/linktree>

CHURCH CLEANING

Sign Up Genius link to volunteer.....<https://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/13576de05a0c8eccfa81-church>
Megan Seamann.....meseamann@archomaha.org

ADVERTISE FOR YOUR MINISTRY GROUP

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

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.



Follow St. Patrick on
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ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

HELPFUL RESOURCES

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- BOYS TOWN NATIONAL HOTLINE**
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Website.....www.boystown.org
- 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
- CATHOLIC CHARITIES—OMAHA**
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Website.....ccomaha.org
- CATHOLIC VOICE ONLINE**
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Retrouvaille.....www.helpourmarriage.org
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- ST. BENEDICT CENTER (RETREATS IN SCHUYLER)**
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AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

SUMMER CAMPS—CHESTERTON ACADEMY, JULY 6-10



CHESTERTON ACADEMY
OF OMAHA

Art Camps running the same week with Mrs. Berggren, Mrs. Knofczynski, and Margaret Ayers. Campers entering 3rd-6th grade may stay for lunch between the Sacred Art and Shakespeare Camps. The campers will put on a drama with amazing costumes on Friday for friends and family. Our new Theology teacher, Jake Cortright, will lead Formation and Fun Camp, which will alternate between exploring the wonder and beauty of God's greatest creation (humanity), and playing games. Check it out at chestertonomaha.org/events.

Summer is here and there are some Summer Camp offerings for children and teens in your family entering 3rd-12th grade. We have the ever-popular Shakespeare Drama and Sacred

HEALING MASS—ST. GERALD, RALSTON, JULY 10

His Global Love Prayer Communities invite you to a Healing Mass on Friday, July 10 at St. Gerald Catholic Church (9602 Q St, Ralston). We will begin with a Rosary at 6:15 PM followed by praise and worship. Mass will begin at 7 PM. Fr. Kevin Joyce from His Global Love Ministry will preside. All are welcome. Any questions contact Frances Mignon at 402-515-8000.



MEANING OF THE MASS—ST. BENEDICT CENTER, SCHUYLER, JULY 11



The Mass: Meaning Behind the Mystery is a one-day retreat on Saturday, July 11 at the Saint Benedict Center (1126 Co Rd I, Schuyler) with Fr. Jeff Loseke. Every Catholic at some point during the Mass has probably asked, "Why do we do that?" or "What does that mean?" Every word, gesture, object, sign, and symbol of the Mass is imbued with rich meaning and yet so much of it has been forgotten or is unknown to the average Mass-goer. Join Fr. Jeff Loseke as he walks through the

Mass in a show-and-tell kind of presentation, promising to deepen your understanding of the meaning behind the mystery that is our Mass. Lunch is available at the Center for \$14.77 (includes tax). Register now at <https://www.christthekingpriory.com/retreat-schedule> or call 402-352-8819.

FATHERS AND SONS RETREAT—ST. BENEDICT CENTER, SCHUYLER, JULY 11-12

Fathers and Sons—Together Forever on Saturday and Sunday, July 11-12, is a retreat for fathers and their sons, ages 11–17, at the Saint Benedict Center (1126 Co Rd I, Schuyler) with Dr. Edward DeSimone, a priest, and a team of fathers and sons. This retreat provides opportunities for open communication and mutual learning between fathers and their adolescent sons along with Mass and a traditional blessing of the sons.



This fun weekend will include, weather permitting, dodgeball competition, water balloon toss, and a hayrack ride. Join us from 8 AM Saturday to Noon on Sunday. Register now at <https://www.christthekingpriory.com/retreat-schedule> or call 402-352-8819.

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

St. Pius X
○○○○

HUGE
Parish Garage Sale
Ann's Attic Clothing Sale

Thurs. July 16, 9 am-6 pm
Fri. July 17, 9 am-6 pm
Sat. July 18, 9 am-Noon

A gym full of gently used clothes for all ages/sizes. Sold by the bag.
Friday-Sat 1 bag, 2nd bag 50% off.
Saturday-Free Clothes (Free will offering)
The parish center full of very useful and unique items, including furniture and pictures.

Discover hidden treasures!

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.stpiusomaha.org.

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