

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET GRETNA, NE 68028



16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“He replied, ‘No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest.’” - Mt 13:29-30

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

JULY 19, 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

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING (Wis 12:13, 16-19)

Wisdom speaks of God's power in terms of kindness, leniency, and mercy. What words would you use to describe God?

SECOND READING (Rom 8:26-27)

Paul explains that the Spirit intercedes on our behalf, especially when we struggle in our prayer life. How can the Spirit help you in your prayer life?

GOSPEL (Mt 13:24-43 OR 13:24-30)

In the parable of the weeds and the wheat, Jesus warns the disciples of the presence of the devil active in the world. How do we stay on guard against the evil one?

GOSPEL MEDITATION

GOD WORKS WITHIN THE

Mess



A man recently told me he was losing patience with the Church. "It's supposed to be God's Kingdom on earth," he said, "but it's full of contradictions and hypocrisy. Why can't the Church just be better?" That last word landed with a judgmental thud. It hurt. Because at times the Church can look painfully ordinary, even disappointing.

But Jesus' parables in today's Gospel meet that frustration head-on. He says, "The Kingdom of Heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field," yet the weeds grow up with the wheat, and the master allows both to grow together until harvest. To His listeners, this sounded strange, even offensive. They expected God's

reign to be pure, powerful, and glorious, anything but mixed up, hidden, or small.

Jesus is showing us something essential. The Kingdom always begins small and grows amid imperfection. Grace and weakness exist side by side until the harvest. That is why the Church often looks messy. Yet within that mess, God's quiet work continues. The weeds do not stop the wheat from growing.

When we see the Church's flaws or our own, it helps to remember that this is exactly the field in which Christ chose to plant. The miracle is not that everything looks perfect, but that His Word keeps taking root anyway.

Lord, give me patience with your field, the Church. Help me see your hidden life growing even among the weeds. Amen.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

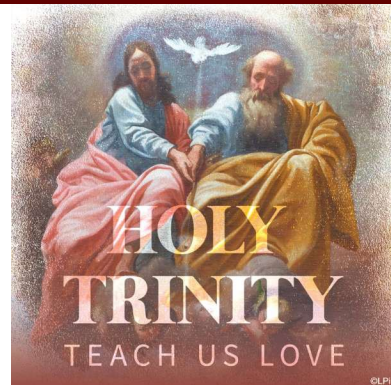
QUESTION:

I accept on faith that God is a Trinity of Persons, and I know it's something we can't fully understand. Should I just accept that, or should I try to learn more?

ANSWER:

There's a legend from the life of St. Augustine. As the early Church grappled with the identity of Christ and His relation to the other Persons in the Trinity, the holy theologian wrote a book about the Trinity. The story goes that, while he worked on the piece, he took a break to walk along the seashore. He came upon a small boy who had dug a hole in the sand. He was carrying a bucket, which he'd fill up with seawater and pour into the hole. Back and forth he walked. St. Augustine gently chided the young boy, "You can't pour the whole ocean into that hole." The boy responded, "And you cannot fit the whole Trinity into your mind."

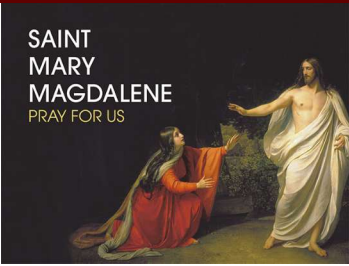
The Trinity is a mystery! Our finite mind can't comprehend the infinite God. Of course, the lesson isn't about giving up trying to understand God. St. Augustine did write that treatise, after all. The hunger to know more about God is good. We can read books about the Trinity or about the fatherly love of God, the life of Christ, and the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. More than that, we can deepen our life of prayer. The heart of our Trinitarian teaching is "God is love." The Three Persons are an infinite relation of love between one another. Real understanding of that comes less through our heads but through our hearts.



SAINT MARY MAGDALEN

Religious

SAINT
MARY
MAGDALENE
PRAY FOR US



St. Mary Magdalen (1st c.) was a friend and devoted follower of Jesus Christ. Formerly she had been a woman of ill repute out of whom Jesus exorcised seven demons. Mary Magdalene has a special place among the Lord's disciples and is mentioned several times in the Gospels. She stood at the foot of the Cross with St. John and the Blessed Mother, and went the next morning to Christ's tomb to anoint His body. As a reward for her great love and faithfulness, she is the first recorded witness of Jesus' Resurrection. It was

Mary Magdalene who informed the twelve Apostles that Jesus rose from the dead—for this she is called "Apostle to the Apostles." After Jesus' Ascension into Heaven, Mary Magdalene continued her mission as an evangelist, contemplative, and mystic in the heart of the Church. According to the Eastern tradition, she went to Ephesus with the Virgin Mary and died there. St. Mary Magdalene is the patron of women, repentant sinners, penitent women, reformed prostitutes, contemplatives, converts, pharmacists, perfumers, hairstylists, and against sexual temptation. Her feast day is July 22.

SAINT BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

Religious

St. Bridget (1303-1373) was born into a devout and prestigious family in Sweden. Her father was a governor, judge, and one of the wealthiest landowners in the country. Bridget received an excellent religious education, and from a young age demonstrated a great capacity for holiness. She even experienced mystical visions in her childhood. At the age of thirteen she was given in marriage to a similarly devout young man named Ulf. Together the two had a happy marriage and raised eight children, one of whom was St. Catherine of Sweden. St. Bridget became famous for her sanctity, and she was well-acquainted with the Swedish king and many theologians who sought her counsel. When Bridget and Ulf were in their forties, they went on pilgrimage along the famous Way of St. James. Shortly afterwards Ulf died, and Bridget gave herself entirely to the religious life. Her visions became more frequent, and were written down in a famous work called the Revelations of St. Bridget of Sweden. She also founded a new religious order known as the Brigittines. To obtain approval for her Order she traveled to Rome with her daughter Catherine, where she lived until her death. St. Bridget of Sweden is one of the six patron saints of Europe. Her feast day is July 23.

SAINT
BRIDGET
OF SWEDEN
PRAY FOR US



SAINT CHRISTOPHER

Martyr



St. Christopher (3rd c.) is a highly popular saint, though little is known about him with certainty. According to one account, a pagan queen prayed to the Blessed Virgin Mary for a child, whom she named Offerus and dedicated to the pagan gods. The child grew into a man of exceptional size and strength, and he endeavored to serve only the strongest and most courageous of masters. First he served a heathen king, but soon realized that the king feared the Devil. He then served the Devil, until he saw that the Devil feared the Sign of the Cross. He then decided to serve Christ, reasoning that Christ must be the strongest master of all. Offerus found a Christian hermit who instructed him in the faith, baptized him, and gave him a new name, Christopher, or "Christ-bearer." From then on Christopher determined to serve Christ by using his great physical strength to assist travelers crossing a treacherous river. One day he helped a small child across the river;

as Christopher carried the child he felt his burden becoming strangely heavy, as if the weight of the whole world was upon his shoulders. When he spoke of this, the child replied that Christopher carried not only the whole world, but also Him who made it. The child then revealed Himself as Jesus Christ and announced that Christopher's humble service was pleasing to Him, and worked a miracle by turning Christopher's staff into a tree. Due to this miracle many converted to Christianity, which caused Christopher to be imprisoned, tortured, and beheaded for refusing to worship the pagan gods. St. Christopher is the patron saint of travelers. His feast day is July 25.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Mi 6:1-4, 6-8/Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 12:38-42
TUESDAY: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8/Mt 12:46-50
WEDNESDAY: Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
THURSDAY: Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13/Ps 36:6-7ab, 8-9, 10-11/Mt 13:10-17
FRIDAY: Jer 3:14-17/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Mt 13:18-23
SATURDAY: 2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Mt 20:20-28
NEXT SUNDAY: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

MONDAY: St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr
TUESDAY: St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church
WEDNESDAY: St. Mary Magdalene
THURSDAY: St. Bridget, Religious
FRIDAY: St. Sharbel Makhl'f, Priest
SATURDAY: St. James, Apostle
NEXT SUNDAY: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The word of God
is a light to the mind
and a fire to the will.

—St. Lawrence of Brindisi



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

HEALING AFTER AN ABORTION

Hearts Restored Nebraska



Are you or someone you know struggling after an abortion? It's time to find hope and healing with Hearts Restored. This post-abortion healing ministry will accompany you on your unique healing journey, offering mentorship, individual counseling, group settings, retreats, spiritual support, and more. Restore your peace and hope today. Call the Hearts Restored hotline at 402-783-HOPE (4673) or email the confidential, secure inbox at FindPeace@HeartsRestoredNebraska.org. Learn more about Hearts Restored at HeartsRestoredNebraska.org.

COMMON EFFECTS OF ABORTION:

Depression
Anxiety
Guilt
Shame



Panic Attacks
Excessive Anger
Feelings of Helplessness
Feelings of Powerlessness
Emotional Numbness
Alcohol Abuse
Drug Abuse

If you are experiencing these or other symptoms, visit rachelsvineyard.org or call 1-866-482-5433

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 Jacob Cliff (Postulant Discalced Carmelite Friars of Holy Hill at the Basilica and National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians) from St. Patrick in Elkhorn.

Religious Life:

Members profess vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience. Includes priests, brothers, nuns, and sisters

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed." (Matthew 13:31) Small acts of faith can grow into great vocations. A call to a particular vocation often begins quietly, but as you pray and nurture it, it can blossom into something beautiful. Is God placing a vocation in your heart? Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.



DO YOU DESIRE TO BECOME CATHOLIC?

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

Do you desire to become Catholic, or know someone who does? Have you ever wanted to learn more about the Catholic Faith yourself? The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults or OCIA (formally RCIA) is a process through which adults and children over the age of 7 are formed in the teachings and practices of Catholicism and are initiated into the Catholic Church. This is for anyone who wishes to join the Catholic Church or anyone who would like to know more about the Catholic faith. Classes typically begin in mid to late August or early September. Registration is now open, visit our parish website, stpatricksgretna.org, to sign up. If you'd like more information, contact Jonathan Wotipka at 402-332-4444 ext. 212 or jjwotipka@archomaha.org.



TJ HUBER GOING ON MISSION WITH FOCUS

Mission Appeal This Weekend—July 18-19



My name is TJ Huber, and I am a FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) missionary at Kansas State University. Everyone needs the Gospel of Christ, especially young people. Studies show nearly 71% of young adults leave the Catholic Church and have no religious affiliation by age 25 (*Barna Group Research 2023*). What I will do as a missionary is encounter young men (primarily athletes) through friendship and invite them into greater Divine Intimacy by teaching them about prayer, the Bible,

the Church, and the Sacraments. This is a rewarding field, but one that comes at a cost. Like all missions, it is not free. I need spiritual support for this mission. I would humbly ask if you would like to join the mission. My hope from this is that it will not just impact the lives of young students, but through them encountering Christ it will impact your soul too. We all can grow closer to God, and He desires our full selves so much. If this interests you, I would love to discuss a time to meet with you and discuss how you can join the team through prayers and financial investments to the mission. Please pray for me and the students at Kansas State, and know that God loves you very much! You can contact me at 402-677-9737 or tjhuber@cox.net. God bless!

HIRING A PRESCHOOL TEACHER ASSISTANT

Be a Part of the Parish Preschool 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 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.



CENTURY CLUB JULY CASH PRIZE WINNERS

What is Century Club?

Well, it's been a while, so I feel it's time to explain how Century Club works. Our primary goal is to make money to give it away. As you know, half is returned to our wonderful Century Club members. The other half is used on St. Patrick Parish and parishioners in need. For instance, if someone asked for funds to put up a Divine Mercy billboard out of our parish, as wonderful as that sounds, that would not qualify. If our parish Youth Group needs funds, that does qualify. College scholarships from Century Club can only be given to someone from St. Patrick Parish, so if you go to one of our wonderful Gretna High Schools, but are not a member of our parish... no Century Club scholarship. Funds are also available for St. Patrick Preschool for those struggling and need a little help.

Winners are drawn by a different member of the Knights of Columbus at our monthly meeting. Each member is assigned a number, written on a poker chip. When drawn, I write the number down, then match it to our lucky winner. I did some ciphering... Ok, I asked AI to calculate the odds of someone winning twice. I was a bit surprised to see there is a 34.6% chance at this. The odds of winning three times in a row are 1.82%, and yet this has happened! FOUR times in a row, 0.000418%! This has never happened. With this bit of information, July CASH prize winners were drawn by Chris Wilson at our meeting held on Tuesday, July 7. CASH prize winners are:

\$150—Jeanne Krajicek
 \$100—Christine Christensen
 \$75—Mitch & Kathy Wendlandt
 \$50: Ronda Jonas
 \$25: Steve Ingram
 \$25: Greg Jones
 \$25: Kimberly Shepler
 \$25: Karen Wilde
 \$25: Scott Stoltenberg

Thank you to all our wonderful Century Club, and potential Century Club members!

As always, please pray for everyone, as everyone is in need of prayer!

Jim Hottovy, Century Club Administrator



SUPPORT THE HOLY FAMILY SHRINE

Knights Hosting an Evening at the Cloisters on the Platte



Join the Gretna Knights of Columbus Council #10047 for an elegant evening of faith, fellowship, and fine dining — all supporting Holy Family Shrine. The evening begins on Sunday, August 23 with Holy Mass at 5 PM at The Cloisters on the Platte (23332 Fishery Rd, Gretna). Gates open at 4:30 PM with shuttle service provided. Dinner seating begins at 7 PM.

Enjoy complimentary beer and wine during the social hour, followed by a chef-curated dinner featuring red

wine braised beef, gourmet sides, and chocolate cheesecake. Dietary accommodations available.

Cost is \$150/person or \$1,500/table sponsorship. This event is limited to 80 guests, so register early! Can't attend? You can still donate through the event registration link. Register today at <https://kofc-gretna.org/knights-at-the-cloisters>.

Stewardship Report

July 15-21, 2026

Current Fiscal Year - July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027

General Contributions	July 15-21	Fiscal YTD thru July 21
Sunday Offering	\$28,725.33	\$28,725.33
Other Contributions	\$1,281.75	\$1,281.75
Total General Contributions	\$30,007.08	\$30,007.08 *
Surplus/Deficit	\$1,507.08	(\$55,492.92)

* Our budget requires an average weekly income of \$28,500.

'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 matthhenry@gmail.com, Andy Pearson at apearson709@gmail.com, Eric Devlin at devlineric62@gmail.com, or Seth Boardman at sethd99@hotmail.com.

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH COMMUNITY FESTIVAL (AKA BAGS, BEERS, AND BRATS)

Please come join us for the annual St. Patrick and Knights of Columbus Community



Festival on Friday, July 24 from 5 PM to 10 PM. Help us kick off Gretna Days with food, fun, live music, and a cornhole tournament in the South Parking Lot. Register for the Cornhole Tournament by emailing GretnaOptimistClub@gmail.com. Contact Tim Hall for more information about the festival.

38TH ANNUAL DON SIMONIN GOLF TOURNAMENT



Attention all golfers: the Knights of Columbus are hosting their annual 4-person golf scramble at Eagle Hills Golf Club in Papillion on Saturday, August 1. Put a team together and come enjoy a fun day of golf while supporting our council. Contact Nate Dickes at 402-416-9599 for info or register

at <https://KofC-Gretna.org/golf-outing/>.

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, JULY 20TH

7:30 AM † Diane Derks

TUESDAY, JULY 21ST

6:00 PM INT Volunteers of St. Patrick

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22ND

7:30 AM † Judy McLaughlin

THURSDAY, JULY 23RD

7:30 AM † James M. Schell

FRIDAY, JULY 24TH

7:30 AM † Carol Svajgl

SATURDAY, JULY 25TH

5:00 PM † Butch Curtis

SUNDAY, JULY 26TH

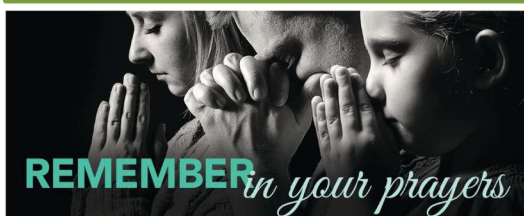
8:00 AM For Our Parishioners

10:00 AM INT Weier and Andersen Families

12:00 PM INT Kristin McGregor

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 the repose of the soul of Catherine Berlage. Let us pray for Bill Bergfeld (brother of Susie Yager), Riley Rhode, Susan Hottovy, Amber Janda, Meredith Haney, Norma Hintz, Rita Kalkowski, Steve N, 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, JULY 19TH—16TH 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 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary

6:30 PM to 8:45 PM Totus Tuus—Basement Commons and Youth Group

MONDAY, JULY 20TH

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

9:00 AM to 2:30 PM Totus Tuus—Basement Commons and RE Classrooms

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Totus Tuus—Sanctuary

6:30 PM to 8:45 PM Totus Tuus—Basement Commons and Youth Group

7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Faith Formation Study—Parish Center A and Kitchen

TUESDAY, JULY 21ST

9:00 AM to 2:30 PM Totus Tuus—Basement Commons and RE Classrooms

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM Rosary Guild—Father Hitch Room

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Totus Tuus—Sanctuary

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 9:00 PM Volunteer Appreciation Dinner—Parish Center AB and Kitchen

6:30 PM to 8:45 PM Totus Tuus—Basement Commons, Youth Group, and Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22ND

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 2:30 PM Totus Tuus—Basement Commons and RE Classrooms

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Totus Tuus—Sanctuary

1:00 PM to 2:30 PM Women's Small Group—Father Hitch Room

6:30 PM to 8:45 PM Totus Tuus—Basement Commons and Youth Group

THURSDAY, JULY 23RD

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

9:00 AM to 2:30 PM Totus Tuus—Basement Commons and RE Classrooms

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Totus Tuus—Sanctuary

6:30 PM to 8:45 PM Totus Tuus—Basement Commons and Youth Group

FRIDAY, JULY 24TH

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 2:30 PM Totus Tuus—Basement Commons, RE Classrooms, and Outside

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Totus Tuus—Sanctuary

5:00 PM to 7:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal—Sanctuary and Narthex

5:00 PM to 10:00 PM Community Festival—Bags, Beers, and Brats—South Parking Lot

SATURDAY, JULY 25TH

8:00 AM to 2:00 PM Wedding Prep—Sanctuary, Narthex, Father Hitch, Bride's Room

2:00 PM to 3:30 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, JULY 26TH—17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary

CATHOLIC DEVOTIONS EXPLAINED

House Blessing

Catholics who move to a new place of residence often wish to have their dwelling blessed, to call the favor and help of God upon all those who live in the house and all those who will enter it. The Roman Ritual (*Book of Blessings*) provides two formats for house blessings: one during the Easter or Christmas season (specifically for the Epiphany) and one for Ordinary Time. Those who live in the home must be present for a house to be blessed. A priest, deacon, or lay person can administer the blessing, although if a lay person does so they must use the rites accorded to lay ministers in the Roman Ritual. A house blessing includes Scripture readings, intercessions, and a prayer of blessing.



LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

JULY 25TH
5:00 PM

Sacristan
Larry Neppi

Lectors
Andy Pearson
(Read the 1st Reading)

Eric Hittner
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Jocelyn Pearson
Larry Neppi
Christine Walstrom
Bridget Blum
Jamey Kennel

Ushers
Ken Beckman
Chris Lingbloom
Larry Neppi
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Need Sub

Altar Servers
Addison Lingbloom
Colin Lingbloom
Kenley Ronk

Greeters
Chris Lingbloom
Need Sub

JULY 26TH
8:00 AM

Sacristan
Joan Ingram

Lectors
Theresa Huttman
(Read the 1st Reading)

Carrie Hubert
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Mike Siegel
Paula Siegel
Mitchell Hubert
Paul Hubert
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Pat Calvert
Greg Jones
Kevin Kaup
Bob Sis

Rosary Reciter
Carol Zeleny

Altar Servers
Owen Deming
Matthew Farewell
Drew Garcia

Greeters
Steve Ingram
Mary Maw

Hilcrest SR/HL
Mike Siegel
Paula Siegel

JULY 26TH
10:00 AM

Sacristan
Mitch Wendlandt

Lectors
Jolene Jefferies
(Read the 1st Reading)

Michael Chatterson
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Kari Lenz
Judy Weier
Dan Dauner
Jason Kassmeier

Ushers
Clint Bollock
Jim Hain
Bruce Jefferies
Tony Vanek

Rosary Reciter
Kathy Dauner

Altar Servers
Kalla Kassmeier
Kameron Kassmeier
Gavin McGregor

Greeters
Andrew Urban
Need Sub

JULY 26TH
12:00 PM

Sacristan
Ginny Giebelhaus

Lectors
Stephanie Lampe
(Read the 1st Reading)

Need Sub
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Delma Stoner
Ginny Giebelhaus
Carol Zeleny
Need Sub

Ushers
Linda Gardner
Ginny Giebelhaus
Delma Stoner
Marty White

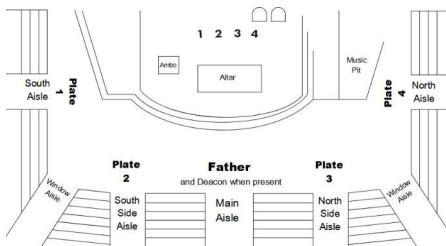
Rosary Reciter
Need Sub

Altar Servers
Need Sub
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Joann Dalley
Marty White

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.

16TH 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

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Fr. Matthew L. Pohlman.....402-332-4444, x204
mlpohlman@archomaha.org

DEACONS

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

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Judy Weier, Secretary.....402-332-4444, x201
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DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

Maria Hedrick.....402-332-3050
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FACILITY MANAGER

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EVANGELIZATION COORDINATOR

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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
thegretnaottos@gmail.com



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

YOUTH GROUP REGISTRATION 2026-2027 School Year



YOUTH GROUP REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for all high school students, freshmen-seniors, who would like to be a part of Youth Group this year. Youth Group consists of faith formation, speakers, trips, food, and tons of fun! We meet every Wednesday evening throughout the school year. We will begin in late August. We ask that every student, new or old, registers for this new school year. Please register through the parish website or contact Jonathan Wotipka for more details. Any parents or adults who are interested in volunteering can also contact Jonathan, jjwotipka@archomaha.org. We invite you to come join our faith filled community!

SNACK SIGN-UP

Help us stock the fridge and feed the teens! The kinds of snack we are looking for each week are cookies, cupcakes, individually wrapped chip bags, granola bars, popcorn, and the like and sodas, water, lemonade, juice boxes, and gatorade to drink (cans or small bottles preferred). We will also accept cash or check donations in the parish office, just let us know that it is for Youth Group snacks.

There is a sign-up link on our parish website, <https://stpatriksgretna.org/religious-education/#yg>. Please sign up to be sure we know what days we have snacks covered for the teens. We average about 50-60 teens each week at Youth Group. Please drop off the snacks/drinks by 6:45 PM on Wednesdays at the latest.

We also like to treat the Youth Group every once in awhile to a pizza night, Krispy Kreme donuts, or Raising Canes. If you would like to help pay for one of these specialty snacks contact Jonathan Wotipka, jjwotipka@archomaha.org.

THE GIVING GARDEN Leave Produce / Take Produce



The Giving Garden is now in the narthex! Please feel free to bring any excess vegetables from your bountiful gardens to share with our parish. Be sure to check it regularly as people bring in new goodies to share. There are bags on the cart that you can use to take the produce you would like. God Bless!

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



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!

WELCOME TO THE ST. PATRICK STAFF, MARIA HEDRICK! *New Preschool Director Effective July 13*

We are pleased to announce our new Preschool Director, Maria Hedrick, who started as a full-time employee (e.g., a 40 hour/week, year-round schedule) effective on Monday, July 13. Our Teachers and Teacher Assistants—Paula Penney (Teacher - 3's), Ashley Kassmeier (Teacher - 3's and Tadpoles), Jen Scheetz (Teacher Assistant - 3s and Tadpoles; Teacher - 4s/5s PM), Taylor Urban (Teacher - 4s AM), Sherri Beyer (Teacher - 5s AM), and Jamie Petersen (Teacher Assistant - 4s/5s PM) are



prepared to serve in the fall for the 2026-2027 school year. In addition, we are seeking to add two additional part-time Teacher Assistants to the staff (one for the 4s AM class and one for the 5s AM class), so if you know of anyone who might be interested in this opportunity please contact Jolene Jefferies in the Parish Office. We are all looking forward to working together to strengthen the foundation of our Preschool, improve our program, and further engage parents, parishioners, and the community in our wonderful Preschool.

Maria's education and work experience is a great fit for St. Patrick Preschool. Maria grew up in a Catholic family in Ashland and is one of eleven children. Her husband, Daniel, and their four children—Dakotah, Dominik, Kyo, and Sapphire—have been registered parishioners of St. Patrick for 10 years. Maria has been actively involved in our Religious Education program as a Kindergarten Teacher for eight years.

As a graduate of Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Maria holds a Bachelor Degree in Early Childhood Education. She comes with 20 years of teaching experience. Through many of these years, much of her time was spent as a Lead Infant Teacher. Maria then worked for eight years as Assistant Director of the Little Red School House in Gretna where she was responsible for the care of children, curriculum, staff, and the overall organization of the center. When Maria was offered the Preschool Director position, she was very excited. She can hardly wait to dig in!

We will be providing Maria with a very thorough orientation and on-boarding process, equipping her with in-depth knowledge of the Preschool history, programs, and future goals to improve, advance, and grow our Preschool. Her first focus will be to meet one-on-one with each member of the Preschool and Parish staffs and learn all about St. Patrick. Soon we plan to host a welcome event for parents, enrolled preschoolers, and our prayer partners to meet Maria and the Preschool staff, ask questions, and to simply have fun.

Maria will begin to prepare immediately for the upcoming school year so that we can effectively "plan forward", communicate regularly with parents, and address your questions and/or any suggestions or concerns you may have. It is our goal to provide the best possible Catholic education and a nurturing Christ-centered environment where your child is allowed to nurture their faith and become followers of Jesus while developing social, cognitive, physical, emotional, and spiritual growth through developmentally appropriate activities that promote the whole child. Should you have any questions about this transition, please don't hesitate to reach out to Father Baxter or Jolene Jefferies. Welcome aboard, Maria!

30 TEENS VENTURE TO MISSOURI FOR STEUBENVILLE

You Are Worthy

Last weekend, over July 10-12, our Youth Group had the opportunity to attend the annual Steubenville Youth Conference in Springfield, Missouri. We had 30 teens, and 11 adult chaperones joining over



4,000 other teens from across the country for a weekend full of talks, praise and worship, Confession, Adoration, and Mass. This 3-day conference was one of the most fun and beautiful experiences filled with lots of laughs and smiles throughout the weekend. Here are some of the graces we received.

The theme of the Conference, *Worthy*, was based on the verse from First Samuel 17:47, "For the battle belongs to the Lord." The conference served as a great reminder that there is nothing that the Lord can't handle. Many of the talks surrounded the idea that no matter what we have done, God can handle it. Our sin is merely a drop of water in God's ocean of mercy!



With the help of several keynote speakers, such as Brian Greenfield, Sarah Swafford, Mary Bielski, Chris Padgett, we entered into an atmosphere filled with the Holy Spirit, love, and tons of energy! We focused on topics such as prayer and the importance of daily prayer, the Mass and the sacredness of the Sacraments, forgiveness, and the love God has for each and every person on Earth.

In today's world, there are so many things constantly grabbing at the youth's attention and pulling them in different directions. It is at events like this where God reminds us just how powerful He is and how He hasn't given up on anyone. The Holy Spirit was the star of the show in the presence of 4,000 young people and did not disappoint. I would like to share some of the students' experiences and thoughts after the conference:



"I've learned to evangelize. Spread the word of Christ. Get out of my comfort zone, because you never know who could be impacted!"

"That God will love me no matter how much I doubt in myself."

"God has an infinite amount of love and no matter how far I pull away, He will always love me."

"I learned that He LOVES me. I'm worthy. That my personality is beautiful and I am here for a reason."

"I need to not put sports, expectations, friends, social gatherings/parties above God and the Church."

"The engagement with fellow Catholics and having like minded community helped set me on fire for the Lord and it was a blessing to dedicate three days to prayer and worship."

Hopefully these quotes gave just a glimpse of insight of just how impactful these conferences can be. The teens are able to express their faith in a way that can oftentimes be difficult in our own parish surrounded by the same people all of the time. We are susceptible to start "going through the motions" and forget that Jesus should be the most important thing in our lives. These conferences can set our hearts on fire for the Lord and show us what our faith can and should look like every day! In the Book of Revelation, God says, "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth." —Revelation 3:15-16

God calls us to live out our faith and carry our cross daily. When we become lukewarm in our faith it can be a dangerous place because we have stopped seeking to grow deeper in the way that we love and interact with others. We often think being comfortable is nice and a good place to be, however this is a false reality because the Lord wants so much more for us. The Steubenville Conference is one of the best ways to experience this true reality in order to step out of your comfort zone and live for God.



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.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Opportunity to Serve

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

The Prayer Shawl Ministry at St. Patrick has had a meaningful impact in our community thanks to the leadership of the late Sue Orosco. We would like to continue with her good work and invite parishioners to join us. We are currently making shawls and lap blankets. In addition we make dish cloths and pot holders for Least of My Brethren. Please contact Ann Ball at annball1018@gmail.com or 402-619-1248 for details. Look for information on monthly gatherings in the fall.



PICK UP A PRAYER SHAWL FOR SOMEONE IN NEED

Did you know that our church has blessed prayer shawl blankets, that can be shared with any of your family members or friends, who are sick and suffering physically, spiritually, emotionally? If you know of anyone who would benefit from this gift of comfort and prayer, please stop by the office Monday-Friday between 8 AM and 4:30 PM and choose a prayer shawl blanket for your loved one.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- AL-ANON (ALCOHOLIC FAMILY SUPPORT—OMAHA)**
Phone.....402-553-5033
Website.....al-anon.org
- BOYS TOWN NATIONAL HOTLINE**
Phone.....1-800-448-3000
Website.....www.boystown.org
- CATHOLIC ANSWERS**
Phone.....1-888-318-7884
Website.....www.catholic.com
- CATHOLIC CEMETERIES**
Grief & Healing Counselor.....402-391-3711
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Gretna....402-332-3475
- CATHOLIC CHARITIES—OMAHA**
Phone.....402-554-0520
Website.....ccomaha.org
- CATHOLIC VOICE ONLINE**
Website.....catholicvoiceomaha.com
- COURAGE (PASTORAL SUPPORT—SAME-SEX ATTRACTION)**
Phone.....402-557-5692
Website.....couragerc.org
- EWTV (GLOBAL CATHOLIC TELEVISION NETWORK)**
Phone.....1-800-447-3986
Website.....www.ewtn.com
- HEARTS RESTORED (HEALING AFTER ABORTION)**
Phone.....402-783-4673
Website.....heartsrestorednebraska.org
- HOLY FAMILY SHRINE**
Phone.....402-332-4565
Website.....holyfamilyshrine.com
- LEAST OF MY BRETHREN (SUPPORT HOMELESS)**
Phone.....402-681-5424
Website.....leastofmybrethren.org
- MARRIAGE RESOURCES**
For Your Marriage.....www.foryourmarriage.org
Retrouvaille.....1-800-470-2230
Retrouvaille.....www.helpourmarriage.org
- MASS TIMES NATIONWIDE**
Phone.....1-858-207-6277
Website.....www.massimes.org
- NEBRASKA HOMESCHOOL NETWORK**
Website.....nebraskahomeschool.org
- POPE PAUL VI INSTITUTE (FERTILITY HELP)**
Phone.....402-390-6600
Website.....www.popepaulvi.com
- SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO—FM 102.7**
Phone.....402-571-0200
Website.....www.spiritcatholicradio.com
- ST. BENEDICT CENTER (RETREATS IN SCHUYLER)**
Phone.....402-352-2177
Website.....christthekingpriory.com/sbcbabout
- ST. JOHN PAUL II NEWMAN CENTER**
Phone.....402-557-5575
Website.....jpiiomaha.org
- STRIVE (BREAK FREE FROM PORNOGRAPHY)**
Phone.....989-720-8000
Website.....strive21.com
- WOMEN'S CENTER FOR ADVANCEMENT (DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, HUMAN TRAFFICKING, ETC.)**
24/7 Hotline.....402-345-7273
Website.....wcaomaha.org

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

INTRO TO THE SIDEWALK—CATHOLIC CHARITIES, JULY 21

Join us for *Intro to the Sidewalk* an introduction training for Sidewalk Advocates on Tuesday July 21 at 6 PM in the Catholic Charities Building (9223 Bedford Ave, Omaha). This 90 minute event is free! This Mini-Training will: introduce you to Sidewalk Advocacy, teach a peaceful, prayerful, and law-abiding method to reach abortion-vulnerable women and families by God's grace help them choose life, and let you ask your questions! Call, text, or email Sarah Peterson to register (space limited) at LifeSidewalk@gmail.com or 402-819-1662. Light refreshments will be served.



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.

49TH ANNUAL GARAGE SALE—OUR LADY OF LOURDES, JULY 23-25

Support Nebraskans Embracing Life during their annual garage sale at Our Lady of Lourdes Gymnasium (2110 S 32 Ave, Omaha). Please offer your saleable donations for drop off at the gym on Sunday, July 19 from Noon to 8 PM or on Monday thru Wednesday, July 20-22 from 8 AM to 6 PM. The sale will take place Thursday and Friday, July 23-24 from 8 AM to 6 PM and then on Saturday, July 25 from 8 AM to 1 PM everything will be half price. All proceeds will defend human life! Thank you for your generosity! Find more information at NebraskansEmbracingLife.org. We are grateful for your support in any way!



COME TO NAZARETH—OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL, WAVERLY, AUGUST 2



Join us for a day retreat called Come to Nazareth. It is a retreat for the whole family! It is on Sunday, August 2 from 2 PM to 7 PM at Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House (7303 N 112th St, Waverly). There will be a family craft, talks, outdoor games, a Eucharistic Procession with Adoration, and a campfire to close with supper and s'mores. Cost for the retreat is \$20 per person (ages 4+) which includes supper, or \$100 for a family of 5+. Please note: if you cannot afford the retreat, please reach out to the retreat house at 402-786-2705 or office@olgcretreat.org, and we would love to help. To register, visit goodcounselretreat.org.

16TH ANNUAL BREAKFAST FOR LIFE—ST. PATRICK, ELKHORN, AUGUST 8

Join Essential Pregnancy Services on Saturday, August 8 at the St. Patrick's Elkhorn Parish Hall (18602 West Maple Rd, Elkhorn) for the EPS Auxiliary's 16th Annual Breakfast for Life, featuring keynote speaker, Lydia Taylor Davis. Doors open at 8:30 AM, and the program begins at 9:15 AM. Registration is \$40 per person. There are a limited number of complimentary student tickets available for high school and college students up to age 24. Register, sponsor, and donate at friendsofeps.org. Essential Pregnancy Services provides life-affirming, holistic support to women experiencing unexpected or under-supported pregnancies. For event questions or to inquire about student tickets, contact Sherilyn Park at spark@essentialps.org or 531-239-3129.



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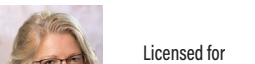
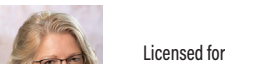
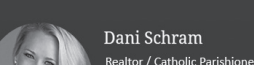
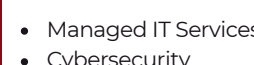
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