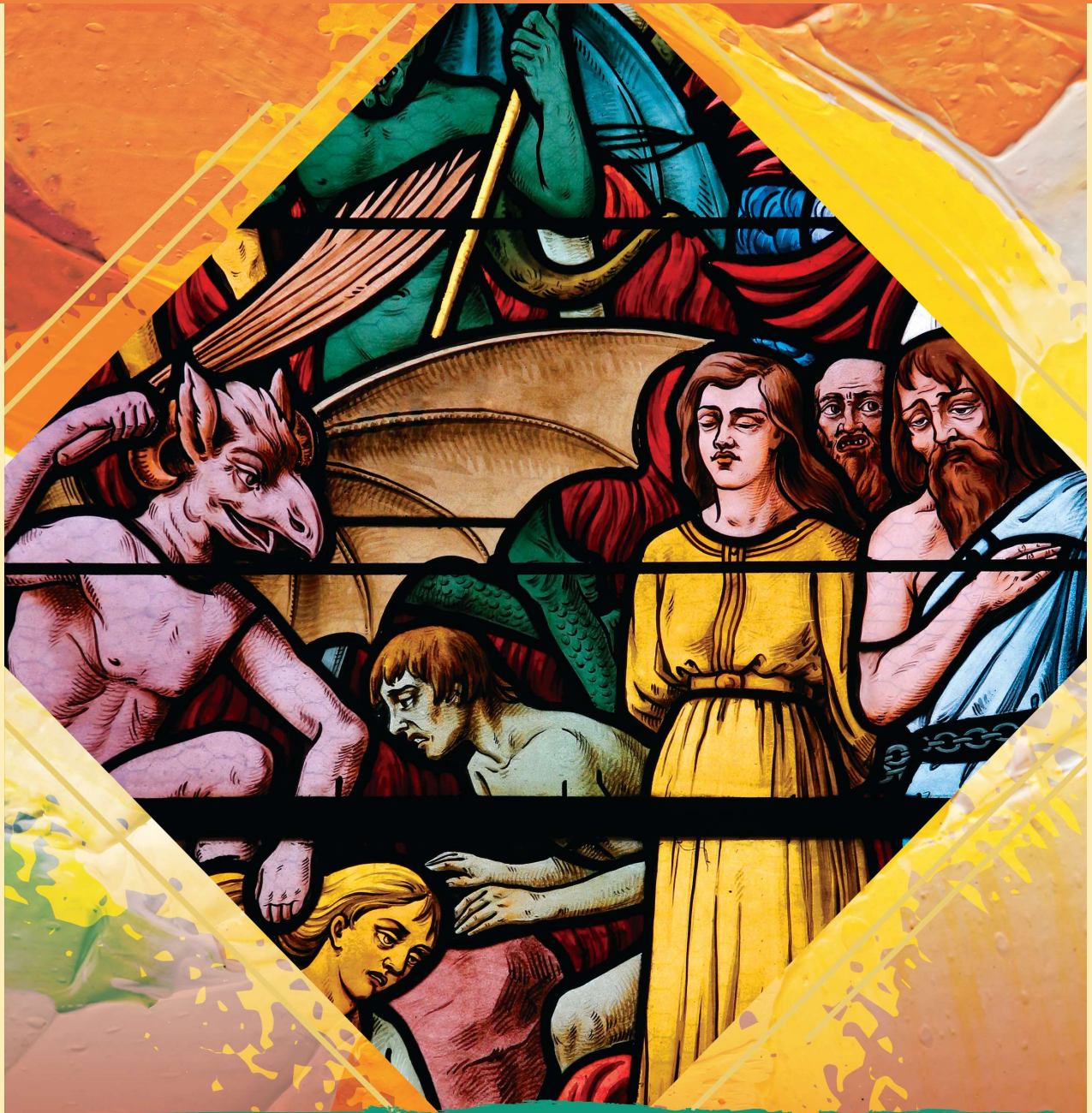


ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET GRETNA, NE 68028



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous.” - Mt 13:49-51

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

JULY 26, 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 STPATGRETN 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

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING (1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12)

The Lord grants Solomon's request to give him a wise and discerning heart so he can rule justly over the people of Israel. Have you ever had a wish come true?

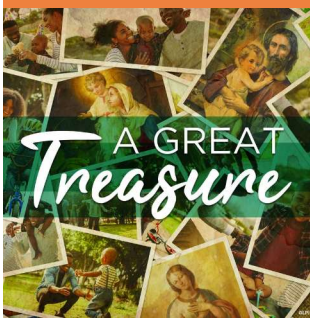
SECOND READING (Rom 8:28-30)

Paul speaks of God working with believers according to his purposes. How would you describe your purpose or passion in life?

GOSPEL (Mt 13:44-52 OR 13:44-46)

Jesus often speaks in parables about the Kingdom of Heaven that invite you to imagine how God works in the world. Where do you see God at work in your family?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



Around the time that the gold rushes ended in the nineteenth-century West, a curious phenomenon arose in New England known as money diggers. These were men who roamed the countryside with shovels, divining rods, and superstitious hope, convinced that treasure lay buried beneath their feet. Surely there must be gold under our feet. But there was not. The craze of these wild goose chases caused many to lose farms, families, and sanity.

In this week's Gospel, Jesus inaugurates a new era of spiritual money digging. He announces, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure buried in a field." He invites us to

become treasure seekers who search in the right place. What is of greatest value is not money beneath our feet, but the infinite treasure hidden deep in the humanity of Jesus Himself, God's own blessed life. The glory of Heaven lies veiled in His ordinary life, His teaching, His suffering, His Church.

This teaching about the Kingdom changes things. Now we see the Church's doctrinal and moral teachings are not arbitrary rules. They are a treasure map. Follow them, and we will uncover divine happiness. Ignore them, and we will wander aimlessly, spade in hand, digging in empty fields, discouraged.

Where have we wasted energy seeking treasure in the wrong places? How have we given up on seeking the treasure of truly finding God's love for us? If so, let us repent of both. Then let us dust off our shovels and get back to digging deep into the field of Christ Jesus and His Church. After all, He never ceases seeking His treasure in us.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

Why are Catholics required to give money to the Church?

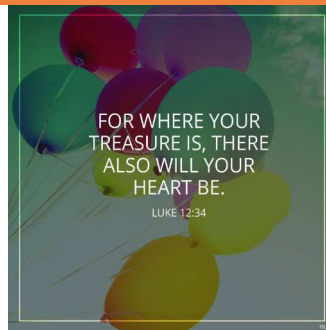
ANSWER:

Offering money and other goods to God and the Church is, before all else, a statement of gratitude. We see this when we look at how our spiritual ancestors showed their gratitude to God for the gifts they had received (e.g. Genesis 14:18-20 and Genesis 28:16-22). One of the ways they offered thanks to God was through a practice called "tithing," in which 10 percent of a person's goods (crops, livestock, money, etc.) were given back to God.

Today, the practice of tithing—giving 10 percent—is still common in many Protestant communities, but it is not required for Catholics. Instead, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches us that, "The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to [their] own abilities" (CCC 2043). This means that, although we are not bound to practice "tithing" in the traditional sense, we do share a responsibility to share our money or other resources with our parish communities. Like our spiritual ancestors, we give as a sign of our gratitude for the many gifts that God has given to us. Beyond this, we also share our resources with other Catholic organizations to help them finance their ministries, to continue and grow their outreach to the poor and the needy, and to provide just wages for their employees.

How much we give depends on our individual circumstances, but since we share a responsibility for the programs, outreach, and health of our parish communities and Catholic organizations, this question gives us a

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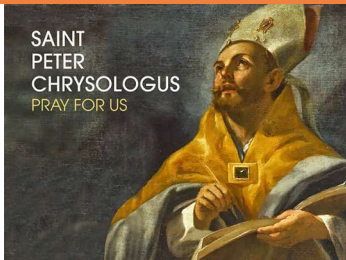
CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

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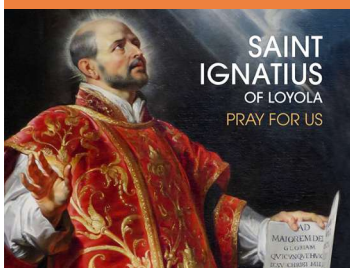
wonderful opportunity to ask some important questions about the quality of our giving and what our priorities are. Remember, we are only stewards of our time, talents, and treasures and as the First Letter of Peter reminds us, "As each one of you has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied graces" (4:10).

SAINT PETER CHRYSOLOGUS *Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

St. Peter Chrysologus (406-450 A.D.) was born in Imola, Italy. He was an adult convert to Christianity and studied under his bishop, Cornelius, who ordained him a deacon. In his day the city of Ravenna was the center of the Roman Empire, making the Archbishop of Ravenna an important position in the Church. When the Archbishop of Ravenna died, a new archbishop was elected by the clergy and the people of Ravenna. Bishop Cornelius of Imola went to Rome with his deacon, St. Peter Chrysologus, to have the Ravenna appointment confirmed by Pope Sixtus III. When the pope saw St. Peter, he appointed him the new Archbishop of Ravenna instead. St. Peter was an effective shepherd who stamped out paganism, heresy, and ecclesiastical abuses from his diocese, earning the high regard of Emperor Valentinian III who resided in Ravenna. He also organized services to help the poor of the city. St. Peter was renowned for his profound and eloquent sermons, and his skill with taking complex theological truths and putting them in plain language, earning him the name 'Chrysologus' meaning 'the man of golden speech' or 'golden word' as well as the 'Doctor of Homilies.' In 1729, Pope Benedict XIII declared him a Doctor of the Church. His feast day is July 30.



SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA *Priest*

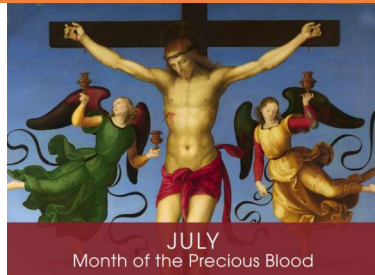


St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556) was born at the castle of Loyola in Basque country, Spain, the youngest of thirteen children. In keeping with the young aristocrats of his day, Ignatius sought after military prowess, vainglory, and fame, and became a knight at the age of seventeen. He was known as a fancy dresser, an expert dancer, a womanizer, sensitive to insult, and involved in criminal behavior. During a period of convalescence after being wounded in battle, he read a collection of saint biographies and a Life of Christ. These books

profoundly affected him, and he experienced a conversion of heart. He desired to pattern his life after the great saints, and ceremoniously hung up his military garments before an image of the Virgin Mary. After experiencing a vision of the Blessed Mother with the Infant Jesus, he lived for a time as an ascetic in a cave. It was during this time that he formulated his famous *Spiritual Exercises*, the spiritual centerpiece of the religious order he would later establish. He then went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and studied theology for many years. During his studies he gathered a group of six like-minded men and founded the Society of Jesus, today known as the Jesuits. They went as missionaries all over the world to spread the Gospel, especially focusing on education. Today the Jesuits have over 30,000 members and 500 universities. St. Ignatius of Loyola's feast day is July 31.

PRAYER OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD *Written by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*

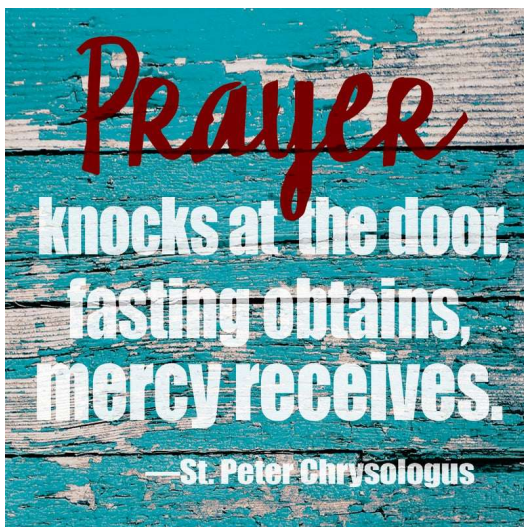
Lord Jesus, by faith in Your merits, I now take Your Precious Blood and sprinkle it over myself and my family right from the crown of my head to the very soles of my feet. I claim total and complete protection for my life and my family. Lord Jesus, keep me free today from evil, sin, temptation, Satan's attacks and afflictions, fear of darkness, fear of man, sickness, diseases, doubts, anger, all calamities and from all that is not of thy Kingdom. Fill me, Lord Jesus, with the gift of Your Holy Spirit, and grant me the gifts of wisdom, knowledge, understanding and discernment so that I will live today in Your glory by doing that which is right. Amen.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

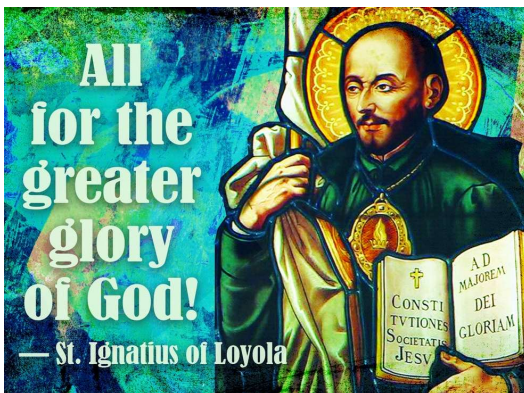
READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Jer 13:1-11/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/Mt 13:31-35
TUESDAY: Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Mt 13:36-43
WEDNESDAY: Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 59:2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
THURSDAY: Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab/Mt 13:47-53
FRIDAY: Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14/Mt 13:54-58
SATURDAY: Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34/Mt 14:1-12
NEXT SUNDAY: Is 55:1-3/Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18/Rom 8:35, 37-39/Mt 14:13-21



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY: Sts. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus
THURSDAY: St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
FRIDAY: St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
SATURDAY: St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
NEXT SUNDAY: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time





ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
Gretna, Nebraska

PARISH LITURGICAL MUSIC *Sing to the Lord a new Song*



Adults and children in grades 3-8 are invited to join the parish choir in September for the fall semester or later for a shorter season. Choirs rehearse once each week and sing at the 10 AM Mass on Sunday. 100% attendance is not required. Music reading ability and a perfect singing voice are not expected. Come join a group that enjoys learning together!

High School youth and adults are invited to consider serving as a cantor for weekend Masses. The cantor position is a musical level up from the choir. Rudimentary music reading ability and a pleasant singing voice are necessary skills.

To express interest or learn more about parish liturgical music, please contact the parish Music Director Laura Rau at 402-332-4444 or lrau@archomaha.org.

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. Nicole Nolle (Missionaries of Charity) from Immaculate Conception in Omaha.

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure buried in a field." (Matthew 13:44) Discernment is the process of discovering the treasure God has placed in your life, your unique calling and purpose. It requires prayer, reflection, and openness to God's guidance, helping you recognize where He is leading you, whether to priesthood, consecrated life, or holy matrimony. Take time to seek His wisdom, trusting that the joy of finding His treasure is worth every effort. If you feel a stirring desire to follow God's path, talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.

Religious Life:

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



Baptisms

Since our last update on July 12, two children have been baptized into the Body of Christ. We congratulate the parents and family members, and we welcome your little ones into the Family of Faith! We are praying our Lord Jesus will bless, guide and inspire each of you in His love as you travel along your faith journey. Congratulations!



Name.....Date

Dolly Clara Krajicek.....7/19/2026

Willia Mae Motsinger.....7/19/2026

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT NEWLYWEDS!



Last weekend, we were excited to host a wedding! Congratulations to the newlyweds as you share your life together! We will keep you in our prayers and wish you both the very best!

Couple.....Date

Terry Dolnicek and Pat Gilmore.....7/17/2026

PRAY FOR OUR RECENTLY DECEASED

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

We, the community of St. Patrick, continue to pray for all our parishioners and their deceased family members and loved ones.



Name.....Date of Death.....Place of Burial

Catherine Berlage.....7/14/2026.....At a Later Date

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 (formerly 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.

"A surrendered heart is constantly looking for opportunities to serve in big ways and small ways. Ask God each morning, 'Whom can I serve today? How can I bring your love and light into the world today?'" —Vic Clesceri, *The Way of Surrender*

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>.

ROSARY AND MASS TO PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Hear Father Will Targy's Vocation Story

The Serra Club of West Omaha invites you to join us for a special Rosary for Vocations followed by a Holy Mass on Monday, August 17, at St. John Vianney Catholic Church (5801 Oak Hills Drive, Omaha) to pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life within the Archdiocese of Omaha. The Rosary will begin at 5 PM and Mass is at 5:30 PM. Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Emeritus George Lucas and concelebrated by Rev. Will Targy, assisted by Deacon Chris Hansen and seminarians Kyle Snodgrass, Max Brown, and Peter Ginn.



After Mass, join us in the Parish Center for a reception where Father Targy will speak about *My Vocation Story and Reflections on My First Year of the Priesthood*. Enjoy heavy hors 'd oeuvres, beer, wine, and cake. All are welcome! If you are interested in helping to build the Church locally through vocations support, contact John Lingo, Serra VP, at westomaha@serrainternational.org. Learn more at serrawestomaha.org and follow us on Facebook @serrawestomaha.

"The most powerful thing we can do on this earth with our time is to spend it in Eucharistic adoration. Nothing can do more to change the world, to bring about peace, to convert hearts, to make reparation for the many evils committed. Spending time in prayer may seem, on the outside, to be a passive thing; however, it is anything but! Our world is in desperate need of hope, of renewal, of a 'turning back' to the things of God.

By visiting Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, we take up the best weapon for the battles of our age and contribute to the healing of our culture. Cultivating a Eucharistic life of adoration also bears tremendous fruit in our own hearts and lives. We cannot spend time in the rays of His Eucharistic Presence without receiving His grace, His love, His mercy, His peace. As we gaze upon Him face to face, we are transformed little by little into a closer reflection of His divine image."

—Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration, *Manual for Eucharistic Adoration*, p. 37-38

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	\$17,208.65	\$74,353.56
Other Contributions	\$822.26	\$2,719.17
Total General Contributions	\$18,030.91	\$77,072.73 *
Surplus/Deficit	(\$10,469.09)	(\$8,427.27)

* 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.

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/>.



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.

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 27TH

7:30 AM † Cardine Svajgl

TUESDAY, JULY 28TH

6:00 PM † Shelley Weier

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29TH

7:30 AM † Joe Piccolo

THURSDAY, JULY 30TH

7:30 AM † Gieda Junc Pietro

FRIDAY, JULY 31ST

7:30 AM INT Karen Tighe

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST

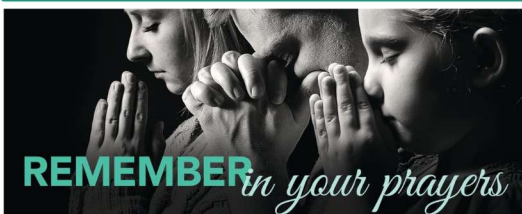
5:00 PM † Loren Ellis

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND

8:00 AM INT Vicky Pham
10:00 AM For Our Parishioners
12:00 PM † Robert Davis

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 Julie K, Bill Bergfeld (brother of Susie Yager), 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 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
12:30 PM to 3:30 PM Private Event—Sanctuary and Narthex

MONDAY, JULY 27TH

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, JULY 28TH

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 29TH

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 30TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
10:00 AM to 11:30 AM Funeral Rosary and Mass—Sanctuary and Narthex
11:30 AM to 2:00 PM Funeral Luncheon—Parish Center AB and Kitchen
5:00 PM to 6:30 PM Women's Small Group—Father Hitch Room

FRIDAY, JULY 31ST

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST

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, AUGUST 2ND—18TH 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 and Narthex

HIRING A PRESCHOOL TEACHER ASSISTANT

Be a Part of the Parish Preschool Staff

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.

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.



LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

AUGUST 1ST
5:00 PM

Sacristan
Linda Schriener

Lectors
Lezlie Thomas
(Read the 1st Reading)

Barb Applegate
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Therese Nisbet
Kevin Riley
Janie Vipond
Tim Hall

Ushers
Tim Hall
Andy Pearson
Linda Schriener
Jeff Wollenburg

Rosary Reciter
Kathy Dauner

Altar Servers
Shailynn Gatewood
Aslyn Ronk
Kenley Ronk

Greeters
Chris Gatewood
Need Sub

AUGUST 2ND
8:00 AM

Sacristan
Joan Ingram

Lectors
Cari Kaup
(Read the 1st Reading)

Kathy Schwarting
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Marilyn Havel
Therese Nisbet
Duane Benes
Carrie Hubert
Phil Lenz

Ushers
Linda Gardner
Kevin Kaup
Tony Schultz
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Kathy Schwarting

Altar Servers
Carson Kaup
Ethan Kaup
Will Kaup

Greeters
Steve Ingram
Gordon Yager

Hilcrest SR/HL
Marty Stednitz
Sally Stednitz

AUGUST 2ND
10:00 AM

Sacristan
Jim Hottovy

Lectors
David Burke
(Read the 1st Reading)

Jolene Jefferies
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Carol Hoover
Abby Kenner
Bob Huber
Darcy Skrdla

Ushers
Russ Eusterwiemann
Norris Hoover
Bruce Jefferies
Tom Nienaber

Rosary Reciter
Tam Hottovy

Altar Servers
Harper Dicks
Nev Dicks
Austin Votruba

Greeters
Andrew Brei
Need Sub

AUGUST 2ND
12:00 PM

Sacristan
Larry Nepl

Lectors
Kathy Broz
(Read the 1st Reading)

Jayne Schram
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Wendy Nepl
Larry Nepl
Delma Stoner
Doris Williams
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Larry Nepl
Delma Stoner
Doris Williams
Mary Zeigler

Rosary Reciter
Jayne Schram

Altar Servers
James Janda
Thomas Janda
Need Sub

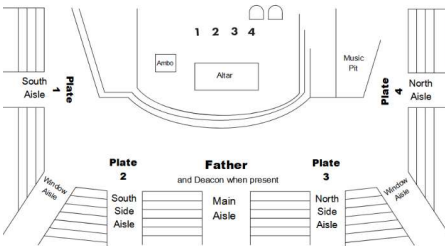
Greeters
Joann Dalley
Mary Zeigler

Vocations Crucifix
Charlie Canfield

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

17th 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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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://stpatricksgretna.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!

PRO-TIPS FOR MAKING A SPIRITUALLY RICH HOLY HOUR *Throughout the Hour, Intention and Attention are Key*

"Could you not stay awake with me one hour?" Jesus asked St. Peter and the apostles. It can be considered the basis or reason why we Catholic make a Holy Hour: spending time with Christ before the Blessed Sacrament. "The Holy Hour has a special significance. It means a continuous and unbroken hour spent in the presence of our Divine Lord in the Eucharist," explained Venerable Bishop Fulton Sheen in the anthology *Lord, Teach Us to Pray*.



Mother Angelica hosted televised Holy Hours; as recorded in *A Holy Hour with Mother Angelica*, from the hours' broadcast in March 1988, she said, "The main point of this Holy Hour is for you to luxuriate in God's presence. To forget all your problems and frustrations, and to just become aware of the awesome presence of God." She said the Holy Hour "means you dedicate an hour totally to God—praising Him, loving Him, and saying to Him, 'Lord, I'm sorry that so many people don't know you, love you, or praise you.'"

But how should we make a Holy Hour? Father Jeffrey Kirby, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Church in Indian Land, South Carolina, and author—whose latest book is *40 Hours: An Adoration Companion*—told the *Register*, "There are no set formats or prayers. It's an opportunity to simply be in the presence of the Lord and let yourself know and feel His love. As such, almost anything can be read or prayed during a Holy Hour." He suggested that a great help "for many people who are making a Holy Hour is to read the Gospels from the New Testament. Being in the presence of the Lord Jesus and reading about His life and ministry can be a great help for us in knowing and encountering the Lord more deeply."

While Catholics can focus on spiritual reading during a Holy Hour, they can also "simply close all their books and just talk to the Lord Jesus, as they would to a friend," Father Kirby explained. "Often times, we have a lot of things to complain about or process. A heartfelt, open prayer can go a long way in our lives. We shouldn't be concerned about what we say to the Lord. We need to be honest and express to Him what is actually happening in our hearts. If we're angry, we need to say that. If we're grateful, we should say that. We need to be as transparent as possible when we pray."

Father Kirby also suggested, "While making a Holy Hour, we can pray the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet or even walk the Stations of the Cross. These type of prayers are very structured and can help us stay focused. At times, people are hesitant to do the Stations during a Holy Hour, but if a person is fidgety or nervous or tired, the Stations can be an immense spiritual practice during prayer."

During her Holy Hours, Mother Angelica would at times use specific prayers of the Church, such as the Litany of the Heart of Jesus, Litany of Loreto, Litany of the Holy Spirit, or Litany of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus.

According to Father of Mercy Wade Menezes, missionary preacher and host of EWTN's *Open Line* Tuesday radio program, "A tried-and-true formula to make the best of your Eucharistic Holy Hour is to follow the simple acronym A.R.T.S.: This stands for Adoration, Reparation, Thanksgiving, and Supplication," he told the *Register*. "The game plan is to spend 15 minutes with each of these four areas in the presence of our Eucharistic Lord and King with purposeful and deliberate willed intention. This can be done meditatively within the context of the prayer of quiet; it could be carried out by reading good spiritual material or by writing things down in a spiritual journal—or a combination of any of these."

"During the first 15 minutes of your Holy Hour, one offers willed 'adoration' per se to the true and abiding Real Presence of our Blessed Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity—profoundly thanking the Most Holy Trinity for such a great gift," Father Menezes explained. "The prayer of quiet is great here—that is, just 'resting' in the Lord's Presence. One may also want to read a few quotes from St. Peter Julian Eymard, the so-called 'Apostle of the Eucharist' during this time." Intensely devoted to the Holy Eucharist, Father Eymard founded both the Priests of the Blessed Sacrament (Blessed Sacrament Fathers), a priests' Eucharistic league and the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament.

"The next 15 minutes," Father Menezes continued, "one makes intentional 'reparation'—also known as 'atonement'—not only for one's own past sins—both mortal and venial—but also for those of the whole world, for those

Continued on next page—>

PRO-TIPS FOR MAKING A SPIRITUALLY RICH HOLY HOUR

Continued From Page 8

committed by persons still living and for those committed by persons who are now deceased." This second 15-minute segment is "a great time to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, wherein we literally supplicate Almighty God to 'have mercy on us and on the whole world,'" he added.

Then the third 15-minute set is spent "in literal 'thanksgiving' to God for all He has given you and guided you in your joys, accomplishments, prayers, works, and even sorrows and sufferings," Father Menezes said. "Here, it is good to write these points of thanksgiving down in a spiritual journal in simple bulleted fashion."

Father Menezes said the last 15-minute segment should be "spent in supplication," in "asking God for those things you believe would be beneficial for your own good to help you grow stronger in the spiritual life and to help you 'work out' your salvation, as commanded in Philippians 2:12. Worth noting, here, is that our supplication—or asking—of God can be on behalf of others, as well, acknowledging always that in all things we want God's will to be done, not our own, as He knows what is best for us." He added, "It's also good to jot down in a spiritual journal specific areas where we are asking Almighty God to intervene in our lives as never before."

Father Menezes pointed out that this acronym can also appear as A.C.T.S.—Adoration, Contrition, Thanksgiving, and Supplication. "The concept is exactly the same," he said. "However, the word 'contrition' (meaning one being 'contrite' for sin) is substituted for 'reparation.'" Throughout the hour, intention and attention are key.

Bishop Sheen advised regarding reading Scripture or a spiritual book, "Read a few lines slowly; think about the truth contained in them; apply them to your life; speak to God about how little you have corresponded to His will, how anxious you are to do it; listen to God speaking to your soul; make acts of faith, hope, and love to God; and only when that train of thought has been exhausted should you proceed to the next idea."

Because conversation is not a monologue but an exchange, Bishop Sheen explained, "As the soul wills to draw near God, God wills to draw near the soul. We must not do all the talking; we must also be good listeners. The soul now experiences the truth of the words 'Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you' (James 4:8)."

"I sit and try to listen to the Lord speaking to me," said Mary Ann Mervak, a parishioner at Father Kirby's Our Lady of Grace Church who serves as the coordinator of homebound care at the parish. "It's just about sitting there in silence. You don't always need a book. It's trying to be at peace and talk with the Lord and listen to Him. Things are too busy. We need time for adoration and peace, and we just don't do it enough."

And Mother Angelica offered this advice during one of the March 1988 Holy Hours: "Just say, 'Lord, I love you.' Oh, He is tickled that He just jumps up and down when He hears that because it means so much for God to hear you say, 'I love you.'"

—Article by National Catholic Register

CATHOLIC DEVOTIONS EXPLAINED

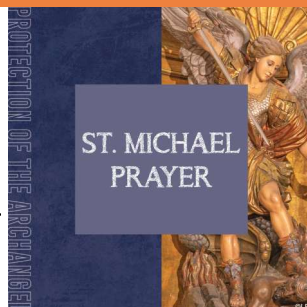
St. Michael Prayer

The prayer to St. Michael invokes the protection of the archangel Michael in the ongoing spiritual battle for the souls of all mankind. This prayer was composed by Pope Leo XIII and its use was instituted in 1886 at the end of Low Mass, a tradition which continued until the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council. A popular story regarding its origin claims that the Pope wrote this prayer after having a vision of demonic spirits descending on Rome.

Michael is mentioned as one of God's seven archangels in the Book of Enoch and is presented by Revelations 12:7-12 as the warrior angel who cast Satan from Heaven. He is therefore traditionally venerated as a protector against the forces of evil and a guardian of the Church.

The Prayer to St. Michael is still commonly said at the end of the rosary and by some parishes after the conclusion of Mass.

"In order to be an image of God, the spirit must turn to what is eternal, hold it in spirit, keep it in memory, and by loving it, embrace it in the will." —St. Benedicta of the Cross



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

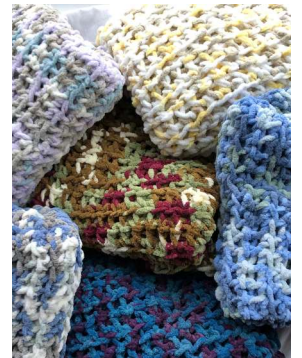
ADVERTISE FOR YOUR MINISTRY GROUP

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.....couragec.org

EWTV (GLOBAL CATHOLIC TELEVISION NETWORK)
Phone.....1-800-447-3986
Website.....www.ewtv.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
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Retrouvaille.....www.helpourmarriage.org

MASS TIMES NATIONWIDE
Phone.....1-858-207-6277
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Website.....wcaomaha.org

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

PARISH GARAGE SALE—CHRIST THE KING, JULY 30-AUGUST 1

Check out all the treasures at the Christ the King Garage Sale on Thursday, July 30 through Saturday, August 1, from 8 AM to 5 PM each day in the basement of the Parish Center at Christ the King Church (654 S 86th St, Omaha). You'll find furniture, jewelry, toys, purses, holiday items, and so much more!

Garage Sale!



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.

RETRouvaille MARRIAGE WEEKEND—SCHUYLER, AUGUST 7-9

There are still openings for couples who are searching for hope and healing in their marriage during the upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend scheduled on August 7-9. We know that many couples carry their struggles quietly. Some feel disconnected, overwhelmed, or unsure where to turn; others may believe their marriage is beyond repair. Retrouvaille exists to remind them that there is hope. Retrouvaille is a Catholic-founded ministry that has helped thousands of couples rebuild communication, restore trust, and rediscover the love that brought them together. It is not group therapy or marriage counseling. Rather, it is a practical, hope-filled program that offers couples the opportunity to begin again, regardless of the challenges they are facing. Learn more and register at HelpOurMarriage.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.

OACCW SUMMER MEETING—ST. FRANCIS BORGIA, BLAIR, AUGUST 11

All women are welcome to the OACCW (Archdiocese Council of Catholic Women) Summer Meeting on Tuesday, August 11 at St. Francis Borgia Catholic Church (2005 Davis Dr, Blair). Registration begins at 9:30 AM. Registration of \$10 includes coffee, rolls, and lunch. The OACCW meeting begins at 10 AM in the St. Francis Borgia Parish Hall. Mass will be at 11:30 AM with lunch to follow. The Guest Speaker for the day is Sam Minarik. Sam is an Evangelization Coordinator for the parish and sets up Bible Studies. Please join us for a day of spirituality, Mass, and visiting with our sisters in Christ. RSVP encouraged by Saturday, August 1 for lunch count to Leonarda Arens, OACCW President, via email at arensjlrepair@hotmail.com or text to 402-253-5120. Note: we are now accepting nominations for an OACCW Vice-President. The term starts in September 2026.



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