

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

508 W. ANGUS STREET GRETNA, NE 68028



26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you.” - Mt 21:31

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

SEPTEMBER 27, 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

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

FIRST READING (Ez 18:25-28)

Ezekiel challenges people who complain, "the Lord's way is not fair." Can you think of a time you felt the need to defend God?

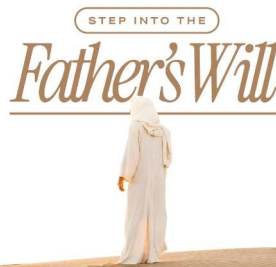
SECOND READING (PHIL 2:1-11 OR 2:1-5)

Paul urges believers to be humble and look out for one another's needs. How might you help build up a friend or co-worker this week?

GOSPEL (MT 21:28-32)

In the parable of the two sons, Jesus warns the chief priests and elders to be open-minded and willing to change. What are you hoping will change in your life?

GOSPEL MEDITATION



This Sunday, Jesus tells a short, uncomfortable story. A father asks two sons to go work in the vineyard. One says no, but later goes. The other says yes, but never shows up. It is a parable so simple, we almost miss how sharp it is. Jesus is clear about who it is for. This is not aimed at pagans or outsiders. It is aimed squarely at religious people, people who know the right words and sound obedient.

Jesus is not condemning unbelief so much as disobedience. The polite hypocrisy that says the right things while quietly resisting the Father's will. St. John Chrysostom put it bluntly, "Not words, but deeds, are what God requires. Nothing so exasperates Him as insincere obedience, while nothing so delights Him as repentance."

Every disciple must face that mirror. Do I publicly profess faith in Christ while privately resisting what He asks of me? It is easy to say, I believe in God in my heart. But if faith never becomes action, it slowly becomes an illusion.

Jesus does not expose hypocrisy to shame us. He reveals it to heal us. He wants our hearts and our deeds to speak the same word, to let our yes truly mean yes. Like the second son who initially refused but afterwards changed his mind and went, Jesus invites us to step into the Father's will, however late, however imperfectly.

Challenge: Where are your public faith and private obedience divided? Where do you say, I will go, but never enter the vineyard? Go, get to work, even if it is late. The Father's vineyard is still open.

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

QUESTION:

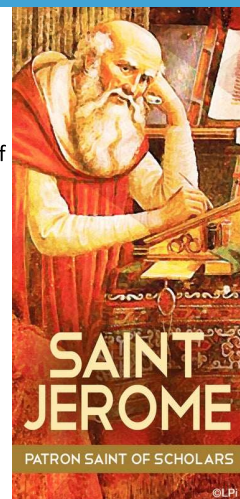
Who is St. Jerome, and why is he so significant that we honor him with a feast on September 30?

ANSWER:

St. Jerome (345–420) was considered the greatest Biblical scholar of his day, conversant with Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. He set about translating the books of the Bible from their original languages into Latin.

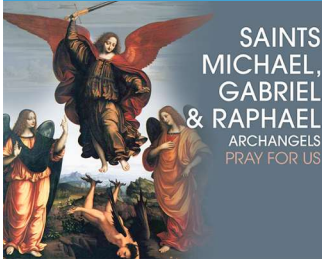
Much of Jerome's correspondence has survived and gives us a powerful glimpse into the kind of person that he was, as well as the time in which he lived. Jerome eventually became Pope Damasus' (366–384) personal secretary. In the West, Latin was overtaking Greek as the language of the common people. The pope desired a translation of the Bible that would be accurately translated from the original languages into the language and idiom of the people. Previous Latin translations existed, but they were poor in quality.

Jerome set about this task and spent the rest of his life meticulously translating. He is credited with the translation of the Bible known as the Vulgate, a Latin translation intended to address the needs of the common people. That translation became the standard and the only one used by Catholics until modern times. Catholics did not actively engage in a similar process until 1943, when Pius XII allowed Catholic scholars once again to go back to the original languages and translate an accurate and meticulous version of the Bible. We carry on that tradition to this very day.



SAINTS MICHAEL, GABRIEL, AND RAPHAEL

Archangels



The Archangels St. Gabriel, St. Michael, and St. Raphael share a feast day on September 29. These are the only three angels mentioned by name in Sacred Scripture. St. Michael means "Who is like God?" He is the warrior angel, the famous foe of Satan, who is the champion of God's people and guardian and protector of the Church (Rev. 12:7-9). St. Gabriel means "Power of God." He is the messenger or herald angel most famous for appearing to the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Annunciation (Luke 1:11-38). St. Raphael means "God has healed." He is a companion and healing angel, most famous for curing a man's blindness and for traveling with Tobiah in the book of Tobit (Tob. 12).

SAINT THERESE OF LISIEUX

Doctor of the Church

St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897) was the last of nine children born to Saints Louis and Zelie Martin in Alencon, France. Her family was devoutly religious, and all five surviving siblings, all daughters, entered the convent. From an early age Therese desired to give herself totally to Jesus. Her happy childhood gave way to trial following the death of her mother when she was four years old. This event changed her personality from merry and bright to withdrawn and sensitive. She also suffered a strange illness that brought her near death.

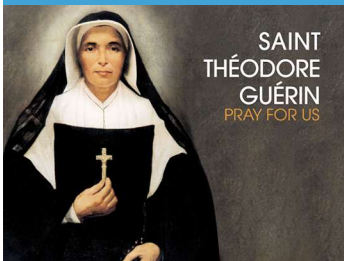
Her sisters prayed for her recovery, and Therese was completely healed after she saw the Virgin Mary statue in her room smile down on her. Just before her 14th birthday, on Christmas Eve, Therese had a mystical experience of the Child Jesus. Her sensitiveness disappeared and her faith was greatly fortified. She attended daily Mass with her father and cultivated her strong desire for the salvation of souls. At the age of 15 she obtained special permission to enter the Carmelite convent in Lisieux where two of her sisters were professed. Recognizing her youth and weakness, and unable to do the great things for God in the world that her heart desired, she determined that she would follow the path of spiritual childhood at the feet of Jesus, as his "Little Flower," and instead focus on small acts of kindness for love of Jesus and interior acts of self-denial, a spirituality called "The Little Way." Therese died of Tuberculosis at the age of 24, and her high degree of holiness was discovered through her autobiography, *Story of a Soul*. Her "Little Way" became profoundly influential around the world, and although she was not a learned scholar, her deep theological life caused Pope St. John Paul II to declare her a Doctor of the Church. She is the patron against sickness, tuberculosis, and loss of parents, as well as of pilots, air crews, florists, missionaries, and the sick. St. Therese of Lisieux's feast day is October 1.

SAINT
THERÈSE
OF LISIEUX
PRAY FOR US



SAINT THEODORE GUERIN

Religious



St. Theodore Guerin (1798–1856), also known as St. Theodora, was born in Etables, France, towards the end of the French Revolution. She was a pious child who loved prayer and who knew her vocation was to be a nun. However, she was delayed in following this path after the murder of her father when she was 15, which, in addition to the previous death of two of her siblings, sent her mother into a deep depression. St. Theodore took on the household tasks and the care of her mother and her remaining sister. Finally, when she was 25, her

mother gave her consent, and Theodore left home to enter the religious life. She joined the Sisters of Providence who served God by educating children and caring for the poor, the sick, and the dying. In 1840 she was asked to lead a band of missionary sisters and establish her order in the United States of America, specifically to serve the pioneers in Indiana. Even though her health was fragile, she crossed the Atlantic and then traveled by steamboat and stagecoach until she reached the wilderness mission of St. Mary of the Woods, which consisted only of a tiny log chapel. She and her five sisters endured the extreme hardships common to life on the frontier. Less than a year after arriving she opened an academy which became the first Catholic women's Liberal Arts college in the United States, still active today, called St. Mary of the Woods College. St. Theodore also established numerous schools, pharmacies, and orphanages throughout the state of Indiana. She was beatified by Pope John Paul II and canonized in 2006 by Pope Benedict XVI. Her feast day is October 3.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Gretna, Nebraska

READINGS THIS WEEK

MONDAY: Jb 1:6-22/Ps 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7/Lk 9:46-50
TUESDAY: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51
WEDNESDAY: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16/Ps 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15/Lk 9:57-62
THURSDAY: Jb 19:21-27/Ps 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14/Lk 10:1-12
FRIDAY: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5/Ps 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab/Mt 18:1-5, 10
SATURDAY: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17/Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130/Lk 10:17-24
NEXT SUNDAY: Is 5:1-7/Ps 80:9 and 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43

ST. JOHN VIANNEY

“THE PRIESTHOOD IS THE
LOVE OF THE HEART OF
JESUS. WHEN YOU SEE A
PRIEST, THINK OF OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST.”



OBSERVANCES THIS WEEK

MONDAY: St. Wenceslaus, Martyr; St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Martyrs
TUESDAY: Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels
WEDNESDAY: St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church
THURSDAY: St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
FRIDAY: The Holy Guardian Angels
NEXT SUNDAY: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday

Saints
MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL,
ARCHANGELS

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ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

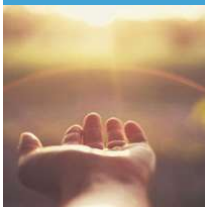
NAMES FOR THE GIVING TREE Gretna Area Families in Need

The Outreach Ministry is working on the Outreach Giving Tree. If you know



of a Gretna area family in need, please have them mail their name, address, and phone number to: Outreach Ministry, C/O St. Patrick Catholic Church, 508 W Angus St, Gretna, NE 68028. All information is kept confidential. The deadline for submitting the information is October 1. Please contact Linda Stodola at 402-672-6121 with questions. You can leave a message if necessary. Thank you.

VICTIM OUTREACH PREVENTION Start the Healing Process Today



It is important for the Church to truly listen to those who are injured and to express sincere sorrow to all who have been wounded by sexual misconduct at the hands of Church personnel. Office of Victim Outreach and Prevention is a

safe place for this to occur. The Director of Victim Outreach and Prevention is available for all those who have been hurt, seek to be heard, and want to start the healing process. Please consider contacting Mary Beth Hanus, LMHP, at mbhanus@archomaha.org or 402-827-3798.

SEMINARIAN PRAYER CORNER

Please pray for the Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Omaha.

This week let us pray for Deacon Caleb Kosch (Configuration IV/ Vocational Synthesis) from St. Anthony in Columbus.



"Which of the two did the will of his father?"

(Matthew 21:31) On Priesthood Sunday, we give thanks for priests who humbly serve God's people. Celebrate this day by writing a note of gratitude and encouragement to a priest who inspires you. Remember in prayer the priest who baptized and confirmed you. Pray for the priests in your parish and support those discerning this vocation. Are you discerning this call? Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.



Pray for all Seminarians



Since our last update on September 13, 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

Charlotte Lilly Hill.....9/20/2026

Oliver Paul Uchtman.....9/20/2026

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

Chad Volmert and Emma Kanne.....9/19/2026

COMPLETE THE VISION—CATHEDRAL PLAZA PROJECT Special Collection This Weekend, September 26-27

"Complete the Vision" is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a new and welcoming plaza that will become a gathering space for Catholics as well as the Omaha community. We will also celebrate the pillars of our faith community, our Archdiocese, and our parish.



We are currently finishing our first phase, replacing our non-ADA compliant disabled access ramp. The second phase will be the repair of the limestone façade and front granite steps of the Cathedral, scheduled to commence this year. The third phase will build the plaza, install a large fountain, a monument and courtyard to recognize all parishes in the Omaha Archdiocese, a sculpture honoring our bishops and archbishops, and other elements for liturgies and celebrations. We will also add traffic calming elements on 40th Street and revitalize the permanent nighttime illumination of the Cathedral in this phase.

Your gift to our \$8.2 million capital campaign will help complete construction and enhancements to our Cathedral and have a lasting impression for many future generations. We ask you to prayerfully consider a gift or pledge today to enable this endeavor! Find out more or support this project now at <https://stceciliacathedral.org/plaza-project>.

We will have a representative from this Cathedral Project here with us this weekend, September 26-27, to share more about this plaza vision and how you can be a part of it.

FIRST FRIDAY AFTERNOON MASS AND ANOINTING Gretna - Springfield Family of Parishes



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

ST. PATRICK FALL SALE—NEED RUMMAGE SALE ITEMS

Drop Off Your Donations Starting Monday, October 12

The Youth Group is hosting a parish-wide garage sale on Saturday, October 24 from 8 AM to 7 PM and Sunday, October 25 from 8 AM to 2 PM, and everything must go! All proceeds go to the St. Patrick Youth Group!

DONATIONS NEEDED:

Any and all usable items, tools, small chairs, household items, books, toys, jewelry, dishes, hardware, and working appliances. Clothing should be clean and not torn, please! We CANNOT take tires, paint, liquids, built-in appliances, air conditioners, de-humidifiers, TV's, encyclopedias, water beds, shower doors, damaged furniture, entertainment centers, hide-a-beds, mattresses, box springs, textbooks, and magazines.

WHEN CAN I DELIVER THESE DONATIONS:

Deliver items to St. Patrick starting Monday, October 12 through Thursday, October 22 during office hours (8 AM to 4:30 PM). We will not accept any donations before Monday, October 12. Any questions, call Jonathan Wotipka (Youth Minister) at 402-332-4444 ext. 212.



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, October 4 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.

THE GIVING GARDEN

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.



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 Hottov.....402-651-8564

NEW PARISH DIRECTORIES ARE READY FOR PICK-UP

Purchase a Copy for \$25



It's official! Our new Parish Directories are here! Stop by the Parish Office during regular business hours (Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 4:30 PM) to pick up your copy. Everyone who had their picture taken for the new directory, submitted a family picture, or pre-ordered have a copy saved with your name on it.

We do have additional copies available for purchase of \$25, if you did not get your picture taken and would still like a copy of the new directory. These will only be given to registered parishioners and only one per household will be given out. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

TRUNK OR TREAT CANDY DRIVE

Throughout the Month of October

We are welcoming back the Trunk or Treat event hosted by the Hospitality Committee on Wednesday, October 28 from 4:30 PM to 6 PM in the Parish Center. Young children of the parish are encouraged to attend before or after their Religious Education class that evening.

If you are interested in hosting a religious themed table for a guild or group, please contact Karen Wiehl at 402-960-6750 or Mike Wiehl at 402-979-0779.

CANDY DRIVE

We are hosting a candy drive throughout the month of October to ensure that we have enough sweet treats to share. If you would like to participate, please drop off candy to the marked box in the narthex. Thank you!



Stewardship Report

Sep 16-Sep 22, 2026

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

General Contributions	Sep16-Sep 22	Fiscal YTD thru Sep 22
Sunday Offering	\$14,966.75	\$292,138.62
Other Contributions	\$555.35	\$15,502.86
Total General Contributions	\$15,522.10	\$307,641.48 *
Surplus/Deficit	(\$12,977.90)	(\$34,358.52)

* 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

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, SEPTEMBER 28TH

7:30 AM † Deb Rogers

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

6:00 PM † Sharon Laughlin

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

7:30 AM † Deceased Members of the Ingram and Bruck Families

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

7:30 AM † Nancy Sis

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2ND

7:30 AM † Tom Hines

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

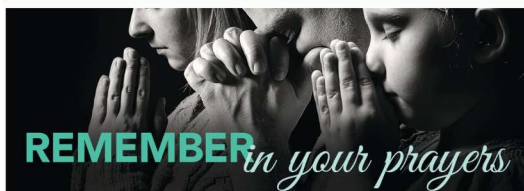
5:00 PM † John Kula

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

8:00 AM For Our Parishioners
10:00 AM † Carla Due
12:00 PM INT Jacob and Lexy Weber

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 JoAnne Lyons (mom of Theresa Gulizia), Paul Kneifl, Duggan and Amanda, Sylvia, John Engler, Barb McMahon, Celeste Baumert, Amber Janda, 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, SEPTEMBER 27TH—26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM Religious Education Classes—Basement Commons, RE Classrooms

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:45 PM Ascension Bible Study—Parish Center A and Kitchen

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 6:40 PM Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM Called and Gifted Class—Parish Center C

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
8:30 AM to 11:00 AM Faith Connection—Father Hitch Room
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM RE Classes—Basement Commons, RE Classrooms, Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM OCIA Class—Parish Center C

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2ND

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 8:15 AM Liturgy of the Hours—Behind the Tabernacle
8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Women's Faith Sharing—Father Hitch Room

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3RD

8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Knights Officer Meeting—Father Hitch Room
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, OCTOBER 4TH—27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM Religious Education Classes—Basement Commons, RE Classrooms
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary and Narthex
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM COR Men's Group Meeting—Father Hitch Room

THANK YOU FROM THE LANDSCAPING TEAM *Your Compliments are Well Received*

We are hearing many positive and complimentary comments about the garden display that you have enjoyed this season at the east side of St. Patrick Church. Your appreciation of the efforts by these parish volunteers and your interest in our work is most supportive.

You, our parishioners, will always be a great part of this transformation through your financial backing, especially last spring, which helped to make our plans come alive. We are grateful for the professional planning by Terry Dolnicek, one of our team members, who inspired and developed the design. Many other members of our team helped with their generous hours of planting and maintaining the beds all season long. It seems there is always more work to be done!

The Church grounds remain to be an on-going project each season and will always be in need of more work and various kinds of support. Thank you again parishioners for your part in making this continually possible.

With gratitude,
The St. Patrick Landscaping Team

Any questions can be submitted to the Parish Office or to 402-916-9774. Thank you!



LAY MINISTER'S SCHEDULE

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

OCTOBER 3RD
5:00 PM

Sacristan
Pat Gilmore

Lectors
Ken Beckman
(Read the 1st Reading)

Eric Hittner
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Tina Schutte
Jocelyn Pearson
Pat Gilmore
Barb Applegate
Phil Lenz

Ushers
Andy Pearson
Jeff Wollenburg
Need Sub
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Kathy Dauner

Altar Servers
Aslyn Ronk
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Chris Gatewood
Tim Kirkpatrick

OCTOBER 4TH
8:00 AM

Sacristan
Joan Ingram

Lectors
Sandy Scheef
(Read the 1st Reading)

Joan Ingram
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Cari Kaup
Laura Fischer
Rob Polak
Marty Stednitz
Jamey Kennel

Ushers
Pat Calvert
Kevin Kaup
Tony Schultz
Christopher Wilson

Rosary Reciter
Kathy Schwarting

Altar Servers
Carson Kaup
Ethan Kaup
Will Kaup

Greeters
Mary Brown
Greg Jones

Hilcrest SR/HL
Marty Stednitz
Sally Stednitz

OCTOBER 4TH
10:00 AM

Sacristan
Jim Hottovy

Lectors
Michael Chatterson
(Read the 1st Reading)

David Burke
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Norm Svoboda
Ashley Kassmeier
Bridget Chatterson
Tom Nienaber

Ushers
Russ Eusterwiemann
Jim Hain
Bruce Jefferies
Chris Reinig

Rosary Reciter
Need Sub

Altar Servers
Kalla Kassmeier
Kameron Kassmeier
Klayton Kassmeier

Greeters
Andrew Brei
Tony Tiefenthaler

OCTOBER 4TH
12:00 PM

Sacristan
Carol Zeleny

Lectors
Kathy Broz
(Read the 1st Reading)

Need Sub
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Delma Stoner
Carol Zeleny
Doris Williams
Darcy Skrdla
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Linda Gardner
Delma Stoner
Doris Williams
Mary Zeigler

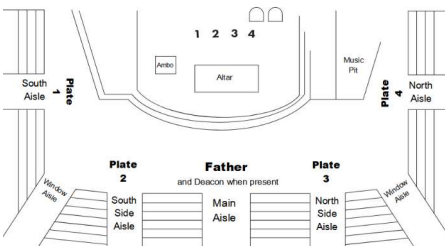
Rosary Reciter
Norm Svoboda

Altar Servers
Need Sub
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Mary Zeigler
Need Sub

Vocations Crucifix
Janice Wear

EMHC STATION MAP



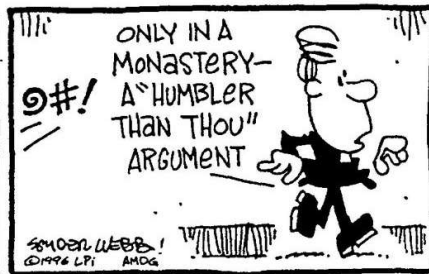
EMHC Positions (see diagram above):

- 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.

26th 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

PARISH OFFICE

Jolene Jefferies, Parish Mgr.....402-332-4444, x203
jmjefferies@archomaha.org

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

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

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

DIRECTOR OF PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

Maria Hedrick.....402-332-3050
mehedrick@archomaha.org

PASTORAL MINISTRY (LITURGY, YOUTH GROUP & FAITH FORM)

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

DIRECTOR OF SACRED MUSIC

Laura Rau.....402-332-4444, x216
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PARISH CENTER COORDINATOR

Lezlie Thomas.....402-525-3098
lathomas@archomaha.org

FACILITY MANAGER

Judy Stephens.....402-332-4444, x206
jaknight@archomaha.org

EVANGELIZATION COORDINATOR

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

PASTORAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Liz Beckman.....402-305-5945

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

PRO-LIFE CHAIN *Public, Peaceful, Prayerful*



**TAKE A
STAND
FOR LIFE**

Each year, Life Chains form in cities nationwide to make a public, prayerful, peaceful stand for Life.

We will be meeting in the parking lot by Dollar General 30 minutes before the event.

Location: Intersection of Hwy 6 and Hwy 370 in Gretna

When: Sunday, October 4, 2-3 PM

Our Parish Contact:
Kris Devlin
kdevlin82@gmail.com

Each year, Life Chains form in cities nationwide to make a public, prayerful, peaceful stand for Life. On Sunday,

October 4, from 2 PM to 3 PM, we invite you, your family, and friends to gather with us at the intersection of Highways 6 and Highway 370 in Gretna for a peaceful Pro-Life Chain. Together, we will stand as a visible witness for the dignity of every human life, from conception to natural death. This will be a time of prayer, peaceful presence, and unity as our community comes together in love and hope. We will be meeting in the parking lot by Dollar General 30 minutes before the event.

TADPOLES PRESCHOOL CLASS *Registration is Now Open*

St. Patrick Catholic Preschool is now registering for it's youngest class, the Tadpoles, which begins on January 8. Any child who will be 3 years old by March 15, 2027 and is potty trained is eligible for this one-day-a-week class held on Friday mornings from 8:40 AM to 11:10 AM. To register, please go to preschool.stpatricksgretna.org and click the Register tab. If you have any questions, please call the Preschool office at 402-332-3050. Be sure to register early as this class has limited spots and fills quickly.

Tadpoles



REGISTRATION

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL *Becoming a Missional Parish*

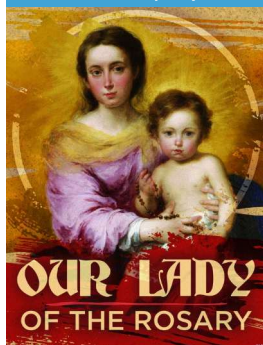


Archbishop's
Annual Appeal

Your support of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal directly impacts

parishes, schools, and ministries throughout northeast Nebraska as we work to become more missional communities. Want to know more about the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, visit, <https://archomaha.org/archbishops-annual-appeal>. To date, 10 donors have committed \$5,074 towards our parish goal of \$136,183.08 for this year's Archbishop's Annual Appeal. We are off to a great start! Please help us reach our participation goal of 30%. Thank you for your generosity!

SPECIAL ICON BLESSING MASS AND TALK *Our Lady of the Rosary Being Added to our Adoration Chapel*



Join us for an extra special Mass at 6 PM on Wednesday, October 7 to formally bless and install our new Our Lady of the Rosary icon for our Adoration Chapel. When we first built our Adoration Chapel, we had three icons commissioned by Fr. Dan Lenz of Mount Michael—they included one of St. Patrick, one of Our Lady of the Rosary, and a Crucifix. Fr. Dan started writing these icons, but due to his health Fr. Richard Riser has taken over the project. Fr. Riser will be joining us for this special Mass and will give a brief talk afterwards about the process in writing an icon. His talk will be followed by a simple cookie reception in the Parish Center. We hope you can join us for this special event!

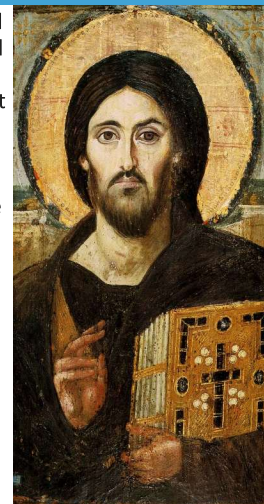
WHY TO BYZANTINE ICONS LOOK THE WAY THEY DO? *This Distinctive Look Carries Enormous Spiritual Significance*

Walk into any Eastern Catholic church or household, and you will immediately be met by icons. Seeing an icon—adorned with gold and other rich colors, often wreathed in candlelight and seemingly emanating its own interior light—is an experience that captivates the viewer almost involuntarily. These images are just so... otherworldly.

If a viewer is thus drawn to the contemplation of holy things, the icon has done its job. These images are not just pieces of art: they are meant to make the divine present to us. They connect us—through prayer—with Christ, Our Lady, and the saints.

Two of the most distinctive features of icons are bound up with this idea of holy presence: the portrayal of light and the two-dimensionality of the features. You'll notice that the prominent parts of the face and other salient features seem to glow and shimmer. This is to convey the idea of inner light, the indwelling of God, and the subject's belonging to that other world, the Heavenly realm.

The features are not photorealistic (they lack depth and three-dimensionality) because they are not intended to draw attention to the beauty of the portrayal, but rather to point beyond the icon to the actual person represented.



Oldest known icon (6th c.) of Christ Pantocrator (Christ in Majesty)



15th c. icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

The central idea of holy presence is also evident if we look at how these images have been transmitted to us historically. You'll never find a true icon that is completely "new," because each icon is a continuation of a spiritual and artistic tradition. They say St. Luke was the first icon painter, painting images of Our Lady from life. The story of the first icon of Christ (the "Mandylion") goes back to Christ Himself.

Icon painters, therefore, take the bones of their work from icons made before them, adding their own interpretation yet keeping the essence intact to continue this tradition. In this way, icons are a living link to the earliest iconographers—and even to Our Lord and Our Lady themselves.

In fact, icon painting is properly referred to as icon writing, since an iconographer's goal is to correctly transmit the tradition handed on to him from the past and to accurately convey the visual theology contained in the image.

You can bring the profound spirituality of these images into your prayer life through an icon of your own. (Or now, by visiting our Adoration Chapel here at St. Patrick!)

—Article by The Catholic Company

ROSARY GUILD DISPLAY EVENT

Hand Crafted Items Made by Our Parishioners

The Rosary Guild will be holding a Rosary Display Event on Sunday, October 11 after each Mass during the Knights of Columbus breakfast. Come see our collection of handcrafted rosaries, bracelets, bookmarks, backpack hangers, and more. All items are available free of charge. Free-will donations are graciously accepted to help us purchase supplies and continue this ministry. Please stop by and take a handmade item with you or simply come see the beautiful work of our Rosary Guild members. Thank you for supporting our ministry and helping us share the gift of the Rosary!



EXPERIENCE THE EUCHARISTIC ROSARY CONGRESS

Sign-up for a Holy Hour and Rosary



We must strive to strengthen our relationship with Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist through Mary and the Rosary, and in doing so we will encounter His healing grace. We are given this opportunity during the Eucharistic Rosary Congress. A Eucharistic Rosary Congress is a seven-day period of Eucharistic Adoration with an hourly Rosary prayed before the Blessed Sacrament. Dioceses throughout the United States will participate in this Catholic call to help establish peace in our country and the world. The Congress is offered in a spirit of reparation to restore the sanctity of life, to heal families, and to console the hearts of Jesus and Mary.

We will host the Eucharistic Rosary Congress (Saturday, October 3 through Saturday, October 10). Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in our Adoration chapel with the Rosary prayed aloud at the start of each hour, followed by silent prayer for the remainder of the hour. The prayers with the special intentions for the decades of the Rosary are provided.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORERS NEEDED

Please consider participating by volunteering to cover one of the hours of Adoration during the day or the night hours. Bring your family, a friend, or if you are part of a parish group, consider inviting your group to pray a Holy Hour. If you are interested in leading the Rosary, please contact Kathy Dauner at kathydauner@gmail.com. Sign-up for an hour of adoration by scanning the QR code or visiting our parish website, stpatricksgretna.org.



PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY—SEPTEMBER 27

Priests are Humans Too They need Prayer and Compassion Too



PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

Whenever we interact with our priests, do we see them as human and frail like the rest of humanity? Or on the other hand, do we see them as supermen, able to withstand all the stresses and strains of being human? I hope you see your priest as very human. Quite possibly, even more human than most of us. Why? Because they not only have their own struggles being human, but they accompany us in our humanness too.

Therefore, this Priesthood Sunday, turn the tables. Attempt to be the listener to the human side of your priest. Do not automatically tell him your troubles; begin by asking him what is going on in his life. Thank him warmly for giving up so much to spend his life in service to others. Try it. You might be surprised to find out your priest is just like you!

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Jesus Christ, Great High Priest, You are able to sympathize with our human weakness. Strengthen your priests for the work of ministry. You healed, proclaimed, and taught. Renew your priests in their concern for the poor, zeal for the Gospel, and personal witness to virtue. You instituted the Sacraments as signs of Heavenly grace. Make holy your priests for this sacred service. You bore our sufferings and sins upon yourself. May your priests remain close to the broken-hearted. Jesus Christ, Great High Priest, bring your priests ever closer to your Sacred Heart. Amen.

"The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus." —St. John Vianney



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.

OUR LITTLEST SAINTS

Support for Parents Experiencing Loss



Our Littlest Saints at St. Charles Borromeo offers support for individuals and families experiencing pregnancy/infant loss or infertility. A monthly support group for men and women

meet on the first Thursday of each month from 7 PM to 8 PM in Room 3 of the Parish Life Center at St. Charles (7790 S 192nd St, Gretna). The next gathering will take place on Thursday, October 1. For more information about the ministry, upcoming support group meetings, or to request a care package, please visit www.stcharlesomaha.org/ols or contact OurLittlestSaintsSCB@gmail.com.

THE TRUE VOICE MAGAZINE

Available for Pick-up Now

The latest edition of *The True Voice* magazine,

The
TRUE VOICE

featuring inspiring stories that reveal the vibrancy of Catholic life in northeast Nebraska, is available for pickup at parishes now. Copies can be found in the St. Patrick narthex. This magazine is published in tandem with CatholicVoiceOmaha.com.



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH Gretna, Nebraska

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- AL-ANON (ALCOHOLIC FAMILY SUPPORT—OMAHA)**
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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)**
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Website.....couragec.org
- EWTV (GLOBAL CATHOLIC TELEVISION NETWORK)**
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Website.....heartsrestorednebraska.org
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Website.....holyfamilyshrine.com
- LEAST OF MY BRETHREN (SUPPORT HOMELESS)**
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Website.....leastofmybrethren.org
- MARRIAGE RESOURCES**
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Retrouvaille.....1-800-470-2230
Retrouvaille.....www.helpourmarriage.org
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- 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

40 DAYS FOR LIFE—MULTIPLE LOCATIONS, SEPTEMBER 23-NOVEMBER 1



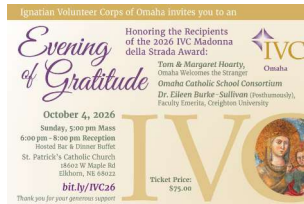
September 23 through November 1 is the fall 40 Days for Life international prayer and fasting campaign to end abortion. Over 26,500 have been saved from abortion, 278 abortion workers have been converted, and 187 abortion centers have closed. Please sign up to pray for an hour at the abortion facility with a friend, fellow parishioners! Visit 40DaysforLife.com or call Nebraskans Embracing Life at 402-399-0299 for more information.

HOLY FAMILY RANCH FALL FESTIVAL—HOLY FAMILY RANCH, SCRIBNER, OCTOBER 3-4

Pitch your tent with Jesus and build Nazareth together—where faith grows, friendships flourish, and families belong. RSVP by Saturday, September 26 for this year's Holy Family Ranch Fall Festival held on October 3-4 at Holy Family Ranch (1451 County Rd B, Scribner). Together we will enjoy camping, karaoke, stargazing, Mass, fishing, hayrides, and more community activities. Sign-up today at <https://holyfamilyranch.org>.



EVENING OF GRATITUDE—ST. PATRICK, ELKHORN, OCTOBER 4



Join the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) Omaha for an evening of gratitude and fundraising as we recognize IVC's 19th year in Omaha and honor the following for their outstanding work with the marginalized in our community: Omaha Welcomes the Stranger, Tom and Margaret Hoarty; Omaha Catholic School Consortium (Dual Language Academy, Holy Cross, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Bernadette, Sts. Peter and Paul, St. Thomas More); Dr. Eileen Burke-Sullivan (posthumously). Support the corps Sunday, October 4 at St. Patrick Catholic Church (18602 W Maple Rd, Elkhorn). We will begin with a 5 PM Mass and then reception from 6 PM to 8 PM. \$75 per ticket includes a hosted bar and dinner buffet. Register at bit.ly/IVC26 (case sensitive), or contact regional director, Maria Mendick Main, at mmain@ivcusa.org for sponsorship opportunities.

ANNUAL RED MASS FOR LEGAL COMMUNITY—CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY, OCTOBER 5

Archbishop Michael McGovern and Creighton University President, Rev. Daniel Hendrickson, SJ, will celebrate the annual Red Mass on Monday, Oct. 5 p.m. at St. John's Church on the Creighton campus. Creighton University's School of Law invites anyone in the Omaha area, especially those in the legal community and their family and friends, to attend. A reception will immediately follow, hosted by Joshua Fershée, JD, dean of the law school.



CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE ETHICS CONFERENCE—CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY, OCTOBER 17



Health care professionals are invited to the third annual Converging Roads health care ethics conference on Saturday, October 17 from 8 AM to 5:45 PM at Creighton University (2500 California Plz, Omaha). This one-day conference will explore the theme of *Catholic Social Doctrine and the Future of Medicine* and offers continuing education for health care professionals rooted in the Hippocratic and Catholic ethical tradition. Registration is \$75-\$159 based on CME/CNE inclusion. This conference is presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation, the Archdiocese of Omaha, the Fr. Edward J. Flanagan Guild of the CMA, and Creighton University. For more info, please visit convergingroads.com/omaha or email taylor@forlifeandfamily.org.

3-DAY SILENT RETREATS—CURC RETREAT CENTER, GRISWOLD, IA, MULTIPLE DATES

Join the Creighton University Retreat Center (CURC) (16493 Contrail Ave, Griswold, IA) for a 3-Day Silent Directed Ignatian Retreat. In this private retreat, participants meet daily with an assigned spiritual director guided with the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. The retreat includes a private room, meals, spiritual direction, and the opportunity for Mass and Reconciliation. See the CURC website, <https://curc.retreatportal.com>, for more information.



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