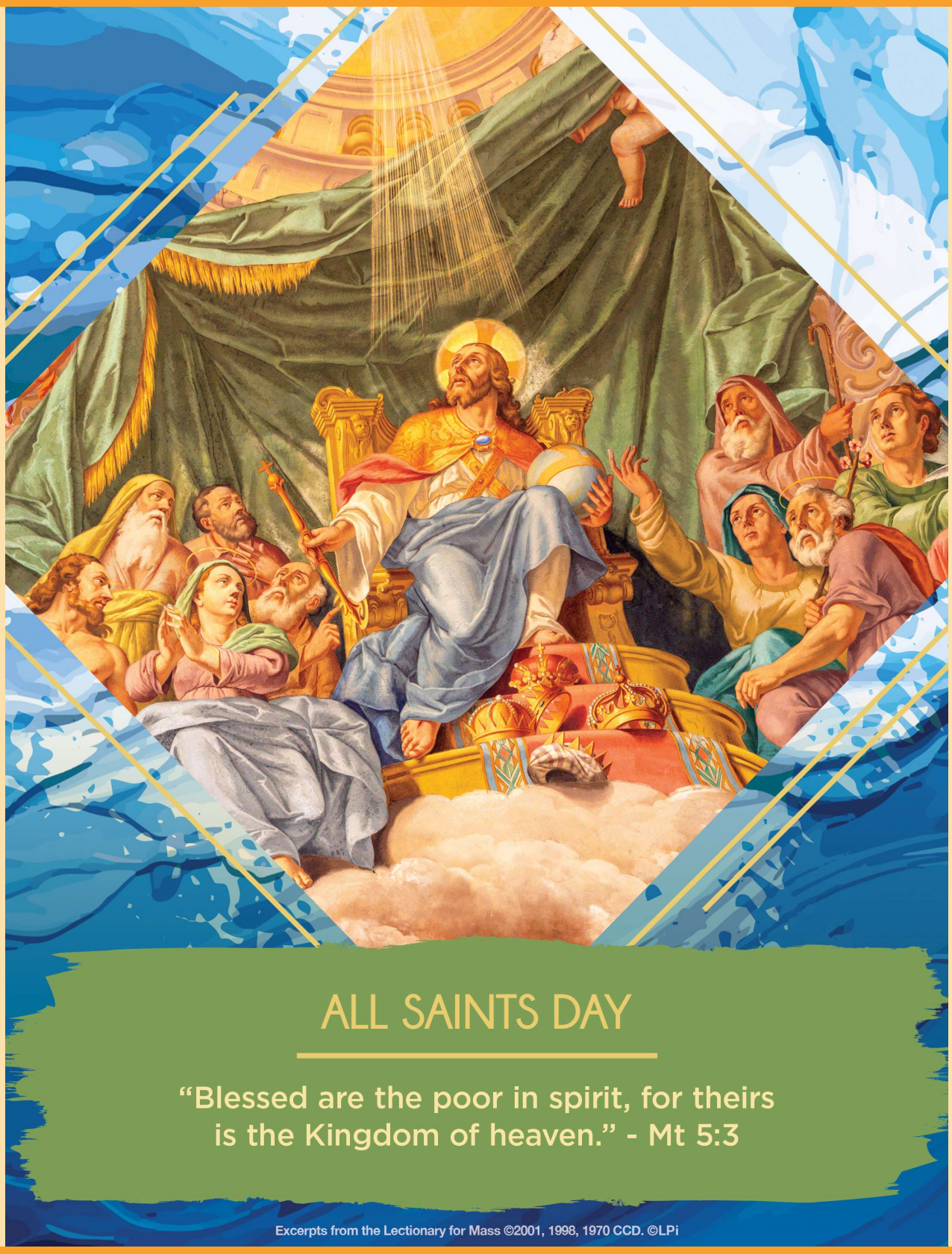
St. Patrick Catholic Church

508 W. Angus Street Gretna, NE 68028



ALL SAINTS DAY

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven." - Mt 5:3

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

November 1, 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.

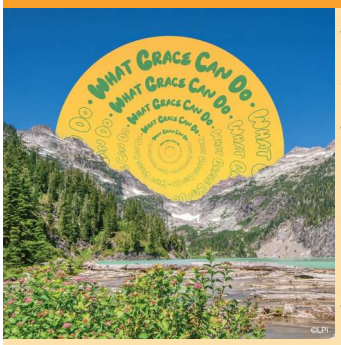
Reflect and Respond
All Saints Day

First Reading (Rv 7:2-4, 9-14)
John sees a vision of a new Israel consisting of every race and nation who has suffered for their faith in Jesus. Would you say you have suffered for the Faith?

Second Reading (1 Jn 3:1-3)
John speaks of the "children of God" as those who have a deep abiding hope in one day being like Jesus. What do you imagine "to be like Jesus" looks like?

Gospel (Mt 5:1-12a)
Jesus teaches the disciples that God uses the poor in spirit, the meek, the peacemakers, the merciful, etc., to help Him build the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. How is God using you to build the Kingdom of Heaven?

Gospel Meditation



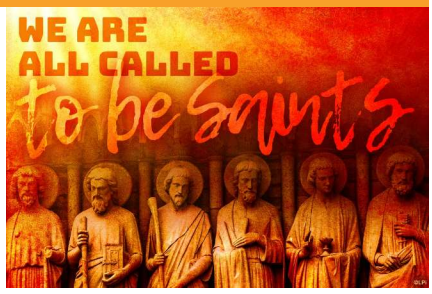
At the end of her short life, my hero, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, found herself in a curious position. Audaciously, she was convinced that she would become a great saint and would be loved by many after her death. At the same time, she insisted that she was weak, impatient, and ordinary. She became arguably the greatest saint in modern times. How is it possible that an ordinary and imperfect person can also be a great saint?

On this All Saints' Day, Jesus overturns our assumptions about holiness. He says, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matthew 5:3). The blessed are not the impressive or the self-sufficient, but the poor in spirit, the meek, the merciful, and the persecuted. These are not heroic traits by normal standards. They are signs of a heart that has learned to rely on God rather than itself. That's what St. Thérèse, and all the saints, are all about.

All Saints' Day is not a celebration of spiritual elites. Rather, it announces what grace can do in our ordinary lives. The saints are not those who avoid weakness or suffering, but those who allow these things to deepen their trust. What good news for us! The smaller and weaker we are, the more qualified we are to be great saints.

Catholic Life Explained

Question:
Why do Catholics care about saints?



Answer:
One of the statements of faith we make when we pray the Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed is that we believe in "the communion of saints." The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that this communion (another word for community) includes all the faithful on earth, the souls in Purgatory, and the blessed women, men, and children who are in Heaven. This teaching is grounded in our belief that, through Baptism, we are united with Christ and to one another with bonds that are stronger even than death.

And so from the time of the early Church, Christians have turned to other believers for prayers and assistance, including those who have gone before us, confident that God hears the prayers of all of His children. While we ask the saints (and one another) for prayers and support, we remember that the saints join us in prayer. But it is God who blesses and sanctifies us.

When we think of the saints in Heaven, we have to remember that we can turn to them for intercession and assistance because they were faulted, limited human beings, just like us. This means that they are able to understand our struggles, doubts, fears, joys, and hopes. But as we learn their stories, we can also begin to recognize that they stand out in the history of the Church because they persevered in their commitment to follow Christ. Whether they were ordained, vowed religious, martyrs, husbands, wives, or even children, they show us that holiness is possible. We can not only follow their example but also benefit from their prayerful support.

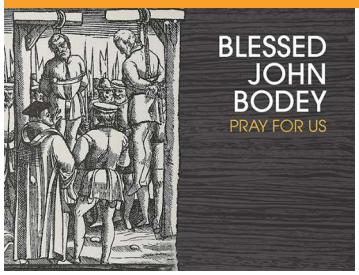
Our devotion to the saints and gratitude for their witness,

Continued on next page—>

Catholic Life Explained
Continued From Page 2

prayers, and protection should also be an inspiration for us, especially when we become aware of the needs of others or when others ask us to pray for them. We are called to share the blessings we receive. This is also part of our own journey of growing in holiness.

Blessed John Bodey
Martyr



Blessed John Bodey (1549-1583) was born in Wells, England, the son of a wealthy merchant and former mayor. He studied at Oxford and became an Oxford Fellow in 1568 at the age of 19. Later he, along with seven others, was deprived of his fellowship for being a Roman Catholic by the Anglican Bishop of Winchester. Bodey, a married layman and schoolmaster, was arrested in 1580 for continuing to practice the Catholic religion and rejecting England's newly-established heretical Church of England. He was kept in iron shackles for three years, which he called his "school of patience." In 1583 he was tried for treason, both for being a faithful Roman Catholic and for repudiating King Henry VIII's claim of supremacy of the Church in England over against the Holy Father. Bodey wrote that his iron chains were earning him glory in Heaven, even kissing the chain halter around his neck. He was executed under Queen Elizabeth on November 2, 1583 by being hanged, drawn, and quartered at Andover. He died with the name of Jesus on his lips. His mother rejoiced that her son persevered to the end and won the crown of martyrdom; she gave a feast in honor of him being numbered among the saints in Heaven. John Bodey was beatified in 1929 and is one of the 40 Martyrs of England and Wales. His feast day is November 2.

All Souls' Day—Day of the Dead
November is the Month of the Holy Souls



November 2 is All Souls' Day, sometimes called the Day of the Dead. On this day, and during the month of November, the Church prays in a special way for the souls of the faithful departed, and individuals pray especially for those whom they have known and loved. The Holy Souls in purgatory died in the mercy of God, thus they are called "holy." However, because they still had attachment to sin at the time of their death, they must undergo the spiritual purification of their souls before they are able to fully love God with their whole heart, mind, and soul for all eternity. As they are nevertheless part of the communion of saints, they depend upon us to help ease their suffering and quickly advance them through their purification so that they can join the saints in Heaven. Those in purgatory cannot pray for themselves, this is why they are also called "poor." They can no longer merit anything for themselves and rely entirely on living souls to pray and make sacrifices on their behalf.

November—Month of the Holy Souls



The Catholic Church dedicates the entire month of November to praying in a special way for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Holy Souls (also called the Faithful Departed) are members of the Church who await the purification of their souls before joining the saints in Heaven for all eternity. Specifically, they are referred to as the Church Suffering (the saints in Heaven are the Church Triumphant, and the faithful on earth are the Church Militant). The poor souls in purgatory cannot pray for themselves or do anything to hasten their entrance into Heaven, but we can and ought to pray for them as an act of charity. The feast of the Holy Souls is November 2.

"Worrying appeals to us because it gives us a sense that we are in control of what might happen—that by thinking through what could happen, we could somehow stave off potential harm or damage. There can be advantages to thinking problems through and trying to prepare ourselves for whatever may come, but we can often take it to an extreme, leading to decision making based on fear and anxiety rather than balance and trust." —Carrie Gress and Noelle Mering, *Theology of Home II: The Spiritual Art of Homemaking,* p. 71

St. Patrick Catholic Church
Gretna, Nebraska

Readings This Week

Monday: Wis 4:7-14/Ps 25:6, and 7b, 17-18, 20-21/Rom 5:17-21/Mt 11:25-30
Tuesday: Phil 2:5-11/Ps 22:26b-27, 28-30ab, 30e, 31-32Lk 14:15-24
Wednesday: Phil 2:12-18/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14Lk 14:25-33
Thursday: Phil 3:3-8a/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7Lk 15:1-10
Friday: Phil 3:17-4:1/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Lk 16:1-8
Saturday: Phil 4:10-19/Ps 112:1b-2, 5-6, 8a and 9/Lk 16:9-15
Next Sunday: Wis 6:12-16/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14/Mt 25:1-13



Observances This Week

Monday: The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)
Tuesday: St. Martin de Porres, Religious; Election Day
Wednesday: St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop
Next Sunday: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



St. Patrick Catholic Church
Gretna, Nebraska

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Help Make Shawls



Gather with us to make prayer shawls for individuals experiencing a crisis. Our group meets the first Thursday of the month from 6:30 PM to 8 PM at Resurrection Lutheran Church (153 South McKenna Ave, Gretna). Our next meeting is Thursday, November 5. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Ball at 402-619-1248.

Advent Giving Trees
Return Gift by November 29

The Advent Giving Trees will be in the main narthex, as well as the south entrance beginning the weekend of November 7-8 for those parishioners who wish to donate a gift. Please check out your ornament on the sheet provided. Many of the adult ornaments are for parishioners in need who are home-bound or in care facilities. Your wrapped gifts should be returned by Sunday, November 29. Thank you for your consideration to reach out to those in need. Questions can be directed to Joan Ingram at 402-203-3604.

Seminarian Prayer Corner



Please pray for the Seminarians of the Archdiocese of Omaha.

This week let us pray for **Casey LaMotte** (Configuration I) from St. Robert Bellarmine in Omaha.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matthew 5:3) The saints show us that true joy and freedom come from placing God above all else. Their lives remind us that holiness often begins in simplicity and humility, responding generously to God's call. During National Vocations Awareness Week, let us pray for more men and women to courageously follow Him, discerning a life as a priest, religious brother, or sister, or through holy matrimony. Could God be inviting you to join in this holy witness? Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.

Pray for all Seminarians

Holy Rosary for the Souls in Purgatory
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery on November 2



To commemorate the one year anniversary of the St. Patrick Purgatorial Society, we would like to invite current members and all others to pray the Holy Rosary at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery on All Souls Day, Monday, November 2 at 5:30 PM.

In addition, we welcome more members to join the society, simply scan the QR code. The purpose of the society is to pray daily for the Holy Souls using the St. Gertrude Prayer. A printed copy is available in the narthex or a copy can be found online.

Release Souls from Purgatory November 1-8
What is a Plenary Indulgence and How How to Receive Them



What is a Plenary Indulgence?

An indulgence is the remission before God of the temporal punishment due for sins already forgiven as far as their guilt is concerned. This means that when we sin, there is a need to have God forgive those sins (to remit the eternal punishment for them) and there is also a need to remit the temporal punishment—that is, the effects of the sin need to be cleaned up before getting to Heaven.

You hurt your brother—and he forgives you—but he still has to suffer the effects of what you did to him (the pain, the bruise, or God forbid the blood). Or you make a mess of your room because you are mad at your mom—and she forgives you—but you still need to clean up your room.

Poor souls in Purgatory are still getting the effects of sin in their souls cleaned up before they can go to Heaven. Now, they have been forgiven by God and will eventually go to Heaven, but like the bedroom example, they still need to clear their room (aka make up for the effects of the sin on their soul).

There is something you can do while still on earth to help them! You can offer a plenary indulgence for them so that all the "clean up" needed in Purgatory for their sins on earth is completed. This is an example of ways that Catholics can help each other: The Saints in Heaven (the Church Triumphant) can pray for us here on earth while we (the Church Militant) can pray for the souls in Purgatory (the Church Suffering).

Plenary Indulgence November 1-8

From All Saints Day through November 8 every year, a special grace is offered for us to aid the Holy Souls in Purgatory. What is this grace? On any and each day for the first eight days of November, a plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful to be applied only to the holy souls in purgatory. This plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful who devoutly visit a cemetery and pray, if only mentally, for the departed.

Only one plenary indulgence per day is granted, but usually no limit on partial indulgences per day. As always, you must not have any attachment to sin, even venial. To gain an indulgence you must be in a state of grace (no unconfessed mortal sins on your soul), in addition to these three conditions:

1. You must receive the Sacrament of Confession 20 days before or after the indulgence to be gained.
2. You must receive Holy Communion on that day which you perform the indulgenced act.
3. You must recite prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father (prayers you choose are up to you, but an Our Father and Hail Mary are suggested.

Special Plenary Indulgence for November 2—All Souls Day

A plenary indulgence—applicable only to the holy souls in purgatory—is granted to the faithful who devoutly visit a church or an oratory, recite an Our Father and the Creed.

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.

Turkey Dinner—Sunday, November 1

Support the St. Patrick Parish Youth Group



Join us for a Turkey Dinner on Sunday, November 1, serving from 11 AM until 3:30 PM or until food runs out. We have options for dine-in or carry-out. The menu includes: turkey with gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, a dinner roll, and dessert. Adult plates are $15 and children (10 and under) at $9. Cash and cards accepted. This event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #10047 and will support our St. Patrick Parish Youth Group. Your donation supports: youth service opportunities, Youth Group meals, retreats, ministry resources, and creating an inviting youth community. Your donation keeps the costs affordable so no teens are left out.

Women's Night of Fellowship with Fr. Mike Grewe

Saturday, November 7



All women of St. Patrick Parish are invited to join us on Saturday, November 7 at 6 PM in the Parish Center for a free evening of fellowship. Dinner will begin at 6:15 PM followed by a talk by Father Mike Grewe. We will also discuss Advent studies for those who would like to participate in a small group during Advent. Please RSVP by Tuesday, November 3 on the St. Patrick website, stpatricksgretna.org, or contact Barb Applegate at 402-980-0216, if you wish to attend this Women's Night of Fellowship. We hope to see you there!

Winter Coat Drive—Now Thru November 23

Donation Boxes are in the Narthex Now



Now is a good time to start preparing for colder weather and to look through your closet for winter gear. The donation boxes are in the narthex from now until November 23 for this year's Knights of Columbus and Gretna Community Winter Gear Drive. Things we are in need of for this year's Winter Gear Drive include new or gently used: winter coats, hoodies, stocking hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, blankets, sleeping bags, and socks. All sizes are needed. It would be appreciated if your donations are put in bags or trash sacks when dropping off inside the donation boxes. It makes for easier handling, pick up, delivery, and transport of the donated items. All items collected will be given to ministries supporting Omaha metro area homeless and those in need. Additional collection boxes will be located at Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church (153 S McKenna Ave), United Methodist Church (11457 S 204th St), and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (11204 S 204th St).

Stewardship Report

Oct 21-Oct 27, 2026

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

General Contributions	Oct 21- Oct 27	Fiscal YTD thru Oct 27
Sunday Offering	$36,874.48	$431,691.89
Other Contributions	$1,334.81	$20,001.20
Total General Contributions	$38,209.29	$451,693.09 *
Surplus/Deficit	$9,709.29	($32,806.91)

** 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, November 15 at 7 PM. Come join your brother parishioners for prayer and fraternity! If you have additional questions, please reach out to Matthew Henry at mattnhenry@gmail.com, Andy Pearson at apearson709@gmail.com, Eric Devlin at devlineric62@gmail.com, or Seth Boardman at sethd99@hotmail.com.

Monthly Meeting and Knights Memorial Mass

All Knights are invited to join us for our monthly Knights of Columbus meeting that occurs every first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM in the St. Patrick Parish Center. Join us this month on Tuesday, November 3 for a special Knights Memorial Mass where we will remember all of our fellow Knights who have passed away over the last year. This Mass will be at 6 PM in the Church. Stay afterwards to participate in our monthly meeting in the Parish Center after some time of prayer together.

Now is the Time to Become a Knight!



For Catholic men that are 18 years of age you can join the Fr. John V. Wallace Knights Council #10047 at St. Patrick here in Gretna and your dues will be taken care of while you are in school up to 4 years by the Council. This includes trade schools, community colleges, and universities.interested please contact our Chancellor and Membership Director, Randy Meerian at@gmail.com402-981-6471.

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, November 2nd
7:30 AM † All the Souls of the Faithfully Departed

Tuesday, November 3rd
6:00 PM † Sharon Laughlin

Wednesday, November 4th
7:30 AM INT The Karmazin and Svajgl Families

Thursday, November 5th
7:30 AM † John O'Gara

Friday, November 6th
7:30 AM † Basil and Sally Buras

Saturday, November 7th
5:00 PM † Eileen Sutton

Sunday, November 8th
8:00 AM † Patrick Donohue Sr.
10:00 AM For Our Parishioners
12:00 PM † Kevin 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 Rose Grandinetti, Julie K, Tiffany Theer, Daun Koke (Jack Koke's daughter-in-law), JoAnne Lyons (mom of Theresa Gulizia), Duggan and Amanda, John Engler, 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, November 1st—All Saints Day
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—RE Classrooms, Basement Commons
11:00 AM to 3:30 PM Turkey Feed—Parish Center and Kitchen
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

Monday, November 2nd—All Souls' Day
7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
5:30 PM to 6:00 PM Holy Rosary for the Souls in Purgatory—Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
6:30 PM 9:00 PM Sisters of the Word—Father Hitch Room
7:00 PM to 8:45 PM Ascension Bible Study—Parish Center A and Kitchen

Tuesday, November 3rd
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Project Linus—Basement Commons
5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Knights Holy Hour of Prayer with Knights Memorial Mass—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 6:40 PM Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM Discernment In-Dept Sessions—Parish Center C
7:00 PM to 9:00 PM Knights Monthly Meeting—Parish Center AB and Kitchen

Wednesday, November 4th
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
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM Religious Education Classes—RE Classrooms, Basement Commons
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

Thursday, November 5th
7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM Outreach Ministry—Parish Center C
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM OCIA Class—Parish Center C

Friday, November 6th
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 10:00 PM Private Event—Parish Center and Kitchen

Saturday, November 7th
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM Funeral Mass—Sanctuary and Narthex
11:00 AM to 2:00 PM Funeral Luncheon—Parish Center AB and Kitchen
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
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM Women's Night of Fellowship—Parish Center AB

Sunday, November 8th—32nd 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—RE Classrooms, Basement Commons
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Parish Breakfast—Parish Center and Kitchen
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM Scholastic Book Fair—Parish Center C

National Vocation Awareness Week—November 1-7

Lord, How are You Calling Me to Become a Saint?



Today, on the Solemnity of All Saints, we begin National Vocation Awareness Week—a special time to focus on vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, and to help young people listen for God's call. This year we also celebrate the Year of St. Francis, whose life reminds us that holiness begins by listening to Christ and responding generously. Francis wrote, "Incline the ear of your heart and obey the voice of the Son of God." That invitation is meant for every Christians

God calls each of us to holiness, but He leads us there along different paths: marriage, priesthood, religious life, the diaconate, or generous single life. Our vocation is more than what we do; it is the particular way God calls us to love, serve, and ultimately become saints. During Vocation Awareness Week, ask the Lord to help you live your own vocation more faithfully—and encourage the young people in your life to ask a simple question with an open heart: "Lord, how are you calling me to become a saint?"

Lay Minister's Schedule
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 7th 5:00 PM

Sacristan
Pat Gilmore

Lectors
Tina Schutte
(Read the 1st Reading)

Eric Hittner
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Jocelyn Pearson
Bridget Blum
Kevin Riley
Therese Nisbet
Phil Lenz

Ushers
Ken Beckman
Chris Lingbloom
Andy Pearson
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Jayne Schram

Altar Servers
Addison Lingbloom
Colin Lingbloom
Aslyn Ronk

Greeters
Nancy Kirkpatrick
Tim Kirkpatrick

November 8th 8:00 AM

Sacristan
Carol Zeleny

Lectors
Claudia Perchel
(Read the 1st Reading)

Sandy Scheef
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Joan Ingram
Marilyn Havel
Greg Jones
Need Sub
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Lori Frederick
Pat Shurtliff
Bob Sis
Christopher Wilson

Rosary Reciter
Theresa Huttmann

Altar Servers
Owen Deming
Drew Garcia
Jacob Kula

Greeters
Mary Brown
Steve Ingram

Hilcrest SR/HL
Mike Siegel
Paula Siegel

November 8th 10:00 AM

Sacristan
Jim Hottovy

Lectors
Judy Weier
(Read the 1st Reading)

Jolene Jefferies
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Abby Kenner
Diana Alderson
Nell Votruba
Jim Hottovy
Jamey Kennel

Ushers
Russ Eusterwiemann
Bruce Jefferies
John Schaffert
Tony Vanek

Rosary Reciter
Theresa Gulizia

Altar Servers
Harper Dickes
Nev Dickes
Vinnie Nelson

Greeters
Andrew Urban
Need Sub

November 8th 12:00 PM

Sacristan
Ginny Giebelhaus

Lectors
Stephanie Lampe
(Read the 1st Reading)

Lori Wewel
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Steve Otto
Leann Otto
Ginny Giebelhaus
Doris Williams

Ushers
Ginny Giebelhaus
Marty White
Doris Williams
Need Sub

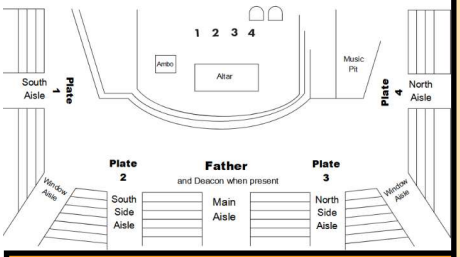
Rosary Reciter
Norm Svoboda

Altar Servers
James Janda
Thomas Janda
Need Sub

Greeters
Joann Dalley
Need Sub

Vocations Crucifix
Need Sub

EMHC STATION MAP



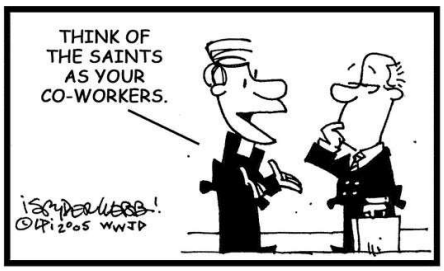
EMHC Positions (see diagram above):

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.

ALL SAINTS





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
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smfagan@archomaha.org

Director of Preschool Education
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Director of Sacred Music
Laura Rau.....402-332-4444, x216
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Facility Manager
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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

Parish Breakfasts
Monthly Breakfast



You are invited to join us in the Parish Center every second Sunday of the month, this month November 8, from 9 AM to 12 PM for a delicious breakfast. It's a perfect way to gather after Sunday Mass and get to know other parishioners here at St. Patrick.

Tadpoles Preschool Class
Registration Closes November 20

Tadpoles



REGISTRATION

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. There are only a few spots left! Registration closes on Friday, November 20, so be sure to register soon! If you have any questions, please call the Preschool office at 402-332-3050.

New Parish Prayer Card
Available in the Narthex

You and your family are invited to pray our new St. Patrick Parish Prayer. Prayer cards are available now in the narthex for you to take home to share with your family and to pray together with the parish groups that you are a part of. The parish office can provide additional cards for larger parish groups in needed.

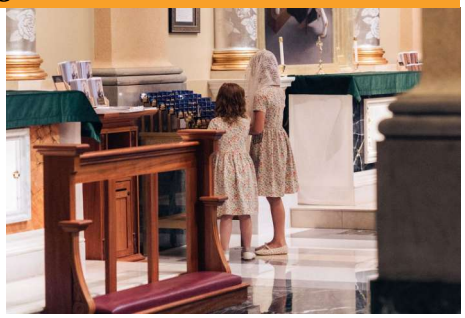
Heavenly Father, open our hearts to lovingly connect with those You put in our lives, and guide us to share the good news of Your love.

Inspire us with the knowledge of salvation to go and make disciples, and encourage us to take the next step in our shared journey with Jesus.

We ask this through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Follow St. Patrick on Facebook at **@stpatgretnane**

The Me-Culture is Holding Back Vocations
Spend Time Discerning Your Vocational Call



A couple of years ago, a newly ordained priest in our diocese—recently returned from his theological formation at the pontifical university in Rome—celebrated Mass in Italian for an important regional feast day. For our local Italian-American community, which has spent decades weathering the decline of aging pews and generational indifference, the liturgy was the rebirth of Italian Catholic community life in our area. At the end of Mass, the deacon invited the young priest's parents to come forward so the parish could recognize them for the gift of their son. Standing beside him, they radiated a memorable joyful gratitude. It was an extraordinary visual testament to the true purpose of Catholic parenthood: raising children not merely to preserve a family name or fulfill earthly ambitions but keeping hands open to whatever God might ask of them. These parents knew that while they were surrendering the natural joy of bouncing their son's children on their knees, they were gaining the sight of their son's foretaste of eternal life united to Christ in an extremely close and unique way.

That scene in the sanctuary ought to be a regular occurrence across our parishes. Instead, it has become an anomaly. Far more common are the judgmental whispers that circulate through parish parking lots whenever a sharp, handsome young man announces he is entering seminary, or a vibrant young woman enters the convent: "What a waste of talent," or "What a shame, she is so beautiful." Modern culture—and often those sitting comfortably in the pews—has come to view total consecration to God not as a crowning glory, but as an eccentric, tragic disposal of human potential.

The Lie of the "Sensible" Vocation

Behind those whispers lies an insidious cultural delusion: that marriage is the smart choice of vocation—who wouldn't want to enjoy living with their spouse and bringing grandchildren to their parents? Let someone else become a priest or religious sister. While historically few of us truly spend time in discernment listening for God's vocational direction, dioceses across the country are in dire need of priests, but many of the men being called are distracted daydreaming about living our best, most luxurious life.

Society has spent decades marketing holy matrimony as a domestic vacation of personal enjoyment, where you find a soulmate to complete your desire of not being alone but without any greater sense of mission to anyone but yourselves. The truth is, marriage only looks like the cushy option if you are neutering the vocation. It only looks easy if you artificially cap your family size to guard your leisure and disposable income, or if you build an insular moat around your household to keep out the needs of the wider world. When you embrace the Church's teaching and let God determine the size of your family, marriage is a demanding, sanctifying gauntlet. Each child dramatically re-engineers your life. Your budget is squeezed, your sleep is broken, and your patience is often tested to its limit. It requires you to bleed life for your family day in and day out, exactly as Christ bled for His bride.

This vocation can feel so relentlessly difficult that millions simply abandon their vows. The USCCB cites 2014 data indicating that roughly one in five Catholics has experienced divorce. While the Church certainly recognizes tragic circumstances where physical separation or civil divorce is necessary to protect someone from abuse or grave harm, far too many couples have simply forgotten that marital vows are meant to hold firm in the worst of times—not just when the relationship feels emotionally satisfying.

It is easy to forget that whether we are married, ordained, or single, God remains our first and ultimate love. When we pledge ourselves at the altar, our fidelity to our spouse is an expression of our fidelity to Him, no matter the cost. Bearing each other's burdens through dry spells, sickness, and deep trials isn't a sign that a marriage has failed—it is the very way the Cross triumphs in family life. Carrying out our vocation in the darkest valleys is where the covenant is forged into something holy.

Cultivating Hearts of Service

Likewise, the duty of charity doesn't stop when we become parents. A few Sundays ago, our parish priest brought this point home by recounting a famous three-point sermon: First, millions of people are starving in the world right now. Second, most of us don't give a damn about it. And third, you are far more scandalized that a priest just said the word "damn" from the pulpit than you are about millions of starving people.

The pews went silent because the mirror was unflattering. A comfortable faith seeks self-preservation, but the universal call to holiness demands

Continued on next page—>

The Me-Culture is Holding Back Vocations

Continued From Page 8

stepping into the mess of human need as our season of life allows. That kind of charity is personal and not just a donation to the parish. It looks like dropping off a hot meal for a family navigating a cancer diagnosis or the sleepless haze of a newborn, mowing the lawn for an elderly neighbor who can no longer push the mower, inviting the latchkey kid over for an after-school snack, or lending a reliable hand to the single mother next door. Most importantly, it means refusing to blind ourselves to the struggles all around us, modeling for our children that self-sacrificing love isn't just an abstract homily topic, but how Catholics inhabit their neighborhoods.

Reclaiming Godly Vocational Guidance for Our Children

When young people see marriage and family life lived with that kind of radical, generous availability, the priesthood no longer looks like an alien sacrifice. It simply looks like another way of maturing and exercising one's fatherhood.

Our vocation as parents is to raise children who know and can respond freely to God's call. We should make faith, the priesthood, and consecrated life familiar and beautiful, welcoming a religious vocation not as a family loss but as a great gift and honor. By joyfully living the sacrificial love of marriage and family life, we can help our children recognize that every Christian vocation is a generous self-gift—whether to marriage, priesthood, or consecrated life.

—Article by Zeale.co

New Parish Directories Are Ready for Pick-up

Purchase a Copy for $25



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.

Spirit Catholic Radio Elementary Art Contest

Submissions Due By Friday, December 11



Spirit Catholic Radio is taking submissions to the 2026 Art Contest! Returning this year, the winner's masterpieces will be turned into prayer cards! These cards will be available at all Spirit Catholic Radio events throughout the year and given to all of the Catholic elementary schools and participating religious education classes in our listening area.

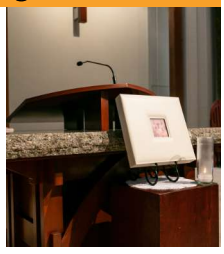
The theme for the 2026 contest is The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. Your artists can pick between the two mysteries for their grade range below:

- **K - 2nd Grade:** The Resurrection or The Ascension of Our Lord
- **3rd - 5th Grade:** The Assumption of Mary or The Coronation of Mary
- **6th - 8th Grade:** The Holy Rosary or The Descent of the Holy Spirit

Find details regarding participation in the 2026 Art Contest at https://spiritcatholicradio.com/art2026. We would love for your students to be involved! It's a creative and fun way to learn more about the mysteries of Jesus' life and grow in relationship with his Blessed Mother. Prizes for the winning artists. Art Contest entries are due by December 11.

We Remember and Honor Our Faithful Departed

Add Your Loved Ones' Names to the Book During November



We remember and honor our beloved faithful departed in the month of November. The Church holds the month of November in dedication and remembrance of our beloved faithful departed. The book of the names of the dead will be placed in front of the ambo throughout the month of November. We honor with great respect the memory of those names already in the book. Please feel free to add any new loved ones you wish to remember by signing their name on the sheets in the narthex. If you have added their name to the book in previous years, it need not be added again.

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

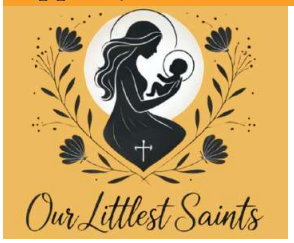
Least of My Brethren
Link to volunteer.....https://www.leastofmybrethren.org/linktree

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, a support ministry at St. Charles Borromeo in Gretna for those experiencing infertility, miscarriage, or infant loss, invites you to its next gathering on Thursday, November 5 at 7 PM. Fr. Jeff Loseke will speak on "God's Providence in the Midst of Infertility, Miscarriage, and Infant Loss," followed by time for questions and discussion. The gathering will be held in the St. Charles Borromeo (7790 S 192nd St, Gretna) Parish Life Center in Rooms 8 and 9. All are welcome. 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.

Archbishop's Annual Appeal

Becoming a Missional Parish

To date, 76 donors have committed $33,888.96 towards our parish goal of $136,183.08 for this year's Archbishop's Annual Appeal to support parishes and ministries across the archdiocese. Thank you for your generosity! Learn more at, archomaha.org/archbishops-annual-appeal.

St. Patrick Catholic Church
Gretna, Nebraska

Helpful Resources

Al-Anon (Alcoholic Family Support—Omaha)
Phone.....402-553-5033
Website.....al-anon.org

Boys Town National Hotline
Phone.....1-800-448-3000
Website.....www.boystown.org

Catholic Answers
Phone.....1-888-318-7884
Website.....www.catholic.com

Catholic Cemeteries
Grief & Healing Counselor.....402-391-3711
Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Gretna....402-332-3475

Catholic Charities—Omaha
Phone.....402-554-0520
Website.....ccomaha.org

Catholic Voice Online
Website.....catholicvoiceomaha.com

Courage (Pastoral Support—Same-Sex Attraction)
Phone.....402-557-5692
Website.....couragerc.org

EWTN (Global Catholic Television Network)
Phone.....1-800-447-3986
Website.....www.ewtn.com

Hearts Restored (Healing After Abortion)
Phone.....402-783-4673
Website.....heartsrestorednebraska.org

Holy Family Shrine
Phone.....402-332-4565
Website.....holyfamilyshrine.com

Least of My Brethren (Support Homeless)
Phone.....402-681-5424
Website.....leastofmybrethren.org

Marriage Resources
For Your Marriage.....www.foryourmarriage.org
Retrouvaille.....1-800-470-2230
Retrouvaille.....www.helpourmarriage.org

Mass Times Nationwide
Phone.....1-858-207-6277
Website.....www.masstimes.org

Nebraska Homeschool Network
Website.....nebraskahomeschool.org

Pope Paul VI Institute (Fertility Help)
Phone.....402-390-6600
Website.....www.popepaulvi.com

Spirit Catholic Radio—FM 102.7
Phone.....402-571-0200
Website.....www.spiritcatholicradio.com

St. Benedict Center (Retreats in Schuyler)
Phone.....402-352-2177
Website.....christthekingpriory.com/sbcabout

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

Finding Our Identity in Christ—St. John Vianney, Omaha, November 5



Come Hear Joe Heschmeyer: Finding Your Identity in Christ! Spirit Catholic Radio welcomes Catholic Answers apologist and author Joe Heschmeyer to St. John Vianney Catholic Church (5801 Oak Hills Dr, Omaha) on Thursday, November 5 at 6:30 PM for an evening of faith and inspiration. Joe will speak on "Finding Our Identity in Christ," exploring who we are and who we are called to be through our relationship with Jesus. Come be inspired by Joe's engaging blend of faith, reason, and Catholic apologetics. Get your tickets today at https://spiritcatholicradio.com/joe/! Catch Catholic Answers Live weekdays at 5 PM CT on Spirit Catholic Radio at 102.7 FM in Omaha.

Sidewalk Advocacy Training—Catholic Charities Building, Omaha, November 7



Volunteer to be a Sidewalk Advocate and help save lives. Join this training on Saturday, November 7 from 10 AM to 4 PM at the Catholic Charities Building (9223 Bedford Ave, Omaha). This peaceful, prayerful, law-abiding approach seeks to meet a woman entering an abortion clinic with the help and resources she needs to choose life! Come join us! Registration fee of $15 covers training materials and lunch. To register or for more information send an email to LifeSidewalk@gmail.com. Students (high school and above) and clergy are free.

Advent Revealed Retreat—Holy Family Shrine, Gretna, November 14

Join us for Advent Revealed: From Promise to Fulfillment, a special retreat exploring the four Sunday Gospels of Advent. Through Scripture, reflection, and prayer, we'll uncover deeper meaning in familiar passages and prepare our hearts to welcome Christ at Christmas. Each attendee will also receive a companion journal designed to carry the experience beyond the retreat and bring the Scriptures to life throughout the Advent season. Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 14, and plan to join us at the Holy Family Shrine (23132 Pflug Rd, Gretna) for a day of faith, discovery, and spiritual renewal from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. More details and registration information can be found at https://holyfamilyshrine.com/schedule-reservations/retreat! Registration is now open to register soon to save your seat!

The Way Through Grief—Catholic Cemeteries, Omaha, November 14-December 19



If you or someone you love are going through the journey of grief, Catholic Cemeteries is offering a grief seminar "The Way through Grief." This seminar consists of six-two-hour sessions beginning at 10:30 AM on Saturday, November 14 through December 19. Through prayerful reflection and guided fellowship, we offer a journey from life in grief to the life our Lord wishes for each of us. To register or for more information, contact Deacon Jim Tardy at 402-391-3711 or jtardy@catholiccem.com. Catholic Cemeteries, our Faith is at the heart of all that we do!

Week of Prayer and Fasting—Virtual, November 16-18



International Week of Prayer and Fasting co-founders and hosts, Ted and Maureen Flynn, in collaboration with the Legion of Mary and other Catholic groups, are calling Christians from around the world to join them for the 34th International Week of Prayer and Fasting, November 14-22. This year's theme, "God's Influencers," draws a powerful connection between St. Francis of Assisi—marking the 800th anniversary of his death in this special Jubilee Year—and St. Carlo Acutis, the Church's newly canonized "millennial saint." Participate in virtual speaker sessions November 16-18. Find out more at iwopf.org.

"I know better than God. Say those words out loud. They sound ridiculous, don't they? Almost embarrassing. No serious Christian wants to admit to believing it. And yet, if we are honest, we live as if those words are true in a thousand different ways."
—Stephen Anderson and Matthew Kelly, *The Devil's Plan*

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402-705-0434
lizschwartzinsurance@gmail.com

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