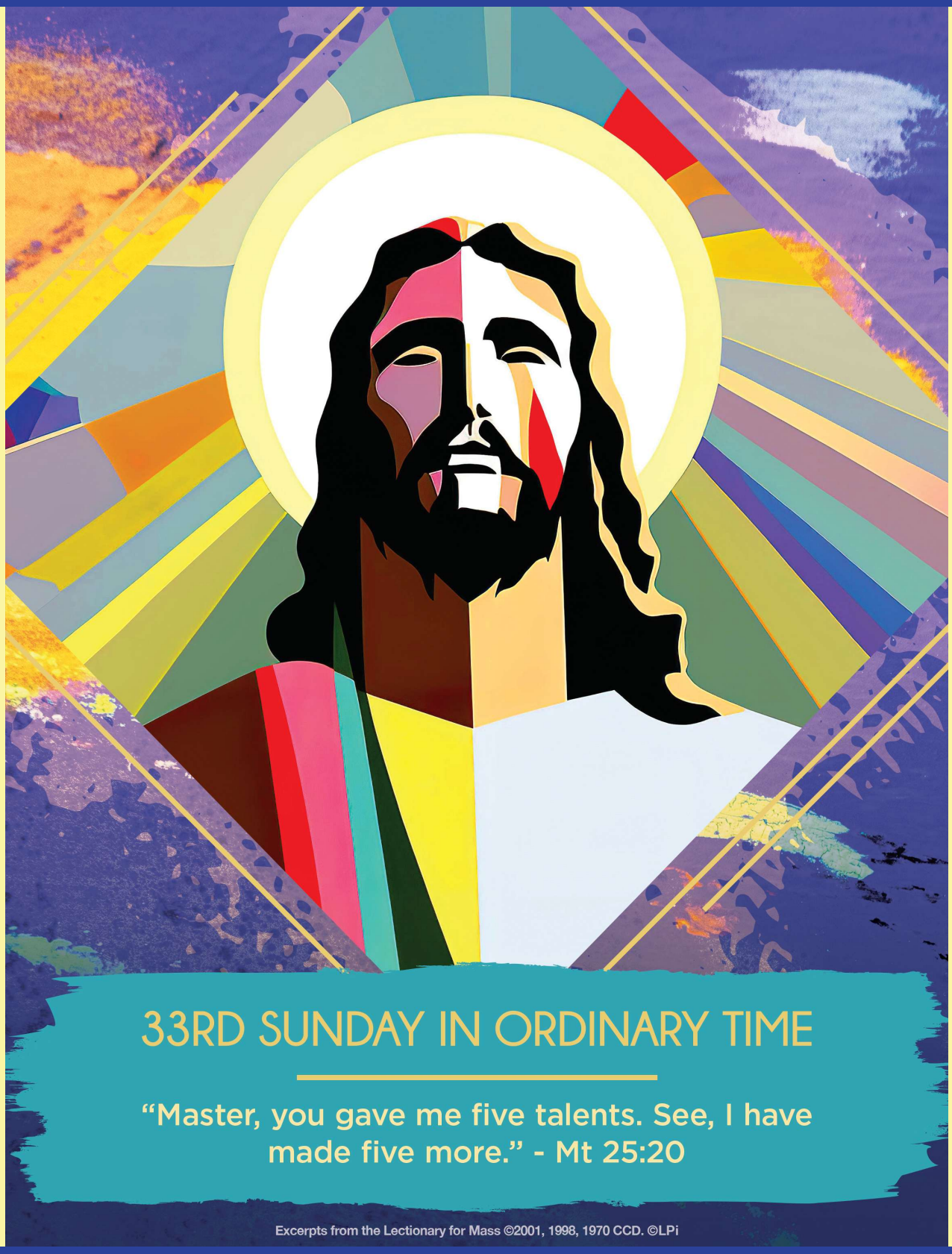
St. Patrick Catholic Church

508 W. Angus Street Gretna, NE 68028



33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more." - Mt 25:20

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

November 15, 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.

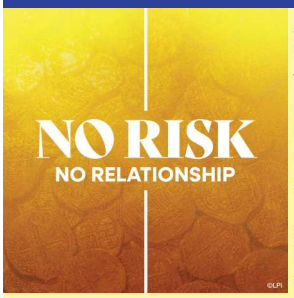
Reflect and Respond
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading (Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31)
Proverbs explains how a kind, wise, and loving wife is an invaluable treasure to a husband. What qualities do you think make for a healthy and life-giving marriage?

Second Reading (1 Thes 5:1-6)
Paul urges the Thessalonians to remain focused on the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Is there something that needs your urgent attention this week?

Gospel (Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21)
In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus teaches the importance of investing in the gifts God has given each of us. What would others say are your God-given gifts?

Gospel Meditation



A friend once took his young adult son to the casino for his birthday. He handed him $100 and said, "Let's have a great time." The son, a graduate student with limited money, quietly pocketed the money and refused to play. "I don't want to lose it," he said. But he missed the point: the money was not really his to pocket; it was his father's invitation to share an experience together.

God sees our gifts a bit like this. In Jesus' parable, a servant buries his master's talent and explains: "Master, I knew you were a demanding person... so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground" (Matthew 25:24-25). The master condemns him not for failure but for refusing to risk. The servant's fear distorts his image of the master and leads to a small, loveless response. No love, no risk. No risk, no relationship.

How easily we fall into this trap! We treat God's gifts as fragile possessions rather than invitations. We play it safe, avoid risk, and tell ourselves we are wise and God is cruel. But Jesus praises those who trust the Master's goodness enough to act boldly. They are not reckless but confident enough in their Master to risk their gifts for Him.

So, what is my interior story about God right now? Is it marked by generosity, adventure, and trust? Or by fear, caution, and suspicion? That hidden narrative shapes everything. Because love, by its nature, always takes risks with, and for, the beloved.

Catholic Life Explained



Question:
Why are Catholics required to give money to the Church?

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

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

How much we give depends on our individual circumstances, but since we share a responsibility for the programs, outreach, and health of our parish communities and Catholic organizations, this question gives us a wonderful opportunity to ask some important questions about the quality of our giving and what our priorities are. Remember, we are only stewards of our time, talents, and treasures and as the First Letter of Peter reminds us, "As each one of you has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied graces" (1 Peter 4:10).

Saint Gertrude the Great
Religious



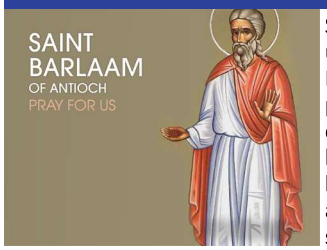
St. Gertrude the Great (1256-1302), also known as Gertrude of Helfta, was born on the feast of Epiphany in Thuringia (modern Germany). She was sent to be educated at the Benedictine monastery in Helfta at the age of four or five, possibly as an orphan or as a child dedicated to God by her parents. She proved to be an extremely bright and determined student who became engrossed in her secular studies, but was negligent of her prayer life. She remained in the monastery and made her profession as a nun. At the age of 26 she entered a time of spiritual crisis, after which she began to receive visions of Christ who chastised her for not leaving room for God in her academic pursuits. This caused Gertrude to abandon her secular studies in total devotion to Sacred Scripture and the works of the Church Fathers. These theological studies, along with continued visions and messages from Jesus, became the basis of her work as one of the great writers and mystics of the 13th century. St. Gertrude had a lasting impact on the Church in an age where academic and religious literature was dominated by men, and she is the only female saint to earn the title "The Great." She was one of the early saints who, along with her companion in the monastery, St. Mechtilde of Hackeborn, spread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. St. Teresa of Avila chose St. Gertrude the Great, the patron saint of nuns, as her model and guide. Her feast day is November 16.

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary
Religious



St. Elizabeth of Hungary (1207–1231) was born in Hungary, the daughter of King Andrew II of Hungary and his wife Gertrude. As a child she was sent to Thuringa (now Germany) to be brought up with Prince Ludwig of Thuringa, whom she was to marry at the age of 14 in order to solidify a political alliance between the two nations. Their marriage was a very happy one, and they had three children together. Although Elizabeth was a princess surrounded by a magnificent court, she lived a humble life serving the sick and poor outside her castle walls. No amount of disapproval from those who considered this behavior beneath her royal status could dissuade her from her faithfulness to this task. One day, on her way to feed the poor, her husband stopped her and asked to see what she concealed beneath her mantle. The food she carried was miraculously replaced by roses, signifying God's approval of her charity. When her husband, after six years of marriage, tragically died on his way to join the crusade in Jerusalem, Elizabeth was grief-stricken. She vowed to never remarry, and eventually left her life of nobility to join the Secular Franciscans as a penitent. She continued her charitable works to an even greater degree, and helped Thuringa recover from a famine by giving them a huge gift of grain. It was this act, along with her habit of distributing bread to the poor, that made her the patron saint of bakers. She is also the patron of hospitals, the homeless, widows, charities, and nursing homes. St. Elizabeth of Hungary's feast day is November 17.

Saint Barlaam of Antioch
Martyr



St. Barlaam of Antioch (d. 304 A.D.) was an elderly, uneducated peasant laborer from a village near Antioch. He was arrested for his Christian faith under the persecution of Roman Emperor Diocletian. He was detained for a long time in a dungeon before being brought before his judge. At his trial he was severely scourged, his bones dislocated on the rack, and tortured in other ways in an attempt to force him to renounce his faith in Christ and sacrifice to idols. Instead of crying out, there was joy in his countenance. His meekness, answers, and resolute will confounded his persecutors. The judge, determined to not be humiliated by a peasant, then devised a plan that would force Barlaam to offer sacrifice to the gods despite his constancy. He had an altar with a fire prepared, and had Barlaam's right hand held over the fire and filled with incense and hot coals. This would force Barlaam's burning hand to recoil, causing the incense to fall before the pagan altar, which the judge could then proclaim as a public act of sacrifice to the idols. Instead, Barlaam endured the pain in perfect stillness. He held his hand steady until it burned off completely. Irate, the judge ordered his immediate death. St. Barlaam's feast day is November 19.

St. Patrick Catholic Church
Gretna, Nebraska

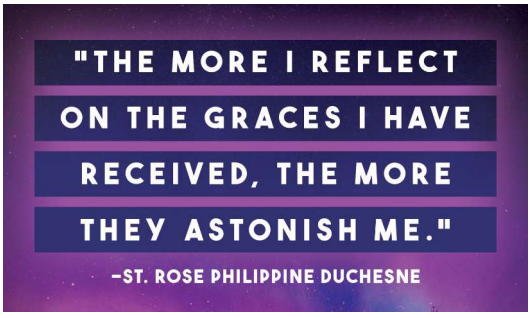
Readings This Week

Monday: Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 18:35-43
Tuesday: Rv 3:1-6, 14-22/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5/Lk 19:1-10
Wednesday: Rv 4:1-11/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 19:11-28
Thursday: Rv 5:1-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 19:41-44
Friday: Rv 10:8-11/Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131/Lk 19:45-48
Saturday: Rv 11:4-12/Ps 144:1, 2, 9-10/Lk 20:27-40
Next Sunday: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2a, 2b-3, 5, 6/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46



Observances This Week

Monday: St. Margaret of Scotland; St. Gertrude, Virgin
Tuesday: St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious
Wednesday: The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles; St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin
Saturday: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Next Sunday: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



St. Patrick Catholic Church
Gretna, Nebraska

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.

Advent Giving Tree
Return Gift by November 29



Don't forget that your wrapped gifts for the Advent Giving Tree should be returned by Sunday, November 29. Thank you for your donation to this outreach ministry reaching out to those in need just in time for Christmas. If you have any questions, they 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 **Harrison Elhabbal** (Discipleship III) from St. Wenceslaus in Omaha.

"Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities." (Matthew 25:21) This week we celebrate World Day of Cloistered Life (November 21). We honor those who live the cloistered life, faithfully dedicating themselves to prayer, penance, and hidden service for the good of the Church. Their quiet devotion sustains the world in ways often unseen, showing that even the smallest acts of faithfulness have eternal significance. Could God be calling you to this life of prayerful witness, where your faithful service bears fruit for countless souls? Talk to your priest or reach out to Father Scott Schilmoeller at 402-558-3100 or email vocations@archomaha.org.

"Pray always and do not lose heart."

Pray for all Seminarians





Since our last update on November 8, one child has been baptized into the Body of Christ. We congratulate the parents and family members, and we welcome your little one 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

Emerson Kathleen McBride……11/8/2026

Pray for Our Recently Deceased

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

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



Name……Date of Death……Place of Burial

Gertie Dickman……8/9/2026……Gates Cemetery, Gates, NE

Rosemary (Rose) Grandinetti……11/1/2026……Holy Sepulchre Omaha

Edward (Ed) Heavican Sr……11/5/2026……Holy Sepulchre Gretna

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 deceased 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.

Catholic Charities Collection
Second Collection This Weekend—November 14-15

This weekend, November 14-15, we will have a second collection to support Catholic Charities of Omaha. We will only be collecting monetary donations here at the Church, but if you would like to donate food or other essentials directly to their food pantries, they would be grateful.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES of Omaha

Catholic Charities of Omaha is preparing for a sharp increase in pantry visits with the upcoming holidays. Please consider donating shelf-stable food items, canned proteins, rice, beans, cereal, and hygiene essentials to its Market Choice Pantry locations: St. Juan Diego Community Center (5211 South 31st St), or St. Teresa of Calcutta Campus, (9223 Bedford Ave). Ideal drop-off times are 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday. Please call 402-554-0520 with questions, or visit https://ccomaha.org to learn more and find additional volunteer and donation opportunities.

Catholic Charities relies on the generosity and compassion of many donors, employees, and volunteers. Together harnessing the strength of the human spirit and the power of community to shine a light for those in darkness. Please be generous during this collection.

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).

Letter From Archbishop McGovern

Gratitude to God this Thanksgiving



Dear Friends,

As we move toward our national celebration of Thanksgiving, I am impressed by the tremendous amount of good works that take place in our area of Nebraska in November. The many food pantries putting food on the table for people in need, the distribution of clothing, the gift of a new winter coat for children, these are but a few examples of the quiet good that is happening in our parishes, schools, and charitable organizations.

As your archbishop, I encourage each of us, clergy and lay faithful, to ask our Lord to open our eyes and hearts to those who are in need. In the coming weeks, can we each do something to make life better for a family member, neighbor, or stranger who is in distress? Even a small act of kindness such as a phone call to a person who is feeling alone can go a long way in helping one another.

Thanksgiving is a time for expressing our gratitude to God for the blessings we have received. Together let us lift up our grateful hearts to God in prayer and share our blessings with those in need of a caring heart and a helping hand.

May our Lord Jesus bless you and your loved ones each day.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael McGovern
Archbishop of Omaha

"The most deadly poison of our times is indifference. And this happens, although the praise of God should know no limits. Let us strive, therefore, to praise Him to the greatest extent of our powers." —St. Maximilian Kolbe

Stewardship Report

Nov 4-Nov 10, 2026

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

General Contributions	Nov 4- Nov 10	Fiscal YTD thru Nov 10
Sunday Offering	$20,564.06	$497,923.88
Other Contributions	$1,022.60	$25,338.48
Total General Contributions	$21,586.66	$523,262.36 *
Surplus/Deficit	($6,913.34)	($18,237.64)

** 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

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.

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.

Join Us on Flocknote

The Gretna Knights of Columbus is on Flocknote! Brother Knights, send a text with the letters STPGK to 84576 to sign-up for communications via email and text. us spread the word to other Knights!

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 16th
7:30 AM The Living and Deceased Members of the Tony and Mary Ritzo Family

Tuesday, November 17th
6:00 PM The Living and Deceased Members of the Don Nienaber Family

Wednesday, November 18th
7:30 AM † Lynn Baldwin

Thursday, November 19th
7:30 AM † Jerry Schram

Friday, November 20th
7:30 AM † Tom Selzle

Saturday, November 21st
5:00 PM INT Joyce Schram

Sunday, November 22nd
8:00 AM † Eloise M. Seward
10:00 AM For Our Parishioners
12:00 PM † Joe Carney

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 Julie K, Tiffany Theer, Daun Koke (Jack Koke's daughter-in-law), JoAnne Lyons (mom of Theresa Gulizia), 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 15th—33rd 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
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 16th
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
6:30 PM to 9:00 PM Sisters in the Word—Father Hitch Room
7:00 PM to 8:45 PM Ascension Bible Study—Parish Center A and Kitchen

Tuesday, November 17th
10:00 AM to 11:00 AM Rosary Guild Meeting—Father Hitch Room
5:00 PM to 9:00 PM Private Event—Parish Center A and Kitchen
5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Preschool Parent Board Meeting—Basement Commons
6:30 PM to 6:40 PM Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 8:30 PM Discernment In-Depth Sessions—Parish Center C

Wednesday, November 18th
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 9:30 AM 55+ Club Outing—Offsite
8:30 AM to 11:00 AM Faith Connection—Father Hitch Room
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM RE Classes—RE Classrooms, Basement Commons, Youth Group
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

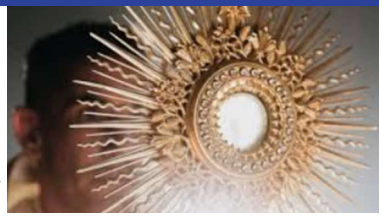
Thursday, November 19th
7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Project Linus—Basement Commons
10:00 AM to 1:00 PM Private Event—Parish Center A and Kitchen
5:00 PM to 6:30 PM Women's Small Group—Father Hitch Room
5:00 PM to 9:00 PM Knights of Columbus Assy 2541 Meeting—Parish Center A
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM OCIA Class—Parish Center C

Friday, November 20th
6:30 AM to 7:30 AM Men's Faith Sharing—Father Hitch Room
7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Women's Faith Sharing—Father Hitch Room

Saturday, November 21st
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, November 22nd—Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
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
2:30 PM to 7:30 PM Private Event—Parish Center A and Kitchen

Holy Hour to Pray for Priests and Seminarians
November 16 at St. Gerald, Ralston



Join the Serra Club of West Omaha for a beautiful Holy Hour to Pray for Priests and Seminarians at St. Gerald Catholic Church (9602 Q St, Ralston). We will gather at 6:30 PM in the narthex followed by the Holy Hour at 7 PM. The presider will be Father Tom Weisbecker, Chaplain of the Serra Club of West Omaha. Our priests are chosen by God to bring us the Sacraments which help us gain Heaven. Without them, we would not be able to worship at Holy Mass and receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Through our prayers, priests and seminarians can be strengthened to live their Vocation well and as God calls them to live it—in a way that is holy and pleasing to Him. Please show your support and invite your family, friends, and guests to join us!

"The priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of Our Lord Jesus Christ." —St. John Vianney

Lay Minister's Schedule

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

November 21st 5:00 PM

Sacristan
Pat Gilmore

Lectors
Andy Pearson
(Read the 1st Reading)

Need Sub
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Kevin Riley
Steve Otto
Leann Otto
Bridget Blum

Ushers
Tim Hall
Jeff Wollenburg
Need Sub
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Kathy Dauner

Altar Servers
Lydia Hall
Shailynn Gatewood
Aslyn Ronk

Greeters
Chris Gatewood
Need Sub

November 22nd 8:00 AM

Sacristan
Lori Frederick

Lectors
Barb Applegate
(Read the 1st Reading)

Kathy Schwarting
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Cari Kaup
Sandy Scheef
Joan Ingram
Duane Benes

Ushers
Greg Jones
Kevin Kaup
Christopher Wilson
Need Sub

Rosary Reciter
Carol Zeleny

Altar Servers
Carson Kaup
Ethan Kaup
Will Kaup

Greeters
Steve Ingram
Gordon Yager

Hilcrest SR/HL
Mike Siegel
Paula Siegel

November 22nd 10:00 AM

Sacristan
Andi Towey

Lectors
Sandra Tiefenthaler
(Read the 1st Reading)

Need Sub
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Nancy Arp
David Burke
Tony Tiefenthaler
Andi Towey

Ushers
Bruce Jefferies
Tom Nienaber
Norm Svoboda
Tony Vanek

Rosary Reciter
Jolene Jefferies

Altar Servers
Harper Dickes
Nev Dickes
Sawyer Jennings

Greeters
Angie Jennings
Andrew Urban

November 22nd 12:00 PM

Sacristan
Larry Neppl

Lectors
Eric Hittner
(Read the 1st Reading)

Jayne Schram
(Read the 2nd Reading)

EMHCs
Kathy Broz
Wendy Neppl
Larry Neppl
Doris Williams
Deacon Ken Broz

Ushers
Linda Gardner
Larry Neppl
Doris Williams
Mary Zeigler

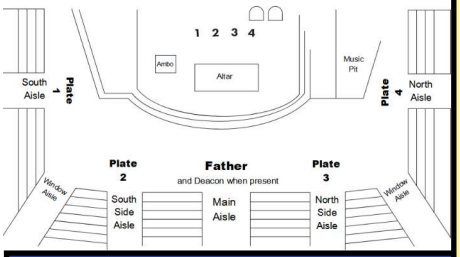
Rosary Reciter
Jayne Schram

Altar Servers
Need Sub
Need Sub
Need Sub

Greeters
Joann Dalley
Mary Zeigler

Vocations Crucifix
Steve Ference

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.

33RD 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
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Judy Weier, Secretary.....402-332-4444, x201
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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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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

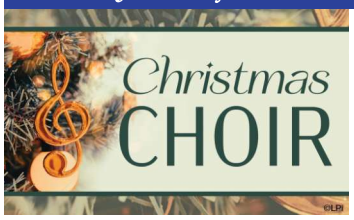
Pastoral Council President
Liz Beckman.....402-305-5945

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

Christmas Eve Choir
Join us for 4 PM Mass



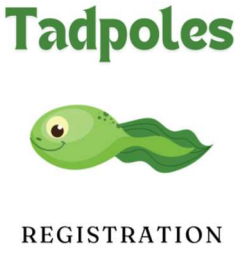
Joy to the World, the choir wants you. Join the choir for the 4 PM Mass on Christmas Eve. No audition necessary, just the availability to attend rehearsals and an openness to learning. Rehearsals start on Monday, November 30. To express interest or learn more, contact the parish music director, Laura Rau at 402-332-4444 or lrau@archomaha.org.

Thanksgiving Donations
Nonperishable Food and Cash



In the very early days of Christianity, when people gathered to celebrate the Eucharist, it became customary to bring offerings of food for the poor to the table of the Lord. This Thanksgiving Day we are asking our parishioners to reenact this tradition by bringing nonperishable food items to place before the Altar before the 9 AM Thanksgiving Day Mass. There will be a cash donation box near the Altar as well. All donations will be given to the Gretna Neighbors Food Pantry. Thank you for considering and giving to those in need this Thanksgiving. Please call Joan Ingram 402-203-3604 with questions.

Tadpoles Preschool Class
Registration Closes November 20



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.

"You change your life by changing your heart."
—St. Benedict of Nursia

Advent is Coming, Prepare Now
Optional Resources

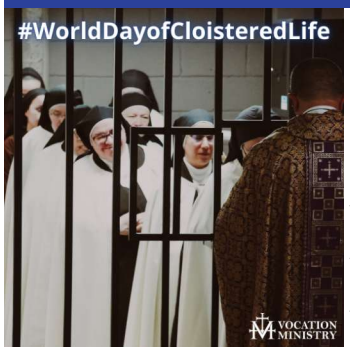


Are you ready for Advent? Like it or not we are only a couple weeks away from the start of this journey towards Christmas and the celebration of the birth of our Savior. Do you know how you will be spiritually preparing for this journey? Going to daily Mass and Confession are a great place to start. Try spending more time in prayer throughout this season—Rosary, Liturgy of the Hours, reading the Bible daily, adoration, etc. Give charitably to those in need. Show extra kindness to those around you. If you are looking for a specific Advent devotion or activity, here are a few options you may what to look into:

1. Join a small group here at the parish. We have several women's small groups and a few men's small groups that meet at the church or in homes. Find a small group to join for the Advent season (or longer). More information about the women's small groups can be found on our parish website or contact Barb Applegate at b.applegate1962@gmail.com or 402-709-0456 to find the right women's group for you or contact Matthew Henry at mattnhenry@gmail.com for more information about a men's group.
2. We have an Advent reflection book, *Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas*, available for free to our parishioners in the narthex. Please only take one per family.
3. This year Dynamic Catholic is not only bringing you the Best Advent Ever program again, but they will also have an Ultimate Christmas Week Retreat to follow. Sign up to receive short, inspiring videos via your email each day of Advent and then Christmas week. The program this year follows Matthew Kelly's book, *The Content Diet*, and Pope Leo's favorite book recommendation, *The Practice of the Presence of God*. Find out more and get signed up at www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.
4. Pray More Novenas has a self-paced online Advent Retreat. You'll receive emails with links to videos and study guides. The speakers you'll hear from are Dr. Andrew Swafford, Sr. Joseph Andrew OP, Fr. Patrick Gonyeau, and Beth Davis. Learn more or register at praymoreretreat.org.
5. Ascension has several daily reflection book options available. New this year is *Joy to the World: An Advent Journey with the Angelus*. They have also put together a study guide for anyone who would like to use this book in a small group setting. Pair this book with Fr. Mike Schmitz Sunday Homilies available in the Ascension App. Find out more at ascensionpress.com/pages/program/joy-to-the-world-an-advent-journey-with-the-angelus.
6. Hallow has put together a resource page of activities to do as a family including prayers, Advent calendars, baking, gift shopping, history of various Advent traditions, and more. Check it out at hallow.com/advent.
7. Formed has various Advent videos available, including weekly videos geared at young children. Go to formed.org and search "Advent" and explore the weekly video options they have available.
8. Looking for free lesson plans and activities for young children or teens? St. Mary's Press is the place to check out. You can find these resources are smp.org/advent.
9. Explore Ignatian meditation prayer using a weekly guided meditation image and video based on Scripture. Let your imagination lead you to Jesus this Advent. Enter into prayer at www.ignatianspirituality.com/advent.
10. Don't just prepare for Christmas, but enter into an immersive journey with *Way of the Star*, a devotional journal incorporating Scripture, sacred music, art and imagination. Complimentary videos and small group leader guides are also available. Ave Maria Press carries several other Advent devotionals too, check them out at avemariapress.com/advent.
11. Looking to start a new family tradition around Advent and Christmas? Check out some DIY crafts and family activities along with family Advent prayers at www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent/family-advent-activities.html.
12. Consider having an Advent tree. Set up your Christmas at the beginning of Advent. You could leave it bare until Christmas Eve to fully embrace the period of waiting. Or you could put a string of lights and tinsel on your tree each week of Advent. Or maybe you put one ornament on your tree each day of Advent to end with a fully decorated tree by Christmas. Then, keep your Christmas tree up for the whole Christmas season, which ends at the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord (the weekend after Epiphany, in mid-January).

What ever you decide to do to prepare for Christmas this year, remember that the coming of Jesus is what we are celebrating first and foremost.

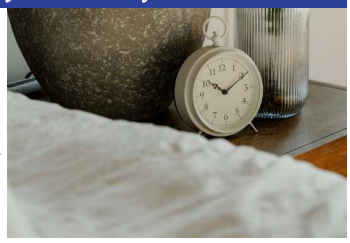
World Day of Cloistered Life—November 21
Hidden From the World, But at the Heart of the Church



On November 21, the Church celebrates the World Day of Cloistered Life, an opportunity to recognize the men and women who give their lives to God through prayer and contemplation. Their vocation may be lived largely out of sight, but their prayers support the life and mission of the Church every day. We honor those who serve the Lord in silent devotion. May we find peace in the quiet sanctuaries of our hearts, joining our prayers with those who embrace a life of stillness and grace. A few years ago at a general audience in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis reminded the Church, "Let us give thanks to the Lord for the powerful testimony of cloistered life." He also urged the faithful to lend their spiritual and material support to these brothers and sisters of ours "so that they can carry out their important mission."

Lord, in the quiet sanctuary of our hearts, may these devoted religious find the peace they so faithfully embrace. Grant them grace to seek you in stillness, to serve yo in love, and to live fully in your divine will. Amen.

Master the Heroic Minute
Sainthood is Achieved by Small Daily Habits of Holiness



We often associate saintliness with the grand gestures associated with martyrdom, heroic sacrifice, and intense penance; but we don't become saints overnight, and many of us won't be asked to be martyrs. Instead, sanctity is formed in the day-to-day and even moment-by-moment decisions to unite ourselves to God, whether that's through prayer, sacrifice, or the Sacraments. The heroic minute was a favorite practice of St. Josemaría Escrivá, the "patron saint of the ordinary." He explained in his book *The Way*, "It is the time fixed for getting up. Without hesitation: a supernatural reflection and… up! The heroic minute: here you have a mortification that strengthens your will and does no harm to your body" (206).

A Fresh Start Every Day

Each new day is like the moment after Confession: We put the anger, wounds, and sins of yesterday behind us, and offer up this new day for the greater glory of God. We firmly resolve to unite our sorrows with those of our Lord, to offer our work joyfully, and to love our neighbors, whether that's our coworkers or our potty-training toddler. Each day is a new opportunity to cooperate with God's grace and strive for sainthood. It sounds like a simple devotion, but it's easier said than done! It's always tempting to hit that snooze button one more time and get another five minutes of sleep. But this hidden penance gives us the opportunity to unite the first moments of our day to our Lord.

There's a few key aspects that can help you master it. Success starts the night before. Go to bed at a consistent time as much as possible and turn off screens at least an hour before bed. Keep your room cool and dark, and try to avoid caffeine in the evening. You can also create a soothing bedtime routine with reading, journaling, or night prayers before bed. Next, don't keep your alarm clock near your bed! Put it across the room so that you have to get out of bed to turn it off. It's much less tempting to press snooze and snuggle back under the covers if you're already out of bed. In addition, choose a simple morning offering and memorize it, or if you don't have one memorized, print it off and keep it on your bedside table. I still pray the one I learned in my *Faith and Life* catechism books: "Lord, I offer you all of my thoughts, words, and actions today. Please keep me close to you, your mother Mary, and my guardian angel as I live today for your glory." After that, it helps to start the rest of your morning. Open your blinds or turn on the light switch, and grab your coffee and breakfast.

Variety is the Spice of Life

Keep in mind that the heroic minute will look different in different seasons of life—a postpartum mom might offer her prayers while nursing her newborn in bed, and a retired adult might have more time for specific morning prayers than a student with morning classes, or a professional with a long commute. Finally, don't give up! It's going to be hard at first, but habits don't take forever to form. Before you know it, it will be second nature to offer the first moments of your day to God. This ordinary act of holiness will bring immense fruit to your spiritual life, and a newfound focus to your day.

—Article by Zeale.co

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

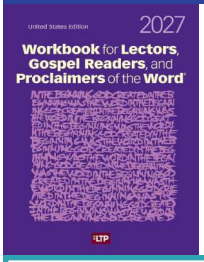
Church Cleaning
Sign Up Genius link to volunteer.....https://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/13576de05a0c8eccfa81-church
Megan Seamann.....meseamann@archomaha.org

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.

Archbishop's Annual Appeal
Becoming a Missional Parish

To date, 116 donors have committed $50,230.58 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! 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. Learn more at, archomaha.org/archbishops-annual-appeal.

Attention Lectors:
New Lector Workbooks Are In



The new 2027 Lector Workbooks are here. The Church year begins on November 29 with the 1st Sunday of Advent. All weekend lectors can pick up their copy of the Lector Workbook from the Sacristy, beside the stained glass windows.

"Great occasions for serving God come seldom, but little ones surround us daily."
—St. Francis de Sales

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

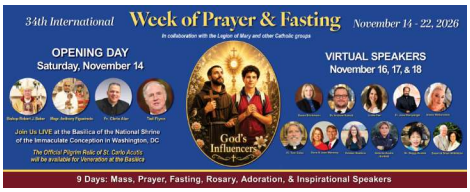
St. John Paul II Newman Center
Phone.....402-557-5575
Website.....jpiiomaha.org

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

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.



Healing Mass—St. Gerald, Ralston, November 20

His Global Love Prayer Communities invite you to a Healing Mass on Friday, November 20 at St. Gerald Catholic Church (9602 Q St, Ralston). We will begin with a Rosary at 6:15 PM with praise and worship to follow. Mass will begin at 7 PM. Fr. Kevin Joyce from His Global Love Ministry will be presiding. All are welcome. Questions, contact Frances Mignon at 402-515-8000.

Monastic Experience Retreat—Clyde, Missouri, November 20-22



The Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration invite single women, ages 18-40 who are curious about religious life, to our Monastic Experience retreat November 20-22, at their monastery in Clyde, Missouri. It's a chance to experience the daily rhythm of monastic life where participants can join the Sisters in praying the Divine Office, Daily Mass and Eucharistic Adoration, as well as experience Lectio Divina (praying with Scripture) and gain wisdom from the Benedictine tradition. There is no cost to attend. More details and registration are available at https://benedictinesisters.org/come-let-us-adore. For any questions, please contact Sister Nancy Rose at 660-944-2221 ext. 142 or vocation@benedictinesisters.org.

Christmas Craft Show—St. Benedict Center, Schuyler, November 29-December 13



Check out the Christmas Craft Show—a special two-week opportunity to do Christmas shopping—at the St. Benedict Center (1126 Co Rd I, Schuyler), November 29 through December 13. Doors are open Monday through Friday from 2 PM to 6:30 PM, and on Saturday and Sunday from 10 AM to 7 PM. (The last Sunday will close early at 5 PM.) A very large variety of crafts and gifts made by area artists will be on sale. Beautiful Nativity Scenes from around the world will be on display. The Book and Gift Store will also be open. For more information, visit https://www.christthekingpriory.com/retreat-schedule or call 402-352-8819.

Miracle Prayer Morning for Advent—St. Robert Bellarmine, Omaha, December 5



All women are invited to our Advent Miracle Prayer Morning on Saturday, December 5 from 9 AM to Noon at St. Robert Bellarmine (11802 Pacific St, Omaha). We will enjoy the docudrama, *That They May be One.* We will get to know St. Elena Guerra, the "Apostle of the Holy Spirit," who inspired Pope Leo XIII to consecrate teh 20th Century to the Holy Spirit, and we will view key Biblical moments about Jesus and His coming. The Holy Spirit is again renewing the Church! Join us as we pray for miracles. Reservations are required with a cost of $10. Register and pay online at StElenaPrayerRooms.org. Questions, contact StElenaPrayerRooms@gmail.com.

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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lizschwartzinsurance@gmail.com

Remnant Marketing
Christa Pichler, Parishioner
remnantmktg.com
christa@remnantmktg.com
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Realtor / Catholic Parishioner
dani.schram@bhhsamb.com
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