St. Patrick Catholic Church

508 W. Angus Street Gretna, NE 68028



32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"You know neither the day nor the hour."
- Mt 25: 13

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

November 8, 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.

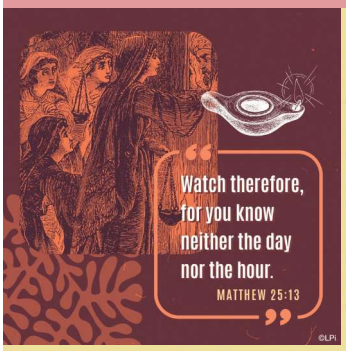
Reflect and Respond
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading (Wis 6:12-16)
According to our Jewish sage, wisdom is a virtue that desires to be known by those who seek her. How does anyone know they have found wisdom?

Second Reading (1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14)
Paul offers hope in the bodily resurrection of the dead for the Thessalonians who are grieving the death of a loved one. How does your faith in Jesus sustain you in times of grief and distress?

Gospel (Mt 25:1-13)
In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, Jesus teaches His disciples the importance of planning ahead for the unknown. Do you consider yourself a pre-planner?

Gospel Meditation



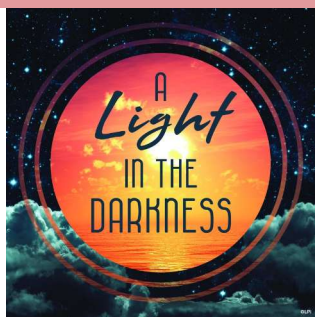
My first instinct upon waking is to grab my phone and start scrolling. Sometimes I do it for 20 or 30 minutes, and it makes me feel distracted and agitated. I feel guilty, too, for wasting my first moments of the day. So recently, I committed those minutes to reading a book that would focus my mind on Jesus. I enjoy the fact that I am not scattering my attention as much. I feel more peaceful and focused on God.

In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks about attention. He contrasts wise and foolish virgins, and then sums up the teaching by saying, "Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour" (Matthew 25:13). The basic currency of the human heart is attention. The foolish bridesmaids are not immoral or malicious; they are unfocused, distracted, and unprepared. They assume that borrowed oil will suffice, that someone else's readiness can make up for their own lack. But the attention which is love cannot be outsourced. A relationship with God requires personal attentiveness cultivated over time.

This Gospel leaves us with an honest question. What am I giving my attention to each day, and am I forming a heart that is awake, watchful, and ready to meet the Lord when He comes? How can I use key moments of my day to focus my attention where I need it to be?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:
Why do Catholics light candles in church?



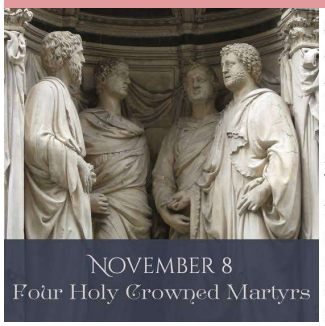
Answer:
Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two—there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness—the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

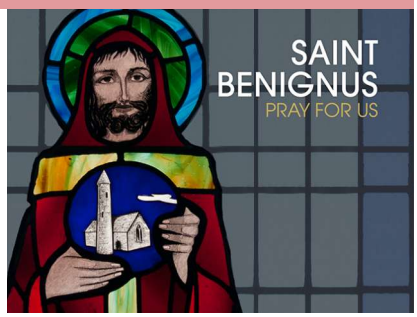
As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints.

Four Crowned Martyrs
Martyrs



According to tradition the Four Crowned Martyrs (d. 305 A.D.) were renowned sculptors living in what is today Austria-Hungary. They were commissioned by Roman Emperor Diocletian to make several sculptures; however, when he requested a sculpture of the pagan god Aesculapius for a heathen temple, they refused to carve it. Their refusal exposed them as Christians during Diocletian's fierce persecution against Christianity. The men refused to sacrifice to the pagan gods to save their lives, and were condemned to death by being placed alive in lead caskets and cast into a river. The Four Crowned Martyrs are closely associated with an earlier group of four soldiers, also killed during the persecutions of Diocletian two years before, who died by being beaten to death with leaden clubs after refusing to sacrifice to the god Aesculapius. Because their names were originally unknown, they were called the Four Crowned Martyrs. Their relics were first venerated in the Roman catacombs before a basilica was erected in their honor on Caelian Hill. The two groups of martyrs, both called the Four Crowned Martyrs until their names were afterward discovered, are honored together on November 8.

Saint Benignus of Armagh
Religious



St. Benignus of Armagh (d. 467 A.D.) was the son of a pagan Irish chieftain in what is now County Meath in Ireland. He was baptized by St. Patrick and became his loyal follower in the saint's ministry across Ireland. In 450 A.D. Benignus became coadjutor with St. Patrick in the Diocese of Armagh, and also became the first rector of the Catholic school there. St. Benignus was a talented singer and worked to form choral groups wherever they traveled for their missionary work; for this he was called "Patrick's Psalmist." He also assisted with the compilation of the *Senchus Mor*, the Irish Code of Law, and sat on a number of commissions, councils, and synods that helped further establish the Catholic faith across Ireland. His feast day is November 9.

Saint Martin of Tours
Bishop



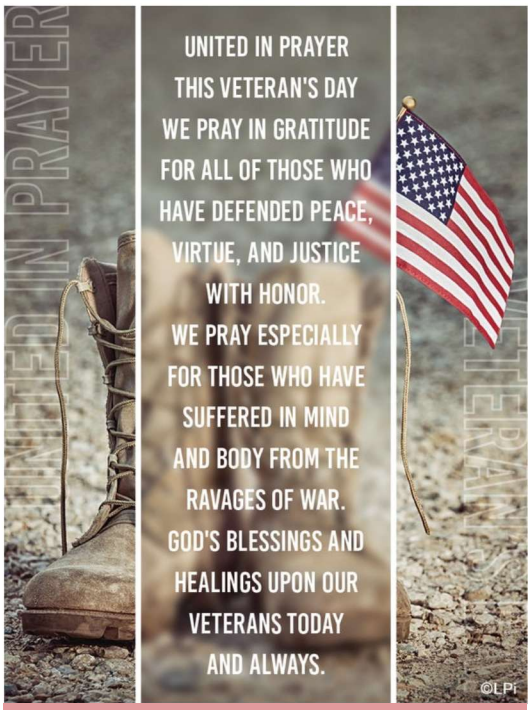
St. Martin of Tours (c. 316-397 A.D.) was born into a pagan family in what is now Hungary. He was raised in Italy where his father, a senior officer in the Roman army, was stationed. At the age of ten, Martin joined the Church as a catechumen soon after Christianity was legalized across the Roman Empire. Taking after his father, he joined the cavalry at the age of fifteen and was stationed in Gaul. At one point during his time of service he encountered a poor beggar who lacked adequate clothing on a cold winter day. St. Martin took his sword and cut his heavy woolen officer cloak in half, and gave the other half to the beggar. Following this act of charity, St. Martin had a vision in which he saw Jesus wearing the portion of his cloak he gave to the beggar, while telling the angels that it was Martin who had clothed him. After this vision Martin sought baptism, at the age of eighteen, and proclaimed himself a soldier for Christ. He left the military and adopted the penitential life of a hermit, attracting followers which eventually resulted in the founding of a monastery. St. Martin gained a reputation for holiness and performing miracles so that, when the bishop of Tours died, the people demanded that Martin take his place. As bishop he continued his austere life, took great care to train holy priests, destroyed pagan worship sites, and worked to spread Christianity throughout his diocese. St. Martin of Tours is the patron saint of cavalry, soldiers, innkeepers, horses and riders, beggars, and those in need. His feast day is November 11.

"The devil wants you to compare your life to others. God invites you to compare who you are today to who you were yesterday."
—Stephen Anderson and Matthew Kelly, *The Devil's Plan*

St. Patrick Catholic Church
Gretna, Nebraska

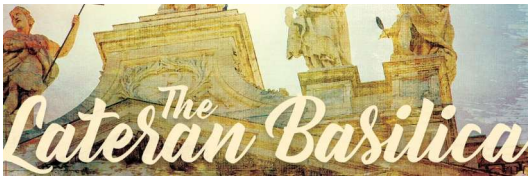
Readings This Week

Monday: Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22
Tuesday: Ti 2:1-8, 11-14/Ps 37:3-4, 18 and 23, 27 and 29/Lk 17:7-10
Wednesday: Ti 3:1-7/Ps 23:1b-3a, 3bc-4, 5, 6/Lk 17:11-19
Thursday: Phlm 7-20/Ps 146:7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Lk 17:20-25
Friday: 2 Jn 4-9/Ps 119:1, 2, 10, 11, 17, 18/Lk 17:26-37
Saturday: 3 Jn 5-8/Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 18:1-8
Next Sunday: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/1 Thes 5:1-6/Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21



Observances This Week

Monday: The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Tuesday: St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday: St. Martin of Tours, Bishop; Veterans Day
Thursday: St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr
Friday: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin
Next Sunday: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



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 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 **Thomas LaSala** (Pastoral Year) from St. Gerald in Ralston.

"Keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." (Matthew 25:13) Jesus calls us to be ready, attentive, and faithful to His invitation. Priesthood and consecrated life ask for hearts that remain vigilant, prepared to serve God and His people with generosity and love. Pray for guidance and clarity in discerning how He may be calling you to serve. 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

Baptisms



Since our last update on October 18, 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

Lydia Marie Harnisch.....11/1/2026

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.

May perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithfully departed rest in peace. Amen.

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

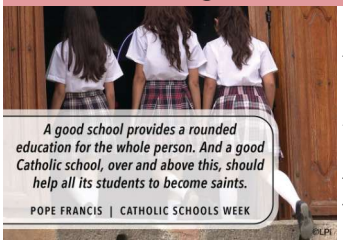
Next weekend, November 14-15, we will have a second collection to support Catholic Charities of Omaha. We will only be collecting monetary donations here at the Church, but if you would like to donate food or other essentials directly to their food pantries, they would be grateful.

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.

Honor Roll at Duchesne Academy
Congratulations and Keep Up the Good Work



It is with great pleasure and pride that Duchesne Academy shares with you the news of your parishioners' successes in high school. We recognize that each child's success at Duchesne is built upon a solid foundation of work that begins with her family, her grade school, and her church. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to promote our students' academic successes and the multitude of girls they bring to our communities beyond the classroom. This Quarter Ainsley Cushing, daughter of Alan and Rachel Cushing, earned Honor Roll. Keep up the great work Ainsley!

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).

Gratitude for Trunk or Treat Event

We Served 300+ Trick or Treaters



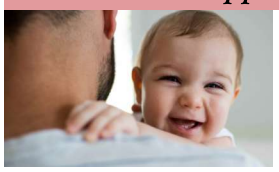
The Hospitality Committee would like to thank those who hosted a table for the Trunk or Treat event on October 28. It was a huge success! We had 300+ little visitors make their way around the tables for their goodies. Also, a huge thank you to the extremely generous parishioners who donated more than 4,500 pieces of candy and treats for our trick or treaters to enjoy. It was a memorable night for not only the children but for the families as well. A special thank you to the Knights of Columbus for providing delicious hot pretzels at the end.





Surprise Thrift Store

Supporting Mothers in Need in Omaha



Surprise Thrift Store is open during construction (143 S 38th St, Omaha). The best access is south from Dodge Street. They are open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10 AM to 4 PM. Questions, contact 402-341-0625. Shoppers and gently used donations are always needed! All proceeds go to pregnancy help organizations—Baby Bucks help mothers in need to acquire what they need for their new families. Over $10,000 provided this year for car sets, baby cribs, and more, thanks to your support!

Stewardship Report

Oct 28-Nov 3, 2026

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

General Contributions	Oct 28- Nov 3	Fiscal YTD thru Nov 3
Sunday Offering	$26,323.60	$462,466.49
Other Contributions	$4,124.68	$24,040.88
Total General Contributions	$30,448.28	$486,507.37 *
Surplus/Deficit	$1,948.28	($26,492.63)

** 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 9th
7:30 AM † Maria Trieu

Tuesday, November 10th
6:00 PM † Claudine Thorne

Wednesday, November 11th
7:30 AM The Living and Deceased Members of the Stec Family

Thursday, November 12th
7:30 AM † Sue Orosco

Friday, November 13th
7:30 AM INT The Priests at St. Patrick

Saturday, November 14th
5:00 PM INT Pat Gilmore and Terry Dolnicek

Sunday, November 15th
8:00 AM For Our Parishioners
10:00 AM † Chuck Caniglia
12:00 PM † Scot Stoner

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), 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 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

Monday, November 9th
7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
10:30 AM to 11:30 AM Funeral Mass—Sanctuary and Narthex
11:30 AM to 2:00 PM Funeral Luncheon—Parish Center AB and Kitchen
11:10 AM to 11:40 PM Scholastic Book Fair—Parish Center C
2:40 PM to 3:10 PM Scholastic Book Fair—Parish Center C
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Baptism Class—Father Hitch Room
7:00 PM to 8:45 PM Ascension Bible Study—Parish Center A and Kitchen

Tuesday, November 10th
11:10 AM to 11:40 PM Scholastic Book Fair—Parish Center C
2:40 PM to 3:10 PM Scholastic Book Fair—Parish Center C
5:30 PM to 5:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 6:00 PM)—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 6:40 PM Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion—Sanctuary
7:00 PM to 8:00 PM Parish Council Meeting—Father Hitch Room

Wednesday, November 11th
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
8:30 AM to 11:30 AM 3s Grandparent's Day Program—Basement Commons
11:10 AM to 11:40 PM Scholastic Book Fair—Parish Center C
2:40 PM to 3:10 PM Scholastic Book Fair—Parish Center C
4:00 PM to 8:00 PM RE Classes—RE Classrooms, Basement Commons, Sanctuary
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM Cemetery Board Meeting —Father Hitch Room
6:00 PM to 7:00 PM St. Rose of Lima Guild Meeting—Parish Center B
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM Youth Group—Youth Group Room

Thursday, November 12th
7:00 AM to 7:20 AM Rosary (before Mass begins at 7:30 AM)—Sanctuary
8:30 AM to 11:30 AM 5s All Saints Day Program—Basement Commons
9:00 AM to 10:30 AM Wedding Facilitator Meeting—Father Hitch Room
11:10 AM to 11:40 PM Scholastic Book Fair—Parish Center C
2:40 PM to 3:10 PM Scholastic Book Fair—Parish Center C
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM OCIA Class—Youth Group Room

Friday, November 13th
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
8:30 AM to 11:30 AM 4s Thanksgiving Feast Program—Basement Commons
11:10 AM to 11:40 PM Scholastic Book Fair—Parish Center C
2:40 PM to 3:10 PM Scholastic Book Fair—Parish Center C
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal—Sanctuary and Narthex

Saturday, November 14th
8:00 AM to 2:00 PM Wedding Prep—Sanctuary, Narthex, Father Hitch, and Bride's Room
2:00 PM to 3:30 PM Wedding—Sanctuary and Narthex
4:00 PM to 4:40 PM Confession—Confessional
4:30 PM to 4:50 PM Rosary (before Mass begins at 5:00 PM)—Sanctuary
6:30 PM to 11:30 PM Private Event—Parish Center and Kitchen

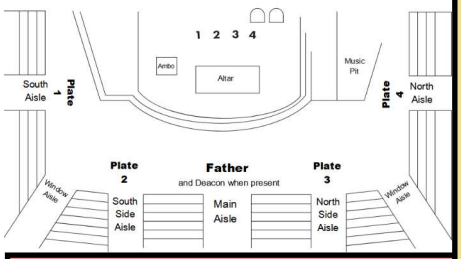
Sunday, November 15th—33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM Rosary—Sanctuary
8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, Noon Mass—Sanctuary
8:55 AM to 9:55 AM Religious Education Classes—RE Classrooms, Basement Commons
1:00 PM to 2:00 PM Baptisms—Sanctuary and Narthex
7:00 PM to 8:30 PM COR Men's Group Meeting—Father Hitch Room

"We've been taught that God did not make the world for no reason, but for the sake of the human race. As I said before, He takes pleasure in those who imitate His attributes, and is displeased with those who embrace what is worthless, whether in word or deed."
—St. Justin Martyr

Lay Minister's Schedule
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 14th 5:00 PM	November 15th 8:00 AM	November 15th 10:00 AM	November 15th 12:00 PM
Sacristan	***Sacristan***	***Sacristan***	***Sacristan***
Larry Neppl	Tony Schultz	Jim Hottovy	Ginny Giebelhaus
Lectors	***Lectors***	***Lectors***	***Lectors***
Tammi Hall (Read the 1st Reading)	Marty Stednitz (Read the 1st Reading)	Jim Hain (Read the 1st Reading)	Karen Meyerott (Read the 1st Reading)
Lezlie Thomas (Read the 2nd Reading)	Cari Kaup (Read the 2nd Reading)	Crystal Schroeder (Read the 2nd Reading)	Kathy Broz (Read the 2nd Reading)
EMHCs	***EMHCs***	***EMHCs***	***EMHCs***
Liz Beckman	Laura Fischer	Nancy Arp	Doris Williams
JoAnn Koch	Marilyn Havel	Norm Svoboda	Delma Stoner
Sue Korth	Deb Benes	Ashley Kassmeier	Darcy Skrdla
Larry Neppl	Carrie Hubert	Cleo Nienaber	Kathy Broz
Jamey Kennel	***Ushers***	Deacon Ken Broz	Deacon Ken Broz
Ushers	Pat Calvert	***Ushers***	***Ushers***
Tim Hall	Kevin Kaup	Norris Hoover	Ginny Giebelhaus
Chris Lingbloom	Tony Schultz	Bruce Jefferies	Alan Meyerott
Larry Neppl	Pat Shurtliff	Tom Nienaber	Doris Williams
Jeff Wollenburg	***Rosary Reciter***	Norm Svoboda	Mary Zeigler
Rosary Reciter	Duanes Benes	***Rosary Reciter***	***Rosary Reciter***
Ellie Clines	***Altar Servers***	Judy Weier	Norm Svoboda
Altar Servers	Owen Deming	***Altar Servers***	***Altar Servers***
Lydia Hall	Luke Hubert	Kalla Kassmeier	Need Sub
Addison Lingbloom	Paul Joseph Hubert	Kameron Kassmeier	Need Sub
Colin Lingbloom	***Greeters***	Gavin McGregor	Need Sub
Greeters	Mary Maw	***Greeters***	***Greeters***
Chris Lingbloom	Sally Stednitz	Tony Tiefenthaler	Alan Meyerott
Need Sub	***Hilcrest SR/HL***	Need Sub	Mary Zeigler
	Gene Schwarting		***Vocations Crucifix***
	Kathy Schwarting		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.

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





St. Patrick Catholic Church
Gretna, Nebraska

Parish Staff

Pastor
Fr. Gregory P. Baxter.....402-332-4444, x205
gpbaxter@archomaha.org
Residence.....402-332-4428
Emergencies (if facing danger or death), call: 402-332-4428

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

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

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

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

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

Director of Religious Education
Shane Fagan.....402-332-3454
smfagan@archomaha.org

Director of Preschool Education
Maria Hedrick.....402-332-3050
mehedrick@archomaha.org

Pastoral Ministry (Liturgy, Youth Group & Faith Form)
Jonathan Wotipka.....402-332-4444, x212
jjwotipka@archomaha.org

Director of Sacred Music
Laura Rau.....402-332-4444, x216
lrau@archomaha.org

Parish Center Coordinator
Lezlie Thomas.....402-525-3098
lathomas@archomaha.org

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

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

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

Finance Committee Chairman
Kevin Kaup.....402-525-1469

Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
Jerry Thoendel.....402-332-3475

Knights of Columbus
Tim Hall.....307-214-3714
tshallnj10@gmail.com
Steve Otto.....402-212-1267
thegretnaottos@gmail.com

St. Patrick Catholic Church
Gretna, Nebraska

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.

Veni Holy Hour
Archomaha Young Adults



All young adults in the archdiocese (ages 21-39) are invited to Veni, an evening of Adoration and fellowship at St. Cecilia Cathedral (701 N 40th St, Omaha) on Friday, November 13. Adoration begins at 7:30 PM in the Cathedral with a brief reflection from a priest and is followed by an after party in the parish center! Veni is held every second Friday of the month at the Cathedral. More information about getting involved in the Archdiocese Young Adult activities can be found at https://www.archoyoungadults.org.

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.

"Continuously ask your guardian angel for help. Your guardian angel has to become your best friend." —St. Carlo Acutis

A Beautiful Family Advent: Five Fantastic Options
Advent Tools for Kids



Every year my husband and I look at each other and say, "We really should do something with the kids for Advent." And every year, we kind of drop the ball. Whoops. It's not that we don't do anything for Advent. We always light our Advent wreath and sing O Come, O Come, Emmanuel with the kids at dinnertime. This simple tradition deeply moved me as a child, and I believe it's one of the most important ways to instill wonder in children—which points them toward God.

I have put together a "picture book Advent calendar" most years, and we love unwrapping and reading a story together every day. (You can find our favorite books here [https://aleteia.org/2020/11/20/12-magical-advent-and-christmas-picture-books-perfect-for-reading-aloud] and here [https://aleteia.org/2024/12/06/12-more-magical-christmas-picture-books-to-read-aloud].) And if you want a super easy way to do this tradition, find an all-in-one daily Advent storybook here [https://ignatius.com/24-christmas-stories-to-welcome-jesus-6cswjh] (and here's a shorter option for little kids [https://ignatius.com/24-christmas-stories-for-little-ones-624csh]!).

In my Catechesis of the Good Shepherd atrium, we change the altar cloth to purple for preparation and sing joyful songs of anticipation—*Light One Candle for Hope*, *The People Who Walked in Darkness*, *Come Lord Jesus*. (The kids love that last one especially!)

So we do make Advent feel different and special. But we've rarely done any kind of formal devotional or program at home. I think this might be our year, though, and I wanted to know what options were out there. After some diligent searching, here's all the Advent things for kids I found that look especially promising. I'm still deciding on one for my family, but hopefully these will inspire your family to have a beautiful Advent season.

1) The Giving Manger
This sweet tradition is a lovely way to encourage kindness during Advent. Every time your kids do an act of kindness, they get to add a straw in the manger. On Christmas Day, place baby Jesus in the bed they've made soft. A similar way to do this is with sheep in your Nativity scene, using one sheep for each child (and why not one for Mom and Dad too?!). Each evening, your family can look over the day and see if they can remember an act of kindness that day. Each child/parent who has done an act of kindness moves their sheep figurine closer to the crib.

2) Mary on the Mantel
Speaking of acts of kindness, Mary on the Mantel is a heartwarming way for kids to walk alongside Our Lady as she prepares for Christ's birth. Each day, they can find a little note from Mary encouraging an act of kindness. My family did this one a few years ago, and here's my review[https://aleteia.org/2020/11/30/walk-with-mary-this-advent-as-a-sweet-alternative-to-elf-on-the-shelf/]—spoiler alert, we loved it!

3) A Daily Devotional
There are a lot of options for family Advent devotionals, so this list doesn't hit all the good ones! But here are a few that looked especially great to me.

- **Daily Advent Prayers: Awaiting Jesus with Joyful, Open Hearts:** We are huge fans of anything from MagnifiKid! This devotional looks like what we've come to expect from MagnifiKid!—engaging, educational, and beautiful.
- **Watch and Wait: A Catholic Kids Advent Devotional on Waiting and Preparing:** Written by Olivia Spears of *Into the Deep*, this book helps kids prepare for Christmas with daily prayers, reflections, and simple Scripture-based activities, with colorful illustrations and age-appropriate language.
- **The Quest: A Journey through Advent to Epiphany for Catholic Families:** This no-prep, parent-led devotional offers daily reflections that take only about 10 minutes, making it a good fit for busy families.
- **The Advent Adventure: A Family Devotional:** This devotional takes families through stories from the Bible, ending with the beloved stories surrounding Jesus's birth, and includes a weekly craft.
- **Time for a Savior: Advent Daily Devotions for Kids:** Take a few minutes a day to learn about the wonderful news that God's Son, our Savior, is born.
- Another book idea—which combines a read-aloud with some devotional elements—is this series [https://www.amazon.com/stores/Arnold-Ytreeide/author/B001JS7Y56] by Arnold Ytreeide. Each book is designed for reading just a few pages with a reflection each day, and it brings you into the historical time of Advent through an imaginary character

Continued on next page—>

A Beautiful Family Advent: Five Fantastic Options

Continued From Page 8

who ends up interacting with the Holy Family. Ytreeide has the skill of a soap opera director when it comes to stopping just at the moment that you're dying to find out what happens next—good to really feel that Advent longing! These books aren't specifically Catholic but are Scripture based and easy to adapt for a Catholic family.

4) A Scriptural Advent Calendar

We all love a chocolate Advent calendar, but these faith-based calendars take things to a deeper level.

- **Toward the Light of Christmas:** Open a new window and follow along with the booklet each day of December until you reach the birth of Jesus on Christmas.
- **Be A Heart Sticker Liturgical Advent Calendar:** Step into the season of waiting with this delightfully illustrated guide, designed to bring faith and wonder into your home from the first day of Advent until the Nativity of Jesus. Kids love stickers, so this one is sure to be a winner!

5) The Jesse Tree

Many of my friends love this yearly tradition! It's a thoughtful way to share the story of salvation with children, putting Jesus' birth in context. You can read more about its history here [https://www.catholicicing.com/jesse-trees].

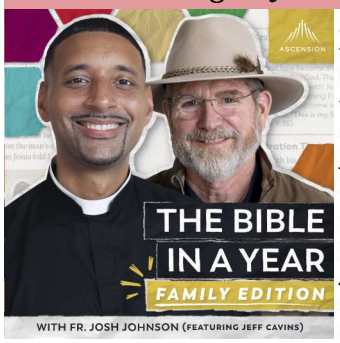
- **Jesse Tree Advent Sticker Calendar:** We are long-time fans of the wonderful and fun Catholic Family Crate, and this colorful product is a great introduction to the Jesse Tree for young children.
- **The Jesse Tree: Advent Devotional for Families:** Catholic Sprouts is a reliable resource for family faith formation, and how can we pass up stickers? Each day includes a colorful sticker, Scripture passage, reflection and prayer.
- **The Jesse Tree: An Advent Devotion:** Explore Jesus' fascinating ancestry and see how God's plan of salvation unfolds from Adam and Eve, through the Old Testament prophets, to the birth of Christ, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and the sacraments of the Church. This rich and in-depth guide is perfect for families with older children.
- **Jesse Tree Ornaments Printable:** Here's your easy "just hit print" option [https://market.catholicallyear.com/products/jesse-tree-ornaments-digital-download]! Meditate on salvation history with your family this Advent season with the Jesse Tree—kids will love coloring in the images. This digital download goes with O Come, Emmanuel, Advent reflections on the Jesse Tree for families.

Well, that's certainly plenty of options, right? Which one will you pick for your family? Advent is only a few short weeks away so now is the time to start planning ahead!

—Article by Aleteia [for the extensive list of links visit: https://aleteia.org/2025/11/28/a-beautiful-family-advent-5-fantastic-options]

Bible in a Year: Family Edition with Fr. Josh Johnson

Begins January 1, Get Your Guide Today



Starting January 1, Fr. Josh Johnson will guide your family through the story of salvation, from Genesis to Revelation, in 365 daily episodes made for families with young listeners, ages 7 to 12. The free *Bible in a Year: Family Edition* reading plan lays out every day of the journey, so your family knows where you're headed and is ready to follow along from day one.

Each episode of *The Bible in a Year: Family Edition* will include: a daily reading from Ascension's new *Great Adventure Catholic Bible for Beginners*, engaging explanations and encouragement from Fr. Josh that kids can understand, answers to real questions from real children about the Bible, a daily video with timeless sacred artwork to help kids remember the people they read about, and a screen-free option on all major podcast platforms.

Jeff Cavins also returns as the "Bible Explorer" in 12 special episodes. He'll introduce kids to the 12 time periods of salvation history using the same *Bible Timeline* framework that shaped *The Bible in a Year*. Young listeners will see how the people, events, and promises of Scripture come together in one story that leads to Jesus.

Want to go even deeper? We've created resources to help your family follow along, answer the questions that come up, and keep kids engaged all year long. They start with the official Bible read by Jeff Cavins and explained by Fr. Josh: *The Great Adventure Catholic Bible for Beginners*. They also make meaningful Christmas gifts for the young people in your life.

Will your family join Fr. Josh on this adventure? Get your reading plan now at https://ascensionpress.com/pages/content-hub/the-bible-in-a-year-family-edition-podcast!

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, 115 donors have committed $50,130.58 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.

Omaha Welcomes the Stranger

Used Reliable Cars Needed



Omaha Welcomes the Stranger assists migrants and asylums seekers in the Omaha area. We have a family of two adults, brother and sister, who are in need of a used car. Both people recently received work permits and have found jobs. They need reliable transportation to get to work. If there is anyone who could donate a used but reliable vehicle to this couple, please contact Omaha Welcomes the Stranger at tom-margaret@cox.net, or 531-777-2893. Thank you!

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

That They May Be One Movie Showing—St. Gerald, Ralston, November 8



St. Gerald Catholic Church (9602 Q St, Ralston) invites you to a free showing of *That They May Be One* on Sunday, November 8 from 1 PM to 3 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This powerful docudrama features Francis Chan and Christian leaders from across denominations as they explore how the Holy Spirit has been working across generations to bring Christians together in response to Jesus' prayer, "That they may all be one." John 17. All are welcome! Admission is free, and light refreshments will be provided. RSVP at stgerald.org. Questions? Contact Danielle at dcrotty@stgerald.org.

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

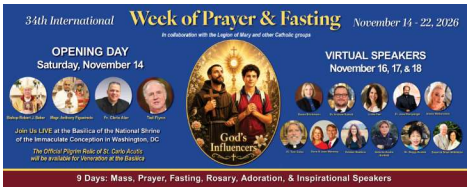
Join us for Advent Revealed: From Promise to Fulfillment, a special retreat exploring the four Sunday Gospels of Advent. Through Scripture, reflection, and prayer, we'll uncover deeper meaning in familiar passages and prepare our hearts to welcome Christ at Christmas. Each attendee will also receive 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.

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.

"God has many ways of drawing us to Himself. He sometimes seems to hide Himself from us. But faith alone ought to be our support. Faith is the foundation of our confidence. We must put all our faith in God. He will not fail us in time of need."
—Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God*

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