



St. Patrick's

NORTH PLATTE

Issue No. 2 - Winter 2025



From the Pastor

Father Jonathan Sorensen

Having just celebrated the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, I still can't get the Father's words out of my head: "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." This divine affirmation reminds us that we, too, are beloved children of God, unconditionally cherished and deeply loved.

This message of divine love finds its most profound expression in the Eucharist, the central act of worship in the Catholic Church. In the Eucharist, we participate in the very life of God. Through the sharing of bread and wine, we are mystically united with Christ, partaking of his precious body and blood. This act of Communion signifies and makes present the intimate and loving relationship we have with God the Father.

The Eucharist is not merely a symbolic act; it is a real and powerful encounter with the divine. In

sharing the bread and wine, we become one with Christ, and Christ physically dwells within us. This intimate union transforms us, enabling us to live out our faith more fully and to love others as God loves us.

At St. Patrick's North Platte the gift of the Eucharist is "eagerly received, passionately

taught and generously shared with others" as our mission statement



***"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."
Luke 3:22***

says. While its eager reception might be incumbent on the individual, and the teaching might fall to clergy, catechists and parents alike, the generous sharing requires that every parishioner all offer what he or she has. Consider the great love of the Father poured over you and generously share that love through the measure of your time, talent and treasure.

I encourage you to participate in many of the upcoming activities of our parish: join a bible study, receive a blessing or enter into the mysteries of our faith in the liturgies of Lent and Holy Week. May the Lord shower you with his love and bring you close to his heart through his Son's gift in the Eucharist!



Looking Back at 2024

What a great time it's been these past six months! Our stewardship renewal in late August brought a surge of new volunteers to our ministries, and the momentum hasn't stopped!

On September 14th, we celebrated an incredible milestone: 150 years as a parish! Imagine—when our original wooden church was built in 1874, even Buffalo Bill Cody himself attended Mass here! We've been a beacon of faith on this very block for a century and a half, welcoming generations of parishioners and visitors.

That same weekend, we experienced a powerful rediscovery: the plenary indulgence opportunity attached to our parish's crucifix. Over 200 people joined in prayer and went to confession to receive this unique plenary indulgence. For more information on our Crucifix and the indulgences attached:

stpatsnp.org/indulgences

And to top it all off, we had a fantastic Block Party filled with music, food, and fellowship! We were honored to welcome back several former pastors: Frs. Jerry Harr, Richard Piontkowski, and Josh Brown. For more history, and a link to a video from KNOP about the anniversary: stpatsnp.org/parish_history



Children play at the activities from the Family Fun Day on Sunday afternoon!



Block Party Committee Members! (Block Row): Megan Jorgensen, Krista Struckman, Kelsie O'Neill, Tanner Struckman, Jory Torres, Pat Jacobson, Fr. Sorensen, Jordan Maassen, and Larry Sanger. (Front Row): Natalie Moats, Maddy Krebs, Megan Maassen, Dan Phelps, Robyn & Rocky Torres.

Experience the Divine!



Every Thursday, immerse yourself in the real presence of Jesus Christ during Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration from 1:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Find solace and renewal as you:

Encounter the living God: Spend precious time in the loving gaze of our Lord.

Deepen your faith: Allow your heart to be transformed by His grace.

Find peace and comfort: Escape the noise of the world and experience true tranquility.

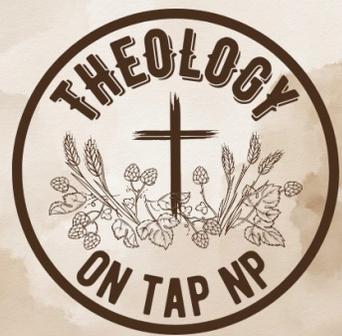
Don't miss these extras during Adoration on Thursdays:

3:00pm The Divine Mercy Chaplet

7:40pm Night Prayer and Benediction

Come, and experience the wonder of God's abiding love.

Uncap Your Faith And Tap Into Deeper Conversations!



Join us for Theology on Tap, held every 3rd Sunday of the month at 6:00 pm at Ape-ship Brewing. Engage with compelling Catholic speakers exploring a variety of fascinating topics, all while enjoying great company and good times. It's the perfect blend of faith, fellowship, and fun!

Theology on Tap is for young adults ages 21-45. Ape-ship Brewing is located in the historic Canteen District and is owned/operated by parishioners. The first drink is free, and complimentary light snacks will be served.

Upcoming dates: Jan 19, Feb 16, Mar 16 and Apr 27 (a week later than normal) before a summer break. On Facebook at: [facebook.com/people/Theology-on-Tap-NP/61551091270194/](https://www.facebook.com/people/Theology-on-Tap-NP/61551091270194/)



Tuesday Women's Group

Ladies, don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity! Every Tuesday from 9:15am-10:15am, the "Women's Group" gathers in the Parish Hall for an engaging and insightful Bible or book study. It's the perfect time to connect, learn, and grow in faith with a supportive community of women. Whether you're a regular attendee or new to the group, everyone is welcome to join us on this enriching journey. Let's make Tuesdays inspiring together!





March 5 - Ash Wednesday begins the journey of renewal in Lent. Masses are at 7am, 12:05pm and 6:30pm, with confessions prior to the Masses. Remember, this is a day of fasting (only eating one, evening meal) and abstinence (not eating meat).

Plenary Indulgences during Lent - What is an indulgence? It's a special occasion for us to respond to God's call to conversion. The Pope gave our crucifix a special blessing so that people who visit the church on certain days can receive an indulgence. These days are: Ash Wednesday, St. Patrick's Day, and Wed, Thurs, Fri of Holy Week. For more information stpatsnp.org/indulgences

Wednesdays of Lent - Join us as we "Live Lent Together"!



Starting February 26th, embark on a meaningful Lenten journey with our community. There are two options to join the Bible study on Wednesdays: 2pm and 5:30pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to deepen your faith, reflect, and grow alongside others! The focus will be on the Sunday Gospel for that weekend. Everyone is welcome! Let's make this Lent a time of connection and spiritual renewal.



Thursdays of Lent - New This Lent: join us for **Brown Bag Luncheon Talks at 12:00 noon!**

These talks are designed to nourish your faith and spark meaningful discussions. 12:15 PM: Enjoy insightful 30-minute presentations by inspiring Catholic speakers. Coffee and water will be provided, but be sure to bring your own lunch! Talks end at 12:45pm, with time for questions until 1pm. Perfect for your lunch break! Held March 13, 20, 27 and April 3 & 10. Don't miss this unique opportunity for spiritual growth this Lent.

Fridays of Lent - Experience the Passion of Christ and the Community of his Church

-Join us for the ultimate Friday night fun during Lent with our lively Knights of Columbus Fish Frys!

When: Fridays during Lent, 5pm - 7pm

Where: St. Patrick's Parish Hall

Price: \$12 adults, \$6 for ages 8-12, and free for kids under 8 years old.

Here's the mouthwatering menu: Golden fried fish, Creamy au gratin potatoes, Decadent mac & cheese, Crunchy coleslaw, Freshly baked dinner rolls, A variety of beverages including beer, tea, and coffee. An assortment of heavenly desserts from the talented parish ladies. Expect an evening filled with delicious food, great company, and lots of laughter! Don't miss out on the fun and the chance to bond with friends, family, and fellow parishioners. See you there!



Pat Jacobson tell Pat Clinch how great his fish frying skills are!

-Feel the profound journey of the **Stations of the Cross** every Friday in Lent at 6:30pm. Let us come together to reflect, pray, and be inspired. Don't miss out on this powerful time of community and devotion. See you there!





March 17 - Celebrate a spiritual St. Patrick's Day! Honor our patron saint and learn about his inspiring life. There's also an opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence! Confessions from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Indulgence prayers at 6:15 PM. Mass at 6:30 PM.

April 7 - The Chrism Mass is a special treat for St. Patrick's parish! Priests from across the diocese come here to renew their ordination promises while Bishop Hanefeldt consecrates the oils used at baptisms, confirmations and ordinations, and for anointing the sick. Held each year the Monday prior to Palm Sunday.

Holy Week (April 13-19) - Come and experience the power of prayer and reflection as we journey together

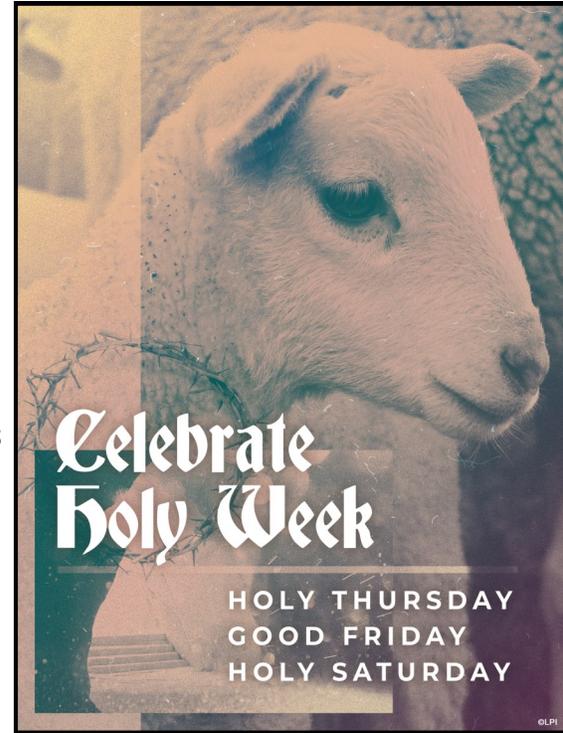
through the final days of Christ's life.

Holy Thursday: Extra Confessions available from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM. Attend the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6:30pm. Witness the solemn transfer of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose. Adoration continues until Midnight.

Good Friday: On Good Friday, gather at 12:00 noon to commemorate the Passion of Jesus Christ with veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion. New this year: extra confessions at 5:30pm, indulgence prayers at 6:30pm, followed by the Stations of the Cross. *Remember, this is also a day of fasting (only eating one, evening meal) and abstinence (not eating meat).*

Holy Saturday: Experience the awe-inspiring Easter Vigil at 9:00 PM. Journey through salvation history with powerful biblical readings and witness the profound sacrament of Baptism as new Christians are welcomed into the faith.

Easter Sunday: Celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord and renew your baptismal promises at Masses at 9:00 & 11:00am.



Easter and Beyond

May 3 - One last indulgence opportunity before the fall! Saturday, May 3rd: confessions 4pm, indulgence prayers 5pm, Mass 5:30pm.

May 30 - Kent Winder will be ordained a deacon! Kent has been in formation for the past four years, learning spirituality, theology, preaching and Scripture. The ordination Mass is at 5:00pm, May 30th at St. Mary's Cathedral in Grand Island. He will assist at Mass as deacon in our parish that weekend. Be sure to congratulate him at an ordination reception here St. Patrick's on Sunday, June 1st at 2pm in our parish hall.



June 3 - Don't Miss Dr. Ray Guarendi, a renowned psychologist and radio host, in person at St. Patrick's on Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025 at 7:00pm. Dr. Ray is an authority on parenting and behavioral issues as well as a well-known author. He is an advocate of common sense approaches to child rearing and discipline issues. Dr. Ray is heard on Spirit Catholic





In December the Spanish-speaking community hosted a traditional posada to help welcome Mary and Joseph. Spanish Mass is held the fourth Sunday of each month at 5:30pm.

In November, the juniors at St. Patrick's High School visited the seminary in Seward.



Support the Mission of Your Parish

Giving to your church is a powerful way to support its mission. Your financial contributions directly enable the church to carry out its vital work within the community. At St. Patrick's our mission is to provide a vibrant spiritual home for those seeking Jesus Christ. To that end, we offer education through North Platte Catholic Schools, catechetical instruction for children, beautiful worship and opportunities for spiritual nourishment. By giving, you become a partner in fulfilling our parish's mission and make a tangible difference in the lives of those who pass through our doors.

Key points in favor of online church giving:

- **Accessibility:** Parishioners can donate regardless of their ability to attend in-person services due to illness, travel, or weather conditions.
- **Convenience:** Simple and quick donation process through a website or mobile app, often with the ability to set up recurring donations.
- **Financial stability:** Consistent income stream for the church, even when attendance fluctuates.
- **Transparency:** Detailed records of donations are readily available for both donors and church leadership.
- **Multiple giving options:** Ability to designate donations towards specific church programs or needs, in addition to your regular Sunday contributions. Reduced administrative burden: Streamlines the donation collection process for the church staff.



Card/ACH

Give Online



venmo

Get ready for a communication upgrade at St. Pat's! **This February-March, we're switching to a brand new parish software** that will help us manage things better and save some green (think more spiritual stuff, less paperwork!). Flocknote Complete, a platform designed by Catholics, for Catholics, is all about keeping you connected to the heart of our church family. For the staff this will merge services and eliminate extra expenses, while streamlining communications.



What does this mean for you? Flocknote will be the place for all communications at St. Pat's! Think: Mass schedules, event updates, ministry sign-ups, and important announcements – all delivered straight to your inbox or phone. Plus, features like online giving, text-to-donate, and religious education registration make things even easier!

We'll be using our existing records to get you connected, but you're always in control! Want to unsubscribe at any time? No problem!

Expect a Smooth Transition (Mostly). We're working hard to make this switch seamless, but there might be a few bumps along the road (think duplicate entries – don't worry, we'll fix them in a flash!). Want to Get a Head Start? Head over to stpatsnp.flocknote.com/register or text us to get pre-registered! This way, you'll be the first to know about everything happening at St. Pat's.

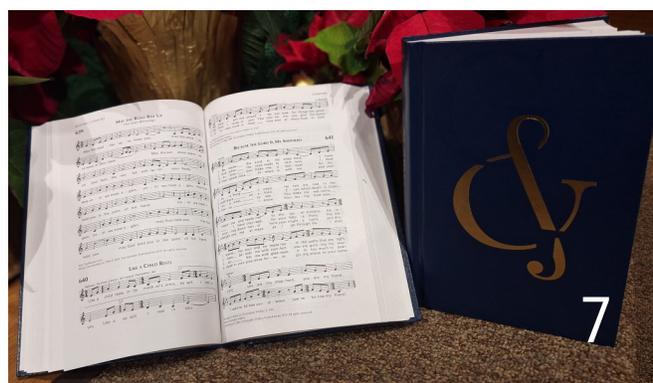


Frs. Joe and Sorensen trained quite a few new altar servers this past fall. Pictured are the children at McDaid Elementary who received training.

Hymn-tastic News!

We're bursting with joy to announce that our beautiful new hymnals, *Glory & Praise*, are fully paid for! A huge thank you to the incredible generosity of our parishioners, sparked by a visionary estate gift. This means we've saved nearly \$20,000 over the next ten years – money that can now go towards other exciting initiatives! These high-quality hymnals, from Oregon Catholic Press (the same publishers as *Breaking Bread*), are designed to enrich our worship for years to come, so please handle them with care. Let's extend a hug thank you to the forward-thinking donors who made this incredible blessing possible! For more information about *Glory & Praise*:

<https://youtu.be/X5tBGneKM8Y>





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www.stpatsnp.org

Non-Profit

Return Service Requested

Ignite Your Teen's Faith This Summer!

Incredible youth retreat opportunities are just around the corner, offering powerful experiences to deepen their connection with the Catholic faith. Registration opens February 1st—these retreats are popular and fill up within weeks, so register now! For more information, or to register: gidiocese.org/youth-events

For Current High Schoolers

(Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors):

-**Higher Ground** (Fort Robinson State Park, Crawford)

May 25-30, 2025 or June 1-6, 2025

-**Steubenville of the Rockies:** (Denver) July 25-27, 2025

For Those Completing 6th-8th Grade:

-**Higher Ground Xtreme Faith:** July 6-10, 2025 (Camp Maranatha, Maxwell)

For 1st grade-12th Graders

-**Totus Tuus:** a powerful immersion in Catholic culture! (St. Patrick's Parish Hall)

-Grade School: July 14-18 (daytime)

-Junior High & High School : July 13-17 (evenings)

Registration opens late spring.

Upcoming Pre-Lent Events

February 1-2 - Presentation of the Lord and blessing of Candles - February 2nd is 40 days after Christmas and the day when Mary and Joseph presented the child Jesus in the temple. The Church commemorates this event with a blessing of candles at Mass. This occurs on a Sunday this year and everyone is welcome to bring candles to Mass for a special blessing at the beginning of the service. Blessed candles can be lit during individual or family prayer time and also during storms to invoke God's protection over your home.

And since St. Blaise, patron of throat health, has his feast day on February 3rd, blessed candles from the day prior are used to bless throats. This will be offered after all Masses on February 1-2.



March 2 - Welcome to new Catholics! Several baptized Christians will be received into the Catholic Church on Sunday, March 2nd. What makes us Catholic? One baptism, one faith, one Church. Witness these new members to our parish receive their sacraments at the 11am Mass. Do you know someone that is interested in the Catholic faith? Contact the parish office to begin the journey!