

# BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH

- 2 Easter Stewardship:  
*Sharing Hope of the Resurrection with Those in Need*
- 3 A Letter From Our Pastor
- 4 Experience The Easter Triduum at Blessed Sacrament
- 6 The Healing Power of Confession: *A Guide to Preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation*
- 7 Coming Soon! The Grand Island Central Catholic Elementary School *Much-Awaited Grand Opening Set for August*

## MEET PARISHIONER LENNY GRAHAM

*JOYFULLY GUIDED TO THE CATHOLIC FAITH,  
BLESSED TO SERVE GOD AND PARISH*

**W**e all come to the faith on a different path. Some of us were baptized and raised Catholic, while others convert at a later age. Lenny Graham was led to the church by what he believes was his guardian angel. He saw a vision of his guardian angel on the side of the road on many trips to Grand Island. This led him to eventually seek out the Catholic faith.

Lenny and his wife, Coyne Quinn, live in Ord but have become active at Blessed Sacrament. Being raised in a Baptist family, Lenny entered into the Catholic faith in April 2023.

"Once I started seeing that guardian angel, I knew I needed to become Catholic," Lenny says.

"Nothing could convince me otherwise."

Lenny and Coyne have known each other for more than 30 years. Lenny and Coyne's first husband, John, were good friends. John passed away about four years ago. Lenny and Coyne have been married for nearly two years.

Although he has mobility issues due to his multiple sclerosis, Lenny has found that he can contribute through the Technology Ministry, helping with the Mass livestream. It's more than just a way to get involved. For Lenny, it's personal.

"I know someday I won't be able to attend Mass with my mobility issues," Lenny says. "I

*continued on page 5*



*Becoming Catholic and joining our parish has been a beautiful experience for Lenny Graham. He and his wife, Coyne Quinn, have enjoyed becoming involved.*



## EASTER STEWARDSHIP:

*Sharing Hope of the Resurrection with Those in Need*

---

**W**hat hope Jesus' Resurrection offers to us! Indeed, had He not raised Himself from the dead, our faith would be in vain, as St. Paul says. And yet, this hope is for every human being, even those who do not know Him.

Jesus calls us as Catholic Christians to rejoice in the hope He gave us through His Resurrection, but He calls us to share the joy of His Resurrection with the world, particularly with those whose condition in life makes it difficult for them to be joyful.

As we celebrate Easter in the comfort of our homes and churches, let us do our part to reach out to those, who at this time, still find themselves amid great suffering. So many are still experiencing Christ's death, as it were — the victims of war-torn areas around the world, the unwanted and abused, the homeless and the starving — many of whom cannot find a reason or meaning for the tragedy in their lives.

If there is anything worse than suffering, it is the horror of feeling alone in one's suffering. When we devote our lives to sharing the Gospel and the love of Jesus with these poor souls, we undertake a truly awesome and meaningful task — to show those in pain that they are not alone, to assure them of the compassion of Jesus, Who experienced all the physical pain, all the effects of sin, the very same sufferings endured by every person who has ever lived or will live on this earth. Who of all people is more ready to show compassion to the suffering than our Precious Lord?

As St. Paul says, "We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses" (Hebrews 4:15). But the great triumph in the tragedy

of the Cross is that Jesus did not merely experience suffering; He sanctified it, redeemed it, and ultimately conquered it through the Resurrection, thereby bringing hope to every person who suffers.

Jesus calls us to put our faith in His Resurrection into action, to show by the way we live our lives that we really believe it makes a difference even in the darkest places of the world. How can we shine the healing light of the Resurrection on those still in the shadow of the Cross?

We do not have to travel abroad to find a soul in suffering. Perhaps there is someone in our parish to whom we can minister this Easter season, or someone in our local community. We are all called to pray for our brothers and sisters who suffer, but perhaps we can do even more than that. Even if some of us may not have the freedom to devote our time or talent to serve the suffering, through our means, we can minister even to the furthest reaches of the globe. This is one reason why supporting Catholic outreaches and charities is so vital to the Church and our own faith lives. The Scriptures even say, "If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,' but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead." (James 2:15-17).

Is our faith still buried in the tomb, or is it alive and bearing fruit in our lives and in the lives of others this Easter season? Let's not shrink back from the awesome task Jesus has bestowed on us.



*Honoring the*

# FEAST OF ST. PATRICK *with a Spirit of Stewardship*

Dear Parishioners,

**W**hile March means we are in the middle of our Lenten journeys, it also brings the festive holiday of St. Patrick's Day, a time for us to reflect on the Catholic teachings and spiritual significance of this celebration. St. Patrick's Day is not merely about revelry and merriment; it is rooted in the life and teachings of St. Patrick, who was a devout Catholic bishop and patron saint of Ireland.

St. Patrick, known for his missionary work in Ireland, brought the Catholic faith to the Irish people. His dedication, faith, and tireless efforts in spreading Christianity serve as an inspiring example for us all. In celebrating St. Patrick's Day, we can embrace this Catholic heritage and faithfully observe the holiday through acts of Catholic stewardship, particularly during the Lenten season. Here are some ways to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in a spiritually meaningful and stewardship-focused manner:

- **ATTEND MASS:** On St. Patrick's Day, make attending Mass a central part of your celebration. St. Patrick's commitment to the Catholic faith should inspire us to come together in worship and prayer, reaffirming our own faith.
- **LEARN ABOUT ST. PATRICK:** Take some time to learn about the life and work of St. Patrick, his dedication to God, and his missionary efforts. Reflect on how his example can guide your own faith journey.
- **SHARE YOUR FAITH:** Just as St. Patrick shared his faith with the people of Ireland, take this opportunity to share your faith with others. Engage in conversations about Catholicism and encourage open dialogue about your beliefs.
- **EMBRACE THE LENTEN SPIRIT:** St. Patrick's Day often involves indulgence, but as it falls within the season of Lent, consider refraining from excessive feasting and drinking. Use this day to practice moderation and self-discipline, aligning your actions with the spirit of Lent.
- **ACTS OF CHARITY:** St. Patrick's Day can be a time for acts of charity. Donate to a Catholic charity, support a local food bank, or participate in community service to help those in need. These acts of love and generosity reflect St. Patrick's dedication to serving others.
- **CELEBRATE IRISH CULTURE AND TRADITION:** While celebrating Irish culture is an integral part of the day, do so in a manner that respects your faith. Enjoy traditional Irish music, dance, and cuisine, but do not lose sight of the spiritual significance of the holiday.
- **STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENTS:** Use St. Patrick's Day to renew your commitment to Catholic stewardship. Reflect on how you can contribute your time, talents, and financial resources to support our parish and the broader Catholic community.

By celebrating St. Patrick's Day in a way that aligns with Catholic teachings and focuses on stewardship, we can honor the legacy of St. Patrick and his dedication to spreading the Catholic faith. Let us remember that the core of St. Patrick's work was to bring the light of Christ to the people of Ireland, and we, too, can continue to share the love and teachings of Christ with those around us.

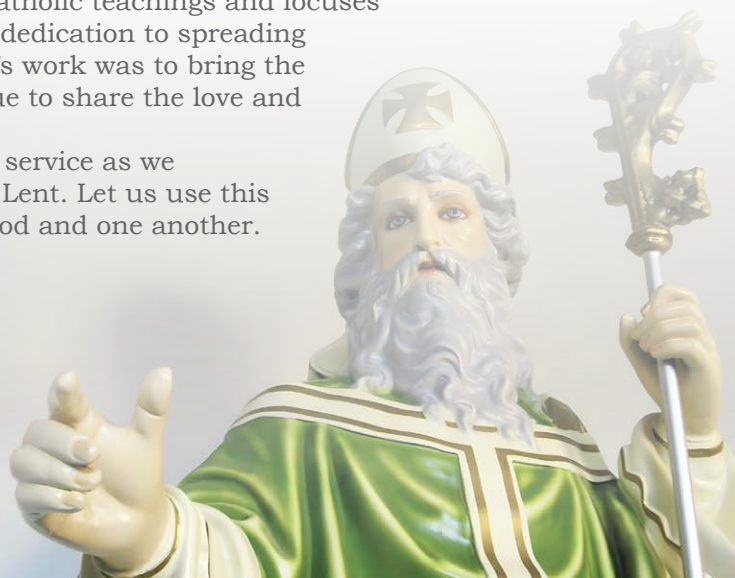
May this St. Patrick's Day be a time of faith, reflection, and service as we navigate this special day during the season of Lent. Let us use this opportunity to deepen our relationship with God and one another.



Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Fr. Martin Egging*

Fr. Martin Egging  
Pastor



## EXPERIENCE THE EASTER TRIDUUM

*A GRAND CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S VICTORY OVER DEATH*

**A**s we journey through the season of Lent, we are preparing to celebrate the Easter Triduum, those three days that commemorate Christ's Paschal mystery — Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. These celebrations culminate in the Easter Vigil Mass on the night of Holy Saturday.

The Church says that the Triduum has such a close-knit unity that it is really one liturgy spread over three days. That is how closely connected Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter are.

Indeed, for as Christ defeated death through His resurrection, He had to take our sin upon Himself and be put to death before He could rise and thereby break the chains of sin and death. Before His death, in an act of sincere love, He offered Himself as food at the Last Supper, welcoming us to the table and giving us the opportunity to participate in His sacrifice to the Father. The three events are interconnected — together, their celebration is the grandest celebration of the liturgical year!

"On Holy Thursday, we celebrate Jesus' Last Supper," Sr. Bernadette says. "He was celebrating the Passover, the deliverance of the Israelites from

the slavery of Egypt, but He also made it a ritual of what He would do the next day in His Body broken and His Blood poured out. He also washed the feet of the disciples, showing that He was a servant of all and calling His disciples to also be servants."

Then, on Good Friday, Christ gave up His life as a ransom for us. He who was sinless, the Word made flesh, the Lord of all creation took upon Himself the sins of His creation and gave Himself in atonement for what we have done!

"On Good Friday, we remember and celebrate how Jesus' Body was broken and His Blood poured out on the cross," Sr. Bernadette says. "He entered into death that we might have life."

On Holy Saturday, then, we commemorate the time Christ spent in the tomb. The Church is quiet, the tabernacle is empty.

But then, it is not! At the great Easter Vigil on Saturday night, we celebrate the glory of Christ's resurrection, the greatest act in all of human history! Because of this act, St. Paul could aptly wonder, "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Cor. 15:55).

"In the vigil, we celebrate Christ as our light," Sr. Bernadette says. "We recall and give thanks for the mighty deeds of God throughout history. We



*The liturgies we celebrate over the course of the Easter Triduum are actually one big liturgy, celebrating Christ's victory over death.*



*Cantor Brad Durand sings at the Easter Vigil.*

# TRIDUUM AT BLESSED SACRAMENT

## CHRIST'S VICTORY OVER DEATH

move into Baptism where we recall and celebrate our entering into death with Christ (a death to sin) and rising with Christ to new life. That is why it is most appropriate that catechumens are baptized at this time. The celebration of the Eucharist forms the last part of the Easter Vigil and is its high point — the commemoration and making present for us the sacrifice of the cross, the presence of the risen Christ, and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet.”

This three-day celebration is the high point of the liturgical year. Throughout this multifaceted liturgy, we celebrate in a grand way the Paschal Mystery of Christ, His selfless gift that makes our salvation possible. It is a beautiful way to celebrate our faith and to offer our thanksgiving to

Christ for the gift of our salvation.

“I love the Triduum for its solemnity and pageantry,” Sr. Bernadette says. “It draws us into the mysteries of our faith in a way we don’t otherwise experience. The Triduum liturgy over the course of three days is a powerful living celebration of the mystery of Christ and our salvation. God is at work there, and for that reason, I would encourage all who can to participate in the whole Triduum liturgy.”

Keep an eye out in the bulletin for the times that the Triduum liturgy will take place. Make time to participate. You will be amazed at the ways in which God blesses you throughout this celebration. It is a beautiful celebration of the wonder of our faith!

## LENNY GRAHAM *continued from front cover*

will need this ministry when I can’t attend Mass. I understand how important this is.”

Being involved in this ministry has also helped Lenny to better understand the Mass. Coyne, having joined Blessed Sacrament at the same time as Lenny, serves as a lector. The couple also supports the Blessed Sacrament food pantry.

Becoming Catholic and joining Blessed Sacrament has been a beautiful experience for Lenny. He appreciates that the Catholic Church is an endless trove of knowledge.

“I love learning,” he says. “No matter how much you think you know, you can always learn more.”

Lenny recalls that he was never very religious growing up. He credits his guardian angel for bringing him to the faith.

“When I saw what I thought I saw, it smacked me in the face,” he says.

The community of people at Blessed Sacrament has been so welcoming to Coyne and Lenny. They are, in turn, thankful to have found this parish.

“We’ve enjoyed getting to know people,” Lenny says. “Many people have welcomed us with open arms.”

We can all follow the example of Lenny and Coyne and use the new year as an opportunity to find a ministry that you are passionate about.

“Jump right in,” Lenny says. “The water is fine!”

In her free time, Coyne also enjoys gardening and reading helping with her great-grandkids. Lenny likes to go for a drive. The couple is currently building a new house in Ord.



# The *Healing Power* of Confession:

## *A Guide to Preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation*

**T**he Sacrament of Reconciliation, often known as confession, is a part of the Catholic faith. It provides us with an opportunity to seek forgiveness for our sins and reconcile with God. This sacrament is a powerful way to renew our spiritual journey, and proper preparation is key to making a good confession.

Confession is more than just admitting our sins; it is a sacred encounter with God's mercy and love. Through this sacrament, we acknowledge our human frailty and seek God's forgiveness, allowing us to start anew with a clean slate. It's a moment to rekindle our relationship with Christ and grow spiritually.

### **PREPARING FOR CONFESSION:**

- **Examination of Conscience:** Before confession, take time for self-examination. Reflect on your actions, thoughts, and words since your last confession. A thorough examination of conscience helps identify the sins that need to be confessed.
- **Sorrow for Sins:** Genuine contrition is essential. Sorrow for sins should come from the heart and a desire for true repentance. Recognize the harm your sins may have caused and your intention to avoid them in the future.
- **Make a List:** Consider making a list of your sins to guide you during the confession. This list can help you remember all the sins you wish to confess, ensuring a thorough examination.

### **APPROACHING THE CONFESSIONAL**

Entering the confessional can be intimidating but remember that the priest is there to guide you through the process with compassion and understanding.

- **Begin with the Sign of the Cross:** When you enter the confessional, start with the sign of the cross, invoking the Holy Trinity. This gesture

signifies your intention to confess your sins.

- **Confession:** Begin your confession by stating your sins. Start with the most serious ones and then proceed to the others. Be honest, straightforward, and specific. For example, instead of saying, "I was mean to someone," specify the incident, such as, "I spoke hurtful words to a family member."
- **Listen to the Priest:** After you've confessed your sins, the priest may offer guidance or ask questions for clarification. Listen attentively and respond honestly.
- **Accepting the Penance:** The priest will assign a penance, which may involve prayers, acts of kindness, or other spiritual exercises. Accept this penance with a willing heart and a commitment to complete it.
- **Act of Contrition:** The priest will then ask you to recite an act of contrition, expressing your sorrow and commitment to avoid sin. You can use a traditional act of contrition or speak from your heart.

### **RECEIVING ABSOLUTION**

After your act of contrition, the priest will absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. At this moment, your sins are forgiven, and you are reconciled with God and the Church.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a profound way to experience God's mercy and grace. Approach it with humility and a sincere desire for spiritual renewal. Through proper preparation and heartfelt confession, you can embrace this sacrament as a means of drawing closer to God and leading a life more in accordance with His teachings. Remember that the priest is there to assist you and be a conduit of God's mercy, and your confession should always remain confidential.

# COMING SOON! GRAND ISLAND CENTRAL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## MUCH-AWAITED GRAND OPENING SET FOR AUGUST

**E**xciting things are happening this August at Grand Island Central Catholic (GICC). The long-awaited elementary school is set to open and GICC is going to expand to a full PreK-12 school!

Grand Island has been without a Catholic elementary school for about 50 years. Principal Jordan Engle has always known that this is an essential missing piece in our community that needs to be filled. With ambitious plans, much hard work from the school staff, and even more support from the Grand Island community, GICC is expecting to open the doors of the brand-new elementary school to about 250 students, marking a significant first year with all grades being offered.

“This process has been a long road of gathering support, understanding the community’s desire for Catholic elementary education, fundraising, and gathering the best possible educational resources,” Mr. Engle says.

A lot of work has been done to turn the dreams of an elementary school into a reality. One great hurdle was the construction of a new building dedicated to the elementary school.

“The construction began in March 2023 and is going very well,” Mr. Engle says. “We hope that in the coming four months, construction will be completed and we will have a beautiful new school building ready for occupancy this summer.”

Additionally, staffing has been another key component. To educate the estimated 250 students that are enrolling, 17 new teachers will need to be hired. Luckily the positive GICC reputation has helped significantly on this front.

“We’ve been blessed so abundantly and we’ve had great interest from the public in pursuing teaching jobs at GICC,” Mr. Engle says.



*Construction on the new elementary school building began in March 2023, and much progress has been made over the past year.*

“Currently, we’ve hired 12 teachers for next year.”

To help families with children in different grade levels, the elementary school will be located on the same campus as the current secondary school and will follow the same schedule. This means there will be no need to arrange multiple carpools at different times to get the kids to and from school.

Mr. Engle believes there are great advantages to

*continued on back cover*

518 W. State Street  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
(308) 384-0532  
[www.blsachurch.net](http://www.blsachurch.net)



## GRAND ISLAND CENTRAL CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*continued from page 7*

having younger students mingle with older students.

“The students will interact in ways that help us build a school family,” he says. “Our hope is that through mentorship opportunities, learning opportunities, and worship opportunities, our students will find ways to develop new and exciting relationships!”

The success of the school is dependent on community support. In turn, the strides that the new elementary school has already taken show the overwhelming enthusiasm that the Grand Island community has for this endeavor.

“The excitement for this opportunity around the community has largely carried the burden in terms of spreading the word for this opportunity,” Mr. Engle says. “We’re blessed by those who help us spread the good word by talking about us in public!”



*Enrollment for the 2024-25 elementary school year is open.*

*Apply at [www.gicc.org/elementary--preschool.html](http://www.gicc.org/elementary--preschool.html)*

*To further support the school, please consider pledging to the fundraising campaign.*

*Pledges can be made at [www.gicc.org/elementary-school.html](http://www.gicc.org/elementary-school.html).*