

# Guide & News



Station 6 – Veronica wipes Jesus' face (and the image of Jesus' face is indelibly etched in her cloth) – Martin Eichinger



TOP LEFT: Station 1 – Jesus is condemned to die (The 'trial' of Jesus) – Jay Warren  
 TOP RIGHT: Station 2 – Jesus takes up His cross – George Lundeen Studio  
 ABOVE: Station 11 – Jesus is nailed to the cross – Rob Arps

## Expectations exceeded as The Cloisters on the Platte begins spiritual retreats

**Cassandra Kostal**  
**Staff Writer**

After much anticipation, spiritual retreats at The Cloisters on the Platte are underway.

The first three-day retreat at TD Ameritrade founder Joe Ricketts' multi-building compound began Thursday, July 19. According to Ricketts, the retreats are going even better than expected.

"The responses have met and actually surpassed all my expectations," Ricketts said. "I have been thinking about this project for close to 20 years. It has been a goal of mine and I am grateful for what has been accomplished. People who attend are leaving feeling quite fulfilled after spending the weekend in a contemplative environment that permits them to reflect on their spiritual lives."

Work started on The Cloisters on the Platte in 2015, with Ricketts personally funding all the construction after purchasing the 931-acre property in 2014 for \$13.6 million.

"I enjoyed the retreats I had attended at the Jesuit Retreat House at Demontreville in Minnesota and I thought it would be nice to bring that experience to people in the Omaha-Lincoln area," Ricketts said.

During each weekend retreat, 80 people are accommodated in one of seven guest lodges on the property, each providing 10 bedrooms and bathrooms and a common living room for guests.

Additional guest lodging is also provided in the main retreat center building where the meals are served. Also on the grounds is a chapel modeled after St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church in Omaha.

According to Ricketts, the facilities on the property "are designed with the goal of supporting the spiritual journey of retreatants."

The retreat itself, he said, is based on the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. The three-day silent retreats are meant to capture elements of the Ignatian journey.

Retreats will be held 47 times throughout the year and are separated by gender. Guests at the retreats park in an underground parking garage and are then taken by shuttle to the main cam-

pus. Also situated on the campus and open to the public are The Stations of the Cross. Each of the 14 Stations tells a story about the life of Jesus. Visitors travel to each Station along a 2,500-foot path - the same distance that Jesus carried the cross.

Tours of the Stations of the Cross are free, but a \$10 dona-

tion is suggested. An audio tour developed for The Stations of the Cross is included with each \$10 donation.

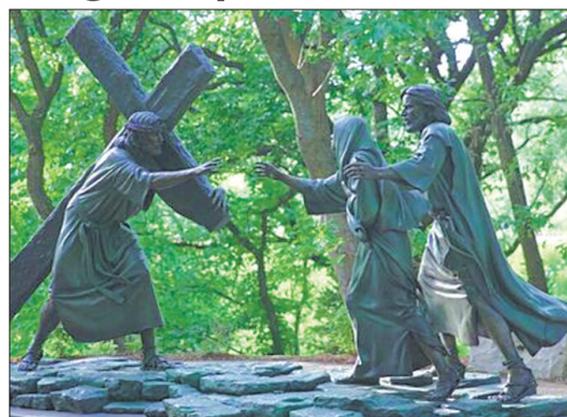
Retreats are also free, but The Cloisters on the Platte relies on donations from retreat attendees. Ricketts says the Cloisters also benefits from the sale of Cloisters bread and he hopes to introduce other Cloisters products in

the future.

"We are extremely happy with the enthusiastic response we've received so far," Ricketts said. "More than 8,000 people have already expressed interest in attending. We have set up a waitlist to accommodate the considerable demand we are seeing. Currently, there are still a few spaces open for the men's retreats."



Station 13 – Jesus' body is taken down from the cross – George Lundeen Studio



Station 4 – Jesus meets His mother (on the road to His crucifixion) – Jay Warren

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- +Faith Family Trekkers
- +Fermentation Group
- +Theology on Tap

**Sunday Morning**

- 8:30 am Traditional Worship
- 9:35 am Sunday School
- 9:45 am Adult Forum
- 10:45 am Contemporary Worship

**Wednesday Evening**

- 5:45 pm Mid-Week Meal (all are welcome)
- 6:15 pm Confirmation for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 6:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal/Bell Choir
- 6:30 pm Family Time: Pre-K through Adult
- 7:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal

153 S McKenna Ave  
Gretna, Ne  
402-332-3383  
www.relchurch.net

### Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

11204 S. 204th Street \* Gretna, NE \* 402-332-3345 \* www.gslcgretna.org

**Wee Lambs Preschool**

Christ Centered w/Jesus time every day & chapel w/Pastor once a month

Classes for 3,4, & 5 yr olds (by August 31)

Small classes: 16 kids w/2 teachers

Spots still available!

Contact director Lisa Stirtz 402-332-3267

**Rally Day Sept. 9**

Regular Service Times: 8:00 am & 9:30 am

**Sunday School at 9:15 am**  
Games/Fun Activities in Ed. Wing

**Ministry Activities Center**  
◆ Worship at 10:45  
◆ Potluck Lunch following

**Busy Weekend Schedule? Join us for Wednesday Worship at 7 pm**

**Midweek Classes**

**Begin Wed. Sept. 19**  
5:30-6:40 pm

Children in grades 3-8 are encouraged to attend!

Register online from our website's sidebar: www.gslcgretna.org

Contact Tara w/questions: Tara.hess@gslcgretna.org



### Gretna United Methodist Church

Where God's Family Grows Together  
 11457 S. 204th St. 402-332-3213  
 Pastor Gary Main

**Sunday**  
 9:30 Worship  
 10:30 Fellowship  
 10:45 Sunday School for All Ages

**Wednesday Youth Activities**  
 (beginning August 29th)  
**Mission Possible Kids** - Grades 1-5  
 6-7:30 pm

**Team 4:12** - Grades 6-8  
 6:30-8 pm

**SWAT** - Grades 9-12  
 6:30-8 pm

www.gretnaumc.com