SHARING OUR NEWS

DECEMBER 2026

The Catholic Parishes of Western Holt and Boyd Counties

Assumption BVM – Lynch ● St. Boniface – Stuart ● St. Joseph – Amelia
Ss. Peter and Paul – Butte ● St. Joseph – Atkinson ● St. Patrick – O'Neill
St. Mary – Spencer

MASS SCHEDULES

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday:
St. Boniface – Stuart – 5:00 p.m.
St. Patrick – O'Neill – 5:00 p.m.

Sacred Heart of Boyd County:
Saturday:
Week 1: St. Mary's – Spencer – 7:00 p.m.
Week 2: St. Mary's – Spencer – 7:00 p.m.
Week 3: St. Mary's – Spencer – 7:00 p.m.
Week 4: Ss. Peter & Paul – Butte – 7:00 p.m.
Week 5: St. Mary's – Spencer – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday:
St. Joseph – Atkinson – 9:00 a.m.
St. Patrick – O'Neill – 10:30 a.m.
St. Joseph – Amelia – 11:15 a.m.

Sunday:
Ss. Peter & Paul – Butte – 8:00 a.m.
Ss. Peter & Paul – Butte – 8:00 a.m.
Ss. Peter & Paul – Butte – 8:00 a.m.
St. Mary's – Spencer – 8:00 a.m.
Ss. Peter & Paul – Butte – 8:00 a.m.

Weekday Mass Times

Monday:
St. Boniface – Stuart – 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday:
St. Patrick – O'Neill – 5:15 p.m.
St. Boniface – Stuart – 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday:
(*School Masses subject to change)
*St. Patrick – O'Neill – 8:10 a.m.
*St. Joseph – Atkinson – 8:15 a.m.
SHBC Rotation
Thursday:
St. Patrick – O'Neill – 7:00 a.m.
Friday:
St. Patrick – O'Neill – 7:00 a.m.
St. Joseph – Atkinson – 8:15 a.m.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Roman Catholic Parishes of Western Holt and Boyd Counties are diverse communities of faith that welcome all people to continually encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Christ through prayer, word, and action.

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

A Word from Deacon Roger Filips

Our founders feared kings and strongmen, and with good reason. Lord Acton warned that "power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely," so they spread power out to prevent tyranny. We still instinctively prefer freedom of choice. If someone told us, "Reform your life, because your King says so," most of us would answer, "Who does Jesus think He is? I will decide what is right for me."

But Christ is our King, even of those who do not believe in Him. Power does not corrupt Him; He is perfect. As society has drifted from Him, through "everyone for himself" religion, then secularism and materialism, and now a moral relativism where feelings outrank truth, we see where "I decide what is right for me" leads: everyone making their own laws and societal breakdown.

The truth is we need a king. Not a corruptible human one, but a godly king whose very nature is truth, justice, goodness and love, who chose a cross as His throne. The prophet Ezekiel He says, "I myself will look after and tend my sheep. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal." Yet He also warns, "I will judge between one sheep and another." A king who only comforts is not the King we need; a king who only judges would be one more tyrant. Christ is both: the Shepherd who goes after us and the King who tells us the truth for our own good.

Before The King can fix our country, we must make Him king of our own lives. If we won't let Him correct our personal sins, how can He change the world around us? The change starts with us: receiving the sacraments, studying the faith, and spending time in prayer with Jesus. If you don't like how the world is, change yourself. That is all you can really control anyway.

So why would anyone want a king? Because we need this one. Resolve to let Jesus be king, not just of the universe, but of your heart.

The following is an excerpt about social justice from my book "Pearls of the Universal Church". For more information go to www.SpiritualWorksPress.com

The Scripture teaches us to work for justice, peace, equality, and stewardship in our lives.

1. Racism and prejudice are sins. We were all created by God and are equal.

2. We all have to practice stewardship. We have been given the planet to live on and to take care of. We can use its resources but not abuse it or use an extreme amount of resources for no good reason.

3. Work is a gift from God. He is a worker. He created the universe and us. He invites us to work to advance His creation by providing products or a service to all people. You do not necessarily have to do full-time charity or mission work to work for God. Even if you work at a fast-food restaurant, you are providing a valuable service to society. Take pride in your work and respect your boss.

Until next month . . . Deacon Filips



IN LOVING MEMORY

LADELL ELEANOR LIEWER
October 18, 1953 – October 31, 2026
SHBC – Ss. Peter & Paul – Butte

JACK BRYAN DEMPSEY
March 26, 1948 – November 11, 2026
St. Patrick – O'Neill

MICHAEL JAMES KILMURRY
December 18, 1978 –November 11, 2026
St. Joseph – Atkinson

LORRAINE (PAT) NOVAK
July 8, 1936 – November 21, 2026
St. Patrick – O'Neill

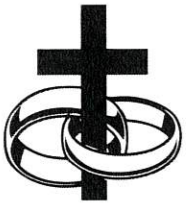
MIKE LANGAN
February 27, 1941 – November 21, 2026
St. Patrick – O'Neill





CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY MARRIED

MEGAN CARR AND BRIAN HALLBECK
October 24, 2026
St. Patrick – O'Neill



WELCOME TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

ANDREW DAVID JACKSON
Son of Dalton & Brandi Jackson
October 24, 2026
St. Patrick – O'Neill

REECE MARTIN RUNDELL
Daughter of Joseph Rundell & McKenzie Rundell
October 25, 2026
St. Patrick – O'Neill

MATTHEW WILLIAM EBY
and
ROWAN ELAINE EBY
Children of Kyle & Skylar Eby
November 7, 2026
St. Patrick – O'Neill

STETSON PAUL-LENTFER SLABAUGH
Son of Justin & Sophia Slabaugh
November 7, 2026
St. Joseph – Atkinson

LETTI RAE PETERSON
Daughter of Kirk & Courtni Peterson
November 14, 2026
St. Boniface – Stuart



The Lord will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Psalm 121:7-8

OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS OF NEBRASKA

COMING JANUARY 2027: New Federal Tax Credit Opportunity

Starting January 1, 2027, you can direct up to **$1700** of your federal income tax liability to support K-12 private school scholarships. Scan the QR code to learn more and sign up for updates.



ST. PATRICK PARISH OFFICE CLOSINGS

Closed All Day
December 24

Closed All Day
December 25

Closing at Noon
December 31

Closed All Day
January 1



Christmas Blessings



May this Christmas season wrap your heart in peace and your soul in joy. May the gentle light of Christ's love guide your every step, bringing hope where there's been worry, and warmth where there's been waiting. May laughter echo through your home, and may even the quiet moments feel full— full of grace, full of gratitude, full of God's promises. May you find beauty in the simple, blessings in the ordinary, and miracles tucked in the smallest corners of your day. As the star once led wise men, may you be led into a new year with renewed faith, deeper love, and a heart ready for all God has prepared for you. Merry Christmas, and may His peace be with you now and always.

In Jesus Christ's name, Amen.



Pray for our December Seminarian of the Month

Harrison Elhabbal

I was born in Omaha, Nebraska, on April 7th, 2005, into a homeschooling Catholic family of eight siblings. At seven years old, my family and I moved to Fredericksburg, Virginia, and remained there for ten years due to my Dad's work in the military. I met several good friends in Virginia and developed a strong love for playing sports, especially baseball and rugby. After my family and I moved back to Omaha we became parishioners at St Wenceslaus Parish.

My first love for Jesus and my desire for the priesthood grew significantly during my junior year in high school. Throughout my early high school years, I struggled greatly with God's call for me, but the Lord never stopped pursuing me and eventually reached my heart by working through and in the people around me. In addition, incredible high school retreats, strong and inspiring priest role models, and time spent in prayer allowed me to become more docile to God's will and more accepting of Christ's love for me, which fueled my desire to draw others closer to the heart of Jesus. Due to God's grace and all the experiences in my high school years, I could say yes to the opportunity to visit a college seminary, which ultimately gave me the courage to apply to the seminary and pursue a deeper trust in my relationship with the Father.

During seminary formation, I hope to grow closer to Jesus through spending time with Him and through my philosophy and Catholic Studies at St John Vianney College Seminary.

My advice to someone discerning the call to the priesthood is to spend authentic time with Jesus in eucharistic adoration and to have a spiritual director to walk with. In addition, I believe it is crucial to know that God does not rule by fear; instead, God's voice is peaceful, true, good, and beautiful, and God's will is a path to fulfill your deepest desires. Finally, as Padre Pio once said, "You do not have to be worthy; you just have to be willing."

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." JEREMIAH 29:11

AN ADVENT BIBLE READING PLAN

Week 1: Hope (29 November to 5 December)

Sunday 29 November: Isaiah 9:2–7, a light for people walking in darkness

Monday 30 November: Isaiah 40:1–11, comfort for God's people

Tuesday 1 December: Jeremiah 33:14–16, the promise of a righteous Branch

Wednesday 2 December: Isaiah 11:1–10, a shoot from the stump of Jesse

Thursday 3 December: Lamentations 3:21–26, hope while we wait

Friday 4 December: Romans 15:4–13, the God of hope

Saturday 5 December: Psalm 130, waiting for the Lord

Week 2: Peace (6 to 12 December)

Sunday 6 December: Isaiah 2:1–5, swords beaten into ploughshares

Monday 7 December: Micah 5:2–5, a ruler from Bethlehem who will be our peace

Tuesday 8 December: Luke 1:5–25, an angel visits Zechariah

Wednesday 9 December: Luke 1:67–79, Zechariah's song

Thursday 10 December: Isaiah 26:3–4, perfect peace for a steadfast mind

Friday 11 December: John 14:25–27, the peace Jesus gives

Saturday 12 December: Psalm 85:8–13, righteousness and peace meet

Week 3: Joy (13 to 19 December)

Sunday 13 December: Isaiah 35:1–10, the desert bursts into bloom

Monday 14 December: Zephaniah 3:14–20, God rejoices over his people

Tuesday 15 December: Luke 1:26–38, the angel Gabriel visits Mary

Wednesday 16 December: Luke 1:39–45, Mary visits Elizabeth

Thursday 17 December: Luke 1:46–56, Mary's song

Friday 18 December: Philippians 4:4–7, rejoice in the Lord always

Saturday 19 December: Psalm 126, songs of joy

Week 4: Love (20 to 25 December)

Sunday 20 December: Matthew 1:18–25, Joseph and the name Immanuel

Monday 21 December: 1 John 4:9–16, God is love

Tuesday 22 December: John 3:16–21, God so loved the world

Wednesday 23 December: John 1:1–14, the Word became flesh

Thursday 24 December (Christmas Eve): Luke 2:1–7, the birth of Jesus

Christmas Day: Luke 2:8–20, the shepherds and the angels, and celebrate.

FOR ALWAYS

by Will Fish

In 1994, two Americans answered an invitation from the Russian Department of Education to teach morals and ethics (based on biblical principles) in the public schools. They were invited to teach at prisons, businesses, the fire and police departments and a large orphanage. About 100 boys and girls who had been abandoned, abused, and left in the care of a government-run program were in the orphanage. They relate the following story in their own words.

"It was nearing the holiday season, 1994, time for our orphans to hear, for the first time, the traditional story of Christmas. We told them about Mary and Joseph arriving in Bethlehem. Finding no room in the inn, the couple went to a stable, where the baby Jesus was born and placed in a manger. Throughout the story, the children and orphanage staff sat in amazement as they listened. Some sat on the edges of their stools, trying to grasp every word. Completing the story, we gave the children three small pieces of cardboard to make a crude manger. Each child was given a small paper square, cut from yellow napkins I had brought with me. No colored paper was available in the city. Following instructions, the children tore the paper and carefully laid strips in the manger for straw. Small squares of flannel, cut from a worn-out nightgown an American lady was throwing away as she left Russia, were used for the baby's blanket. A doll-like baby was cut from tan felt we had brought from the United States. The orphans were busy assembling their manger as I walked among them to see if they needed any help. All went well until I got to one table where little Misha sat—he looked to be about 6 years old and had finished his project. As I looked at the little boy's manger, I was startled to see not one, but two babies in the manger. Quickly, I called for the translator to ask the lad why there were two babies in the manger. Crossing his arms in front of him and looking at his completed manger scene, the child began to repeat the story very seriously.. For such a young boy, who had only heard the Christmas story once, he related the happenings accurately—until he came to the part where Mary put the baby in the manger.

Then Misha started to ad lib. He made up his own ending to the story as he said, "And when Maria laid the baby in the manger, Jesus looked at me and asked me if I had a place to stay. I told him I have no mamma and I have no papa, so I don't have any place to stay. Then Jesus told me I could stay with him. But I told him I couldn't because I didn't have a gift to give him like everybody else did. But I wanted to stay with Jesus so much, so I thought about what I had that maybe I could use for a gift. So I asked Jesus, 'If I keep you warm, will that be a good enough gift?' And Jesus told me, 'If you keep me warm, that will be the best gift anybody ever gave me.' So I got into the manger, and then Jesus looked at me and he told me I could stay with him—for always."

As little Misha finished his story, his eyes brimmed full of tears that splashed down his little cheeks. Putting his hand over his face, his head dropped to the table and his shoulders shook as he sobbed and sobbed. The little orphan had found someone who would never abandon nor abuse him, someone who would stay with him—FOR ALWAYS.



Source: https://christmasstories.org/for-always/

HOW EVANGELIZATION HAPPENS - GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

In Sharing the Gospel with Others

The Holy Spirit also evangelizes through our attempts to reach those who have given up the practice of their Catholic faith for one reason or another and those who have no family of faith. Many in our Catholic community know family members, friends, and neighbors who do not have or practice faith.

Millions of Catholics no longer practice their faith. Although many of them may say they are Catholic, they no longer worship with the community and thereby deprive themselves of the gifts of word and sacrament. Some were never formed in the faith after their childhood. Some have drifted away because of one or another issue. Some feel alienated from the Church because of the way they perceive the Church or its teaching. Some have left because they were mistreated by church representatives.

As a community of faith, we want to welcome these people to become alive in the Good News of Jesus, to make their lives more fully a part of the ongoing story of salvation and to let Christ touch, heal, and reconcile them through the Holy Spirit. We want to let our inactive brothers and sisters know that they always have a place in the Church and that we are hurt by their absence—as they are. We want to show our regret for any misunderstandings or mistreatment. And we want to help them see that, however they feel about the Church, we want to talk with them, share with them, and accept them as brothers and sisters. Every Catholic can be a minister of welcome, reconciliation, and understanding to those who have stopped practicing the faith.

Our plan also asks Catholics to reach out to those who do not belong to a faith community and to invite them to consider the power of the Gospel of Jesus, which the riches of the Catholic Church can bring into their lives. Perhaps this may seem the most difficult of all the tasks evangelization asks of us. Yet if we have once seen the joy of those received into the Church at Easter, if we have ever experienced the growth of those going through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, if we have ever seen someone thrilled with the Gospel for the first time in his or her life, we know that this is, in truth, one of the sweetest gifts of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit, through the ecumenical movement, is calling churches and ecclesial communities into ever-deeper communion through dialogue and cooperation. We look forward with great eagerness to the day when all are members of one family. While recognizing that the life of other Christian communions can truly bring about a life of grace, we nevertheless cannot ignore all that still divides us. Our love for all who confess Christ and our desire for unity compel us to share with them the fullness of revealed truth that God has entrusted to the Catholic Church and to learn from them expressions of the truths of faith that other churches and ecclesial communities share with the Catholic Church.

Those who have not received the Gospel deserve honor and respect for following God as their consciences direct them. They are related to the People of God in a variety of ways. First are the Jews, the Chosen People, to whom the covenants and promises were made and who, in view of the divine choice, are a people most dear to God.

People of other non-Christian religions also have the right to hear the Gospel, as missionaries have brought it over the centuries. God's plan of salvation also includes the Muslims who profess the faith of Abraham and, together with us, adore the one, merciful God. Then there are those who through no fault of their own do not know the Gospel of Christ or his Church but nevertheless seek God with sincere hearts and seek to do God's will as they know it. Interreligious dialogue presents an opportunity to learn about other religious traditions and to explain our own. Such dialogue, however, must never be a camouflage for proselytizing. Rather, it should be approached with utmost respect and sensitivity. Catholics earnestly share their faith in Jesus Christ, which gives meaning to their lives, praying for that good day, known to God alone, when all peoples will address the Lord in a single voice and serve God with one accord.

Source: https://www.usccb.org

We are all called to be evangelists and that looks different for each individual person. There are various opportunities to help evangelize in our parishes: leading Bible studies, Welcome and Bereavement committees, teaching in the Religious Ed programs, joining a Reach More training, and many more. The opportunities are only limited by your imagination. Open your heart and your mind to doing MORE for your parish. Contact Jan Kunz (402.340.2303 or jmkunz@archomaha.org) for more information.

Continued next month.....

Nebraska

WALK FOR LIFE GALA

— STEADFAST FOR LIFE



Friday, January 29 | 5:30 PM

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln, NE

For more than 50 years, Nebraska Right to Life has stood steadfast in defense of every human life as the state's largest and oldest pro-life organization.

Join us as keynote speaker Dr. William Lile shares how his experiences performing fetal heart surgeries and blood transfusions on unborn babies have strengthened his unwavering conviction that every child is a patient deserving dignity and protection.

Register for 2027 Gala

NEBRASKA *Right to Life*

NEBRASKA WALK FOR LIFE

Saturday, January 30 | 10:00 AM

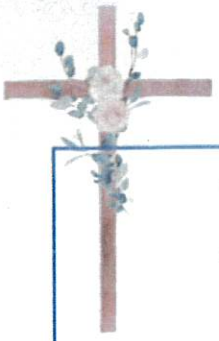
Nebraska State Capitol | North Steps

Following the Walk, Keynote address by Dr. William Lile at the Cornhusker Hotel

Free Event

Join thousands of Nebraskans standing steadfast in defense of every human life. For 54 years, our commitment has remained firm, and our mission continues.

Mass (sponsored by Nebraska Catholic Conference) takes place at St. Mary's Catholic Church at 9 AM, 14th & K Streets.



Catholic Parishes of Western Holt and Boyd Counties

LENTEN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

HEARTS ON FIRE: LEANING INTO WHO GOD CREATED YOU TO BE

FEBRUARY 27, 2027

9:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

KC Hall - Atkinson, NE
106 South Sherrill St.

Speaker:
Michelle Zuhlke

Day will include Adoration and Confession
St. Joseph Catholic Church

"BE WHO GOD MEANT YOU TO BE AND YOU WILL SET THE WORLD ON FIRE."

-ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

Registration:
9:30 a.m.

Cost:
$30/individual or
$150 for a Table of 6

RSVP:
by February 20th
or
$40/individual after Feb. 20th or the day of the conference.
Walk-ins welcome.

Contact:
Ann Filips
605.929.4726
annfilips@icloud.com
or
Jan Kunz
402.340.2303
jankunz9@gmail.com

NAME _____ PARISH _____

LUNCH PROVIDED: GLUTEN FREE _____ OTHER FOOD ALLERGY _____

$30 PER PERSON _____ OR $150 FOR 6 _____ (ALL OPEN SEATING)

(PLEASE PUT NAMES ON THE BACK)

MAIL TO JAN KUNZ: PO BOX 160-STUART, NE 68780

$40 AT THE DOOR. LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE.

Make checks payable to:
WHBC Evangelization







Mary Shields's parents donated pumpkins for us to decorate

IGNITE

ENCOUNTER CHRIST. BECOME A SAINT. SET THE WORLD ON FIRE.



St. Patrick's youth group went through a small transformation this year, now under the name, "Ignite". Our name encompasses our mission; to encounter Christ, become a Saint, and to set the world on fire! We meet almost every Wednesday at 7pm at the K.C. Hall. Check the bulletin, social media, or flocknote for our schedule. Our leaders are Ben and Carol Doolittle, Jacob Domayer, Jayde Haburchak, Bridget Bulau, and Christina Spader. Each night contains friendships being fostered, fun being had, faith being shared, and food being eaten! Come and see!



Boys only night

Girls only night



ST. PATRICK'S – O'NEILL







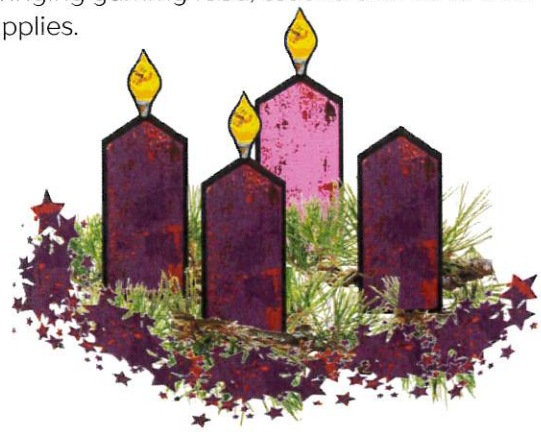




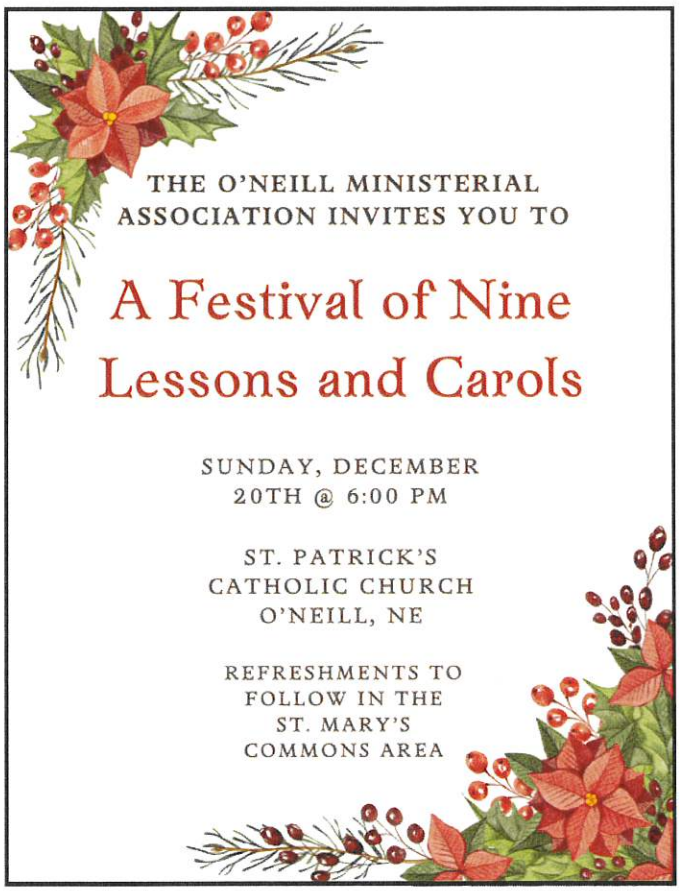
On Wednesday evening, November 18th, St. Patrick's Religious Ed held their first family night. A potluck of delicious food and desserts was enjoyed by students and their families. Families then created Advent wreaths for the upcoming Christmas season. It was well attended with almost 90 people present and we hope next semester's is just as successful.

A big thank you to families for bringing yummy food, teachers for all of their help setting up and cleaning up, and Jan Kunz for lining up the supplies.

Happy



Advent



thrivent

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Thank you to those who have directed their Thrivent Choice dollars to St. Mary's School and/or St. Patrick Church! Thrivent allows their members to direct their "Choice Dollars" to organizations, like ours, that have enrolled in Thrivent Choice. You can direct your choice dollars as well by logging in at thrivent.com and selecting "Direct Choice Dollars" or contacting your local representative.

SINGING AT THE EVERGREEN

The Catholic Daughters and St. Mary's 4th-6th grade students will be caroling at the Evergreen Assisted Living on Monday December 7th. They are looking forward to sharing the spirit of Christmas with the residents at the Evergreen!

FALL AUCTION UPDATE

A huge thank you to all who supported St. Patrick at the annual fall auction on November 1st! Whether you donated, attended, purchased, or bought raffle tickets – every single thing matters. This year's auction brought in just over $176,000 after expenses and we cannot say thank you enough. We are grateful for the support of our St. Mary's and St. Patrick's family and friends and the surrounding communities for all you do!



With gratitude for the following gifts given as memorials:

<u>St. Mary's Marian Award</u>
In memory of James & Blanche Corkle

<u>St. Mary's School</u>
In memory of SMA alumni '39 Margaret Thiele Niehaus Fiser
In memory of Helen Schmaderer



ST. JOSEPH – AMELIA

St. Joseph's Fall Brunch












St Joseph's of Amelia had their annual fundraiser on Sunday, November 22. This year they had a brunch. Lots of pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, and homemade baked goods were served. Plenty of conversation and fellowship were enjoyed throughout the morning and early afternoon.

Religious Ed News

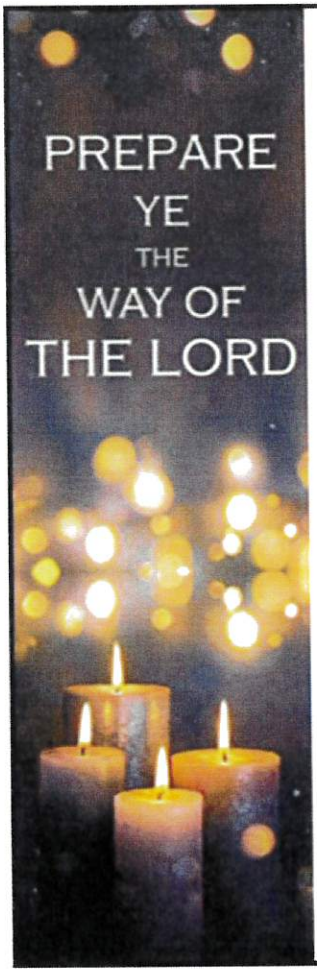
Other activities going on in our church are the CCD kids are busy practicing songs they will sing at the Chambers Hometown Christmas bizarre on December 5. In addition to that, they are also practicing songs that will be sung on Christmas Day. They are also preparing items for their Christmas gift bags that they fill and give to community members. This is becoming an enjoyable service project for the students and the recipients throughout the community. Pictures will be in the January newsletter.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year's from Saint Joseph's of Amelia





Sarah Hausmann of Spencer St. Mary's won the State Knights of Columbus Culture of Life art contest this year. Boyd County KC Leonard Engelhaupt presented her with a winner's certificate and check for $200. St. Mary's CCD program also received a check for $500. Sarah's drawing will be featured on the One Rose One Life cards the Knights of Columbus will hand out in January. Sarah's CCD teacher is JoElla Ohri. She is the daughter of Paul and Denise Hausmann. Congrats Sarah!



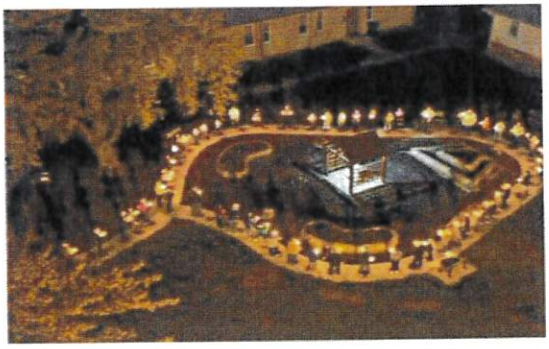
Spencer St. Mary's
CCD, CYO, & Altar Society
invite you to join
us in preparing for
Christmas on

Sunday, Dec. 13

Reconciliation with
Fr. Burkhalter and
Fr. Hausmann
4-5:30 pm

Horse Drawn Caroling
Leaves church at 3:30

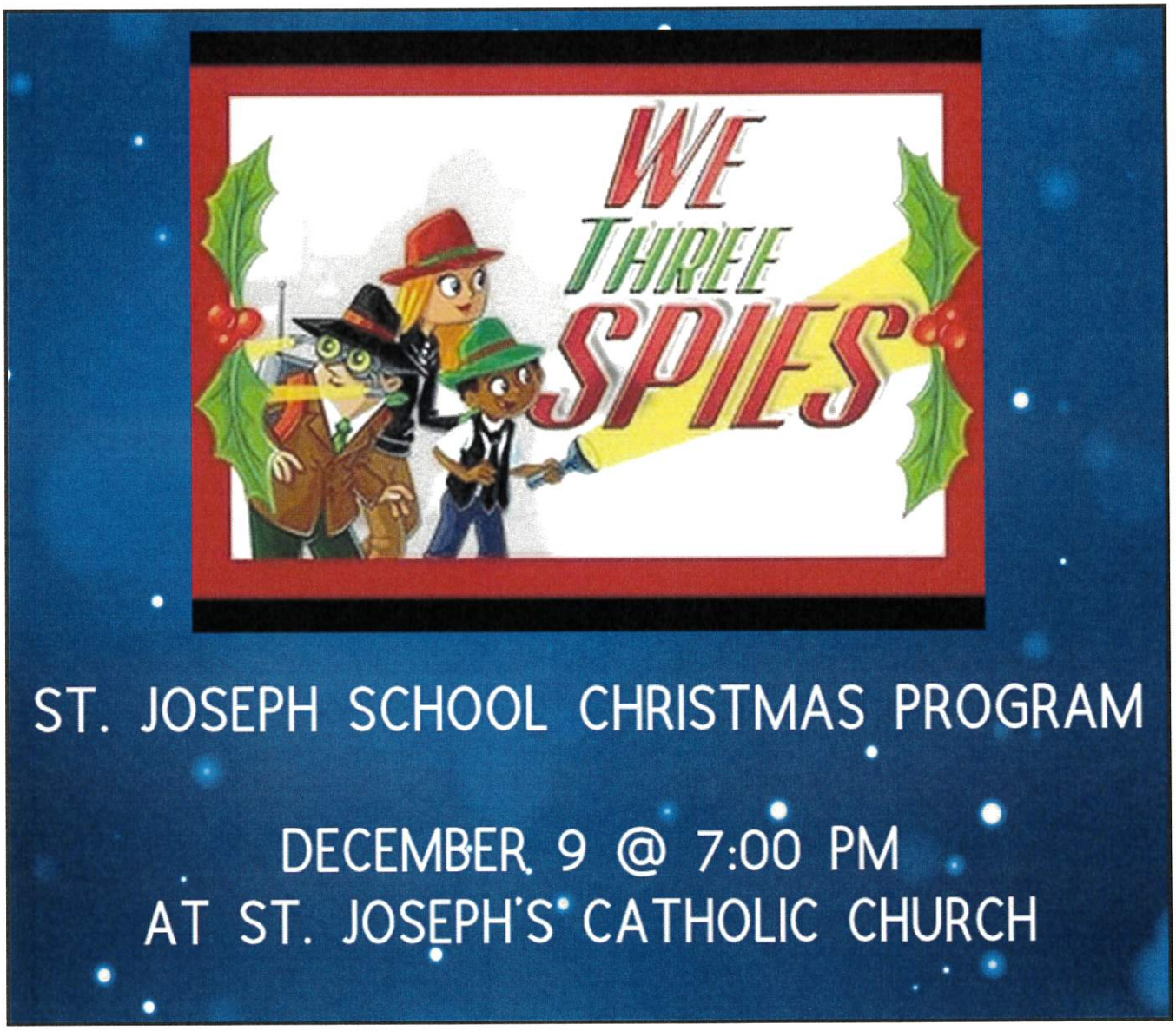
Souper Supper 5:30
Sample soups and vote for your favorite!
Proceeds go to area nonprofits.
Enjoy sweet samples and good company until Santa arrives



Aireal view of the All Souls Rosary prayed in the new Rosary Garden at Spencer. It was hosted by CCD and CYO.



Family Fun Night lived up to its name. It was held after Mass on Nov. 11. Diner was provided by religious ed, then everyone played bingo. KCs called bingo, and the prize tables featured white elephant items brought by the families.



ADVENT BABY SHOWER

A baby bassinet will be set in the vestibule for baby items for Beginnings Pregnancy Center for the 4 weeks of Advent.

Sponsored by St. Joseph's Altar Society



ST. BONIFACE - STUART







The third-grade students at St. Boniface did an Advent-in-a-Jar activity along with a countdown to Christmas calendar to mark each day of advent. Inside the jars were slips of activities to do with their families. One slip for each day starting on November 29 and going until December 25. Before starting the activity, the students learned the meaning of the advent wreath along with each of the candles.
They were very creative in decorating their jars.

Wishing everyone a happy Advent and a Merry Christmas!



ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Parish:	Goal:	Committed as of: 11/24/26
Sacred Heart Boyd County:	$14,780.00	$14,384.00
St. Boniface:	$9,654.00	$5,555.00
St. Joseph – Amelia:	$4,040.00	GOAL MET!
St. Joseph – Atkinson:	$13,560.00	$12,667.15
St. Patrick:	$52,760.00	$32,456.00

Archdiocese of Omaha

ONE CHURCH
ENCOUNTERING JESUS
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES
LIVING MERCY



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE

Holy Day of Obligation

Immaculate Conception Vigil
Monday, December 7, 2026

SHBC – St. Mary's – Spencer – 6:30 p.m.
St. Boniface – Stuart – 7:00 p.m.

Immaculate Conception Feastday
Tuesday, December 8, 2026

St. Patrick – O'Neill – 8:10 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
St. Joseph – Atkinson – 8:15 a.m.
St. Joseph – Amelia – 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24, 2026

St. Joseph – Atkinson – 4:00 p.m.
St. Patrick – O'Neill – 4:00 p.m.
SHBC – Ss. Peter & Paul – Butte – 5:00 p.m.
St. Boniface – Stuart – 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day
Friday, December 25, 2026

St. Patrick – O'Neill – 12:00 a.m.
SHBC – St. Mary's – Spencer – 9:00 a.m.
St. Joseph – Atkinson – 9:00 a.m.
St. Patrick – O'Neill – 10:30 a.m.
St. Joseph – Amelia – 11:15 a.m.





SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASS SCHEDULE

Holy Day of Obligation

Thursday, December 31, 2026

SHBC – St. Mary's – Spencer – 5:00 p.m.
St. Patrick – O'Neill – 5:00 p.m.
St. Boniface – Stuart – 7:00 p.m.

Friday, January 1, 2027

SHBC – Ss, Peter & Paul – Butte – 9:00 a.m.
St. Joseph – Atkinson – 9:00 a.m.
St. Patrick – O'Neill – 9:00 a.m.
St. Joseph – Amelia – 11:15 a.m.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Bernard Starman ~ Pastor
bgstarman@archomaha.org
Fr. Ross Burkhalter ~ Senior Associate Pastor
rcburkhalter@archomaha.org
Dcn MJ Kersenbrock ~ Director of Operations
mjkersensbrock@gmail.com
Jan Kunz ~ Director of Evangelization & Catechesis
jmkunz@archomaha.org
Dcn Roger Filips
rfilips@archomaha.org

St. Patrick—O'Neill & St. Joseph—Amelia
Office: 313 E Hwy 20, O'Neill, NE 68763
Phone: 402-336-1602
Fax: 402-336-1533
Hours: Monday—Friday—8 a.m.—4 p.m.
After hours emergency number: 402-340-0277
Parish Receptionist: Nancy Tomjack—nmtomjack@archomaha.org
Business Manager: Cheleigh Sholes—crsholes@archomaha.org
Director of Stewardship & Development: Jennifer Wallwey
jmwallwey@archomaha.org
O'Neill - Youth Director: Bridget Bulau—bbulau@smcards.org
Religious Ed. Coordinator:
Whitney Shaffer—whitney.shaffer7@gmail.com
Amelia - Religious Ed. Coordinator
Ellie Metschke - elliemetschke@gmail.com

Sacred Heart of Boyd County
PO Box 8, Butte, NE 68722
Phone: 402-775-0067
Hours: Tuesday—Thursday 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m.
Secretary: Marge Nolan—mnolan@archomaha.org
Butte - Youth Minister/Religious Ed. Coordinator:
Charlotte Mitchell—charlottehuckmitchell@gmail.com
Spencer - Religious Ed. Coordinators:
Mary Haun - rmhaun@nntc.net; Breg Finnegan -ardbreg@yahoo.com;
JoElla Ohri -joella2001@yahoo.com

St. Joseph—Atkinson
PO Box 220, Atkinson, NE 68713
Phone: 402-925-2122 Fax: 402-925-2104
Hours: Wednesday—Friday 8 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Secretary: Gayle Jungman—stjoechurchatkinson@gmail.com
Religious Ed. Coordinator:
Linda Wolf—stjohndr@gmail.com
Phone: 402-340-0741

St. Boniface—Stuart
PO Box 190 Stuart, NE 68780
Phone: 402-924-3262 or 402-924-3803
Hours: Monday - Wednesday - Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Director of Ministries/Religious Ed. Coordinator:
Jan Kunz—jmkunz@archomaha.org or jankunz9@gmail.com
Phone: 402-340-2303

SIGN UP FOR FLOCKNOTE NOTIFICATIONS:

Keep in touch with us via email and text. Text the number of the parish you'd like notifications for below:

St. Patrick—O'Neill 68763
St. Joseph—Amelia 68711
Sacred Heart of Boyd Co. 68722
St. Boniface—Stuart 68780
St. Joseph—Atkinson 68713
OR
HOLTBOYDCATHOLIC
(for information from ALL parishes)
TO 84576
or connect online at:
holtboydcatholic.org
flocknote.com

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

1st – Grief to Grace Bereavement Group Meeting – 1:00 p.m. – Evergreen
1st – Eucharistic Adoration – 6:00 p.m. – O'Neill
2nd – Religious Ed/Youth Group/Confirmation Classes
3rd – Ladies Guild Meeting – 2:00 p.m. – Stuart
3rd – Ss Peter & Paul CCW Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Butte
4th – Mass @ Parkside – 2:00 p.m. – Stuart
5th – St. Joseph CCD Sing at Hometown Christmas – 9:00 a.m. – Chambers
6th – Festival Music Practice – 1:00 p.m. – O'Neill
6th – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O'Neill
6th – OCIA – 4:00 p.m. – O'Neill
7th – Immaculate Conception Vigil Masses – See times/places elsewhere
7th – KC Meeting – 7:30 p.m. – Stuart
8th – Immaculate Conception Masses – See times/places elsewhere
8th – Grief to Grace Bereavement Group Meeting – 1:00 p.m. – Evergreen
8th – Eucharistic Adoration – 6:00 p.m. – O'Neill
9th – Religious Ed/Youth Group/Confirmation Classes
9th – KC Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – O'Neill
13th – Festival Music Practice – 1:00 p.m. – O'Neill
13th – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O'Neill
13th – OCIA – 4:00 p.m. – O'Neill
14th – CEC Mtg – 5:30 p.m. – O'Neill
14th – Christmas Closet – 6:00 p.m. – O'Neill Community Center
14th – 4th Degree KC Meeting – 7:30 p.m.– Stuart
15th – Eucharistic Adoration – 6:00 p.m. – O'Neill
16th – Mass @ Evergreen – 3:15 p.m. – O'Neill
16th – Religious Ed/Youth Group/Confirmation Classes
16th – Pastoral Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – O'Neill
20th – Festival Music Practice – 1:00 p.m. – O'Neill
20th – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O'Neill
20th – Festival of Lesson & Carols – 6:00 p.m. – O'Neill
21st – KC Meeting – 8:00 p.m. – Spencer
22nd – Eucharistic Adoration – 6:00 p.m. – O'Neill
23rd – Finance Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – O'Neill
24th – Christmas Eve Masses – See times/places elsewhere
25th – MERRY CHRISTMAS
25th – Christmas Masses – See times/places elsewhere
27th – Coffee & Rolls following 8:00 a.m. Mass – Spencer
27th – St. Mary Altar Society Meeting – 9:00 a.m. – Spencer
27th – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O'Neill
29th – Eucharistic Adoration – 6:00 p.m. – O'Neill
31st – Solemnity of Mary Vigil Masses – See times/places elsewhere



NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The newsletter is available on the last full weekend of each month in the entryway of each parish. It will also be available on-line. If you or someone you know would like the newsletter mailed, please contact Jan Kunz @ 402-340-2303 or call the Parish Office. If you have any parish news that you would like in the newsletter, please email Jan at: jkunz@holtboydcatholic.org or jankunz9@gmail.com



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

holtboydcatholic.org

You will find . . .

- websites for individual parishes
- a detailed calendar of Masses and events
- live stream of the Mass
- St. Mary's & St. Joseph's Catholic Schools information

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