

# SHARING OUR NEWS

## OCTOBER 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

### Second Chances with God

God does not judge our lives only by our first answer. Many of us have said no to God—with delay, excuses, habits, pride, fear, or sin. Yet with God, the first answer does not have to be the final answer. We worship the God of second chances.

Jesus makes this plain in the parable of the two sons. One son refuses his father's command, but afterward changes his mind and goes. His beginning is bad, but his ending is different. That "afterward" matters. It means grace can still reach the heart. It means God can still work with someone who once resisted Him.

Ezekiel teaches the same truth: God does not trap us in our past. He does not say, "You failed once, so you are finished." Instead, He says, "Turn back, and live." Mercy is not permission to remain unchanged; it is an invitation to conversion. Saint Paul shows what that conversion requires: taking on the attitude of Christ, who humbled Himself in obedience to the Father. Every second chance invites us to let Christ's yes take root in us.

This is why confession is such a gift. It is not where God humiliates His children, but where He raises them up. It is not the courtroom of a Father eager to condemn; it is the embrace of a Father who wants His children to live. God's mercy is stronger than our pride, our past, and the lie that nothing can change.

The saints were not people who never needed mercy. They learned to stop refusing it. Holiness is not pretending we never said no; it is allowing grace to turn our no into a yes.

So the question is simple: What second chance is God offering now? The important thing is not to postpone grace. Conversion becomes real when it becomes action. If the Father is calling us into His vineyard today, then even if our first answer has been no, we can still rise and go.

The following is an excerpt about social justice from my book "Pearls of the Universal Church". For more information go to [www.SpiritualWorksPress.com](http://www.SpiritualWorksPress.com)

The social safety net is confused, often intentionally, with a welfare state in which able-bodied people are trapped by government dependence, usually through a government redistribution of wealth. Charity is for immediate life-threatening problems. The Good Samaritan did not set up government housing with food stamps for the injured man. He took care of his immediate needs (see Luke 10:25-37).

We are called to always improve ourselves and to grow, but when we are trapped in a welfare state of mind, it stops our growth and traps our children in a cycle of poverty and government dependency. We were made in the image of God, and God is a worker. If we keep someone dependent on welfare, we destroy his or her God-given dignity. Saint Paul warned ... If anyone will not work, let him not eat (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

Until next month . . . Deacon Filips



## IN LOVING MEMORY

**ALICE V. POSPISIL**

June 7, 1931 – September 9, 2026  
St. Joseph – Atkinson

**BERNADETTE "BERNIE" JELINEK**

June 30, 1949 – September 14, 2026  
St. Joseph – Atkinson

**EUGENE "GENE" HOSTERT**

June 6, 1936 – September 21, 2026  
SHBC – Ss. Peter & Paul – Butte

**LEROY PURVIANCE, JR.**

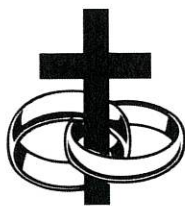
August 1, 1938 – September 21, 2026  
SHBC – ABVM – Lynch



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY MARRIED

**BAILEE DOUGHERTY & CALVIN BARTOS**

September 5, 2026  
St. Patrick – O'Neill



## WELCOME TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

**BARRON PAUL AND STORM HAO SEARS**

Sons of Brandon & Sharissa Sears  
August 29, 2026  
St. Boniface – Stuart

**SLOAN MICHAEL SHIELDS**

Daughter of Dave & Mary Shields  
September 5, 2026  
St. Patrick – O'Neill

**MARGARET RUE ROTH**

Daughter of Levi Roth & Taya Heisinger  
September 13, 2026  
SHBC – Ss. Peter & Paul – Butte

**RICHARD PAUL WADE**

Son of Patrick & Natalie Wade  
September 20, 2026  
SHBC – St. Mary's – Spencer



*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



## 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.



### HOLY LAND ART

will be at  
the following  
churches with  
their beautiful  
art pieces  
to buy.

St. Boniface  
Stuart  
Oct. 31st

St. Joseph  
Atkinson  
Nov. 1st

St. Patrick  
O'Neill  
Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

St. Josph  
Amelia  
Nov. 8th

### HOPE CONNECTING HEARTS NIGERIA

This year marks the 15th Anniversary of Hope Connecting Hearts Nigeria, a Catholic-rooted nonprofit founded by Fr. Kizito that works to expand access to education, clean water, and opportunities in rural communities in Nigeria. They will celebrate this milestone on Thursday October 8 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm at St. John Vianney Parish in Omaha.

You may mail a donation check to:  
Hope Connecting Hearts Nigeria  
PO Box 6126,  
Omaha, NE 68106-6126



### VICTIM OUTREACH & PREVENTION



It is important for the Church to truly listen to those who are injured and to express sincere sorrow to all who have been wounded by sexual misconduct at the hands of Church personnel.

Office of Victim Outreach and Prevention is a safe place for this to occur.

The Director of Victim Outreach and Prevention is available for all those who have been hurt, seek to be heard, and want to start the healing process.

Please consider contacting Mary Beth Hanus, LMHP.

[mbhanus@archomaha.org/](mailto:mbhanus@archomaha.org/) (402) 827-3798



## Pray for our Oct. Seminarian of the Month – Casey LaMotte

Hello! My name is Casey LaMotte, and I'm blessed to call Saint Robert Bellarmine my home parish. I am the oldest of two children, and I've lived in the same house in Omaha my whole life.

I attended Mary Our Queen grade school, then went to Skutt Catholic High School. At Skutt, I was active in Choir, Band, and Guardians, an all-male prayer group. Through all three of these activities, the Lord surrounded me with amazing people when I didn't even realize it. When He made his presence

and love known to me, I had a perfect group around me to help cultivate my new fire for the faith, and that fire illuminated a desire for something more, and I felt a call to the Priesthood.

I discerned that I needed more time to allow the Lord to define the call he was giving to me, so I attended the University of Nebraska Lincoln, joined Phi Kappa Theta, an amazing Catholic fraternity there, and was active at the Newman Center. I loved the community and spent time altar serving, adoring Christ in the Eucharist, or even just having conversations in the lobby, I even became a Janitor there! Through my Fraternity, I was shown authentic Catholic masculinity and had such an amazing group of men who were all walking toward God together, supporting each other along the way.

The priests and students at the Newman Center helped me learn how I am viewed by God, as His beloved son, and that he created me the way I am with a perfect plan in mind for me. Toward the end of my year, God made his plan for me clear, that I was ready to discern a priestly vocation in Seminary.

I'm really excited to live in community now with my brother seminarians and to discern God's plan for our lives together.

To any man discerning the priesthood, focus less on yourself and more on God. There is a common saying: "God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called", and it is absolutely true. Do not focus too heavily on your weaknesses, open those areas of your heart up to Him, and He will flood you with His grace! He sees and loves you as you are, but also knows exactly how to lead you to the person he created you to be, and in that journey, He may call you to discern a religious vocation. Trust Him and enter into it!

Thank you all for your prayers for all Seminarrians, I know that I have benefitted from them, and I'm so thankful for all the ways that the Lord is present in the Archdiocese of Omaha!

"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



*"The priest is called to be a living image of Jesus Christ, the eternal High Priest."*

#### Prayer for Priesthood 9-Day Novena

Father,  
You sent your Son Jesus Christ  
to be our High Priest,  
and you gave us the gift of the  
priesthood  
to continue His saving work.  
Bless our priests, and give us more of  
them.  
Make them holy.  
Strengthen them to proclaim the  
Gospel of Life,  
and to defend the rights of all,  
especially the unborn.  
Bring us, your priests and people  
to the life that never ends.  
We pray through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

#### What Must We Do for Our Priests?

Our beloved priests are chosen by God to guide souls, offer sacrifice, and serve the Church with love and dedication. In these challenging times, we are called to support them with unwavering faith and devotion.

We Must Do Three Things:

##### 1. Offer Holy Mass and Pray the Rosary for Priests – Every Day

The Holy Eucharist and the Rosary are the most powerful spiritual weapons. By offering them daily for our priests, we strengthen their mission and surround them with divine protection and grace.

##### 2. Live in Holiness and Humility

Let us stop sinning and choose the narrow path of virtue. By leading a quiet life, rooted in humility, we become living examples of Christ's peace and purity. Our holiness uplifts our priests.

##### 3. Trust in God's Faithfulness

He who called them will never abandon them. Christ Himself helps them carry their cross. But we are called to help too—through our encouraging words, acts of kindness, and by living a life that inspires hope.

#### Pope Benedict XVI's Prayer for Priests

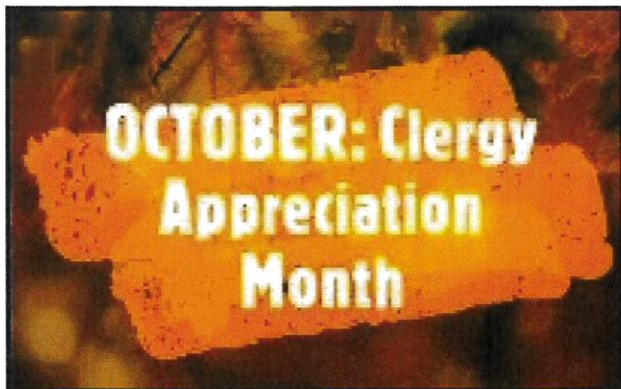
Lord Jesus Christ, eternal High Priest,  
You offered yourself to the Father on the altar of the Cross  
and through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit  
gave Your priestly people a share in Your redeeming sacrifice.

Hear our prayer for the sanctification of our priests.  
Grant that all who are ordained to the ministerial priesthood  
may be ever more conformed to You, the Divine Master.  
May they preach the Gospel with pure heart and clear conscience.

Let them be shepherds according to Your own Heart,  
single-minded in service to You and to the Church  
and shining examples of a holy, simple and joyful life.

Through the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Your Mother and ours,  
draw all priests and the flocks entrusted to their care  
to the fullness of eternal life where you live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Source: <https://saintmichaelusa.org/priesthood/>



#### CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH

Clergy Appreciation Month is observed in many Christian communities each October. It is a time to publicly thank and honor pastors, deacons, and other clergy for their faithful service, prayer, and care. It is also a season to lift them up in prayer, asking God to strengthen, protect, and renew them.



## THE CENTER OF THE BIBLE

Q: What is the shortest chapter in the Bible?

A: Psalms 117

Q: What is the longest chapter in the Bible?

A: Psalms 119

Q: Which chapter is in the center of the Bible?

A: Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters before Psalms 118

Fact: There are 594 chapters after Psalms 118

Add these numbers up and you get 1188.

Q: What is the center verse in the Bible?

A: Psalms 118:8

Q: Does this verse say something significant about God's perfect will for our lives?

The next time someone says they would like to find God's perfect will for their lives and that they want to be in the center of His will, just send them to the center of His Word!

### Psalm 118:8

***"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."***

Now isn't that odd how this worked out (or was God in the center of it)?

When things get tough, always remember...

Faith doesn't get you around trouble; it gets you through it!!

-Author Unknown

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## PUMPKIN

We are like a pumpkin that is being carved into a jack-o-lantern.

God picks us from the pumpkin patch and brings us in from the field. The Bible says He selects us out of the world. We are in the world but no longer of the world. Jesus said, "As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world." (John 15:19)

God washes all the "dirt" off the outside that we received from being around all the other pumpkins. All the outside influences of our former life must be cleaned up.

God carefully removes all the "yucky stuff" called "sin" from the inside. He then changes us from the inside out by the Power of His Word. That's why it is important to meet with the church and learn God's Word.

He carves a new smiling face. Our countenance is changed by the power of His presence in our life. We then become so grateful. It can even show on our face!

Finally, God puts His light inside of us to shine for all the world to see.

## WHY WE EVANGELIZE

We must evangelize because the Lord Jesus commanded us to do so. He gave the Church the unending task of evangelizing as a restless power, to stir and to stimulate all its actions until all nations have heard his Good News and until every person has become his disciple.

The Lord commanded us to evangelize because salvation is offered to every person in him. More than a holy figure or a prophet, Jesus is God's Word, God's "very imprint," the power and wisdom of God. He is our Savior. Becoming like us and accepting our human nature, he addresses in himself, in his death and resurrection, the brokenness of our lives. He suffers through our sin; he feels our pain; he knows the thirst of our death; he accepts the limits of our human life so that he might bring us beyond those limits. "[H]e humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him! . . ." Taking on our death as Savior, Jesus was raised to life. In Christ, all can come to know that the sin, the coldness, the indifference, the despair, and the doubt of our lives are overcome by God's taking on our human nature and leading us to new life. In him, and him alone, is the promise of resurrection and new life.

We evangelize because people must be brought to the salvation that Jesus the Lord offers in and through the Church. While we acknowledge that the grace of God is mysteriously present in all lives, people all too often resist this grace. They refuse change and repentance. We evangelize so that the salvation of Christ Jesus, which transforms our human lives even now, will bring as many as possible to the promised life of unending happiness in heaven.

Jesus commanded us to evangelize, too, in order to bring enlightenment and lift people from error. The Lord Jesus, "the way and the truth and the life," came to us as a teacher, opening for us the wisdom that not only leads to life eternal but also leads to a human fulfillment that reflects the dignity and mystery of our nature. Unless people know the grandeur for which they are made, they cannot reach fulfillment and their lives will be incomplete. Nor will they know that they are called into interpersonal union with God and with each other. The intimate union that Jesus revealed in his life, being one with the Father and rejoicing in the Holy Spirit, can envelop our lives. This is the union in which Jesus wishes all to share, a union whose realization brings great peace to people, families, societies, and the world. Evangelization opens us to Christ's wisdom and personal union with God and others.

The Lord gave us a message that is unique. All faiths are not merely different versions of the same thing. Knowing Christ Jesus and belonging to his Church are not the same as believing anything else and belonging to any other community. Pope John Paul II has pointed out, "While acknowledging that God loves all people and grants them the possibility of being saved (cf. 1 Tm 2:4), the Church believes that God has established Christ as the one mediator and that she herself has been established as the universal sacrament of salvation." The unique claim of our message does not negate the sincerity and faith of others; likewise, the sincerity and faith of others do not take away from the clarity and truth of our message. As Pope John Paul II reminds us, "It is necessary to keep these two truths together, namely, the real possibility of salvation in Christ for all humankind and the necessity of the Church for salvation. Both these truths help us to understand the one mystery of salvation."

Finally, the Lord gave us yet another reason to evangelize: our love for every person, whatever his or her situation, language, physical, mental, or social condition. Because we have experienced the love of Christ, we want to share it. The gifts God has given to us are not gifts for ourselves. Like the large catch of fish or the overflowing measure of flour, faith makes our hearts abound with a love-filled desire to bring all people to Jesus' Gospel and to the table of the Eucharist. As Jesus wanted to gather all Jerusalem, "as a hen gathers her young," so also do we want to gather all people into God's kingdom, proclaiming the Gospel even "to the ends of the earth."

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](mailto:jmkunz@archomaha.org)) for more information.

Continued next month.....

## RESPECT LIFE MONTH 2026: MARY, MOTHER OF LIFE

Join Catholics nationwide in celebrating  
Respect Life Month.  
Visit: [respectlife.org/celebrate](https://respectlife.org/celebrate)

# respect life month novena



OCTOBER 22-30  
[respectlife.org](https://respectlife.org)

Join thousands of Catholics praying a

### RESPECT LIFE NOVENA

Thursday, October 22 – Friday, October 30.

Get daily prayers, reflections, and more.

Sign up at [respectlife.org](https://respectlife.org)

### Prayer for Respect of Life

*Heavenly Father, the beauty and dignity of human life was the crowning of your creation. You further ennobled that life when your Son became one with us in his incarnation. Help us to realize the sacredness of human life and to respect it from the moment of conception until the last moment at death. Give us courage to speak with truth and love and with conviction in defense of life. Help us to extend the gentle hand of mercy and forgiveness to those who do not reverence your gift of life. To all, grant pardon for the times we have failed to be grateful for your precious gift of life or to respect it in others.*

*We ask this in Jesus' Name.*

*Amen.*



## O'Neill Life Chain

Sunday,  
October 4th

Come pray that moms know they have  
another choice, and that help is  
waiting for them.

Come pray for moms and their babies,  
so abortion becomes unthinkable.



Registration starts at 1:30  
at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Douglas  
After registering,  
participants will pick up their signs  
and prayers,  
then line both sides of Douglas Street  
to witness in silent prayer  
from 2-3:00

DHHS.NE.GOV reports there were 2,698 abortions in Nebraska in 2025.  
Come pray our nation will protect our children from forces determined to kill them.  
*As we've lost respect for their lives, we're losing respect for all life.*



## THE FEAST OF THE GUARDIAN ANGELS: GOD'S HEAVENLY PROTECTORS OCTOBER 2ND

Each year on October 2, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Guardian Angels, a reminder of God's tender care for His children. This feast is not only about honoring the angels, but about deepening our awareness of how intimately God is involved in every moment of our lives.

### A Heavenly Gift of Protection

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us: "From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession" (CCC 336). Guardian Angels are entrusted with guiding and protecting us. They are personal messengers of God's love, uniquely appointed to each of us. The psalmist reminds us, "For He commands His angels with regard to you, to guard you wherever you go" (Psalm 91:11).

This is not mere poetry; it is a profound truth. From childhood to old age, our guardian angel remains at our side, interceding for us before the throne of God and offering us silent inspirations toward holiness.

### Companions on the Journey

The devotion to guardian angels has been cherished throughout the Church's history. Saints like St. Padre Pio and St. Josemaría Escrivá spoke frequently about their close relationship with their angels, often relying on them in daily life. These stories encourage us to build a conscious friendship with the angel God has given us.

Whether in moments of danger, confusion, or discouragement, we are never truly alone. The quiet nudge of our conscience, the sudden moment of clarity in prayer, or even the protection from unseen harm may be the gentle work of our angelic companion.

### A Call to Trust and Gratitude

The Feast of the Guardian Angels is an invitation to gratitude. God's love is so particular, so personal, that He assigns an angel to walk with each of us through life's trials and joys. In this we see His fatherly care: we are never abandoned, even when we feel isolated or weak.

It is also a call to trust. Our guardian angel is not a distant figure but a vigilant friend. As Jesus Himself taught, "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father" (Matthew 18:10). The angels behold God's glory even as they accompany us, linking our earthly journey with heaven's eternal praise.

### Living the Feast

On this feast day, Catholics are encouraged to pray the Guardian Angel prayer with renewed devotion:

***"Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen."***

Families can teach children to pray this daily, instilling trust in God's providence. Adults too can rediscover its power, not as a child's rhyme, but as a profound reminder of God's closeness.

The Feast of the Guardian Angels is a celebration of God's nearness, His providence, and His love. It reminds us that the spiritual world is not far away; it surrounds us, guiding us toward eternal life. On this day, let us thank God for our guardian angels, ask for their help more often, and walk with confidence knowing heaven walks with us.

By Abigail James

Source: <https://catholiconline.news/angels/the-feast-of-the-guardian-angels-gods-heavenly-protectors/>



**O'NEILL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, COUNCIL 701**  
**FALL GUN RAFFLES**

**BERGARA B-14 RIDGE RIFLE**  
**BOLT ACTION 6.5 PRC**  
*Valued at \$999.99*  
Thank you to Reiser Insurance for providing the prize,  
and to J & S Outdoor for their discount pricing.

**SIG SAUER 9 MM**  
**XMACRO TACOPS P365**  
*Valued at \$999.99*  
Thank you to Ron & Barb Mejstrik for providing the prize,  
and to J & S Outdoor for their discount pricing.

**TICKETS \$50 EACH**  
**ONLY 100 SOLD FOR EACH GUN**

**Contact any O'Neill KC Member to purchase your ticket  
or call Ben at 402-336-6335 before they are sold out!**

DRAWING WILL BE HELD SUNDAY NOV. 1ST.  
WINNER WILL BE CONTACTED BY PHONE.

#### SUPPORT AGAPE MISSION TRIP

St. Mary's alumni, '15 Brittany (Soukup) Kotopka, daughter of Gene & Cindy Soukup, is part of the El Salvador: Agape Mission Trip through Helping Hands Medical Mission at the end of October. Their mission is to bring compassionate care and the message of the gospel to the people of Sonsonte, El Salvador. They work closely with the Catholic Sonsonte Diocese and their bishop Msgr. Constantino Barrera. Brittany will be helping to provide hysterectomy, cysectomy, and other needed procedures for women who cannot receive care. If you would like to support her mission, please visit the website at [www.el-salvador-mission.com](http://www.el-salvador-mission.com) and look at the El Salvador: Agape Mission Trip. You will find more information and have the opportunity to donate to their mission directly on the site.



With gratitude for the following gifts  
given as memorials:

#### St. Mary's Grants

In memory of '91 Kristin (Mlnarik) Belgium

#### St. Mary's School

In memory of Jim Gallagher

#### St. Mary's Marian Award Scholarship

In memory of '91 Kristin (Mlnarik) Belgium  
In memory of '59 Mary Thomson Miller & '62 Jim Thomson

*Thank  
you*

# THANK YOU FIRST RESPONDERS



## Prayer for First Responders

God, I thank you for the First Responders across this Nation. Be with them as they put themselves in harm's way to keep us safe.

Please give them your wisdom and discernment to know how to respond amid challenging situations. Send your angels to watch over and protect them.

May they return safely to their families at the end of their shifts. Please guard their heart and mind against the stress and anxiety their job presents them each day. Amen.

## YOU'RE INVITED TO A Special Mass HONORING LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026  
8:10 A.M.

St. Patrick's Church,  
O'Neill

OUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY  
ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR  
★ SACRIFICE AND SERVICE ★

Please RSVP via text to 402-340-1751 by  
Friday, September 25, 2026 with the number of attendees  
from your agency.

### ST. PATRICK'S CELEBRATING FIRST WHITE MASS

October 18, 2026

10:30 a.m.

Join with us to celebrate the medical community and to seek God's blessings on their patient care, ask for guidance in balancing medical science with moral faith, and offer spiritual support in a demanding field.

#### History of White Mass

The tradition of the White Mass in the United States finds its origins in the development of the national Catholic Medical Association in the early 1930s. From its inception, the medical profession has been understood as a healing profession, a way in which Christ's work continues upon the earth. Moreover, since the apparitions at Lourdes in the late 19th century, the plight of the infirmed- and those who care for them- have taken on renewed appreciation in participating in the mysteries of Christ's own life. The White Mass, so named by the color worn by those in the healing profession of medicine, gathers health care professionals under the patronage of St. Luke to ask God's blessing upon the patient doctor, nurse, and caregiver alike.



# ST. PATRICK FALL AUCTION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026  
O'NEILL COMMUNITY CENTER



## Family Friendly

Bounce Houses. (**Supervision not provided for Bounce Houses**) Kids Grab Bags. Free childcare for ages 4 and under.



## Delicious Lunch

Brisket sandwiches, chips, salad, and homemade desserts. Knights of Columbus will have a bar available for drinks.



## Auction Items

Household items, gift certificates, farm items, tools, furniture, gift baskets, furniture, baked goods, canned items, home decor, tools, art & handmade items from St. Mary's Classes, and so much more! Online, silent, and live auction!



## Raffles \$10 each or 6/\$50

- Half a Beef, processing included
- Up to \$1000 in Shamrock Bucks (prizes of \$1000, \$500, & \$250)
- Traeger Ironwood 650 Pellet Grill & Smoker, wi-fi enabled

Thank you to Mike Kelly Farms, Edward Jones, Kersenbrock Dental, and Krotters Home Center for donating the raffle prizes!

## Schedule for the Day

11:30 am Lunch begins  
12:30 pm Auction begins  
2:00 pm St. Mary's Class Items auctioned off  
3:00 pm Farm & Ag Hour  
4:00 pm Raffle Items Drawn

**CONTACT PARISH OFFICE FOR RAFFLE TICKETS**  
**402-336-1602, 313 E HWY 20, O'NEILL**

More details can be found on our website, including the  
ONLINE auction which goes live on October 27th  
[www.stpatoneill.org/auction](http://www.stpatoneill.org/auction)



## ST. PATRICK FALL AUCTION

We are currently seeking donations for the fall auction for St. Patrick and St. Mary's! The fall auction lands on Sunday, NOVEMBER 1ST, this year. We have many different options:

- You can call the Parish Office at 402-336-1602 and arrange a time for us to pick up your donation. We can also make up gift certificates for you if you would like to donate some sort of service, farm items, or other sorts of things that can't be actually brought to the auction.
- Fill out the pledge form or make your donation online at [stpatoneill.org/auction](http://stpatoneill.org/auction).
- Items can be dropped off at the Parish Office at 313 E. Hwy 20 on weekdays between 8 am and 4 pm through October 29th. After October 29th, they may be dropped off at the O'Neill Community Center on Friday, October 30 between 9 am and 3 pm, Saturday October 31st between 8 am and 2 pm, or Sunday November 1st between 10 am and 1 pm.

*Please note: if you are giving gift certificates to businesses, please consider giving multiple in smaller amounts. This allows us the most flexibility in auctioning them off and sometimes putting them with other items, and we can always bundle them to make one larger item!*

*If you would like your item on the Sale Bill, your commitment must be turned in by October 18th. We also like to list our donors in a program, but we must have all those names by October 27th in order to complete the program in time.*

We ask that each family of the parish & school, last names N to Z, donate \$10 towards the cost of supplies for the meal. Families with last names A to M, bring a 9x13 dessert, pie, or 2 dozen cookies for lunch. Desserts can be dropped off at the community center at times listed above on auction weekend.

Feel free to call or email Jennifer at 402-336-1602 or [jmwallwey@archomaha.org](mailto:jmwallwey@archomaha.org) if you have any questions, need some ideas for donations, or would like to volunteer to help!

## Blaze Boldly in the Darkness



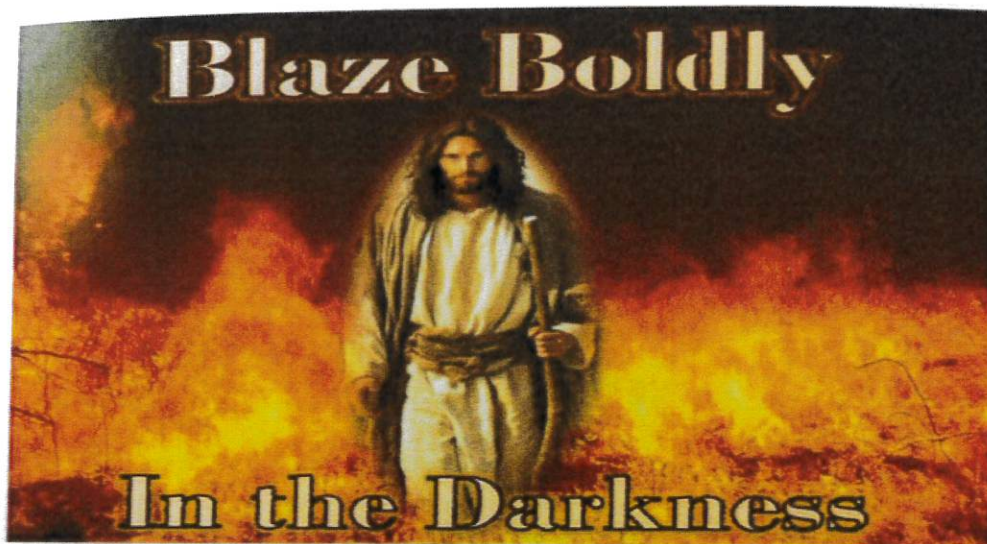
Rural Northwest Deanery Women attending the 102<sup>nd</sup> OACCW Convention in Wayne are pictured with Bishop McGovern, and Fr. Ross who is spiritual director for Omaha Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women.



Throughout the year, Archdiocesan women donate to 'Penny and a Prayer', to support vocations. This year, a collective check for \$16,000 was presented to Bishop McGovern.

Speaker for the day was Shanon Bolin, co-host of the podcast *Unveiled Faith Community Transformation*. She drew parallels between the struggles Daniel and his friends faced, and our own. She challenged us to live boldly like Daniel, (Daniel 1-3) to stand firm, persist in prayer, and be obedient even if we can't see outcomes. She said boldness can be loud or quiet, and is shown in large and small ways. She encouraged us make decisions with Heaven in mind. Tom Venzor of the NE Catholic Conference explained their 5 areas of advocacy: Life & Human Dignity, Marriage & Family, Education, Social & Human Development, and Church as an Institution.

**THE BLAZE** = the fire of compassion, intellect and spirit that cannot be hidden  
**THE BOLD** = the choice to act despite fear or social pressure  
**THE DARKNESS** = The challenges, systemic issues or spiritual voids we face today



**Boldness:** Boldness is the virtue that empowers us to live and love without fear. It is not loud or aggressive, but steady and resolute. Boldness trusts that God is at work even when the path ahead is unclear. It gives us the strength to ask difficult questions, to pray courageous prayers, and to remain faithful in moments of uncertainty. Boldness grows when we recognize that Heaven is closer than we think, and that God has surrounded us with friends who intercede for us with love and power. Goethe once wrote, "Be bold and mighty forces will come to your aid."

ST. JOSEPH - ATKINSON

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

# Parish Auction

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH



**11:00 AM**  
LUNCH 11:00 AM  
FIREWOOD 2:00 PM



**OCTOBER  
25TH**



COMMUNITY CENTER  
206 W 5TH STREET  
ATKINSON, NE

— RAFFLE —

**TICKETS: \$10 EACH | 6 FOR \$50**

**ULTIMATE TAILGATE PACKAGE**  
Blackstone Table Top Griddle • 6 pc Cook Toolset & Burger Press • Igloo 52 qt Roller Cooler  
Soundcore Boom2 Bluetooth Speaker • (2) GCI Outdoor Comfort Pro Rocker Chairs

**ATKINSON-STUART COUNTRY CLUB MEMBERSHIP**  
1 Year Family Membership

Raffle tickets are available from Becky Lieswald (402) 340-4760

Need not be present to win.



**WOODCUTTING FOR PARISH AUCTION**

October 10 & 11 and October 17 & 18

Start time at 10:00 a.m. at the site south of St. Joseph Cemetery. Lunch will be served.

**KC PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

November 1, 2026  
7:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
KC Hall – Atkinson



**KC POULTRY PARTY**

November 22, 2026  
Card playing starts at 11:00 a.m.  
Lunch served.  
Supper and games in the evening.  
KC Hall – Atkinson



**KC LIVER FEED**

November 23, 2026  
11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
KC Hall – Atkinson



## ST. JOSEPH – AMELIA



Congratulations to our new servers:

Boyd Tomjack,  
Sandy Smith,  
Shep Hansen,  
and  
Braxton Dexter.



World Mission Day was first established by Pope Pius XI, beginning in October 1927. This year the Church celebrates the 100th World Mission Day on Sunday, October 18, 2026. As the Church prepares to celebrate this day, Pope Leo XIV calls us to unity in Christ, love, and renewed missionary commitment "with joy and zeal in the Holy Spirit" in his first World Mission Sunday Message: "One in Christ, united in mission."

### ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

| Parish:                   | Goal:       | Committed as of: 9/22/26 |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Sacred Heart Boyd County: | \$14,780.00 | \$0.00                   |
| St. Boniface:             | \$9,654.00  | \$480.00                 |
| St. Joseph – Amelia:      | \$4,040.00  | \$0.00                   |
| St. Joseph – Atkinson:    | \$13,560.00 | \$360.00                 |
| St. Patrick:              | \$52,760    | \$6,654.00               |



**Archdiocese  
of Omaha**

**ONE CHURCH  
ENCOUNTERING JESUS  
EQUIPPING DISCIPLES  
LIVING MERCY**

### 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  
jmwally@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](http://holtboydcatholic.org)  
[flocknote.com](http://flocknote.com)



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68763  
to create your  
FREE account.





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1<sup>st</sup> - CCW Mtg - 7:00 p.m. - Butte  
 2<sup>nd</sup> - Mass @ Parkside - 2:00 p.m. - Stuart  
 3<sup>rd</sup> - OCIC Class - 10:00 a.m. - O'Neill  
 4<sup>th</sup> - Pro Life Sunday - Life Chain - 2:00 p.m.  
 4<sup>th</sup> - Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3:00 p.m. - O'Neill  
 4<sup>th</sup> - OCIA - 4:00 p.m. - O'Neill  
 5<sup>th</sup> - Reach More Training - 1:00 p.m. - Atkinson  
 5<sup>th</sup> - Reach More Training - 6:30 p.m. - O'Neill  
 5<sup>th</sup> - KC Meeting - 7:30 p.m. - Stuart  
 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> - Fall Clergy Conference - All Priests Gone  
 6<sup>th</sup> - Eucharistic Adoration - 6:00 p.m. - O'Neill  
 6<sup>th</sup> - Catholic Daughters Mtg - 7:00 p.m. - O'Neill  
 7<sup>th</sup> - Religious Ed/Youth Group/Confirmation Classes  
 7<sup>th</sup> - Pastoral Council Mtg - 7:00 p.m. - O'Neill  
 8<sup>th</sup> - Altar Society Mtg - 6:30 p.m. - O'Neill  
 11<sup>th</sup> - Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3:00 p.m. - O'Neill  
 11<sup>th</sup> - OCIA - 4:00 p.m. - O'Neill  
 12<sup>th</sup> - Reach More Training - 1:00 p.m. - Atkinson  
 12<sup>th</sup> - CEC Mtg - 5:30 p.m. - O'Neill  
 12<sup>th</sup> - Reach More Training - 6:30 p.m. - O'Neill  
 12<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Degree KC Mtg - 7:30 p.m. - Stuart  
 13<sup>th</sup> - Mass @ Good Sam - 10:00 a.m. - Atkinson  
 13<sup>th</sup> - Eucharistic Adoration - 6:00 p.m. - O'Neill  
 14<sup>th</sup> - Advisory Board Mtg - 5:30 p.m. - O'Neill  
 14<sup>th</sup> - Safe Environment Training - 6:30 p.m. - Spencer  
 14<sup>th</sup> - Religious Ed/Youth Group/Confirmation Classes  
 14<sup>th</sup> - KC Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - O'Neill  
 16<sup>th</sup> - Sacrament Boot Camp Retreats - 1:30 p.m. - Chambers  
 17<sup>th</sup> - OCIC Class - 10:00 a.m. - O'Neill  
 18<sup>th</sup> - World Mission Sunday Special Collection  
 18<sup>th</sup> - "White Mass" - 10:30 a.m. - O'Neill  
 18<sup>th</sup> - Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3:00 p.m. - O'Neill  
 18<sup>th</sup> - OCIA - 4:00 p.m. - O'Neill  
 19<sup>th</sup> - Reach More Training - 1:00 p.m. - Atkinson  
 19<sup>th</sup> - Reach More Training - 6:30 p.m. - O'Neill  
 19<sup>th</sup> - KC Mtg - 8:00 p.m. - Spencer  
 20<sup>th</sup> - Eucharistic Adoration - 6:00 p.m. - O'Neill  
 21<sup>st</sup> - Mass @ Evergreen - 3:15 p.m. - O'Neill  
 21<sup>st</sup> - Religious Ed/Youth Group/Confirmation Classes  
 22<sup>nd</sup> - Ladies Guild - 2:00 p.m. - Stuart  
 22<sup>nd</sup> - Reach More Leaders Huddle - 6:30 p.m. - O'Neill  
 25<sup>th</sup> - Coffee & Rolls following 8:00 a.m. Mass - Spencer  
 25<sup>th</sup> - St. Mary Altar Society Mtg - 9:00 a.m. - Spencer  
 25<sup>th</sup> - St. Joseph Parish Auction - Atkinson  
 25<sup>th</sup> - OCIC - 2:00 p.m. - O'Neill  
 25<sup>th</sup> - Divine Mercy Chaplet - 3:00 p.m. - O'Neill  
 25<sup>th</sup> - OCIA - 4:00 p.m. - O'Neill  
 26<sup>th</sup> - Reach More Training - 1:00 p.m. - Atkinson  
 26<sup>th</sup> - Reach More Training - 1:00 p.m. - Atkinson  
 26<sup>th</sup> - Reach More Training - 6:30 p.m. - O'Neill  
 27<sup>th</sup> - Eucharistic Adoration - 6:00 p.m. - O'Neill  
 28<sup>th</sup> - Religious Ed/Youth Group/Confirmation Classes  
 28<sup>th</sup> - Finance Council Mtg - 7:00 p.m. - O'Neill



## 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

## SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO

