

Catholic Parishes of Western Holt & Boyd Counties

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June 16, 2022

Dear Parishioners and Friends of the Catholic Parishes of Western Holt and Boyd Counties,

Last night the Family of Parishes Pastoral Planning Team (made up with representatives of each parish in our grouping) held their first meeting. It was probably the most difficult of all the meetings we will have because I gave them the task of determining a reasonable and doable weekend Mass schedule adhering to the parameters set forth by Archbishop Lucas in late May.

1. A priest is allowed to celebrate UP TO 4 masses per weekend at up to **two locations**.
2. No parishioner should have to travel more than 20 miles one way to attend Mass.

After nearly 2 hours of discussion the team came to consensus. Beginning July 1, 2022, our weekend Masses will be as follows:

St. Boniface – Stuart: Saturday, 5:00 p.m.
St. Joseph – Atkinson: Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
St. Joseph – Amelia: Sunday, 11:15 a.m.

St. Patrick – O'Neill: Saturday, 5:00 p.m. Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart of Boyd County:

Saturday		Sunday	
Week 1: Spencer	7:00 p.m.	Butte:	8:00 a.m.
Week 2: Lynch	7:00 p.m.	Butte:	8:00 a.m.
Week 3: Spencer	7:00 p.m.	Butte:	8:00 a.m.
Week 4: Lynch	7:00 p.m.	Spencer	8:00 a.m.
Week 5: Spencer	7:00 p.m.	Butte	8:00 a.m.

While it's not a perfect resolution we feel it is workable. Bear in mind that Fr. Burkhalter and I will not be able to attend wedding receptions, parishes breakfasts, or other parish functions in the future. Nor will we in most cases be able to stay around and greet people after most of the Masses as the time is limited to get to the next location. We also will not have the flexibility to adapt Mass times for special occasions in our communities as we have in the past.

Also, this is what we are implementing beginning July 1st. However, when it is submitted to Archbishop Lucas with the rest of our completed plan in mid-November, he could reject the schedule and tell us to start over.

The Family of Parishes Pastoral Planning Team will continue to meet for the next several months and we will do our best to keep everyone informed of the progress that's being made. Pray for us.

Sincerely,

Rev. Bernard G. Starman
Pastor