

Communicatio Nostrum Nuntium



Sharing Our News—April 2024—Newsletter

The Catholic Parishes of Western Holt & Boyd Counties

Assumption BVM ~ Lynch | St. Boniface ~ Stuart | St. Joseph ~ Amelia

St. Joseph ~ Atkinson | St. Mary's ~ Spencer | St. Patrick's ~ O'Neill | Ss. Peter & Paul ~ Butte

MASS SCHEDULES

Weekend Masses

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. and Sunday @ 10:30 a.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:

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 Masses

Monday—5:30 p.m. @ St. Boniface—Stuart
Tuesday—5:15 p.m. @ St. Patrick's—O'Neill
5:30 p.m. @ St. Boniface—Stuart
Wednesday—*School Masses subject to change
*8:10 a.m. @ St. Patrick's—O'Neill
*8:15 a.m. @ St. Joseph's—Atkinson
6:30 p.m. @ SHBC Rotation
Thursday—7:00 a.m. @ St. Patrick's—O'Neill
Friday—7:00 a.m. @ St. Patrick's—O'Neill
8:15 a.m. @ St. Joseph's—Atkinson

There are Blessings

Everyday ...

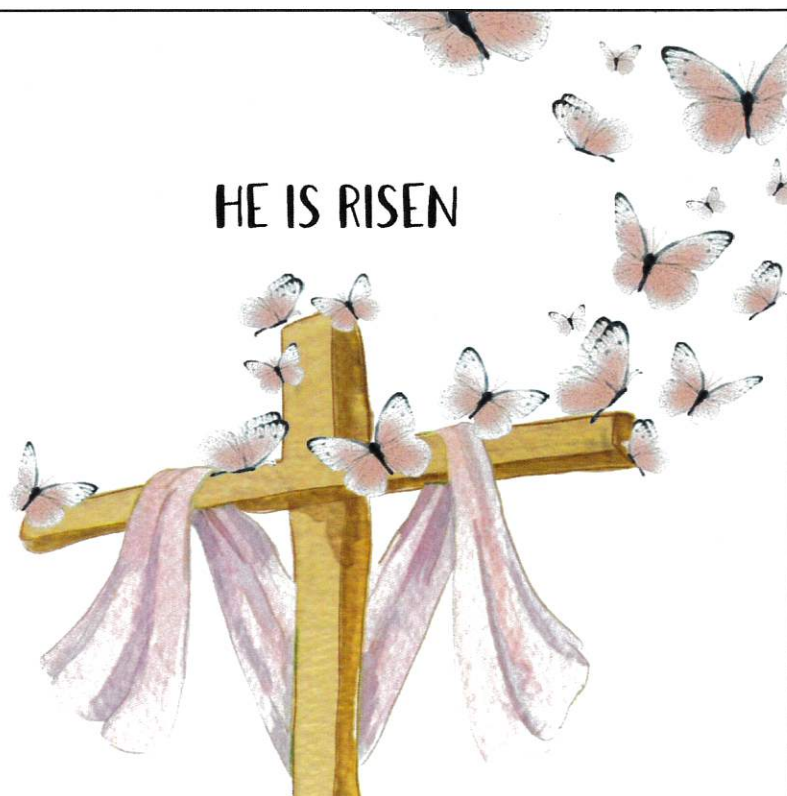
find them

create them

treasure them !



HE IS RISEN





MINISTRY OF PRAISE—A WORD FROM DEACON FILIPS

Greetings Fellow Prayer Warriors!

HAPPY EASTER! The church takes us through the seasons of our salvation history every year, and the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus is the most important season. This is when we find out what our value is, how much God is willing to pay to convince us He loves us and desires us to go to heaven to be with Him. It didn't have to be this way. God could have figuratively snapped his fingers to forgive us our sins and make us holy. He is God. He could have saved us any way He wanted, but he chose the most painful, violent, humiliating way possible. Why is that? Thomas Aquinas suggested three reasons:

It seems instinctive for humans to offer sacrifice to God for His favor or for repentance. You can see this in all pagan religions and in the Old Testament stories of the Jewish sacrifices.

The fact that God was willing to sacrifice His son for us this way should make clear to us how horrible sin is, that it takes such a high price to pay for our sins.

It illustrates how much God loves us that He is willing to pay such a price for us.

The church could have set up our liturgies to celebrate the birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus every Sunday the same way all year long. But the Church in Her wisdom knows that we humans don't work that way. Just like we move through seasons of life, we move the seasons of salvation history with the church's liturgical seasons. Now we start the joyful Easter season after Christ arises and we sing the gloria again at Mass.

Jesus is fully God and fully human. He chose to lower himself to our level and to plumb the depths of humanity by His suffering, so we could never say that our God does not understand us or our sufferings. We could never say that obedience was a bad thing, because He was obedient to his Father. Jesus was like us in every way but sin. He willingly suffered His passion for us out of love for us and obedience to his father. All He wants in return is our love and our obedience to Him so He can raise us on Judgement Day to be like Him in glory.

This month lets pray that we and everyone we know learns to love and obey Jesus. Following is the next selection on the Mass from my book "Pearls of the Universal Church" available from www.spiritualworkspress.com

Introductory Rites of the Mass:

1. **Holy Water;** we dip the fingers of our right hand into the water, (previously blessed by the Priest), we then make the sign of the cross, touching our forehead, breast, left shoulder and right shoulder, saying "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." This recollection of God's trinity recalls and renews when we were baptized with water and the sign of the cross was traced on our heads, claiming us for Christ.
2. **Genuflection and kneeling;** if you were to walk into Church and see Jesus standing at the altar in His robe and sandals, with His pierced hands, feet, and side, what would you do? Would you casually sit down? No, you would probably throw yourself face down on the floor begging His forgiveness! We recognize that Jesus is present in the Holy Eucharist in the tabernacle, body, blood, soul, and divinity. Genuflection and kneeling are minimal gestures of respect to Him. If unable to genuflect due to health problems, bow respectfully toward the tabernacle.
3. **Standing;** we traditionally stand to show respect and honor and when we are at prayer, and during the entrance procession, Gospel reading, Our Father etc.
4. **Sitting** is a posture of listening and meditation and is used for the non-Gospel readings and to meditate after Eucharist.
5. The procession of the Priest, Deacon, and altar servers is ceremonial and is similar to ancient royal processions.
6. **Singing;** For Sunday Mass we sing hymns at the entrance, offertory, Eucharist, and dismissal. This unifies us in our words, thoughts, and melody.
7. **Greeting;** the Priest begins with the sign of the Cross, again reminding us of our Baptism. He says, "The Lord be with you." Which is a greeting, blessing, and a statement of faith that the Lord is now with us. We reply "And with your spirit" which returns the greeting to the Priest.
8. **Penitential Rite, Gloria;** We need to gather as a unified congregation, so we may recall our common need for salvation and reconciliation with God (Penitential Rite and Lord, have mercy), and let our hearts sing with the praise and glory of God (Gloria). The use of these parts varies according to the Church season. At the end of the Penitential Rite the Priest prays the prayer of absolution, which forgives venial (non-deadly) sins.
9. **The Collect Prayer:** The Priest calls us into unified prayer. This is an opportunity to bring our hopes and fears and sacrifices and collect them together for the Priest to present to God. We respond "Amen" which means Yes, I believe! I would stake my life on what you just said!

Until next month . . . Deacon Roger Filips



In Loving Memory . . .

WILLIAM JAMES "JIM" TROSHYNSKI

March 8, 1948—February 24, 2024
St. Joseph—Atkinson

CATHERINE STEINHAUSER

November 12, 1941- March 1, 2024
St. Boniface—Stuart

ALLEN R. ADAIR

October 6, 1957—March 4, 2024
St. Joseph—Atkinson

RICHARD MERL BAKER

September 23, 1940—March 11, 2024
St. Joseph—Atkinson

ADAM JAMES BERNT

July 28, 2009—March 22, 2024
SHBC—Ss. Peter and Paul—Butte

*Day by day we will let go of this loss,
but we will never let go of our love.*



Welcome to the Newly Baptized . . .



BRITTYN DARLINE SHIELDS

Daughter of Charles and Shayla Shields
February 24, 2024
St. Patrick's—O'Neill

HUNTER JOSEPH EPLEY

Son of Joseph & Janeen Epley
March 16, 2024
St. Joseph—Atkinson

SADIE JEAN BARWICK

Daughter of Blake & Carissa Barwick
March 17, 2024
St. Patrick's—O'Neill

TESSE JANE REIMAN

Daughter of Jacob & Michelle Reiman
March 17, 2024
St. Patrick's—O'Neill

*"You are a child of God. You are wonderfully made.
Dearly loved and precious in His sight."
~ Psalm 139*

2024 RCIA—CANDIDATES & CATECHUMENS

Jacob Birch

St. Patrick—O'Neill—Catechumen

Chelsea McIntosh

St. Patrick's—O'Neill—Candidate

Sara Morrow

St. Patrick's—O'Neill—Candidate

Michael Shaffer

St. Patrick's—O'Neill—Catechumen

Renee Timmerman

St. Joseph's—Atkinson—Catechumen

Benjamin Walnofer

St. Joseph's—Amelia—Candidate

CONGRATULATIONS to the newest members
of our Catholic Church. All the church shares
in your joy! God's blessings to you as grow in
faith, hope and love.

Welcome to the Catholic Church!



May you have . . .

The *gladness* of Easter...

which is *Hope*

The *promise* of Easter...

which is *Peace*

The *spirit* of Easter...

which is *Love*.

APRIL — THE MONTH DEDICATED TO THE HOLY EUCHARIST

After the reflective period of Lent, Easter comes around, and then Catholics dedicate the entire month to celebrating Jesus's presence in their lives. Known as the Month of the Holy Eucharist, April is a time when the Catholic Church focuses on the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This is unique to the Catholic Church as we believe that the Eucharist is the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Holy Eucharist

The Month of the Holy Eucharist, also called the Month of the Blessed Sacrament, celebrates Jesus manifesting himself in the Body and Blood while still under the appearance of bread and wine. The institution of the Eucharist started at the Last Supper by Jesus Himself, the last time Jesus and his disciples gathered before his crucifixion. The Catechism of the Catholic Church refers to the Eucharist as "the source and summit of our faith." In observation, everyone at Mass kneels in adoration during the transfiguration, the point that the bread and wine change into the Body and Blood of Jesus.

Ways to Observe

Catholics celebrate the Month of the Holy Eucharist in many ways. Here are a few:

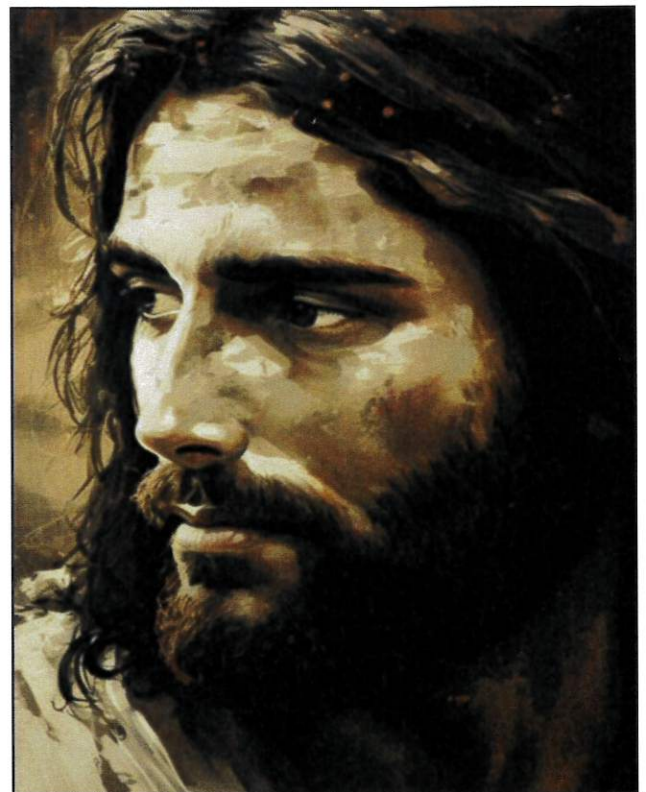
- Begin to pray the Liturgy of the Hours, an ancient prayer that presents a path to praying through the Book of Psalms throughout the year.
- Recite the "Jesus Prayer" by repeating the phrase "Lord Jesus, have mercy on me, a sinner" until it brings you peace.
- Read about the life of a saint, and pray by his or her side. Many saints have their own prayers regarding the Eucharist.
- Pour out your heart directly to Jesus by telling Him all that comes to your mind, and listen for a response.
- Pray the Rosary, and ask Mary to join you while you do so.

Soul of Christ (Anima Christi) Prayer

Anima Christi is a prayer that you can say as an act of adoration, thanking Jesus for his continued presence on Earth.

This prayer is from the 14th Century and is commonly said after receiving Holy Communion:

Soul of Christ, sanctify me
Body of Christ, save me
Blood of Christ, inebriate me
Water from Christ's side, wash me
Passion of Christ, strengthen me
O good Jesus, hear me
Within Thy wounds hide me
Suffer me not to be separated from Thee
From the malicious enemy defend me
In the hour of my death call me And bid me come unto Thee
That I may praise Thee with Thy saints
and with Thy angels Forever and ever
Amen.



Source:

<https://stcharlesschoolorlando.org/2021/04/05/april-month-of-the-holy-eucharist/>



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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.flocknote.com

QUEST RETREATS—TINTERN

April 6-7

Contact info: 402-776-2188 or tintern670@gmail.com

ST. PATRICK'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INFORMATION

Schedule for April:

4/3—Regular Class

4/10—Regular Class

4/17—NO Class

4/24—Regular Class

May 1—End of Year Party

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION—ST. PATRICK'S—O'NEILL

Wednesdays from 2:00—6:00 p.m.

until April 24, 2024

Call the Parish Office at 336-1602 if you are interested in being a guardian for an hour slot or if you'd like to be on the substitute list.

EVERYONE is welcome and encouraged to attend Adoration at any time from 2-6 p.m. for whatever amount of time you would like.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL—2023-2024

The overall goal for this year's Archbishop's Annual Appeal is \$5 million. The financial resources generated through the Annual Appeal fund more than 30% of the archdiocesan budget (which helps our parishes to not see dramatic increases in our AAF assessment) and ensures that programs, personnel and services are available in all of our parishes and schools.

The financial contributions to date (as of March. 19th)

	AAA 2023-24 Goal	Participation Goal
Sacred Heart Parish-Boyd County	\$11,341.64	\$13,172.50
St. Joseph — Amelia	GOAL EXCEEDED	Congratulations!
St. Joseph — Atkinson	GOAL EXCEEDED	Congratulations!
St. Patrick — O'Neill	GOAL EXCEEDED	Congratulations!
St. Boniface — Stuart	GOAL EXCEEDED	Congratulations!
Total	\$82,653.86	\$84,484.72

Thank you for your generosity!

YOUTH GROUP MEETING NIGHTS

April 3

YG at 7pm in the Youth Room

April 10- ?

Possibly the O'Neill HS Musical

April 17

NO YG

April 24

Last YG of the year at 7pm in the Youth Room!



THE BIRDCAGE

From Paul Harvey's "The Rest of the Story"

Boston preacher Dr. S.D. Gordon, placed a beat up, bent, rusted old bird cage beside his pulpit when he told this story.

(Other sources indicate this was Dr. A. J. Gordon, also of Boston).

An unkempt, unwashed, little lad about 10 years old was coming up the alley swinging this old caved in bird cage with several tiny birds shivering on the floor of it.

The compassionate Dr. Gordon asked the boy where he got the birds.

He said he trapped them.

Dr. Gordon asked what he was going to do with them.

The boy said he was going to play with them and have fun with them.

The preacher said, "Sooner or later you'll get tired of them. Then what are you going to do with them?"

The lad said, "I have some cats at home. They like birds. I'll feed them to my cats."

Dr. Gordon said, "Son, how much do you want for the birds?"

The boy, surprised, hesitated and said, "Mister, you don't want these birds. There just plain old field birds. They can't even sing. They're ugly."

The preacher said, "Just tell me. How much do you want?"

The grubby little lad thought about it. He squinted up one eye. He calculated and hesitated and said, "Two dollars?"

To his surprise Dr. Gordon reached into his pocket and handed the boy two, one dollar bills.

The preacher took the cage.

The boy, in a wink, hurried up the alley.

In a sheltered crevice between buildings, Dr. Gordon opened the door of the cage and tapping on the rusty exterior he encouraged the little birds, one at a time, to find their way out through the narrow door and fly away.

Thus having accounted for the empty cage beside his pulpit, the preacher went on to tell what seemed, at first, like a separate story.

About how once upon a time, Jesus and the Devil had engaged in a negotiation.

Satan had boasted how he'd baited a trap in Eden's garden and caught himself a world full of people.

"What are you going to do with all those people in your cage" Jesus wanted to know.

The Devil said, "I'm going to play with em', tease em'. Make them marry and divorce and fight and kill one another. I'm going to teach them to throw bombs on one another. I'm going to have fun with them!"

Jesus said, "You can't have fun with them forever. When you get tired of playing, what are you going to do with them?"

Satan said, "Damn them! They're no good anyway! Damn them! Kill them!"

Jesus said, "How much do you want for them?"

Satan said, "You can't be serious! If I sell them to you, they'll just spit on you. They'll hate you. They'll hit you and beat you. They'll hammer nails into you! They're no good."

Jesus said, "How much?"

Satan said, "All of your tears and all of your blood. That's the price."

Jesus took the cage, and paid the price, and opened the door.



The purpose of Easter:

Jesus lived a good life in a wicked world to show us that it could be done.
He died, and He rose again, to show us that we could do that too.

Paul Harvey.

Good day.

THE BIRDCAGE STORY RETOLD FOR 2024

It was Easter Sunday and the church was packed.

It seemed the whole congregation turned out for this service, commemorating the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Some of the pew holders came every single Sunday of the year, hearts aglow and minds turned toward their Savior.

Others came a few times a year, when they had time from their favorite sports or summer vacations.

Some made it a point to attend on Christmas and Easter Sunday, because they could not miss church on those days. It just wouldn't be right. They'd be dishonoring Grandma.

And so, here they were, gathered together to celebrate the story of Easter.

The minister came up the aisle. A few looked up from silenced phones to see him carrying a birdcage. They glanced sideways at each other. Dads winked. Moms raised eyebrows. The minister was getting on in years, but seriously? A rusty old birdcage on the pulpit on Easter Sunday? Had they bought new clothes and made the effort to get to church on time to listen to a senile preacher?

Then the minister began to speak.

He said as he took his morning walk the day before, he thought of the importance of the weekend. The betrayal, faux trial, the beating. Then the crucifixion, burial and triumphant resurrection of our Lord. Then the frantic squawking of birds invaded his quiet. He looked up. Had something disturbed a nest? No. No, the noise was coming toward him, on the sidewalk. A young boy, 10 or 12, hair on end, shirt torn, open-mouthed leer on dirt-streaked, freckled face. Carrying a cage with three wild birds plunging against confining wires. Feathers flew.

"Poor birds," the minister thought. He spoke, "Hey, boy, what happened to your pets?"

"Oh, they're not my pets. I trapped them in that alley," the boy said, pointing.

"Why do you want them?" the minister asked, conjuring memories of childhood bullies and heinous imaginations.

The boy shrugged elaborately, grin widening. "I don't know. Tease 'em a little. Make 'em fight."

The minister shuddered. "Then what will you do?"

"Oh, we have a cat," the boy chortled gleefully.

Now the minister felt an earthquake up his spine. "Will you sell them to me?"

"Sell them? Why do you want them?"

"How much? 100 dollars?"

The boy's eyes grew large and lustful. 100 dollars? This was some crazy man, offering so much for scraggly old birds.

The money and the cage exchanged hands. Then the minister gently carried the cage back up the alley, to the end, where an empty lot provided protection in the wild growth of weeds and fallen trees. He opened the little door, and waited while the birds jerked and staggered out. They huddled on the ground, peering for danger, then, gaining courage, fluffed their feathers and flew-jumped off into the brush.

"That," the minister told his congregation, "is why we are here this Easter Sunday.

We are here to find the way out of our cages. Jesus is the way. He purchased us with his blood so we can be free from the bondage of sin. He opened the door for us to find escape."

And that is *The Old Birdcage Story* retold for you, for 2024.

Don't battle the bars on your own. Kneel down. Own your sins. Thoughts. Deeds. Unsought burdens. Sadness. All of it. Place them at the foot of the cross, then walk through the door Jesus, the suffering Christ, rolled away for us.

Have Easter every day of the year.

May God bless you.



Source: <https://kimenink.com/blog/birdcage-story-retold-easter-2023-an-allegory-of-the-resurrection-story/life-and-inspiration/inspirational-essays/>



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st—Parish Center Closed
- 1st—KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Stuart
- 2nd—Campaign General Chair Appeal Training—Parish Center—6:30 p.m.
- 2nd—Catholic Daughters Mtg—7:00 p.m.—Evergreen
- 3rd—Eucharistic Adoration—St. Patrick’s—2:00—6:00 p.m.
- 3rd—Campaign Donor Evaluation Mtg—Parish Center—6:30 p.m.
- 3rd—Religious Education/Youth Group Meet
- 4th—CCW Mtg—7:00 p.m.—Ss Peter and Paul—Butte
- 5th—Mass @ Parkside—2:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 7th—RCIA—4:00 p.m.—HS
- 8th—Christian Mothers Meeting—6:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 8th—4th Degree KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—O’Neill
- 9th—Mass @ Good Sam—10:00 a.m.—Atkinson
- 9th—Campaign Volunteer Training—PH—6:30 p.m.—O’Neill
- 10th—Eucharistic Adoration—2—6 p.m.—O’Neill
- 10th—Advisory Board—PC—5:30 p.m.—O’Neill
- 10th—Religious Education/Youth Group Meet
- 10th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 11th—Altar Society Mtg—6:30 p.m.—SMC—O’Neill
- 14th—RCIA—4:00 p.m.—HS
- 15th—TAX DAY
- 15th—Eucharistic Adoration—6—8 p.m.—Stuart
- 17th—Eucharistic Adoration—2—6 p.m.
- 17th—Mass @ Butte Senior Living Center—3:15 p.m.—Butte
- 17th—Religious Education/Youth Group Meet
- 17th—Pastoral Council Mtg—7:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 17th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—Spencer
- 22nd—Altar Society Mtg—7:30 p.m.—Spencer
- 22nd—Eucharistic Adoration—6—8 p.m.—Stuart
- 23rd—Campaign Comm Appeal Training—PH—6:30 p.m.—O’Neill
- 24th—Eucharistic Adoration—2—6 p.m.
- 24th—Religious Education/Youth Group Meet
- 25th—Ladies Guild—2:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 27th—Home & Foreign Mission Collection
- 27th—Capital Campaign Kick-off Weekend
- 27th—RNW Deanery Mtg via Zoom—9:00 a.m.—O’Neill
- 28th—Capital Campaign Kick-off Weekend—O’Neill
- 29th—Eucharistic Adoration—6—8 p.m.—Stuart



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



STEUBENVILLE YOUTH Conference

This summer, over 50,000 Catholic teens across North America will attend one of 25 Steubenville Youth Conferences to encounter the God who calls us out of darkness and into his marvelous light. Lift your eyes to the glory of God.



Denver, CO @ Gaylord Rockies Resort

JUNE | 21-23 | 2024

Cost: TBD based on number of students attending - it will include: Conference Registration, Housing, and Meals
Contact Jordan with questions, for more information, or to sign up.
jmoser@stjosephatkinson.org

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The newsletter will be available on the last 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 Kunz @ jkunz@holtboydcatholic.org or jankunz9@gmail.com.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Fr. Ross Burkhalter ~ Senior Associate Pastor

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Dcn MJ Kersenbrock ~ Director of Operations

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Jan Kunz ~ Director of Evangelization & Catechesis

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Dcn Roger Filips

rfilips@archomaha.org

St. Patrick—O'Neill & St. Joseph—Amelia

Office: 301 E Adams, 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 Scholes—crsholes@archomaha.org

Director of Stewardship & Development:

Jennifer Wallwey—jmwallwey@archomaha.org

Youth Director: Bridget Bulau—bbulau@smcards.org

Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Whitney Shaffer—whitney.shaffer7@gmail.com

Sacred Heart of Boyd County

Office: PO Box 8, Butte, NE 68722

Phone: 402-775-0067

Hours: Monday—Thursday 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Secretary: Marge Nolan—mnolan@archomaha.org

Youth Minister/Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Charlotte Mitchell—charlottehuckmitchell@gmail.com 402-336-7826

St. Joseph—Atkinson

Office: 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—stjochurchatkinson@gmail.com

Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Linda Wolf—stjohnsdr@gmail.com 402-340-0741

St. Boniface—Stuart

Office: 106 E 4th St. PO Box 190 Stuart, NE 68780

Phone: 402-924-3262

Hours: Tuesday—Thursday 8 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Secretary: Deb Kramer—stbonifacestuart@gmail.com

Director of Ministries/Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Jan Kunz—jankunz9@gmail.com 402-340-2303



on the
Shoulders
of **GIANTS**
Strengthening
Our Legacy

 **STEIER**® ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
GROUP CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The On the Shoulders of Giants: Strengthening Our Legacy capital campaign continues to move forward as our volunteers and staff work diligently behind the scenes. It's so exciting to see what God has in store for our church and school! Planning Study Results have been mailed, and a Frequently Asked Questions document will be sent in the next week or so.

For more information on the capital campaign, visit:

StPatO'Neill.org/capital-campaign.

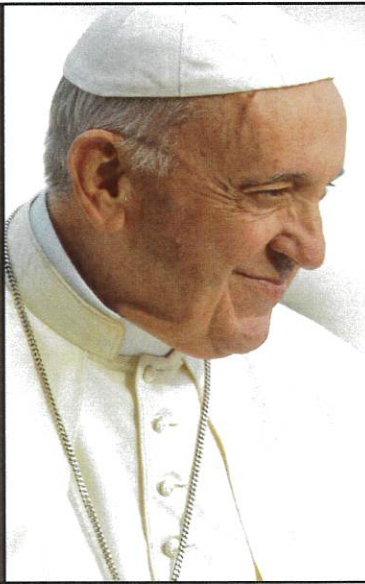
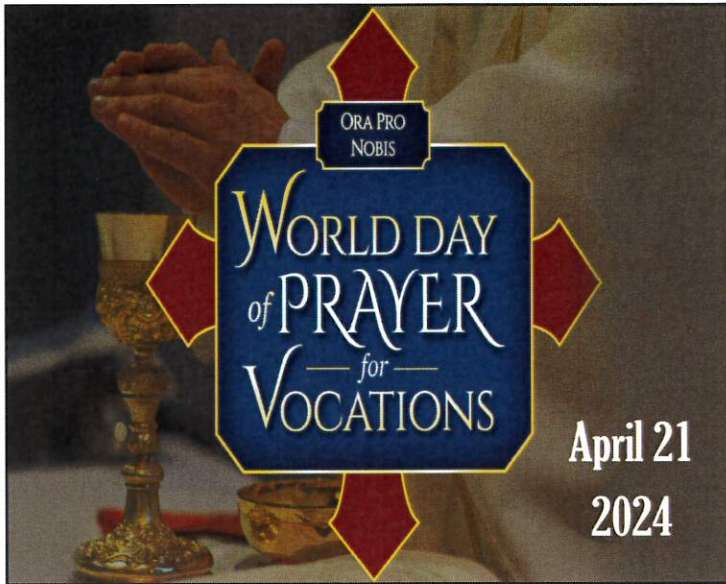


Easter Prayer

Lord, how can we ever thank You enough? You endured more pain, more shame, more sorrow, more grief than we can possibly fathom. Help us remember why You gave Your life. Because of love. Because of mercy. Because we desperately need them both and do not deserve it. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Thank You for Heavenly Father, thank you for sending Jesus to save me from my sins. Thank you that you loved me enough to send a perfect sacrifice, so that we could live together eternally. I confess that I am a sinner and need forgiveness. I ask you to come into my heart, and I commit to following Jesus as my personal Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Lord God, You loved this world, you loved us all, so much that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, everyday. Let us have hearts and souls that are forever grateful for your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon your grace and rejoice deeply in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world. All for your glory do we pray, Lord, Amen.



POPE FRANCIS PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

LORD of the Harvest,
BLESS young people with the gift of courage
to respond to your call. Open their hearts to
great ideals, to great things.

INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love
and giving - for vocations blossom in the
good soil of faithful people.

INSTIL those in religious life, parish
ministries, and families with the confidence
and grace to invite others to embrace the
bold and noble path of a life
consecrated to you.

UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and
sacrament, so that we may cooperate
with you in building your reign of mercy
and truth, of justice and peace. AMEN.

MAN OF THE SHROUD PRESENTATION BY JIM BERTRAND

Thanks to everyone that attended the Man of the Shroud presentation on March 20th. Over 150 were in attendance!

Thanks to Jim Bertrand for making the trip out and doing such a nice job!

Here is a link to Jim's talk if you missed it or you would like to listen to it again.

https://media.performedia.com/2022/cma/aec22/ondemand/day3/mp4/cma_aec22_session_s42_1080p.mp4

(This was from when EWTN hosted Jim with Fr Mitch Pacwa. Must FF to the 5:30 mark when the interview begins.)

This is a link for another source for Shroud information:

shroud.com



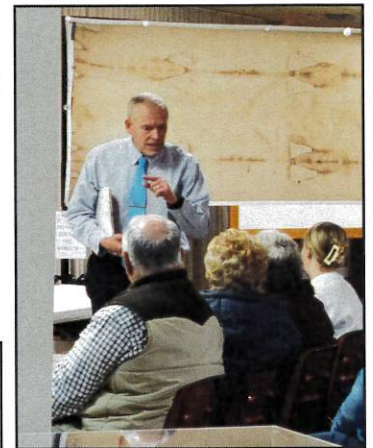
'Arise, O Lord!': Discover the Holy Face Chaplet

Spiritual warfare is real, and as the U.S. Church embarks on this Eucharistic Revival together, you can be sure that the enemy will do everything in his power to undermine efforts to reignite devotion and fervor for the Eucharist. Thankfully, the Church offers her faithful powerful defenses against these attacks in the form of prayer. One prayer that is particularly effective against advances from the devil is the Holy Face Chaplet. This prayer centers around a battle cry of sorts that invokes the name of the Lord and compels his enemies to flee: "Arise, O Lord! and let Thy enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Thee flee from before Thy Face."

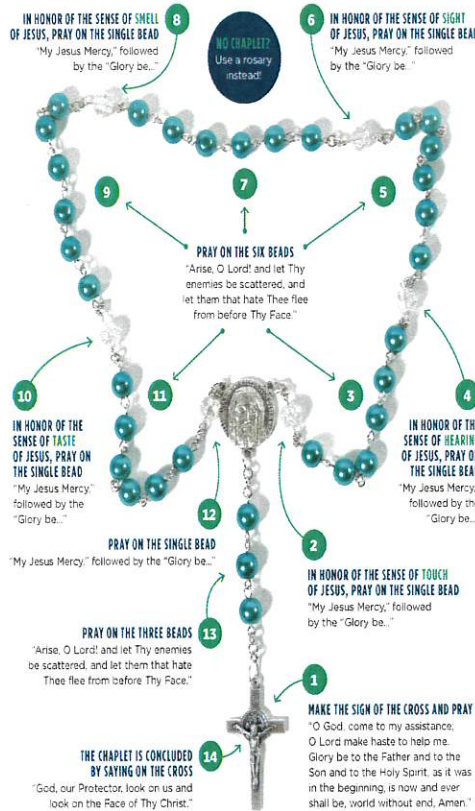
This chaplet is composed of a cross and 39 beads; of these are six single beads and 33 grouped beads. The 33 grouped beads represent the 33 years of the mortal life of Jesus. The first three beads recall the 30 years of his hidden life and are further divided into the five groups of six beads each, in honor of the senses of touch, hearing, sight, smell and taste of Jesus. As each of these senses were situated principally in his holy face, this prayer renders reparative homage for all the sufferings which Our Lord has endured in his face through each of these senses.

St. Athanasius said the devils hate the words, "Arise, O Lord and let thy enemies be scattered," taken from Psalm 68, more than any other Scripture verse. When these words are spoken, enemies of the Lord have no choice but to cower and retreat. This prayer will serve as a powerful spiritual armament in the Eucharistic Revival. We encourage you to pray this chaplet at least once per week, and daily if possible. Arise, O Lord and thy enemies be scattered!

Find more information at archden.org/revival



HOW TO PRAY THE HOLY FACE CHAPLET





ST. MARY'S—SPENCER

CCD students led Stations of the Cross on Wednesday, March 13.

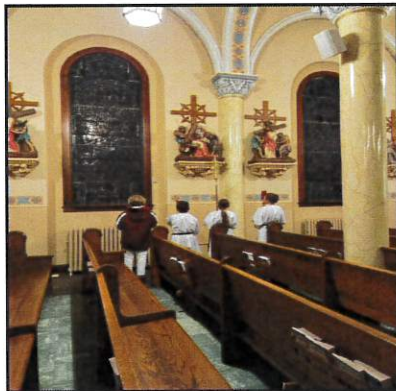
ST. JOSEPH—AMELIA—NEWS

Congratulations to the Chambers Speech Team for making your way to the State Speech Meet. We are proud of you.

The CCD students will be helping with Mass on April 21 .

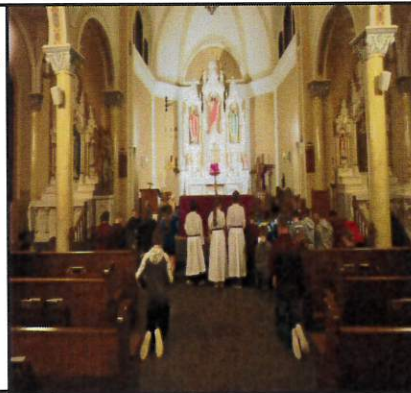
The CCD students will end their year with their Community Service Project and Picnic on May 1st. For their Project they clean up the Chambers Park by picking up any garbage, raking and cleaning the flower beds and anything else that needs done to get it ready for the summer.

We also want to keep them in our prayers as they move forward with completing their sacraments.



ST. BONIFACE—STUART

Students in grades 3rd—7th participated in the Stations of the Cross.



GIRLS RETREAT

****GRATIA****

for upcoming girls in
4th—6th grades

JULY 9th-10th, 2024

at Tintern Retreat Center
in Oakdale, NE

←
**SAVE
THE
DATES:**
→

BOYS RETREAT

****LEGION OF JOSEPH****

for upcoming boys in
5th—7th grades

JULY 17th-18th, 2024

at Tintern Retreat Center
in Oakdale, NE



MAY 1

Advanced Giving
APRIL 15-30

- 1 VISIT**
Nebraska.GiveCatholicTogether.org
- 2 SEARCH**
Look for your favorite local parish, school, or ministry
- 3 DONATE**
Make a donation of \$10 or more

NEBRASKA CATHOLIC DAY OF GIVING

Nebraska Catholic Day of Giving is an initiative of the Archdiocese of Omaha, Diocese of Lincoln, and Diocese of Grand Island, intended as a day of generosity and kindness fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. All of our parishes and schools will be taking part in this year's Day of Giving—simply find us with a search!

St. Mary's Catholic School & St. Joseph's Catholic School: All donations will be directed to scholarships and grants to offset costs of tuition for our students.

All Parishes: All donations will be directed to our youth and religious education programs, to be utilized as most needed.

Please note: any donations go directly to the parish and/or school you selected, not an overall "pool." You may also make donations directly to your parish or school of choice by check or cash. Thank you for your generous donations!

Dear Friends and Family of St. Mary's,

Over the years, we have been blessed by the generosity of so many people who have continued to support St. Mary's School and its faith-based education. Your financial support of our Scholarship & Catholic Education Grant Program has enabled us to continue to provide a quality, Christian education at an affordable level, by assisting with tuition expenses for many of our students and families. Through this program, as well as two larger estates that were established several years ago, we have been able to offer tuition assistance to many of our families, both for academic excellence (scholarships) and for those who are in need of financial assistance (grants).

Will you help another student continue their education at St. Mary's? Nearly 47% of our families receive some form of financial support every year, and each year we give away more than \$20,000 in merit-based scholarships! All donations should be turned in to the parish office by **May 3, 2024** so that it can be recognized at our awards time. More information can be found online at <https://www.stmarysoneill.org/support> and you donate online, in person, or drop it in the mail, attention Jennifer.

Once again, on behalf of our school, administration, staff, and school families, thank you very much for your support of St. Mary's Scholarship and Catholic Education Grant Program. Your financial gifts are deeply appreciated by our students and parents. Please contact Jennifer Wallwey with any questions at 402-336-1602.



GALA THANK YOU

A big thank you to all who supported the St. Mary's Red Carpet Gala, whether that was through your donations, attendance, purchases, or any of a million other ways you gave of your time and self!

We appreciate each and every one of you!



April 24, 2024

Have you or someone you love been affected by the trauma of abuse?

JOIN US FOR A HEALING SERVICE AND RECEPTION

From childhood to adulthood, abuse takes many forms and occurs in families, churches and communities. The Archdiocese of Omaha invites anyone impacted by abuse to come together and pray for the healing of wounds. Archbishop George Lucas will preside.

This is not a Mass. We welcome people of all faiths, walks of life and backgrounds to join us. There will be an opportunity to pray silently or with another person. A reception with light refreshments will immediately follow.

April 10, 2024
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
5419 N. 114th Street
Omaha
7 pm

May 15, 2024
St. Bonaventure
1565 18th Avenue
Columbus
7 pm

HOME & FOREIGN MISSIONS COLLECTION WEEKEND OF APRIL 27TH—28TH

Many people around the world, including here in the United States, still have not heard the Good News of Jesus Christ, or if they have, lack the support they need to grow their faith. The Catholic faithful in the Omaha archdiocese have another opportunity to help the missionary work of the Church at home and abroad through the annual Home and Foreign Missions Collection during weekend Masses April 27th & 28th.

Also known as the archdiocese's "four-in-one collection," the effort raises money for four particular causes identified by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops as needing support, including:

- Aid to the Church in Latin America to support evangelization, pastoral programs and formation for laity, religious and seminarians as well as humanitarian assistance for people in need,
- Support for the Church in the Holy Land to care for and maintain holy sites,
- Providing funds for academic scholarships to attend the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., the only U.S. university with pontifical faculties,
- Support for the four in 10 U.S. dioceses considered mission territories, where the faithful all too often lack access to basic pastoral services like Mass, the sacraments and religious education.

This consolidated collection allows the Church to pool resources more efficiently and carry out its mission to draw all people to Jesus.

AVAILABLE NOW! PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Mike Metivier from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in your parish bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on ParishesOnline.com.



Mike Metivier
605-310-5137

**GOD IS MY
STRENGTH
AND POWER**
2 Samuel 22:33

HAPPY EARTH DAY, WORLD!



April 22, 2024

Psalm 96:10-12
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy.
Trust in the Lord



LIVING STATIONS
 St. Mary's—Spencer
 Religious Education classes
 performed
 Living Stations
 on
 Wednesday, March 27
 during their class time.

ST. MARY'S—SPENCER—CYO HAPPENINGS



St Mary's Youth doing Stations this Lent.



CYO
SPAGHETTI
SUPPER
FUNDRAISER
FEBRUARY
2024



Serve
wholeheartedly, as
if you were serving
the Lord, not
people.
Ephesians 6:7



And do not
forget to do
good and to
share with
others, for with
such sacrifices
God is pleased.
Hebrews 13:16

JEREMY'S EGG

Jeremy was born with a twisted body, a slow mind and a chronic, terminal illness that had been slowly killing him all his young life. Still, his parents had tried to give him as normal a life as possible and had sent him to St. Theresa's Elementary School.

At the age of 12, Jeremy was only in second grade, seemingly unable to learn. His teacher, Doris Miller, often became exasperated with him. He would squirm in his seat, drool and make grunting noises. At other times, he spoke clearly and distinctly, as if a spot of light had penetrated the darkness of his brain. Most of the time, however, Jeremy irritated his teacher. One day, she called his parents and asked them to come to St. Teresa's for a consultation. As the Forresters sat quietly in the empty classroom, Doris said to them, "Jeremy really belongs in a special school. It isn't fair to him to be with younger children who don't have learning problems. Why, there is a five-year gap between his age and that of the other students!" Mrs. Forrester cried softly into a tissue while her husband spoke. "Miss Miller," he said, "there is no school of that kind nearby. It would be a terrible shock for Jeremy if we had to take him out of this school. We know he really likes it here." Doris sat for a long time after they left, staring at the snow outside the window. Its coldness seemed to seep into her soul. She wanted to sympathize with the Forresters. After all, their only child had a terminal illness. But it wasn't fair to keep him in her class. She had 18 other youngsters to teach and Jeremy was a distraction. Furthermore, he would never learn to read or write. Why waste any more time trying?

As she pondered the situation, guilt washed over her. "Oh God," she said aloud, "here I am complaining when my problems are nothing compared with that poor family! Please help me to be more patient with Jeremy."

From that day on, she tried hard to ignore Jeremy's noises and his blank stares. Then one day he limped to her desk, dragging his bad leg behind him. "I love you, Miss Miller," he exclaimed, loudly enough for the whole class to hear. The other children snickered, and Doris' face turned red. She stammered, "Wh-Why, that's very nice, Jeremy. Now please take your seat."

Spring came, and the children talked excitedly about the coming of Easter. Doris told them the story of Jesus, and then to emphasize the idea of new life springing forth, she gave each of the children a large plastic egg. "Now," she said to them, "I want you to take this home and bring it back tomorrow with something inside that shows new life. Do you understand?"

Yes, Miss Miller!" the children responded enthusiastically - all except for Jeremy. He just listened intently, his eyes never left her face. He did not even make his usual noises. Had he understood what she had said about Jesus' death and resurrection? Did he understand the assignment? Perhaps she should call his parents and explain the project to them. That evening, Doris' kitchen sink stopped up. She called the landlord and waited an hour for him to come by and unclog it. After that, she still had to shop for groceries, iron a blouse and prepare a vocabulary test for the next day. She completely forgot about phoning Jeremy's parents.

The next morning, 19 children came to school, laughing and talking as they placed their eggs in the large wicker basket on Miss Miller's desk. After they completed their Math lesson, it was time to open the eggs. In the first egg, Doris found a flower. "Oh yes, a flower is certainly a sign of new life," she said. "When plants peek through the ground we know that spring is here." A small girl in the first row waved her arms. "That's my egg, Miss Miller," she called out. The next egg contained a plastic butterfly, which looked very real. Doris held it up. "We all know that a caterpillar changes and grows into a beautiful butterfly. Yes, that is new life, too" Little Judy smiled proudly and said, "Miss Miller, that one is mine."

Next Doris found a rock with moss on it. She explained that the moss, too, showed life. Billy spoke up from the back of the classroom. "My Daddy helped me!" he beamed. Then Doris opened the fourth egg. She gasped. The egg was empty! Surely it must be Jeremy's, she thought, and, of course, he did not understand her instructions. If only she had not forgotten to phone his parents. Because she did not want to embarrass him, she quietly set the egg aside and reached for another. Suddenly Jeremy spoke up. "Miss Miller, aren't you going to talk about my egg?" Flustered, Doris replied, "but Jeremy - your egg is empty!" He looked into her eyes and said softly, "Yes, but Jesus' tomb was empty too!"

Time stopped. When she could speak again. Doris asked him, "Do you know why the tomb was empty?" "Oh yes!" Jeremy exclaimed. "Jesus was killed and put in there. Then his Father raised him up!"

The recess bell rang. While the children excitedly ran out to the school yard, Doris cried. The cold inside her melted completely away. Three months later Jeremy died. Those who paid their respects at the mortuary were surprised to see 19 eggs on top of his casket, all of them empty.

Written by Ida Mae Kempel

Source: <https://www.heavensinspirations.com/jeremys-egg.html>

