



WHAT MAKES A DAD

God took the strength of a mountain; the majesty of a tree;
 the warmth of a summer sun; the calm of a quiet sea;
 the generous soul of nature; the comforting arm of night;
 the wisdom of the ages; the power of the eagle's flight;
 the joy of a morning spring; the faith of a mustard seed;
 then God combined these qualities.

When there was nothing more to add, He knew his masterpiece was complete,
 and so, he called it—DAD.

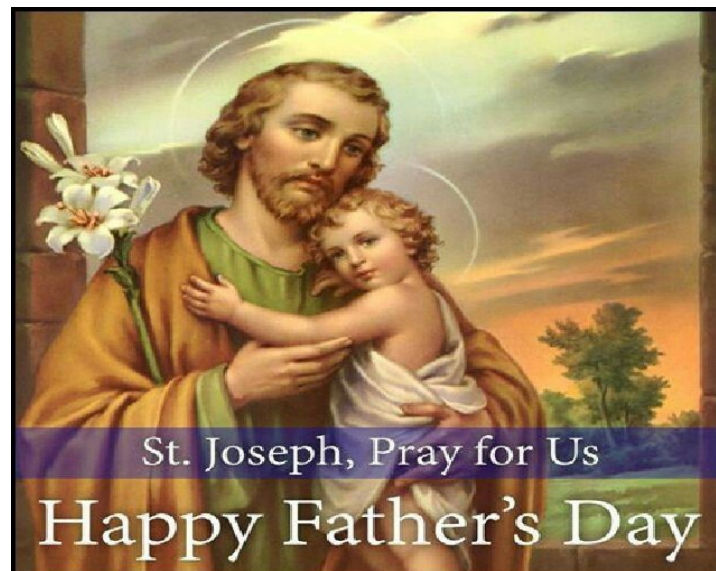
GOD BLESS ALL FATHERS!

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY ~ JUNE 18, 2023

FATHERHOOD
 IS A VOCATION IN
 GOD'S SERVICE
 TO BE NOT HELD lightly
 OR frivolously
 BUT WITH THE
 SERIOUS DETERMINATION OF
 SERIOUS MEN.

Fr. Lawrence Lovasik

catholicALLYEAR.com



St. Joseph, Pray for Us
 Happy Father's Day

Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father. Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience; support them in the work they have to do, protecting those who look to them, as we look to You for love and salvation, through Jesus Christ our rock and defender, in union with the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. St Joseph, Pray for all our Fathers, Amen

prayer.com

Communicatio Nostrum Nuntium

(Sharing Our News)

June 2023

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: Assumption BVM—Lynch @ 7:00 p.m.

Week 3: St. Mary's—Spencer @ 7:00 p.m.

Week 4: Assumption BVM—Lynch @ 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



O sacred Heart of Jesus, MOST OBEIDENT TO THE WILL OF THE Father, INCLINE OUR HEARTS TO YOU, THAT WE MAY ALWAYS DO WHAT IS most pleasing to him. AMEN.

Prayer after Communion for June

MINISTRY OF PRAISE—A WORD FROM DEACON FILIPS



Greetings Fellow Prayer Warriors!

Confirmation gives us the perfection or completion of the Holy Spirit, but all the sacraments bring us the Holy Spirit, starting with Baptism. Most of us in this church have been baptized and confirmed and we might be wondering where is the love?

Where is the joy? Most teens and their families drop out of church after confirmation.

Thomas Aquinas said, “Grace builds upon nature.” This means that we must cooperate with God in what He is trying to do in us, it is not magic. It is like spring planting; Grace, or the Holy Spirit is like an expensive hybrid seed corn. Within that little seed is the potential for 200 bushels per acre of yield, but that seed cannot produce a harvest on its own, the soil must be prepared, the seed needs fertilizer and water, it needs someone to keep the weeds down. The best seed in the world will produce nothing if you keep it on the shelf. The third person of the trinity can produce nothing if you leave him on the shelf and do not prepare the soil, water and fertilize it, and keep the weeds out. Grace builds upon nature, and if your spiritual harvest is poor, you might want to look at your farming or gardening techniques.

Some concrete recommendations to get a better yield from the Holy Spirit that was planted in you years ago: Assuming you are already going to Mass and the sacraments regularly, my biggest and best and most powerful suggestion is to go to CEC, Christians Encounter Christ retreat in Norfolk. It is so powerful that if you are married both spouses must go, (on separate weekends), so the couple can remain equally yoked in their faith. Otherwise, one spouse taking a leap ahead in their faith without the other can cause stress on the marriage. It is from Friday night to Sunday night, there are only two sessions per year and attendance is limited so contact me if you are interested. You do have to be sponsored by a CEC alum. This is the most surefire way of meeting the Holy Spirit that I know. Cedar County has many people who are CEC alumni, and they are the backbone of their parishes because they are on fire with the Holy Spirit. CEC is the water and fertilizer your Holy Spirit seed needs to grow.

Knowledge of the faith is also important to growing in the faith. Knowledge is the good soil so the Holy Spirit can put down deep roots in you. I am biased, but I do recommend a catechism I wrote called Pearls of the Universal Church. Just look up my name on Amazon. It explains all the essentials you need to know as a Catholic in a clear, easy to understand way. Knowledge prepares the soil of your soil for the seed to grow.

Keep the weeds out of your soul because you know what weeds do to your fields and gardens. That is what frequent confession is for. Clean out the weeds and see what grows. If you are getting a good crop of the Holy Spirit, keep going to confession to maximize the yield. Don't stop until harvest time when you are a saint.

Below continues the chapter on spirituality from my book “Pearls of the Universal Church” available from Gloria Deo bookstores or Amazon.

Remember Pope Francis said the most important proclamation that we all need to remember is this: “Jesus Christ loves you; he gave His life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you” (Evangelii Gaudium 164, Pope Francis). Of all the words in the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, this one sentence is what the Pope wants us to learn first. Once we internalize this remarkable fact, everything else will flow from it.

Suffering: If we want to follow Christ, we have to carry the crosses he gives us! This is the quickest (and most painful!) way to advance our spiritual lives because then we understand Him through His suffering for us.

All of these methods require us to leave behind things of the world. Material things block us from God. Sometimes a good downsizing is the start of a better relationship with God.

Remember, God does not ask us to become a saint overnight. All He asks is that we take one step towards Him. If you take that step, He will reward you ten-fold within weeks or months. Then you can decide to take the next step. You don't have to commit to everything at once, just take one step.

Becoming a Christian happens on God's terms. We can search for Him and learn about Him, but he will reveal Himself to us on His terms, not ours. Then we have the free choice to accept Him or reject Him. If we accept Him we must do three things: (Living the Catholic Faith page 31, Archbishop Charles Chaput)

1. **Conversion** — turning away from sin and towards God.
2. **Discipleship** — following Jesus and obeying God.
3. **Transformation** — allowing the Holy Spirit to make us into new creatures.

Until next month . . . Deacon Roger Filips



In Loving Memory . . .

Remembering lost loved ones.

THOSE WE LOVE
don't go away, they
WALK BESIDE US
everyday. Unseen, unheard but
ALWAYS NEAR,
still loved, still missed and very dear.



Welcome to the Newly Baptized . . .

Daxtyn Seth Miller

Son of Seth & Haley Miller

May 14, 2023

St. Joseph's—Atkinson

William Edward Welborn

Son of Jeremiah & Jenna Welborn

May 20, 2023

St. Joseph's—Atkinson

William Haden Sybrant

Son of Haden & Kathleen Sybrant

May 20, 2023

St. Boniface—Stuart

Brooks Robert Fetherston

Son of Shawn & Danielle Fetherston

May 28, 2023

St. Joseph's—Atkinson



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

“I used to believe that prayer changes things, but now I know that prayer changes us, and we change things.” ~ St. Teresa of Calcutta

PILLOW CLEANING

Tuesday, June 6

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

KC Hall—Atkinson

Make your pillows look like new—have them completely renovated and new ticking. Do it now for a restful sleep!



Sponsored by St. Joseph Altar Society



Congratulations to the newly married . . .

Monique Schafer and Alexander Kerkman

May 20, 2023

St. Boniface—Stuart





FIRST COMMUNION—ST. JOSEPH—AMELIA

Congratulations to Judd Woeppel & Cash Tomjack on receiving their First Holy Communion on May 7, 2023.

*Let us keep the flame of faith
alive through prayer and the
sacraments: let us make sure
we do not forget God.*

~ Pope Francis



FIRST COMMUNION—ST. BONIFACE—STUART

St. Boniface in Stuart celebrated First Communion on May 6th. The second graders who received the sacrament of First Holy Communion are from left to right:

- Karter Schaaf—son of Nathan & Amber Schaaf
- Beau Gotschall—son of Trevor & Tiffany Gotschall
- Ryker Olberding—son of Josh & Kaylee Olberding
- John Ludwig—son of Travis & Tracy Ludwig
- Andrew Paxton—son of Darby & Sara Paxton
- Jase Wolf—son of Jared & Amy Wolf

Thanks to their teachers: Tiffany Gotschall, Kaylee Olberding & Amy Wolf.

CONFIRMATION—SS PETER & PAUL—BUTTE

May 21, 2023

Congratulations to the following students that were recently

Confirmed in Christ:

(Back row l to r)

Tanner Reiser, Jagger Reiser and John Reiman

(Front row l to r)

Estrella Santiago Reyes, Kaci Koenig, Madalyn Reiser and Claire Reiman

“May the light of the Holy Spirit inspire you, guide you, guard you, and fill you with the joy of Jesus Christ.”



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June 18th through the 23rd Sacred Heart Parish of Boyd County will be hosting Totus Tuus. We are inviting the youth of the Parish circle to join us.

The Jr/ Sr High School program will begin Sunday the 18th at 7 p.m. ending around 9 p.m.

The elementary program will begin Monday the 19th at 9 a.m. and end around 2:30 p.m. (M,T,TH,F). Wednesday will be a start time of 1:00 p.m. and go through Mass with the potluck to follow.

All sessions will be held at Saint Mary's church in Spencer.

We will be asking for a donation of \$25 dollars per youth to help cover the increased cost for the team this year.

Please contact Charlotte Mitchell at 336-7826 or email charlottehuckmitchell@gmail.com for more information or to register your youth.

TEC—TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST

TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) is scheduled for July 14-16 at Tintern Retreat Center, Oakdale, for incoming Juniors and Seniors through age 23. Registration forms are available online at <https://cppnebraska.org/tec-teens-encounter-christ/>. Rural TEC is an apostolate of the Archdiocese of Omaha but is coordinated by a Rural Core Team. If you have questions, please call or text Terry Reicks at 402-741-0165. More about Tintern Retreat Center can be found at: <https://tinternretreatcenter.com/>

**ST. PATRICK'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
SUMMER FUN NIGHT ACTIVITIES AND BINGO**

In an effort to stay in touch with our youth this summer, I've planned a few activities for the month of June. On June 6th and 20th, you're invited to drop your children off to attend the 5:15pm mass. After mass, we will have a brief discussion and children can be picked up at 6:30pm in front of the elementary school.

June 7th and 21st, we will have our Summer Fun nights. These will take place at the elementary school and will last from 6:30-7:30pm.

Summer BINGO will also take place until the end of August. Get a bingo or blackout and stop by the parish office for a prize! You can find the bingo sheets in the bulletin or request one by emailing me at whitneylbenson@gmail.com.



The Vocation Committee invites you to

Gratia

A Marian Retreat for Young Ladies!



July 18-19, 2023

Tintern Retreat Center, Oakdale, NE

for incoming **4th - 7th** graders

- Adoration
- Mass
- Bible study
- Fun games
- Campfire with s'mores
- Talks with small group discussion

Spots fill up quickly!

Please turn in your registration by June 1, 2023

Applications available at <https://cppnebraska.org/gratia-girls-retreat/>

For questions or application:
Chelsea Preister acpreister@gmail.com 402-270-7250
Cheryl Veik momveik@gmail.com 402-843-8023
Karen Eischeid karensuzq@hotmail.com 402-843-5987

Sponsored by the Catholic Parishes in Partnership Vocation Committee of St. Boniface Parish-Elgin, St. Bonaventure-Raeville, St. John the Baptist-Petersburg, St. Peter's-Ewing, St. Theresa's-Clearwater, St. John the Baptist-Deloit

The Vocation Committee invites you to

Legion of Joseph

A Retreat for Young Boys



When: **July 12-13, 2023**

Where: Tintern Retreat Center,
Oakdale, NE

Who: Incoming **5th - 7th** Grade Boys

*We will be focusing on Joseph,
the father figure*

Boys will learn how to be true male leaders with the help of Joseph. Activities include confession and adoration, small groups, skits, games and a campfire with s'mores! Embrace your God given purpose while meeting new friends and forming a closer relationship to Joseph and Jesus!

For Questions or application, please contact:

Becky Kerkman bkerkman@cppnebraska.org 402-843-6043

or find form on <https://cppnebraska.org/legion-of-joseph-boys-retreat/>

Applications due June 1, 2023

Sponsored by the Catholic Parishes in Partnership Vocation Committee of St. Boniface Parish-Elgin, St. Bonaventure-Raeville, St. John the Baptist-Petersburg, St. Peter's-Ewing, St. Theresa's-Clearwater, St. John the Baptist-Deloit

ST. JOSEPH'S—AMEILA—LAST DAY OF CCD CLASS



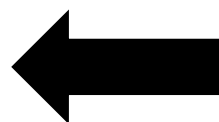
CCD classes at St. Joseph's, Amelia, wrapped up on May 10th. The students cleaned up the Chambers park as a community service project, gathered for a picnic and released a balloon rosary. The pictures above are from that evening. To the left is a picture of the first grade class at St. Joseph's (from l to r): Braxton Dexter, Sandy Smith, Shephard Hansen and Boyd Tomjack. Thank you to all of the teachers and parents for making the year a successful one for our students!

FEAST DAYS

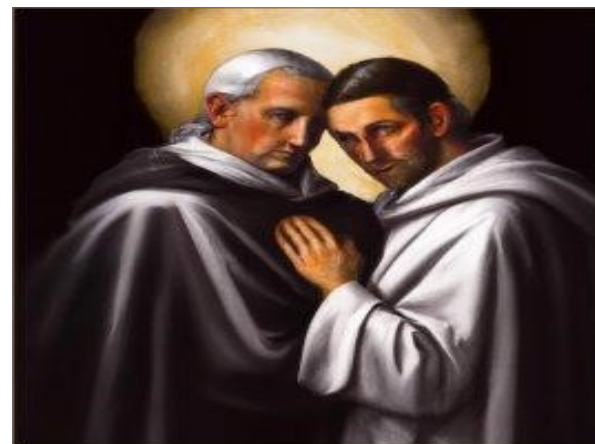
Eternal God, Our Refuge
By St. Boniface (672-754)
 Eternal God,
 the refuge and help
 of all Your children,
 we praise You
 for all You have given us,
 for all You have done for us,
 for all that You are to us.
 In our weakness,
 You are strength,
 in our darkness,
 You are light,
 in our sorrow,
 You are comfort
 and peace.
 We cannot number
 Your blessings,
 we cannot declare
 Your love.
 For all Your blessings,
 we bless You.
 May we live as
 in Your presence,
 and love the things
 that You love,
 and serve You
 in our daily lives;
 through Jesus Christ
 our Lord.
 Amen



St. Boniface
 June 5



Ss Peter & Paul
 June 29



Prayer to Sts. Peter & Paul
 Dear Saints Peter and Paul, please
 intercede for us and pray for our
 souls to be strengthened in faith
 and love, so that we may follow
 Christ with courage and conviction.
 May we be guided by your
 examples of faithfulness and
 boldness in spreading the Gospel,
 and may we share in the eternal joy
 of heaven with you.

THE PICKLE JAR

As far back as I can remember, the pickle jar sat on the floor beside the dresser in my parents' bedroom. When he got ready for bed, Dad would empty his pockets and toss his coins into the jar. As a small boy, I was always fascinated at the sounds the coins made as they were dropped into the jar. They landed with a merry jingle when the jar was almost empty. Then, the tones gradually muted to a dull thud as the jar was filled.

I used to squat on the floor in front of the jar and admire the copper and silver circles that glistened like a pirate's treasure when the sun poured through the bedroom window. When the jar was filled, Dad would sit at the kitchen table and roll the coins before taking them to the bank. Taking the coins to the bank was always a big production. Stacked neatly in a small cardboard box, the coins were placed between Dad and me on the seat of his old truck.

Each and every time as we drove to the bank, Dad would look at me hopefully. "Those coins are going to keep you out of the textile mill, son. You're going to do better than me. This old mill town's not going to hold you back." Also, each and every time, as he slid the box of rolled coins across the counter at the bank toward the cashier, he would grin proudly "These are for my son's college fund. He'll never work at the mill all his life like me."

We would always celebrate each deposit by stopping for an ice cream cone. I always got chocolate. Dad always got vanilla. When the clerk at the ice cream parlor handed Dad his change, he would show me the few coins nestled in his palm. "When we get home, we'll start filling the jar again." He always let me drop the first coins into the empty jar. As they rattled around with a brief happy jingle, we grinned at each other. "You'll get to college on pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters," he said. "But you'll get there. I'll see to that."

The years passed, and I finished college and took a job in another town. Once, while visiting my parents, I used the phone in their bedroom and noticed that the pickle jar was gone. It had served its purpose and had been removed. A lump rose in my throat as I stared at the spot beside the dresser where the jar had always stood. My dad was a man of few words and never lectured me on the values of determination, perseverance, and faith.

The pickle jar had taught me all these virtues far more eloquently than the most flowery of words could have done. When I married, I told my wife Susan about the significant part the lowly pickle jar had played in my life as a boy. In my mind, it defined, more than anything else, how much my dad had loved me.

No matter how rough things got at home, Dad continued to doggedly drop his coins into the jar. Even the summer when Dad got laid off from the mill and Mama had to serve dried beans several times a week, not a single dime was taken from the jar. To the contrary, as Dad looked across the table at me, pouring catsup over my beans to make them more palatable, he became more determined than ever to make a way out for me. "When you finish college, Son," he told me, his eyes glistening, "You'll never have to eat beans again - unless you want to."

The first Christmas after our daughter Jessica was born, we spent the holiday with my parents. After dinner, Mom and Dad sat next to each other on the sofa, taking turns cuddling their first grandchild. Jessica began to whimper softly, and Susan took her from Dad's arms. "She probably needs to be changed," she said, carrying the baby into my parents' bedroom to diaper her.

When Susan came back into the living room, there was a strange mist in her eyes. She handed Jessica back to Dad before taking my hand and leading me into the room. "Look," she said softly, her eyes directing me to a spot on the floor beside the dresser. To my amazement, there, as if it had never been removed, stood the old pickle jar, the bottom already covered with coins. I walked over to the pickle jar, dug down into my pocket, and pulled out a fistful of coins. With a gamut of emotions choking me, I dropped the coins into the jar. I looked up and saw that Dad, carrying Jessica, had slipped quietly into the room. Our eyes locked, and I knew he was feeling the same emotions I felt.

Neither one of us could speak.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:



- 1st—VBS—St. Joseph's—Atkinson—9:00 a.m.
- 1st—CCW Meeting—Ss Peter & Paul—Butte—7:00 p.m.
- 2nd—VBS—St. Joseph's—Atkinson—9:00 a.m.
- 2nd—Mass @ Parkside—Stuart—2:00 p.m.
- 5th—KC Meeting—Stuart—7:30 p.m.
- 6th—Catholic Daughters Meeting—St. Patrick's @ Evergreen—7:00 p.m.
- 8th—Altar Society Meeting—St. Patrick's @ SMC—7:00 p.m.
- 12th—4th Degree KC Meeting—Atkinson—7:30 p.m.
- 13th—Mass @ Good Sam—Atkinson—10:00 a.m.
- 14th—School Board Meeting @ Parish Center—5:30 p.m.
- 14th—KC Meeting—O'Neill—8:00 p.m.
- 16th—BCYC (Youth)
- 17th—BCYC (Youth)
- 17th—Totus Tuus—St. Mary's—Spencer
- 18th—BCYC (Youth)
- 18th—Totus Tuus—St. Mary's—Spencer
- 18th—KC Meeting—St. Mary's—Spencer—8:00 p.m.
- 19th—Totus Tuus—St. Mary's—Spencer
- 20th—Totus Tuus—St. Mary's—Spencer
- 21st—Totus Tuus—St. Mary's—Spencer
- 21st—Mass @ Butte Living Center—Butte—3:15 p.m.
- 21st—Pastoral Council Meeting—O'Neill—7:00 p.m.
- 21st—KC Meeting—Spencer—8:00 p.m.
- 22nd—Totus Tuus—St. Mary's—Spencer
- 23rd—Totus Tuus—St. Mary's—Spencer
- 23rd—St. Mary's Alumni Weekend
- 26th—St. Mary's Altar Society Meeting—Spencer—7:30 p.m.

*Calendar of events subject to change.

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



Catholic Prayer For Rain

Almighty God,
we are in need of rain.
We realize now,
looking up into the clear, blue sky,
what a marvel even the least drop of rain really is.
To think that so much water can fall out of the sky,
which now is empty and clear!
We place our trust in You.
We are sure that You know our needs.
But You want us to ask You anyway,
to show You that we know we are dependent on You.
Look on our dry hills and fields, dear God,
and bless them with the living blessing of soft rain.
Then the land will rejoice,
and the rivers will sing Your praises,
and the hearts of men will be made glad.

Amen.

www.prayers.com.ng

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

Fr. Bernard Starman ~ Pastor

bgstarman@archomaha.org

Fr. Ross Burkhalter ~ Senior Associate Pastor

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Dcn MJ Kersenbrock ~ Director of Operations

mjkersensbrock@gmail.com

Jan Kunz ~ Director of Evangelization & Catechesis

jkunz@holtboydcatholic.org

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—ntomjack@holtboydcatholic.org

Business Manager: Cheleigh Scholes—crsholes@archomaha.org

Director of Stewardship & Development:

Jennifer Wallwey—jmwallwey@archomaha.org

Youth Director: Bridget Schneider—bschneider@smcards.org

Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Whitney Benson—whitneybenson@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—stjoechurchatkinson@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

DID YOU KNOW . . . ?



How the Feast of Corpus Christi came about:

In 1263 a German priest, Peter of Prague, stopped at Bolsena [Italy] while on a pilgrimage to Rome. He... [was] a pious priest, but one who

found it difficult to believe that Christ was actually present in the consecrated Host. While celebrating Holy Mass above the tomb of St. Christina (located in the church named for this martyr), he had barely spoken the words of Consecration when blood started to seep from the consecrated Host and trickle over his hands onto the altar and the corporal. The priest was immediately confused. At first, he attempted to hide the blood, but then he interrupted the Mass and asked to be taken to the neighboring city of Orvieto, where Pope Urban IV resided. The Pope listened to the priest's account and

absolved him. He then sent emissaries for an immediate investigation. When all the facts were ascertained, he ordered the Bishop of the diocese to bring the Host and the linen cloth bearing the stains of blood to Orvieto. With archbishops, cardinals and other Church dignitaries in attendance, the Pope met the procession and, amid great pomp, had the relics placed in the cathedral. The linen corporal bearing the spots of blood is still reverently enshrined and exhibited in the Cathedral of Orvieto. It is said that Pope Urban IV was prompted by this miracle to commission St. Thomas Aquinas to compose the Proper for a Mass and an Office honoring the Holy Eucharist as the Body of Christ. One year after the miracle, in August of 1264, Pope Urban IV introduced the saint's composition, and by means of a papal bull instituted the feast of Corpus Christi.

~compilation by Blessed Carlos Acutis: miracolieucaristici.org.

How the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus came about.



The devotion began in the 1670s, when Jesus appeared multiple times to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a Visitation nun in France. Through these visions, He told her how He wished to be honored with the symbol of His heart, asking for the faithful to make amends for any wrongdoing they had done, frequently take Communion, and observe the Holy Hour. In 1856, the devotion was added to the church calendar by Pope Pius IX. Jesus's profound love for us is demonstrated through His willingness to sacrifice His life for our sake. The love from His heart motivated all His actions — His inner life manifested in His demonstrated virtues and sacrifice. Yet this great love is often received with ingratitude, even by the faithful. The purpose of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is to focus our hearts on receiving and returning His love with gratitude — with all of our heart, soul, and strength — that He may be glorified.

~ <https://www.nationalshrine.org/blog/what-is-the-devotion-to-the-sacred-heart-of-jesus/>

