

Communicatio Nostrum Nuntium

Sharing Our News—May 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

GOD'S SONG

Wishing to encourage her young son's progress on the piano, a mother took her boy to a Paderewski concert. After they were seated, the mother spotted a friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. Seizing the opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, the little boy rose and eventually explored his way through a door marked "NO ADMITTANCE."

When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that the child was missing. Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive Steinway on stage. In horror, the mother saw her little boy was sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star." At that moment, the great piano master made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy's ear, "Don't quit. Keep playing."

Then, leaning over, Paderewski reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon, his right arm reached around to the other side of the child and he added a running obbligato. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was so mesmerized that they couldn't recall what else the great master played - only the classic "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

That's the way it is with God. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren't exactly graceful flowing music. However, with the hand of the Master, our life's work truly can be beautiful. Next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You can hear the voice of the Master, whispering in your ear, "Don't quit. Keep playing."

Feel His loving arms around you. Know that His strong hands are there helping you turn your feeble attempts into true masterpieces. God doesn't call the equipped; He equips the called, and He'll always be there to love and guide you on to great things.





MINISTRY OF PRAISE—A WORD FROM DEACON FILIPS

Greetings Fellow Prayer Warriors!

We are still in Easter season. It lasts 50 days after Easter Sunday until Pentecost. We start preparing for Easter during the 40 days of Lent. By devoting 90 days total, $\frac{1}{4}$ of the year to the resurrection of Jesus, the church is indicating it is more important than any other day in the year.

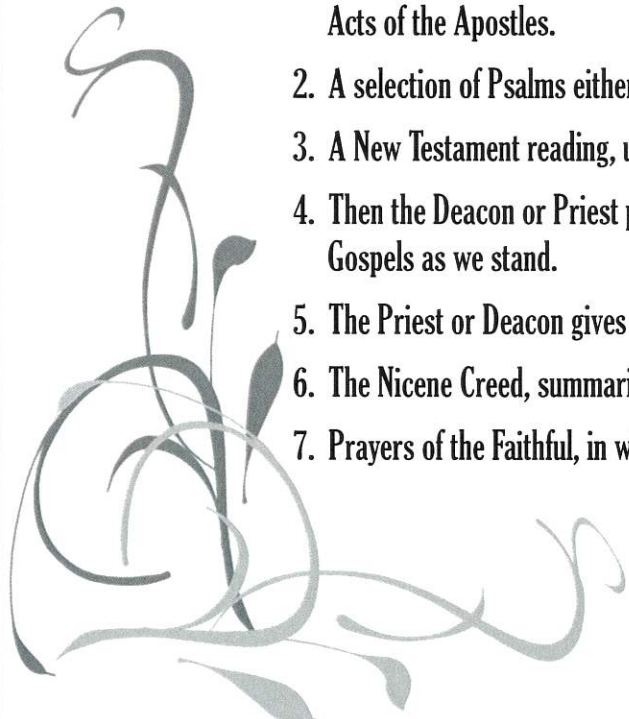
If the resurrection is true, then the possibilities for our future are mind boggling. Jesus had to die because He was fully human, and crucifixion is lethal. He resurrected because He was fully God. He became man because our sins are human, and therefore a human had to pay for them. But because sin is so offensive to God, only the death of God can pay that debt, crucifying one of us would not have paid the debt, only the Son of God could do that, so God's solution was to be incarnated as true man and true god, so He could pay the debt of humans with the authority of God.

By His suffering and death, Jesus opened the gates of Heaven for all of us and by His resurrection, He broke the power of death and shows us what we will experience at the resurrection of the dead at the end of time. By taking a human body to heaven, He shows us where we can follow. He left us His church and sacraments to lead and nourish us on the way to where He is. The church is Christ's body, and He is our head, and He is already in heaven waiting for us to join Him there. By joining Christ's body in baptism, we have access to the trinity. We get to enter the Holy Trinity with Christ as our head and us as part of His body! All we must do is stay in relationship with Jesus and stay as pure as we can so we can go there quickly after we die.

This month, let us contemplate the beauty of living in heaven with Jesus in our resurrected body. Following is the next selection on the Mass from my book "Pearls of the Universal Church" available from www.spiritualworkspress.com.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

1. On Sundays and Holy Days, there are three Scripture readings, the first is from the Old Testament or Acts of the Apostles.
2. A selection of Psalms either sung or recited.
3. A New Testament reading, usually one of Paul's letters.
4. Then the Deacon or Priest proclaims the Gospel acclamation followed by a reading from one of the Gospels as we stand.
5. The Priest or Deacon gives a homily, relating the readings to the lives of the people.
6. The Nicene Creed, summarizing what we believe as Christians is recited on Sundays and solemnities.
7. Prayers of the Faithful, in which we bring our concerns to God.



Until next month . . . Deacon Roger Filips



In Loving Memory ...

ANN A. DAVIS

July 10, 1948—March 28, 2024

St. Patrick's—O'Neill



ETHEL HERSHISER

September 24, 1929—March 28, 2024

St. Patrick's—O'Neill

LEONARD HENRY SCHMITZ

February 27, 1930—April 4, 2024

SHBC—Ss. Peter & Paul—Butte

GAIL ANN GRENIER

October 7, 1955—April 9, 2024

St. Joseph's—Amelia

DONALD G. WEDIGE

May 10, 1937—April 10, 2024

St. Joseph's—Atkinson

DONALD E. BOUSKA

September 17, 1936—April 18, 2024

St. Boniface—Stuart



Welcome to the Newly Baptized ...



PALMER EMILY BOYLE

Daughter of Matthew & Brittany Boyle

April 6, 2024

St. Patrick's—O'Neill

KYLEE JO HOFFMAN

Daughter of Ed & Sarah Hoffman

April 7, 2024

St. Joseph—Amelia

ADELINE CYNTHIA BAKER

Daughter of Brady & Hillary Baker

April 14, 2024

St. Joseph—Amelia

BEAU ALTON ROCKFORD

Son of Alec & Jessica Rockford

April 14, 2024

St. Patrick's—O'Neill

LEVI RAY TRAXLER

Son of Aaron & Emily Traxler

April 20, 2024

St. Patrick's—O'Neill

HAZEL GREYCE DVORAK

Daughter of Tannon & Jenna Dvorak

April 21, 2024

St. Joseph's—Atkinson

WADE GREGORY SHIELDS

Son of David & Mary Shields

April 21, 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

Memorial Day Prayer

On this Memorial Day, I pray for the souls who gave their lives for their country on battlefields all over God's parched earth. I pray they will be remembered with gratitude for the freedom we enjoy as a result of their bravery, suffering, and sacrifice. Thank You, God, for allowing me to wake up in freedom. Please watch over those still fighting to bring peace to this world.



MAY — THE MONTH DEDICATED TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

For the month of May, the focus is on Mary, Queen of Heaven, offering a wonderful occasion to cultivate our connection with the Holy Mother of Christ. Our personal relationships with our earthly mothers shape how we perceive and relate to Our Holy Mother Mary. As our spiritual mother, Mary has much to teach us and immeasurable love to bestow.

When Jesus Christ hung on the cross for us, He didn't forget about His beloved mother. In John 19:26, He tenderly says to Mary, "Woman, here is your son." And in the next verse (John 19:27), He instructs the disciple John, "Here is your mother." From the time of the apostles and early church fathers, Catholics have believed that this exchange was not just about ensuring that Mary was taken care of. After all, practical arrangements for her care could have been made earlier or after Jesus' death by His devoted followers who would never abandon her. No, this exchange means something much more profound — Jesus was giving us His mother as our own, and us to her as her beloved children.

It's a momentous gift of maternal love that we should never neglect. Each of us has a unique relationship with Mary, but we can all strive to strengthen our connection with her.

3 Things That the Blessed Virgin Mother Shows Us About Being a Disciple

1. We must allow Christ to dwell within

Mary is the mother of God. She gives birth to Jesus. We too must allow Christ to dwell within. When we receive Jesus, He comes to dwell within *us too*. Our task is to allow that divine fire within to overwhelm us and to well up within us and teach us how to better receive and listen to Him.

2. We must surrender to the work of the Holy Spirit

In a reading from St. Paul's letter to the Galatians, he discusses adopted sonship. Through grace, we share in Jesus' relationship with the Father. The Blessed Virgin Mary shows us what this means from a creaturely standpoint. Let us consider the moments from her life when she surrenders to the Holy Spirit and allows that reality to take hold of her heart. How can we follow her example? Through our own prayer and through her intercession.

3. We must be a contemplative

"Mary took all these things and pondered them in her heart." Meditating on Christ's life, we must take that mentality to heart and again follow Mary's example. We get so busy with the world, so consumed with the cares of life, that we don't take time to reflect on Christ and His work in our life. We don't slow down and quiet down to pray, including with Our Lady. Let's make time, a plan, and a commitment to do this in our own lives.

HAIL MARY, FULL OF GRACE

Reflection Questions For May:

1. What images of Mary speak to you most? It could be a statue, painting, icon, or other Marian representation.
2. Have you ever struggled with or neglected your relationship with Mary?
3. How do we defend the Marian Dogmas of our faith, such as the Immaculate Conception, Perpetual Virginity, Mother of God, or Assumption?
4. What virtue of Mary do you aspire to imitate most in your life dedicated to Christ?
5. When did you last speak with another about your love of Mary? How do mothers in your life, both physical and spiritual, remind you of Mary?





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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

ST. PATRICK'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INFORMATION

Religious Education will have their end of the year party and awards ceremony on May 1st at 6:30pm.

Thanks to everyone who made this year a successful one!

Plans are underway for Summer Vacation Bible School. Volunteers, adult and high school aged, are needed. Please reach out to Whitney if interested at 402-340-9304 or by emailing whitney.shaffer7@gmail.com.

3rd/4th Graders Review of Live Lent Together:

- "I like that it teaches us different lessons each time."
- "I like the different gospel readings and that it teaches us different ways to learn the gospel."
- "I liked writing my own prayers."
- "Interesting lessons."
- "We get to use our imagination and pick words or phrases from the gospel readings."

ST. JOSEPH—AMELIA RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NOTE

The CCD students will have their last class **May 8** at the Chambers park.

As a community service project they will spruce up the park then will have a picnic for the families.

Thanks to everyone that helped make this year a great one! It takes many willing hands to keep this program going!



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The On the Shoulders of Giants: Strengthening Our Legacy capital campaign kicked off the weekend of April 27-28. Campaign packets have been mailed to parish and school families, and volunteers are reaching out to follow up, answer any questions, and collect pledges.

For more information on the capital campaign, visit:

StPatONeill.org/capital-campaign.

Questions?

Call Jennifer Wallwey at 402-336-1602 or Kim Guyer at 402-517-5832.

MYTHS OF MOTHERHOOD

Somebody said that a child is carried in its mother's womb for nine months.
Somebody does not know that a child is carried in its mother's heart forever.

Somebody said it takes about six weeks to get back to normal after you've had a baby.
Somebody doesn't know that once you're a mother, normal is history.

Somebody said you learn how to be a mother by instinct.
Somebody never took a three-year-old shopping.

Somebody said being a mother is boring.
Somebody never rode in a car driven by a teenager with a driver's permit.

Somebody said "good" mothers never raise their voices.
Somebody never came out the back door just in time to see her child hit a golf ball through the neighbor's kitchen window.

Somebody said you don't need an education to be a mother.
Somebody never helped a fourth grader with his math.

Somebody said you can't love the fifth child as much as you love the first.
Somebody doesn't have five children.

Somebody said a mother can find all the answers to her child-rearing questions in the books.
Somebody never had a child stuff beans up her nose.

Somebody said the hardest part of being a mother is labor and delivery.
Somebody never watched her "baby" get on the bus for the first day of kindergarten.

Somebody said a mother can stop worrying after her child gets married.
Somebody doesn't know that marriage adds a new son or daughter-in-law to a mother's heartstrings.

Somebody said a mother's job is done when her last child leaves home.
Somebody never had grandchildren.

Somebody said your mother knows you love her, so you don't need to tell her.
Somebody isn't a mother.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

Source: <https://ministry127.com/resources/illustration/myths-of-motherhood>



MOTHER'S OPINION

4 years of age: My mommy can do anything!

8 years of age: My mom knows a whole lot!

12 years of age: My mother doesn't really know quite everything.

14 years of age: Naturally, Mother doesn't know that either.

16 years of age: Mother? She's hopelessly old-fashioned.

18 years of age: That old woman? She's way out of date!

25 years of age: Well, she might know a little bit about it.

35 years of age: Before we decide, let's get Mom's opinion.

45 years of age: I wonder what Mom would have thought about it?

65 years of age: I wish I could talk it over with Mom.

SENIOR GRADUATES—2024

ST. JOSEPH'S—AMELIA

Graduation Date: May 11, 2024

Carol Homolka—daughter of Jerry Homolka Jr. and Sandra Homolka
Claire Woeppel—daughter of Jeremy & Ann Woeppel

ST. BONIFACE—STUART

Graduation Date: May 11, 2024

Simon Addison—son of Jay & Sarah Addison
Jonathan Fessler—son of Kenny & Doreen Fessler
Cory Gubbels—son of Jerry & Amy Gubbels
Savannah Kramer—daughter of Kurt & Gina Kramer
Lacey Paxton—daughter of Darrin & Sharon Paxton
William Paxton—son of Darby & Sara Paxton
Andrew Yemma—son of Jake & Shea Olberding

SACRED HEART OF BOYD COUNTY

Graduation Date: May 4, 2024

SS. PETER & PAUL—BUTTE

Brett Koenig—son of Kevin & Staci Koenig

ST. MARY'S—SPENCER

Lucas Filips—son of Paul and Cindy Filips
Derek Jensen—son of Carrie Engelhaupt
Deegan Johnson—son of Troy and Elizabeth Johnson
Nathan Koenig—son of Mike and Melissa Koenig
Hunter Mizner—son of Kurt and Melissa Mizner
McKenzie Snyder—daughter of Mike and Becky Snyder

ST. PATRICK'S—O'NEILL

Graduation Date: May 11, 2024 (O'Neill Pub)

John Alden—son of Bill & Stacie Alden
Annie Corkle—daughter of Bryan & Becky Corkle
Blake Couch—son of Warren & Erin Couch
Ashley Dickau—daughter of Elvin & Brandi Dickau
Dominic Hamilton—son of Jason & Desiree Hamilton
Winnie Huber—daughter of Andrew & Monica Huber
Gus Liable—son of Dustin & Lori Liable
Drew Morrow—son of Kevin & Katie Morrow
Dylan Parks—son of Harold & Audra Parks
Haley Schluns—daughter of Jamie & Amanda Schluns
Tucker Shabram—son of Curt & Darcy Shabram
Paola Vergara—ward of Mary Duffy

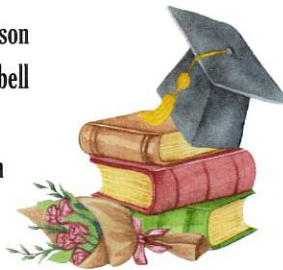
Graduation Date: May 12, 2024 (St. Mary's)

Samuel Barlow—son of Kevin & Julie Barlow
Sydney Birkel—daughter of Mike & Abby Birkel
Alissa Brabec—daughter of Josh & Ashli Brabec
Carson Dannenbring—son of Nick & Kelli Dannenbring
Joslyn Eby—daughter of Bill & Jessica Eby
Kaylin Gaughenbaugh—daughter of Wayne & Rebecca Gaughenbaugh
Hannah Gleason—daughter of Tim & Kari Gleason
Jack Gydesen—son of Scott & Tonya Gydesen
Mya Hedstrom—daughter of Jim & Lisa Hedstrom
Paisley Johnson—daughter of Ryan & Kelly Johnson
Aydan Kloppenborg—grandson of Jim & Sue Kloppenborg
Matthew Koehlmoos—son of Jason & Jennifer Koehlmoos
Cecelia Mlnarik—daughter of Josh & Lisa Mlnarik
Emma Otte—daughter of Matt & Ranell Otte
Claire Popkes—daughter of Eric & Kate Popkes
Lorissa Reiman—daughter of Lawrence & Jane Reiman
Delaney Wohlert—daughter of Kris & Becky Wohlert

ST. JOSEPH'S—ATKINSON

Graduation Date: May 12, 2024

Brianna Anderson—daughter of Jordan & Melinda Anderson
Shaylee Campbell—daughter of Waylon & Jennifer Campbell
Leah Fritz—daughter of Matt & Amber Fritz
Luke Klabenes—son of Duane Klabenes & Jennifer Welsh
Abigail Mathis—daughter of Jeff & Andrea Mathis
Irisbelsy Sanchez—daughter of Suni Sanchez



Makinley Cadwallader—daughter of Clay & Nicole Cadwallader
Parker Fischer—son of Shad & Jennifer Fischer
Catarina Ketteler—daughter of Matthew & Rhonda Ketteler
Ian Laetsch—son of Jeff & Cindy Laetsch
Braydon Olson—son of Ryan & Rhonda Olson
Itzel Sanchez—daughter of Osvaldo & Carmen Sanchez

Arideth Weekley—daughter of Robert & Joyce Weekley



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st—Religious Ed Classes Meet
- 1st—Senior Prayer Partner Revelation—7:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 2nd—Ss. Peter & Paul CCW Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Butte
- 3rd—Mass @ Parkside Manor—2:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 3rd—OMA Comedian—7:00 p.m.—Community Center—O’Neill
- 4th—SHBC Graduation
- 4th—Senior Recognition @ Mass—5:00 p.m.—O’Neill & Stuart
- 4th—May Crowning @ Mass—7:00 p.m.—St. Mary’s—Spencer
- 5th—Senior Recognition @ Mass—O’Neill & Amelia
- 5th—Divine Mercy Chaplet Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 6th—KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Stuart
- 7th—Campaign Committee Phoning Training—6:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 7th—Catholic Daughters Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Evergreen—O’Neill
- 8th—Vigil of Ascension Masses (HDO)—SEE TIMES & PLACES ELSEWHERE IN THE NEWSLETTER
- 8th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 9th—Ascension of the Lord Masses (HDO) - SEE TIMES & PLACES ELSEWHERE IN THE NEWSLETTER
- 11th—OHS Graduation—2:00 p.m.
- 11th—Stuart Graduation—2:00 p.m.
- 11th—Chambers Graduation—2:00 p.m.
- 12th—MOTHER’S DAY
- 12th—St. Mary’s Graduation—O’Neill—1:00 p.m.
- 12th—Senior Recognition @ Mass—9:00 a.m.—Atkinson
- 12th—Atkinson Graduation
- 12th—Divine Mercy Chaplet Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 13th—4th Degree KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Stuart
- 14th—Mass @ Good Sam—10 a.m.—Atkinson
- 14th—Parish Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Atkinson
- 15th—Mass @ Butte Living Center—3:15 p.m.—Butte
- 15th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—Butte
- 16th—Altar Society Meeting—6:30 p.m.—SMC—O’Neill
- 19th—Divine Mercy Chaplet Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 21st—Parish Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 22nd—Finance Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Parish Center—O’Neill
- 23rd—Safe Environment Audit—2:00 p.m.
- 23rd—Ladies Guild—2:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 26th—Divine Mercy Chaplet Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 27th—MEMORIAL DAY
- 27th—Parish Office Closed—Memorial Day
- 27th—Altar Society Meeting—7:30 p.m.—St. Mary’s—Spencer



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

holtboydcatholic.org

You will find . . .

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

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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

mjkersenbrock@gmail.com

Jan Kunz ~ Director of Evangelization & Catechesis

jkunz@holtboydcatholic.org

Dcn Roger Filips

rfilips@archomaha.org

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

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Phone: 402-336-1602

Fax: 402-336-1533

Hours: Monday—Friday—8 a.m.—4 p.m.

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Parish Receptionist: Nancy Tomjack—nmtomjack@archomaha.org

Business Manager: Cheleigh Scholes—crscholes@archomaha.org

Director of Stewardship & Development:

Jennifer Wallwey—jmwally@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—stjoehurchatkinson@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

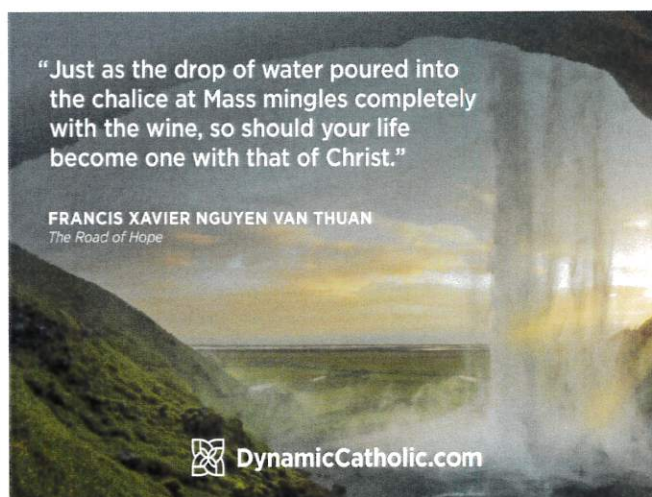
THE ROAD TO HOPE—BOOK REVIEW

Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan is one of the most inspiring voices of the twentieth century, a true modern-day hero. During a time of political unrest in Vietnam, he was arrested for his faith and spent the next thirteen years in prison, enduring harsh treatment and deplorable conditions. He spent nine of those thirteen years in solitary confinement.

During those long years of isolation and imprisonment, instead of giving in to despair and self-pity, Van Thuan learned his greatest lesson. He found God in the darkness; he was never alone, never without comfort. He discovered that his life still had purpose, even in the midst of incredible suffering. He began using scraps of paper to compose messages of hope and courage for his fellow believers, which were smuggled out and eventually published. These short messages of encouragement—1,001 in total—were instantly popular with the Vietnamese people, many of whom also knew what it was like to suffer for their faith.

And now, from the damp darkness of a prison cell thousands of miles away, these messages of hope have passed through barbed wire, traveled across oceans, and been handed down over many years to speak to your heart today to offer you hope and light for your path.

For more info or to buy ... <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/the-road-of-hope/RDOH.html>



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT X 2

Claire Woepfel a senior from Chambers was the winner of the RNW Deanery Scholarship for \$500.00. Her application was then forwarded on to the OACCW and she won their \$750 scholarship.

CONGRATULATIONS CLAIRE!

Youtube Channels Every Catholic Should Know

Besides perennial favorites like Ascension Press (Fr. Mike Schmitz), St. Paul Center (Scott Hahn), and Discerning Hearts, here are several more options for growing closer to Christ, both in longer interviews and in short 5-10 minute clips to listen to on the daily commute!

1. Pints With Aquinas: Matt Fradd's channel for all things cigar smoke and Catholic life, from Eastern Catholicism to dating. Also: The Lila Rose Podcast
2. A Catholic Mom's Life: A mom of five discussing family life for Catholics; many inventive ideas to improve your chances for a nap!
3. Called to More: Fr. Columba Jordan, CFR, makes little videos that are tightly edited, humble, humorous, and based on a deep understanding of Christ.
4. GabiAfterHours: Gabriel has some of the best presentations on devotion to our Blessed Mother and the rosary that you'll find on the internet; excellent content!
5. How to Be Christian: Ferris makes some of the best unapologetic biblical apologetics videos available; straightforward, funny, and charitable.
6. Thomistic Institute: Creators of the best online source for learning Catholic philosophy and theology, Aquinas 101 starts at the basics and moves through the Summa with helpful graphics and a relaxed pace.
7. Catholic Productions: Dr. Brant Pitre gives uniquely insightful and down-to-earth reflections on the weekly Gospel readings that are only 10-15 minutes long, the product of years of teaching and personal study.
8. The Institute of Catholic Culture: Fr. Hezekias presents a variety of discussions on Catholic life and thought, from poetry to ways to celebrate the liturgical year.
9. The Counsel of Trent: Nearly every video Trent Horn delivers is a masterclass in apologetics. Uncertain about defending Catholicism in today's culture? Look no further; Horn's work will keep you firm in the Faith. Also: Shameless Popery
10. Blessed Be Fitness, and Elliott Hulse are great channels to go to for Catholic fitness routines sans yoga, and their theological knowledge is excellent as well.
10. Other names that you should try: ICS Publications, Religious Hippie, Catholic Therapist, Fr Mark Goring, Catholic Culture, Divine Mercy and Biblical Bookworm
11. En Español: "La Biblia en un Año" de Ascension, Fray Nelson, Hermana Glenda, Padre Sergio, Padre Luis Toro, Dante Urbina, y QNTLC
12. Original music by Catholics: Harpa Dei, Vigil Project, Clamavi de Profundis, Stillwater Hobos, Hillbilly Thomists, E-Knock, Fr. Pontifex, and Brother Isaiah

FIRST COMMUNION—ST. BONIFACE—STUART



St. Boniface Church in Stuart celebrated the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on April 6th at their 5:00 p.m. Mass.

Pictured from left to right: (front row) Annabel Kohle, Emily Karo, Emma Tubbs and Alexis Lange.

(Back row) Dr. Jonna Kohle (teacher), Cort Riha, Jack Wondercheck, Kutter Ramm, Ryson Olberding, Joel Kaup, and Fr. Ross Burkhalter (Celebrant).

Photo by Myers Photography

YOUTH GROUP YEAR-END WRAP-UP

The last Youth Group met on April 24.

A special THANK YOU to everyone who donated to the Youth Group program this past year and to all families that sent their teens to the program.

A special thank you to:

Rylie Reynolds,

Lauren Arens,

and Jayde Haburchak

for donating their time to the program and being volunteer leaders. Your time and talent is much appreciated!

~ Bridgit Bulau



TOTUS TUUS

June 15th—June 21st

St. Mary's—Spencer

ASCENSION



HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION—MASSES VIGIL OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD—MAY 8

6:30 p.m.—St. Mary's—Spencer

7:00 p.m.—St. Boniface—Stuart

ASCENSION OF THE LORD—MAY 9

8:10 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.—St. Patrick's—O'Neill

8:15 a.m.—St. Joseph's—Atkinson

7:00 p.m.—St. Joseph's—Amelia

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

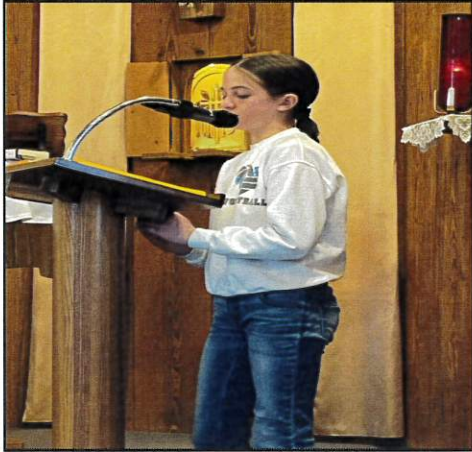
LEGION OF JOSEPH

for upcoming boys in
5th—7th grades

JULY 17th-18th, 2024

at Tintern Retreat Center
in Oakdale, NE

ST. JOSEPH—AMELIA



On April 21st, the Religious Education students at St. Joseph's in Amelia, participated in the Mass by:
serving,
being lectors,
contributing to the Children's collection,
presenting the offertory gifts,
and singing.



LIFE LINE UPDATE

UNICAMERAL PASSES...

LB857 creates the Prenatal Plus Program to reduce the incidence of low birth weight, pre-term birth, and adverse birth outcomes by providing access to nutrition counseling, psychosocial counseling and support, patient education and health promotion, breastfeeding support, and targeted case management.

Senator Tom Brewer's **First Freedom Act** requires the "**compelling interest test.**" If a person or institution claims that their "sincerely held religious belief" was violated, then the government has to show 1) that it had a "compelling interest" in the law that is burdening religious liberty and 2) that it "narrowly tailored" that law to accommodate for religious belief.

About 123,000 signatures are needed to be on the '24 ballot, including 5% of registered voters in 38 of the 93 counties -by July 3. We have to get to work!

Two Abortion related initiatives are seeking position on November ballot in Nebraska

know the difference and how you can help

PROTECT OUR RIGHTS

Pro-abortion ballot initiative will amend the Nebraska State Constitution to read:

"All persons shall have a fundamental right to abortion until fetal viability, or when needed to protect the life or health of the pregnant patient, without the interference from the state or its political subdivisions."

> Prior court cases have defined 'health' to include mental, emotional, spiritual, financial, or family health exceptions.

> viability is defined as "significant likelihood of the fetus' sustained survival outside the uterus without the application of extraordinary medical measures" ... and allows the abortion provider to determine whether a baby is 'viable'.

> allows litigation to overturn current protections for women and babies, i.e. jeopardizes parental rights and consent

> allows litigation against any state effort to regulate abortion facilities and abortionists

> by creating a fundamental right to abortion, this amendment could arguably require state funding for it

PROTECT WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Pro-life ballot initiative will amend the Nebraska State Constitution to read:

"Except when a woman seeks an abortion necessitated by a medical emergency or when the pregnancy results from sexual assault or incest, unborn children shall be protected from an abortion in the second and third trimester."

> establishes RIGHT TO LIVE protection in Constitution for babies in 2nd and 3rd trimester

> allows for further protections to be passed for babies in 1st trimester ... pro-life proponents still pledge to continue efforts protect all unborn children

> supports and maintains current protections for women and babies, such as 12-week protection law, ban on dismemberment abortion, parental consent, partial-birth abortion, informed consent, conscience protections for medical providers, prohibition on sale of abortion drugs through the mail, medical safeguards and standards to protect mother and baby, requirement to see a physician in person, and more.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

IF YOU'RE READY TO STEP UP AND HELP DEFEND LIFE **before it's too late.**

CALL OR TEXT 402-340-5087 - OR - YOUR PARISH OFFICE

> pray daily for life - includes daily prayer, Rosaries, Mass intentions, Holy Hours

> collect ballot initiative signatures - training and forms will be provided, now thru June 30!!!

> join Life Chain steering committee - help promote and coordinate so we swell our participation

> be a Champion for Life - a pro-life contact person for activities in your church



MAY 1

Advanced Giving
APRIL 15-30

1 VISIT
Nebraska.GiveCatholicTogether.org

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!

SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO—91.5—KONL

TUNE IN AND TURN IT UP – 91.5-FM! Spirit Catholic Radio is excited to announce Catholic radio will begin broadcasting in O'Neill, Nebraska the week of May 6th!! Spirit Catholic Radio 91.5-FM is an EWTN affiliate and carries programming such as the hugely popular *Catholic Answers Live* call in show, *More 2 Life* with Greg and Lisa Popcak, *The Doctor is In* with Dr. Ray Guarendi, *Called to Communion* with Dr. David Anders, *Kresta in the Afternoon*, and more! Spirit Catholic Radio produces the only local Catholic morning show in Nebraska, called *Spirit Mornings*, hosted by Bruce McGregor and Jen Brown, heard Monday – Friday, 7-9am CT. For more programming details, grab a program guide from a kiosk at your church, or head to spiritcatholicradio.com/programs. Help us spread the word by grabbing 91.5-FM yard signs and bumper stickers as you leave the church!

Tune in to 91.5-FM to learn more about your Catholic faith, pray the rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet, hear the Mass, and ultimately have your life transformed by the word of God with just the turn of a dial. Remember to download our app, and you can take your favorite radio station all over the world!



\$10,000 RAFFLE



St. Mary's High School is selling their annual \$10,000 Raffle tickets from May 2nd to May 24th, or until tickets are GONE. Only 250 tickets are sold at \$100 each, and all funds raised support the St. Mary's Activity Fund, reducing the need to have multiple fundraisers throughout the year for each group and team. This fund supports not only our athletics but all other activities as well.

Prizes are as follows:

1st ticket drawn: \$1000

100th ticket drawn: \$100

150th ticket drawn: \$500

200th ticket drawn: \$200

After the last 2 tickets are drawn, both will be contacted by phone to ask if they would like to split the \$10,000 or take their chances at having the winning sheet. Winners will be drawn on May 28th.

Contact the Parish Office at 402-336-1602 or stop by 301 E Adams to get your ticket.

Thank you!



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**

**Even if you aren't going to Indianapolis
July 13-21 for the Eucharistic Congress ...
you can still participate!!**

Explore all the resources available at

eucharisticrevival.org

- Join with friends to watch the *Jesus and the Eucharist* study series...
[Jesus and the Eucharist Resources \(eucharisticrevival.org\)](http://eucharisticrevival.org)
- Teach your kiddos about everything that's used on the altar during Mass ... [Juice Box: Pop OUT Mass Kit - For Kids - National Eucharistic Revival](#)
- Check out the schedule of speakers – some will be available to live stream so start talking about where you can gather and who you want to invite to watch with you!
- The Eucharist will be processed across the U.S. from all four directions starting in May, and arrive in Indianapolis at the start of the Congress. The western path will actually come right through Nebraska. It's called the St. Junipero Serra Route, and *all three Nebraska dioceses are planning special Masses, meals, Adoration, and processions as the Blessed Sacrament travels on pilgrimage June 12th (Kimball) to 23rd (Omaha). If you want to walk with the Eucharist, consider a 12-mile procession in Grand Island, or a 5-mile route in Omaha.* See the website for details on dates and times for all Nebraska events.
- Sign up to:
 - Read weekly newsletter or blog.
 - Sign up to watch videos, and/or *The Pulse* weekly updates.
 - Listen to Revive podcast or other talks.
- Search out Eucharistic Congress 2024 on youtube – you'll find lots of shorts and videos for all ages and issues.

Sponsored in part by a grant from the Holt County Visitors Committee
www.growholt.com

O'Neill Ministerial Association Presents

FAMILY COMEDY

NIGHT

FRIDAY

MAY 3

O'Neill
Community
Center
501 S 4th St
O'Neill, NE

Featuring

LELAND KLASSEN

International Touring
Comedian featured on Thou
Shalt Laugh and lead role in
the movie "Extraordinary"

OPENING ENTERTAINMENT: JOLENE LICHTY

Jolene shares through her own life trials and battles with cancer that humor is critical to get through any challenges we face on this earth. She has been married for 31 years and has 3 children.

Master of Ceremonies: Pastor Bob Wynn

DOORS OPEN 6PM | SHOW TIME 7PM

FREE ADMISSION