

# Communicatio Nostrum Nuntium

## Sharing Our News—January 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

## New Year Prayer

Dear God,

As we begin a new year, we ask for Your guidance and wisdom. We seek Your blessings as we set out to achieve our goals and dreams. Help us to stay focused on what is truly important, and to always remember the importance of Your love.

We pray for peace and healing in our world, and for an end to the hatred and violence that seems to be so prevalent. We ask that You bless those who are struggling, and give them the strength to carry on.

We give thanks for all the good things in our lives, and ask that You continue to bless us in the coming year. In Jesus' name, Amen.



# 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR

## MINISTRY OF PRAISE—A WORD FROM DEACON FILIPS



Merry Christmas Prayer Warriors!

Yes, it is still Christmas! The world says that the Christmas season began on Thanksgiving, or maybe Halloween. In the church, and hopefully your home, the Christmas season begins with the first Christmas Mass and ends on the Feast of the Epiphany on January 7, when the Wise Men come. (These are the 12 days of Christmas.) What the rest of the world calls Christmas season is Advent, a time of waiting and expectation for Christmas, and a little solemn.

I think we should use this time to prayerfully consider what it means for God to come to earth to intentionally to suffer and die for mere mortals. We Christians like to think, “Oh yes, Christmas is about Jesus coming to earth for our salvation, not just Santa Clause.” But do we really comprehend how amazing that is? God is so far above us in glory and power and we are so small in comparison that we cannot really grasp how amazing that is. All of the pagan “gods” of mythology, the Islamic understanding of Allah, and even the Jewish understanding of God teach that we are to suffer and serve God. Only Christianity teaches that God came to suffer and serve humans. The birth of Jesus truly is the pivot point in history when everything changed.

If we have been brought up as a Christian, we have “known” all of our lives what Jesus did for us, and it is a little too familiar; we take it for granted. There are a few days left in the season to ponder this. I recommend that you take this to prayer, preferably before the Blessed Sacrament, and focus on love and gratitude for what God, and especially Jesus, did for you 2000 years ago.

Following is the next selection on the Mass from my book “Pearls of the Universal Church” available from [www.spiritualworkspress.com](http://www.spiritualworkspress.com).

Music is the most important art because it is part of the Mass (see CCC 1156). In the extraordinary form of the Mass, High Masses are all sung. Gregorian chant was developed in the Middle Ages and is the most perfect Church music (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 116) because the congregation blends their voices, so they are singing together. The simple melody allows us to concentrate on the words and what they mean. Remember that we are to worship as a community and not as individuals and blending our voices helps that.

Catholics use a lot of symbols in our Church: holy water, incense, crucifixes, statues, etc., are used because as humans, we are both spirit and material body. “These are not just things, but symbols of deeper things.” (Dean Koontz, 2012). Physical things help us to focus on and to get connected to God even if we do not fully understand the intellectual basis of our faith. God uses created things to reveal Himself.



The Church also specifies postures to be used during the Mass. (General Instruction of the Roman Missal).

We stand during dialogue with God or with each other while praying.

We sit when listening and meditating.

We kneel when Jesus is on the altar.

Until next month . . . Deacon Roger Filips



## In Loving Memory . . .

### Robert Francis Walnofer

February 8, 1928—November 22, 2023—St. Patrick's—O'Neill

### Haden James Kaup

January 24, 2005—November 23, 2023—St. Boniface—Stuart

### Bennett Adam "Ben" Bazelman

July 24, 1936—December 1, 2023—St. Patrick's—O'Neill

### Mary Janice McCarthy

October 7, 1937—December 1, 2023—SHBC—St. Mary's—Spencer

### Eileen Marie Schmit

March 26, 1953—December 2, 2023—St. Patrick's—O'Neill

### Bette Jean Rowe

October 20, 1931—December 12, 2023—St. Patrick's—O'Neill

### Phyllis Rose Miksch

February 13, 1938—December 16, 2023—St. Joseph's—Atkinson

### Irene G. Sojka

December 26, 1926—December 20, 2023—St. Patrick's—O'Neill

### Joann Y. Kaup

April 18, 1935—December 21, 2023—St. Joseph's—Atkinson

### Raymond Shaffer

February 7, 1940—December 23, 2023—St. Joseph's—Atkinson

### Edna Gardner

July 12, 1947—December 27, 2023 St. Joseph's—Atkinson

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



## Welcome to the Newly Baptized . . .



### Ophelia Fuhrer

Daughter of Alexander & Lydia Fuhrer

December 16, 2023

St. Patrick's—O'Neill

### Gael Casas

Son of Luis Casas and Viridianna Mireles

December 23, 2023

St. Joseph's—Atkinson

### Leo Phoenix Shearer

Son of Anthony & Stephania Shearer

December 23, 2023

St. Boniface—Stuart

*"You are a child of God.*

*You are wonderfully made.*

*Dearlly loved and precious in His sight."*

*~ Psalm 139*

*Life is better when you cry a little, laugh a lot, and are thankful for everything you've got.*

## WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Give your marriage the promise of a great year by learning how to better communicate and love each other.

The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience can enhance your marriage to be the best it can be. Join us and see how your relationship can grow.

Sign up for an upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on:

February 9-11, Lincoln, NE

Early registration is highly recommended. For more information visit our website at: [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org)

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook! @wwmeColorado



worldwide

marriage  
encounter



JANUARY—THE MONTH DEVOTED TO THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS

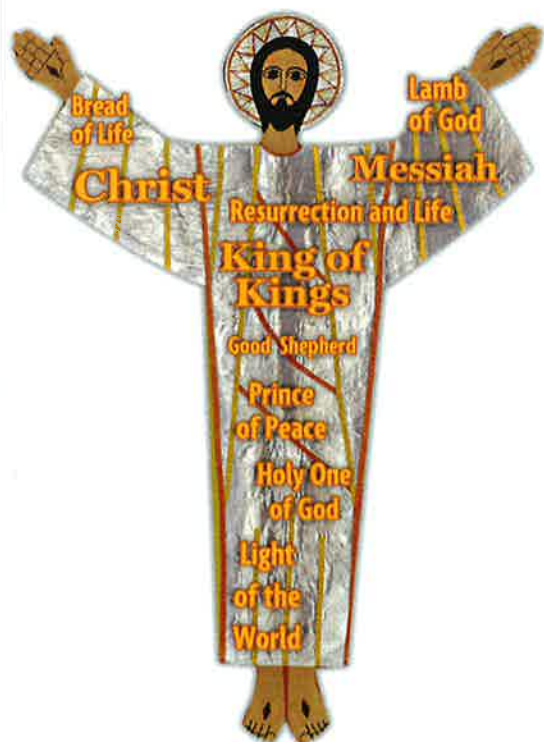
The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus and His Holy Childhood. Liturgically, this makes sense because we just celebrated Jesus' birth and continue to celebrate the season of Christmas!

His Holy Name should *not* be taken in vain. That's even a commandment: You will not take the Lord's Name in vain! Check out the litany of His Name, find or create your own prayer, or simply say His Name lovingly throughout your day.

Reflection Questions on the Holy Name of Jesus:

- Do you use His Name in vain?
- Do you allow others to use Your God and Savior's name in vain around you?
- What creative response can you make to when others use His Name in vain?
- How can you use His Name with reverence?
- What can you do to remember the importance of His Holy Name?

His Holy Childhood is celebrated in the devotion to the Infant of Prague. His Holy Childhood is important because Christ is fully human and fully God, which is a core belief of our faith. Look at pictures and statues of the Holy Family.



**FAMILY TALK TIME**

*"It is the divine name that alone brings salvation." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 432)*

The month of January is dedicated to the holy name of Jesus. The Church celebrates the feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus on Jan. 3. Take time to celebrate its power and significance with your family, for the name of Jesus is truly the Name above All Names.

Invocation of the Holy Name

Say this prayer many times throughout the day this month:

*"Blessed be the most holy name of Jesus without end!"*

The Sacred Scriptures and Saints

St. Paul tells us "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth" (Phil 2:10). Mark writes, "In my name ... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover" (Mk 16:17-18). And Jesus himself tells us, "Whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you" (Jn 16:23).

Although the name of Jesus has been respected since the days of the apostles, it has been honored with a special feast day since the end of the 15th century. St. Bernard, St. Bernardine of Siena and St. John Capistrano are among the saints who have had a special devotion to the name of Jesus.

Under His Protection

The monogram used for the Holy Name of Jesus includes the three letters IHS, which come from consonants in the Greek word for Jesus (IHSOUS). Over time, IHS has also become associated with the first letters of the Latin phrase Iesus Hominum Salvator ("Jesus, Savior of Men"). The letters IHS were often inscribed above doorways in medieval Italy for protection of the inhabitants.

*Write the name of Jesus with chalk above your front door.*

God Calls Us by Name

In Hebrew, the name Jesus means "God saves" and reminds us that God the Father and Jesus are one. Read the account of the naming of Jesus in Matthew 1:21-23.

*Discuss the meaning behind your family name and each individual's name. Share stories about how each family member was given their name.*

Sources:

<https://www.teachingcatholickids.com/name-above-all-names/>

<https://catholic-link.org/devout-your-january-to-jesus-holy-name-and-childhood/>



FORMED provides the very best Catholic content from more than 60 organizations to help parishes, families and individuals explore their faith anywhere. Supporting thousands of movies, children's programs, e-books, audio, parish programs and studies direct to your browser, mobile or connected device.

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Sign up as a parishioner with the zip code 68763 to create your **FREE** account.

**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](http://holtboydcatholic.flocknote.com)

**EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS—JULY 18-22, 2024**

Join Deacon Filips and Ann on a pilgrimage to the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis July 18-22. A bus leaves from Hartington and Omaha. When it is full, it is full. Come grow your faith and have fun! Contact Deacon Filips at [rfilips@archomaha.org](mailto:rfilips@archomaha.org)

**ST. PATRICK'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INFORMATION**

St. Patrick's Religious Education is for students K-6. We meet Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30 at St. Mary's elementary school.

Here is the schedule for January:

January 3rd—NO CLASS

January 10th—Class

January 17th—Class

January 24th—Class

January 31st—Class

**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.



NATIONAL  
**Eucharistic  
Congress**

**Indianapolis**  
July 17-21, 2024

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE NATIONAL EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS?

THIS IS A ONCE IN A LIFE-TIME EVENT - IT'S PART RETREAT, PART RALLY, PART PARTY, PART BIG CHURCH EXPERIENCE, PART FAITH FORMATION.

ORGANIZER: FR. OWEN KORTE  
HARTINGTON, NE.

Just text me at 402-719-4134 or email me at [owkorte@archomaha.org](mailto:owkorte@archomaha.org) to discuss details and get more information!



**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 Dec. 28th)

		AAA 2023-24 Goal	Participation Goal
Sacred Heart Parish-Boyd County	\$9171.64	\$13,172.50	54%
<b>St. Joseph — Amelia</b>	<b>\$3835.00</b>	<b>\$3,600.65</b>	<b>54% Congratulations!</b>
St. Joseph — Atkinson	\$8350.00	\$12,084.74	29%
St. Patrick — O'Neill	\$39,332.23	\$47,022.39	30%
<b>St. Boniface — Stuart</b>	<b>\$8705.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,604.44</b>	<b>39% Congratulations!</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$69393.87</b>	<b>\$84,484.72</b>	

As always the sooner we meet our goal the sooner we can stop talking about it! Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

- Our Father Who Art In Heaven.
- YES?
- Don't interrupt me. I'm praying.
- BUT -- YOU CALLED ME.
- Called you? No, I didn't call you. I'm praying. Our Father who art in heaven.
- THERE -- YOU DID IT AGAIN.
- Did what?
- CALLED ME. YOU SAID, "OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN." WELL, HERE I AM. WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
- But, I didn't mean anything by it. I was, you know, just saying my prayers for the day. I always say the Lord's Prayer. It makes me feel good, kind of like fulfilling a duty.
- WELL, ALL RIGHT. GO ON.
- Okay, Hallowed be Thy name...
- HOLD IT RIGHT THERE. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
- By what?
- BY "HALLOWED BE THY NAME"?
- It means, it means ... good grief, I don't know what it means. How in the world should I know? It's just a part of the prayer. By the way, what does it mean?
- IT MEANS HONORED, HOLY, WONDERFUL.
- Hey, that makes sense. I never thought about what 'hallowed' meant before. Thanks. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.
- DO YOU REALLY MEAN THAT?
- Sure, why not?
- WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT IT?
- Doing? Why, nothing, I guess. I just think it would be kind of neat if you got control of everything down here like you have up there. We're kinda in a mess down here, you know?
- YES, I KNOW, BUT HAVE I GOT CONTROL OF YOU?
- Well, I go to church.
- THAT ISN'T WHAT I ASKED YOU. WHAT ABOUT YOUR BAD TEMPER? YOU'VE REALLY GOT A PROBLEM THERE, YOU KNOW? THEN, THERE'S THE WAY YOU SPEND YOUR MONEY -- ALL ON YOURSELF. WHAT ABOUT THE KIND OF BOOKS YOU READ?
- Now, hold on just a minute! Stop picking on me! I'm just as good as some of the rest of those people at church!
- EXCUSE ME. I THOUGHT YOU WERE PRAYING FOR MY WILL TO BE DONE. IF THAT IS TO HAPPEN, IT WILL HAVE TO START WITH THE ONES WHO ARE PRAYING FOR IT. YOU, FOR EXAMPLE.
- Oh, all right. I guess I do have some hang-ups. Now that you mention it, I could probably name some others.
- SO COULD I.
- I haven't thought about it very much until now, but I really would like to cut out some of those things. I would like to, you know, be really free.
- GOOD. NOW WE'RE GETTING SOMEWHERE. WE'LL WORK TOGETHER -- YOU AND ME. I'M PROUD OF YOU.
- Look, Lord, if you don't mind, I need to finish up here. This is taking a lot longer than it usually does. Give us this day, our daily bread.
- YOU NEED TO CUT OUT THE BREAD. YOU'RE OVERWEIGHT AS IT IS.
- Hey, wait a minute! What is this? Here I was doing my religious duty, and all of the sudden you break in and remind me of all my hang-ups.
- PRAYING IS A DANGEROUS THING. YOU JUST MIGHT GET WHAT YOU ASK FOR. REMEMBER, YOU CALLED ME. HERE I AM. IT'S TOO LATE TO STOP NOW. KEEP PRAYING.
- ...
- WELL, GO ON.
- I'm scared to.
- SCARED? OF WHAT?
- I know what you'll say.
- TRY ME.

THE LORD'S PRAYER



(THE LORD'S PRAYER continued . . .)

- Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

- WHAT ABOUT ALICE?

- See? I knew it! I knew you would bring her up! Lord, she's told lies about me, spread stories. She never paid back the money she owes me. I've sworn to get even with her!

- BUT -- YOUR PRAYER -- WHAT ABOUT YOUR PRAYER?

- I didn't -- mean it.

- WELL, AT LEAST YOU'RE HONEST, BUT IT'S QUITE A LOAD CARRYING AROUND ALL THAT BITTERNESS AND RESENTMENT, ISN'T IT?

- Yes, but I'll feel better as soon as I get even with her. Boy, have I got some plans for her. She'll wish she had never been born.

- NO, YOU WON'T FEEL ANY BETTER. YOU'LL FEEL WORSE. REVENGE ISN'T SWEET. YOU KNOW HOW UNHAPPY YOU ARE? WELL, I CAN CHANGE THAT.

- You can? How?

- FORGIVE ALICE. THEN, I'LL FORGIVE YOU, AND THE HATE AND SIN WILL BE ALICE'S PROBLEM -- NOT YOURS. YOU WILL HAVE SETTLED THE PROBLEM AS FAR AS YOU ARE CONCERNED.

- Oh, you know, you're right. You always are. More than I want revenge, I want to be right with You... \*sigh\* All right...all right...I forgive her.

- THERE NOW! WONDERFUL! HOW DO YOU FEEL?

- Hmmmm. Well, not bad. Not bad at all! In fact, I feel pretty great! You know, I don't think I'll go to bed uptight tonight. I haven't been getting much rest, you know.

- YEAH, I KNOW, BUT YOU'RE NOT THROUGH WITH YOUR PRAYER, ARE YOU? GO ON.

- Oh, all right. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

- GOOD! GOOD! I'LL DO THAT. JUST DON'T PUT YOURSELF IN A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN BE TEMPTED.

- What do you mean by that?

- YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

- Yeah. I know.

- OKAY. GO AHEAD. FINISH YOUR PRAYER.

- Amen.

- DO YOU KNOW WHAT WOULD BRING ME GLORY AND MAKE ME REALLY HAPPY?

- No, but I'd like to know. I want to please you now. I've really made a mess of things. I want to truly follow you. I can see now how great that would be. So, tell me, how do I make you happy?

- YOU JUST DID.

## LIVE LENT TOGETHER

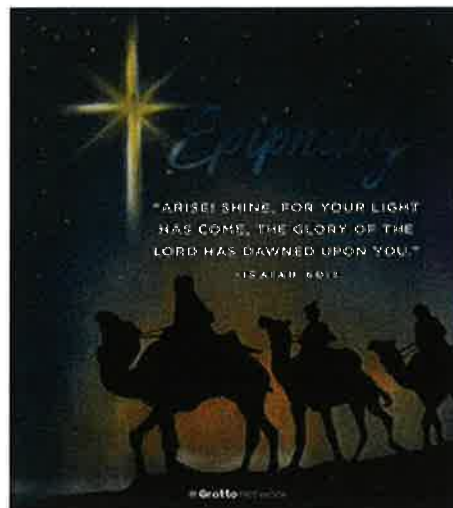
*Live Lent Together* has been a huge success across the Archdiocese of Omaha parishes for the past couple of years. *Live Lent Together* is an initiative that equips parishioners to lead a 6-week small group for Lent. Each small group leader will pray for and invite friends, neighbors, co-workers, or family members to gather for prayer and discussion with Scripture. LLT will be offered again this coming Lenten season 2024. We are looking for people to be small group leaders. We will offer a large training session (if there is enough interest) on being a leader or we can do one-on-one training if that appeals to you. If you would like to be



trained to be a leader, want more information, or know you want to lead a group, please call Jan Kunz @ 340-2303 or contact the Parish Office @ 336-1602. Let's make this Lent—the best Lent ever!

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 7, 2024





## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st—New Year's Day—Happy New Year!  
 1st—Solemnity of Mary—HDO (see mass times elsewhere in the newsletter)  
 2nd—Parish Center Closed 2nd—Catholic Daughters Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 3rd—Eucharistic Adoration—2-6 p.m.—St. Patrick's—O'Neill  
 4th—CCW Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Ss Peter & Paul—Butte  
 5th—Mass @ Parkside—2:00 p.m.—Stuart  
 7th—RCIA @ 4:00 p.m.—O'Neill (SMHS)  
 8th—4th Degree KC Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.—O'Neill  
 9th—Pastoral Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.—St. Joseph—Atkinson  
 10th—Eucharistic Adoration—2-6 p.m.—St. Patrick's—O'Neill  
 10th—Religious Ed Classes/Youth Group Meet  
 10th—KC Meeting @ 8:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 11th—Altar Society Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.—O'Neill (SMC)  
 14th—RCIA @ 4:00 p.m.—O'Neill (SMHS)  
 15th—Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
 15th—Eucharistic Adoration—6-8 p.m.—St. Boniface—Stuart  
 16th—Parish Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.—St. Boniface—Stuart  
 17th—Eucharistic Adoration—2-6 p.m.—St. Patrick's—O'Neill  
 17th—Mass @ Butte Living Center @ 3:15 p.m.—Butte  
 17th—Religious Ed Classes/Youth Group Meet  
 17th—KC Meeting @ 8:00 p.m.—Butte  
 20th—RNW Deanery Meeting via Zoom @ 9:00 a.m.  
 21st—RCIA @ 4:00 p.m.—O'Neill (SMHS)  
 22nd—Eucharistic Adoration—6-8 p.m.—St. Boniface—Stuart  
 22nd—Altar Society Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.—St. Mary's—Spencer  
 24th—Eucharistic Adoration—2-6 p.m.—St. Patrick's—O'Neill  
 24th—Religious Ed Classes/Youth Group Meet  
 24th—Finance Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.—St. Patrick's—O'Neill  
 28th—National Catholic Schools Week Starts  
 28th—RCIA @ 4:00 p.m.—O'Neill (SMHS)  
 29th—Eucharistic Adoration—6-8 p.m.—St. Boniface—Stuart  
 31st—Eucharistic Adoration—2-6 p.m.—St. Patrick's—O'Neill  
 31st—Religious Ed/Youth Group Meet



## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

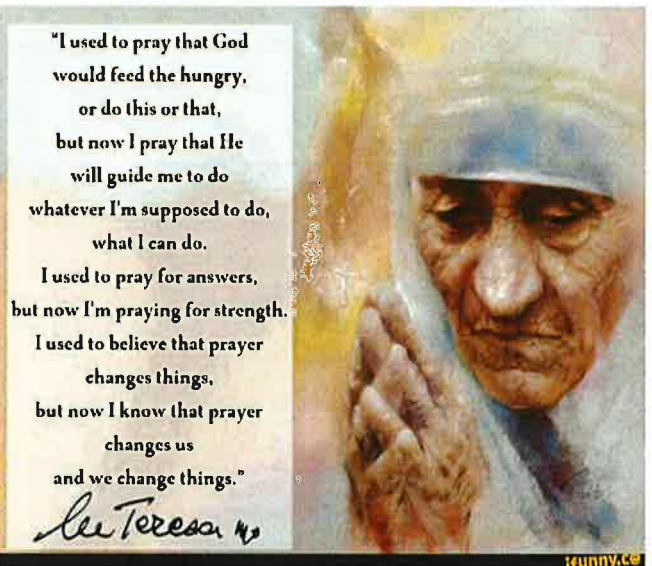
[holtboydcatholic.org](http://holtboydcatholic.org)

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

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Bereavement books for children are available at the Parish Center in the Director of Evangelization & Catechesis (Jan Kunz) Office. If you would like to buy or borrow a book to help a young child deal with the death of a loved one, please call Jan @ 340-2303 or call Nancy at the Parish Center. We have picture books for younger children and grief journals for tweens and teens. Call for more information or stop to look over the selection.



## 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](mailto:jkunz@holtboydcatholic.org) or [jankunz9@gmail.com](mailto:jankunz9@gmail.com).



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Bernard Starman ~ Pastor

bgstarman@archomaha.org

Fr. Ross Burkhalter ~ Senior Associate Pastor

rcburkhalter@archomaha.org

Dcn MJ Kersenbrock ~ Director of Operations

mjkersensbrock@gmail.com

Jan Kunz ~ Director of Evangelization & Catechesis

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@archomaha.org

Business Manager: Cheleigh Scholes—crsholes@archomaha.org

Director of Stewardship & Development:

Jennifer Wallwey—jmwally@archomaha.org

Youth Director: Bridget Bulau—bschneider@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—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



FROM THE OFFICE OF FATHER STARMAN:

Don't just invite people to church.

Invite them to lunch.

Invite them to your table or patio.

Invite them into your life.

Be there for them.

WE . . . NOT OUR BUILDING . . .

ARE THE CHURCH.

## THE CRACKED POT

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole that he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers on your side of the path but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path. Every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."



## SS. PETER & PAUL—BUTTE— CYO GROUP ACTIVITIES

The Butte CYO class has been very busy. We started the month of November finishing our discussion on Purgatory that we started in October. We ended the month with our community service activity for the month of decorating the Butte Historical Museum for Christmas. They did an amazing job! We started December with a discussion on prayer with Deacon Filips. We had a great discussion about the sin cycle prior to confession with Father Burkhalter. The students were given several Bible verses to reflect on as we prepared our hearts for Christmas. We ended the month of December with Christmas Caroling in a horse drawn sleigh. We were able to join the Butte Community Club in caroling at the nursing home and residents around the community. We will be starting the New Year with the Chosen series. We are always on the look out for new ways to volunteer. Please feel free to contact us with any project.

~ Submitted by Britanie Brewster



*"Don't get tired of helping others. You will be rewarded when the time is right, if you don't give up."*

*~ Galatians 6:9*

## ST. JOSEPH'S—AMELIA

A shout-out to this wonderful group of kids!! The St. Joseph's Amelia CCD classes put together care packages for the community. They ended up putting together 56 packages and delivered them after mass on December 10. The packages included, homemade goodies, pencils, game books, puzzles, all sorts of different items for the recipients. They all enjoyed some pizza afterwards. ~ Submitted by Sandra Homolka





# SET THE WORLD ON FIRE



## LADIES BOOK STUDY

Be who God meant you to be. Come join in a 4-week personal retreat to unleash the beauty within. The retreat will run

Jan. 7—Feb. 4, 2024

We will meet Sunday at 4:00 p.m. in the St. Mary's Hall in Spencer (subject to change if needed). There's a \$20 fee to cover the book "Set the World On Fire". Each day will be filled with Scripture, prayer, and words of wisdom from the four female Doctors of the Church. We will meet one a week to reflect on the past week.

For more information, please contact:

Melissa Koenig (402) 340-6635 or

Jessica Kaczor (402) 961-0461.

## MINISTERIAL SOUP SUPPER

Friday, January 19th

4:30—7:30 p. m.

West Holt High School  
Atkins



Everyone Welcome!

## PRO-LIFE—LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



by Tom Venzor, Nebraska Catholic Conference ([necatholic.org](http://necatholic.org))

Pro-abortionists unveiled ballot initiative language Nov. 16 seeking to establish a "right to abortion until birth" in the Nebraska constitution. Joined by you, the Nebraska Catholic Conference, along with our statewide pro-life friends, Nebraska Family Alliance, Nebraska Right to Life, and Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, will be wholly dedicated to defeating this effort as we fight for the very lives of preborn babies and moms.

The language released by pro-abortionists reads: "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 interference from the state or its political subdivisions. Fetal viability means the point in pregnancy when, in the professional judgment of the patient's treating health care practitioner, there is a significant likelihood of the fetus' sustained survival outside the uterus without the application of extraordinary medical measures."

What does this language *actually* mean?

"Fetal viability" is defined to allow second- and third-trimester abortions. It will give abortionists the power over life and death by leaving it to their "judgment" whether a preborn baby is "viable" or not. For example, babies who need "extraordinary medical measures," like a short stay in the NICU, could be judged by an abortionist to be "nonviable" and aborted in the third trimester.

While pro-abortionists are attempting to frame their language as simply allowing abortions until viability, the "health" exception is a major and dangerous loophole that will result in abortions until birth. Courts have found the term "health" to include non-medical factors, such as mental, spiritual, financial, or familial health.

Asserting a fundamental right to abortion "without interference from the state" will put all current safeguards at risk and undermine women's health and safety. This includes safeguards that require obtaining informed consent, performing medical screenings, seeing a physician in person, or prohibiting abortion pills being sent by mail from individuals with no medical credentials.

The language "all persons" and "patients" will give minor children a right to abortion. This will cause obvious harm to children by subjecting them to the abortion industry, and it will eviscerate parental rights. Parents will lack authority to consent or even know if their minor daughter seeks an abortion. They may also have no recourse if their daughter is harmed during the abortion.

While pro-abortionists attempt to sound reasonable to Nebraskans about their ballot language, their proposal is the farthest thing from reasonable. It is abortion-on-demand, up until birth. Already, pro-abortion advocates, like Planned Parenthood, are lying through their teeth, denying the extreme nature of their proposal. But at the end of the day, this proposal is a fundamental attack on human life, and should be categorically rejected by Nebraskans.

Nebraska's current law allows abortion until the 12th week of pregnancy and provides exceptions for rape, incest, and the life of the mother. As we have seen with previous polling, this law is widely supported by Nebraskans across the state. But the pro-abortion ballot initiative would wipe out this and other important laws, including protecting babies from dismemberment abortion, providing informed consent to mothers about abortion pill reversal, and protecting babies whom research has demonstrated can definitively feel and react to pain.

What are the next steps for us as Catholics and pro-life advocates?

**Decline to Sign.** Pro-abortion groups, formed under the misguided name of "Protect Our Rights Nebraska," have formally launched their petition drive effort. To put a constitutional amendment to a vote of the people in November 2024, they need to collect roughly 120,000 signatures of registered voters from across the state. They have until approximately July of 2024 to collect these signatures. If you encounter petitioners, charitably take up their time talking about the dangerous petition, to prevent other people from engaging and signing. And of course, decline to sign!

**Pray and fast.** We need Nebraska Catholics—and all Christians—to pray and fast. As we know, this is a spiritual battle, one for lives and souls. Pray and fast that pro-abortionists' efforts are thwarted at every step and that they utterly fail in their efforts to legalize abortion until birth.

**Stay up to date.** Stay connected to the [Nebraska Catholic Conference](http://Nebraska Catholic Conference)—and get your family and friends connected. We will be updating you regularly on this effort and will share opportunities for you to get engaged in this fight for life very soon! Our united and dedicated efforts across the state will be as crucial as ever!



**ST. BONIFACE—STUART—RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ACTIVITIES**



Teachers and students in 3rd—7th grades went Christmas caroling to Parkside Manor and a few houses along the way on December 13. They enjoyed cookies & cocoa on their return.



+ 3rd Grade Happenings +  
~Submitted by *Jonna Kohle*

Emily Wallinger came to talk about Klothes for Kids and was presented with the chore money they earned.

← 3rd graders shopping at Hometown Market for the St. Boniface food pantry drive. →



**ST. MARY'S—SPENCER—CCD HAPPENINGS**

**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

The St. Mary's Religious Education classes in Spencer put on their Christmas program on December 17th at 5:30 p.m. at the church. Pictures on the left are from practice and the pictures below are from the performance.

~Submitted by *Breg Finnegan*





## KC FREE THROW CONTEST

Sunday, January 21st

1:00 p.m.

West Holt High School — Atkinson  
Boys & Girls ages 9-14 are welcome.

Doors open at noon.

Direct any questions to Doug Kubik:  
402-340-0618



**Catholic Schools**  
United in Faith and Community

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2024**

**JANUARY 28—FEBRUARY 3**

Celebrating our Catholic Schools and all they have to offer:

**St. Mary's Grade School and High School—O'Neill**

**St. Joseph's Elementary School—Atkinson**

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK—ST. JOSEPH—ATKINSON**

St. Joseph School students will celebrate Catholic Schools Week from Jan. 28—Feb. 3. The students are looking forward to celebrating their Catholic education through fun activities.

**I:55 BOOK FAIRS**

Where Faith Matters

The I:55 Book Fair will be available during the week-long celebration. Watch the bulletin and the school's Facebook page for days and times!

## ON GOD'S TIME

A man walked to the top of a hill to talk to God.

The man asked, "God, what's a million years to you?"  
and God said, "A minute."

Then the man asked, "Well, what's a million dollars to you?"

and God said, "A penny."

Then the man asked, "God....can I have a penny?"

and God said, "Sure....in a minute."





- Jan 5-6—Nebraska Pregnancy Care Alliance; Jan 5 Banquet, GALA, Jan 6 conference in Lincoln
- Jan 6—Bellevue Baby Shower, 1-5pm. Collection of baby items for Essential Pregnancy Services. Collect items from your church, or bring your items to the Knights Event Center, 1020 Lincoln Rd in Bellevue. Family fun with balloons, fire truck, cookies, more.
- Jan 19—National March for Life, Washington DC
- Jan 20—Walk for Life, West Coast, San Francisco
- Jan 26—Nebraska Right to Life GALA
- Jan 27—Nebraska Right to Life, Walk for Life
- January 31—Nebraskans Embracing Life 50th Annual Celebration of Life Banquet

Today, God himself will direct you  
in the path and bless you.

### CEC WEEKENDS

**Christians Encounter Christ**  
*"A personal encounter with Christ"*

**What is CEC?**

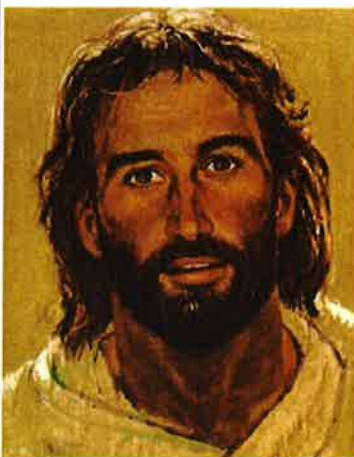
Christians Encounter Christ (CEC) is a Catholic movement within the Archdiocese of Omaha. The CEC Method is introduced in highly structured three-day weekend experience, beginning on Friday evening and ending on Sunday night.

CEC Movement believes that Christianity can penetrate all areas of the secular world, living, growing, and transferring Christ's values to society.

The CEC Weekend is a personal and communal encounter with Christ through the Holy Spirit which leads to a lifelong relationship with God by living a method of ongoing spiritual growth and evangelization of our Catholic faith.

**Mission of CEC:**

Lay will evangelize the world in which we live, by strengthened spirituality, lived and shared in everyday environments.



Christians Encounter Christ weekends go from Friday evening until Sunday evening and are held in Norfolk. Men who are married, husbands attend first, then the wife registers right away also, for next women's weekend. Singles invited also! A Christians Encounter Christ (CEC) Weekend is a personal and communal encounter with Christ through the Holy Spirit which leads to a lifelong relationship with God by living a method of ongoing spiritual growth and evangelization of our Catholic faith. If you wish to attend, call the Parish Office @ 336-1602 for information.

**2024 Weekend Dates:**

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| January 26.27.28 (Men's)    | March 8.9.10 (Men's)     |
| February 23.24.25 (Women's) | April 12.13.14 (Women's) |
| September 27.28.29 (Men's)  |                          |
| October 11.12.13 (Women's)  |                          |



### HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE



**SOLEMNITY OF MARY**  
(Not a Holy Day of Obligation  
this year)

**DECEMBER 31ST**

- 5:00 p.m.—St. Boniface—Stuart
- 6:30 p.m.—SHBC
- St. Mary's—Spencer

+++++

**JANUARY 1ST**

- 9:00 a.m.—St. Patrick—O'Neill
- 9:00 a.m.—St. Joseph—Atkinson
- 11:15 a.m.—St. Joseph—Amelia