

# Communicatio Nostrum Nuntium

## Sharing Our News—February 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

February HELLO 

If you know and believe  
God walked you safely thru  
January and opened your  
eyes to see February, let's

Thank Him!

Thank you, God, for your  
blessings each day. Please  
guide us in February with  
Your love and care.

Amen

Christ  
The Way, the Truth,  
and the Life.

JOHN 14:6



## MINISTRY OF PRAISE—A WORD FROM DEACON FILIPS

Greetings Fellow Prayer Warriors!

Have you noticed that you have had more things to pray about lately? As Catholics, we are used to praying for our deceased, our sick and suffering, and for fallen-away loved ones. Now, however, we are confronting anger, sorrow and confusion in our institutions that we have never seen in our lifetimes. And that is just in our national politics, it is even worse in the church! The church has always been our refuge from worldly problems, and now it is suffering in a way we have not seen since the Protestant revolt 500 years ago.

Instead of laity depending on the church to help us, we are called to help bind up the wounds of the church and help to recover her health. In June of 1972, Archbishop Fulton Sheen said this about the laity: “Who’s going to save our Church? It’s not our bishops, it’s not our priests and it is not the religious. It is up to you, the people. You have the minds, the eyes and the ears to save the Church. Your mission is to see that the priests act like priests, your bishops act like bishops, and the religious act like religious.”

Laity (and deacons and priests) do not get a vote on how to deal with doctrinal issues. Bishops and popes do get a vote, but even they need to be slaves to divine revelation as revealed in sacred scripture and the magisterial traditions. Our role is to pray fervently that the Holy Spirit guide them correctly to God’s will for his church. God’s will can be understood as a wind blowing us across the lake to our harbor of holiness and heaven. A good sailor can, with hard work make a sailboat tack against the wind to a different destination, but it is difficult and eventually the sailor will tire, or falter and God will gently work His will again. Whatever is happening now, realize that God is still blowing us towards holiness and heaven and eventually, God’s Will will be done. (See also Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 880-900)

What we must never do is to separate ourselves from the church, our bishops, and our pope, even when they are unwise or deficient in their duties. The church will eventually re-orient itself, and if we have cut ourselves off from her, we risk our own souls. We need to get back to basics. Go to Mass, go to confession, teach your children the faith, take care of your neighbors and pay less attention to church politics. Stay close to Jesus. The church belongs to Jesus, not to any deacon, priest, bishop, cardinal, or pope, or internet provocateur.

This month pray for peace, truth, and unity in our church. 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)

Protestants claim Catholics added a lot of things to the Mass later, in the Middle Ages, and that they are the ones who restored worship to what the Apostles did. This is false. In 150 A.D. Saint Justin the Martyr described what happened in the Mass in a report to the Roman Emperor (First Apology, chapter 65). It is the same Mass we recognize today. In his report he described the following:

1. An opening song to join together.
2. We confess our sins to God and each other.
3. Gloria, or praise for our sins being forgiven.
4. Readings of sacred writings.
5. Homily to explain the Scriptures and how they are relevant today
6. Reciting the Creed, which defines Christianity.
7. Petitions, asking God for our needs.
8. Offerings so we can share our labor and time.
9. Bringing of the bread and wine.
10. Eucharistic prayer asking to be saved by Jesus’ death.
11. Breaking of the bread.
12. Taking Jesus into us.
13. Prayer and blessing with dismissal.



This is exactly what we still do today, 2000 years later!

Until next month . . . Deacon Roger Filips



**In Loving Memory . . .**

**VICTORIA JOHNSON**

July 15, 1952—January 1, 2024  
SHBC—St. Mary's—Spencer

**CONITA HOLLENBECK**

December 31, 1939—January 1, 2024  
St. Patrick's—O'Neill

**KURT L MICHEEL**

June 28, 1972—January 19, 2024  
St. Joseph's—Atkinson

**MARILYN ELSIE SCHAAF**

October 17, 1933—January 21, 2024  
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 . . .**



**CARSON DAVID FUCHSER**

Son of Elizabeth Fuchser  
December 30, 2023  
St. Patrick's—O'Neill

**LEO DAVID DOOLITTLE**

Son of Ben and Carol Doolittle  
January 6, 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*

**"Just as love is a verb, so is faith."**

*~ Nannie Helen Burroughs*

**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)



worldwide

**marriage  
encounter**

## FEBRUARY—THE MONTH DEVOTED TO THE HOLY FAMILY

The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family in the Catholic Church. How does the Church honor the Holy Family, both during this month and throughout the year?

### The Catholic Church Honors the Holy Family

The Holy Family is remembered several times during the liturgical year:

- +++ At Christmas.
- +++ At the feast of the Holy Family, celebrated the Sunday after Christmas.
- +++ At the Presentation, celebrated February 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- +++ During the entire month of February.



### Families Today Are Under Attack

Our Lady of Fatima warned Sr. Lucia about attacks against marriage and the family. This is occurring today in our culture, societal mindset, and in organizations whose missions are literally to dismantle the traditional family.

### Each Member is a Role Model, Even for Today

With a life centered on the Father, St. Joseph was a just man. He was also a spiritual leader and protector of his family in daily life and journeys to Bethlehem, Egypt, and Nazareth. Also called St. Joseph the Worker, he labored and materially provided for his family.

Mary dutifully cared for her family and home. Rooted in Scripture and repeated in approved Marian apparitions, she was humble, modest, pious, loving. In her “yes” to the Father, she was a disciple of Jesus His entire life.

Both human and divine, Jesus was obedient to His parents, the Law of Moses, and lived within the confines of His family and town. Also dedicated to the Will of His Father, He taught and ministered to people at their points of greatest need, even laying down His life for each of us.

### A Model for All Families

The Holy Family is a model for all families everywhere because God the Father made it so. He could have sent Jesus to earth in any number of ways, but He chose to place Jesus in a family with a father and mother.

In addition, the Holy Family is a model for domestic life. When we center our family life on Christ and live the life of the Church in our homes, this is referred to as the domestic church.

“...the Holy Family is the icon of the domestic Church, called to pray together. The family is the domestic Church and must be the first school of prayer....pray together as a family at the school of the Holy Family of Nazareth and thereby really to become of one heart and soul, a true family.”

### Ways To Make the Holy Family a Part of Your Life

- Connect with the Holy Family. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal one thing you have in common with the Holy Family, or with Jesus, Mary, or Joseph individually.
- Incorporate short prayers into your day, especially during difficulties: “Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, help me!” “Holy Family, help us be holy!”
- If your family is over-scheduled, create a time to bring everyone together with a meal or game night. Begin with a spontaneous prayer of gratitude for time together.
- Pray as a family. Use a prayer card or listen to a prayer together on the [iCatholicRadio app](#). Take turns praying petitions for the needs of your family and household. Pray in gratitude for blessings received. Do your best to attend Mass together.
- Keep a prayer card or picture of the Holy Family in a prominent place in your home as a holy reminder.
- When writing a list, journaling, or taking notes, be like Fulton Sheen. Write JMJ at the top of your paper, calling to mind Jesus, Mary, and Joseph to guide you in your daily duties.

Recite a prayer to the Holy Family and also consider consecrating your family to them as well.

### What to Do When Your Family Doesn't Look Like the Holy Family

There are times and situations in which our families do not resemble the Holy Family. But it's okay. God calls us to be faithful, not perfect. Pray to the Holy Family for the longings of your heart, healing, provision, or whatever difficulties you face. Ask the Holy Spirit to enter your situation for God's Will to be done.

If you are not married or do not have children, God may still call you to be a spiritual father or mother, or even a spiritual child to someone He brings into your life. Ask God who He wishes you to minister to. Those appointments are divine and important.

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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**

Religious Education is back in the swing of things. Families participated in the Advent Wreath decorating contest and the winner was Harper and Millie Benson!

Here is the schedule for the February:

1/31—regular class

2/7—regular class

2/14—no class, Ash Wednesday mass.

Students are invited to go as a group to mass. More details as it gets closer.

2/21—regular class

2/28—NO CLASS—this is a change from original calendar

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

Wednesdays from 2:00—6:00 p.m.

until April 24, 2024

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

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

**ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL—2023-2024**

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

The financial contributions to date (as of Jan. 23rd)

		AAA 2023-24 Goal	Participation Goal
Sacred Heart Parish-Boyd County	\$10,641.64	\$13,172.50	54%
<b>St. Joseph — Amelia</b>	<b>GOAL EXCEEDED</b>	<b>Congratulations!</b>	
St. Joseph — Atkinson	\$10,840.00	\$12,084.74	29%
St. Patrick — O'Neill	\$39,875.23	\$47,022.39	30%
<b>St. Boniface — Stuart</b>	<b>GOAL EXCEEDED</b>	<b>Congratulations!</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$73,896.87</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!



**Indianapolis**  
July 17-21, 2024

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC 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!



## THE DART TEST

Dr. Smith was known for his elaborate object lessons.

One particular day, Sally and her classmates walked into the classroom and knew they were in for a fun day.

On the wall was a big target, and on a nearby table were many darts. Dr. Smith told the students to draw a picture of someone that they disliked or someone who had made them angry, and he would allow them to throw darts at the person's picture.


Sally's friend drew a picture of a girl who had stolen her boyfriend. Another friend drew a picture of his little brother. Sally drew a picture of a former friend, putting a great deal of detail into her drawing, even drawing pimples on the face. Sally was pleased with the overall effect she had achieved.


The class lined up and began throwing darts. Some of the students threw their darts with such force that their targets were ripping apart. Sally looked forward to her turn, and was filled with disappointment when Dr. Smith, because of time limits, asked the students to return to their seats. As Sally sat thinking about how angry she was because she didn't have a chance to throw any darts at her target, Dr. Smith began removing the target from the wall.


Underneath the target was a picture of Jesus. A hush fell over the room as each student viewed the mangled picture of Jesus; holes and jagged marks covered His face, and His eyes were pierced.


Dr. Smith said only these words, "In as much as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto Me." Matthew 25:40  
No other words were necessary; the tears filled eyes of the students— focused only on the picture of Christ.






 Saturday, March 23, 2024

 O'Neil Community Center

 Registration & Cocktail Hour | 5pm

 Dinner with program & dancing to follow | 6pm

**TICKETS ON SALE SOON!**

Tickets are on sale NOW  
for the  
2024

## St. Mary's Catholic Schools Red Carpet Gala!

Seats are limited and will go fast!

Purchase your tickets and  
view sponsorship and  
underwriting opportunities  
here:

[https://events.handbid.com/  
auctions/2024-red-carpet-  
gala](https://events.handbid.com/auctions/2024-red-carpet-gala)

Happiness consists in giving and in serving others.



**Marriage Prayer**

Lord, help us to remember when we first met and the strong love that grew between us. To work that love into practical things so nothing can divide us. We ask for words both kind & loving and hearts always ready to ask forgiveness as well as forgive. Dear Lord we put our marriage into your hands.



Loving God, You call all who believe in You to grow perfect in love by following in the footsteps of Christ Your Son. Call from among us more men and women who will serve You as religious. Open the hearts of many, raise up faithful servants of the Gospel, dedicated, holy priests, sisters, brothers and deacons, who will spend themselves for Your people and their needs.

Bless those who are serving now with courage and perseverance. Grant that many will be inspired by their example and faith.

By their way of life, may they provide a convincing sign of Your Kingdom for the Church and the whole world. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen



**PRAYER FOR STRENGTH AND HEALING**

Almighty Lord, I look up to you for strength and healing. Shine your face on me and fill me with your life giving powers. Calm my fears and bring comfort and peace to my body. I trust and know that Jesus carried my sickness and my sins on the cross. So by the power of the blood, I decree and declare that any sickness in my body be gone. I rebuke and cast out any diseases and infections in my body. I free myself from every infirmity and weakened immune system. Let your divine healing flow into every cell of my body. Let it flow through my veins and my blood. Lord, I believe in your healing power and I believe that by touching the hem of your garment, I've received my healing through the blood of Jesus Christ.

*Amen*  
THE GRACEFUL CHAPLAIN

**CEC WEEKENDS**

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

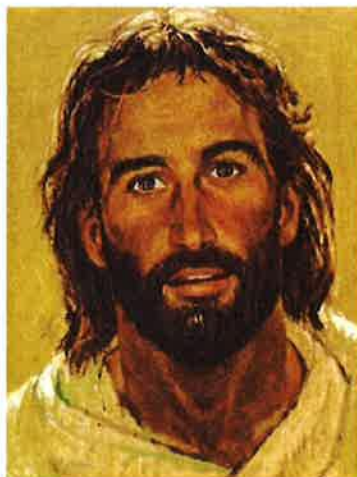


**What is CEC?**

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:**

Laitly 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:**

March 8,9,10 (Men's)

April 12,13,14 (Women's)

September 27,28,29 (Men's)

October 11,12,13 (Women's)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st—CCW Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Ss Peter & Paul—Butte
- 2nd—Mass @ Parkside—2:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 4th—RCIA @ 4:00 p.m.—O’Neill (SMHS)
- 4th—Community Rosary @ 7:00 p.m.
- 5th—KC Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.—Stuart
- 6th—Catholic Daughters Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Evergreen—O’Neill
- 7th—Eucharistic Adoration—2-6 p.m.—St. Patrick’s—O’Neill
- 7th—Mass @ 6:30 p.m.—ABVM—Lynch
- 7th—Religious Ed Classes/Youth Group Meet
- 8th—Altar Society Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.—O’Neill (SMC)
- 9th—KC Fish Fry—O’Neill (see specifics elsewhere in this newsletter)
- 11th—RCIA @ 4:00 p.m.—O’Neill (SMHS)
- 12th—Christian Mothers Meeting—6:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 12th—4th Degree KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Stuart
- 13th—Mass @ Good Sam—10:00 a.m.—Atkinson
- 14th—ASH WEDNESDAY
- 14th—Valentine’s Day
- 14th—Eucharistic Adoration—2-6 p.m.—St. Patrick’s—O’Neill
- 14th—KC Meeting—8:00 a.m.—O’Neill
- 16th—Anniversary of the Academy Fire (1965 )
- 16th—KC Fish Fries (see times and places elsewhere in this newsletter)
- 18th—RCIA @ 4:00 p.m.—O’Neill (SMHS)
- 19th—President’s Day
- 19th—Eucharistic Adoration—6-8 p.m.—St. Boniface—Stuart
- 21st—Eucharistic Adoration—2-6 p.m.—St. Patrick’s—O’Neill
- 21st—Mass @ Butte Senior Living—3:15 p.m.—Bute
- 21st—Religious Ed Classes/Youth Group Meet
- 21st—Pastoral Council—7:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 21st—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—Spencer
- 22nd—Ladies Guild—2:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 23rd—KC Fish Fries
- 25th—RCIA @ 4:00 p.m.—O’Neill (SMHS)—Make-Up day if needed
- 26th—Eucharistic Adoration—6-8 p.m.—St. Boniface—Stuart
- 26th—St. Mary Altar Society Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Spencer
- 27th—SHBC Pastoral Council Meeting—6:30 p.m.—Spencer
- 28th—Eucharistic Adoration—2-6 p.m.—St. Patrick’s—O’Neill
- 28th—Religious Ed Classes/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

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Den MJ Kersenbrock ~ Director of Operations

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Jan Kunz ~ Director of Evangelization & Catechesis

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Den 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—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—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

## SYMBOLS OF LENT

There are a lot of Lenten symbols you can use when to teach your children about Lent and Holy Week. If you do an activity based on a symbol and create a tangible object it will serve as a reminder of the symbol and its meaning.

The pretzel is a symbol of Lent with a fun legend about it. A monk made special bread without eggs or milk (because they didn't use these in Lent) and shaped it so that it would look like the arms of someone praying. In those days people often prayed with their hands crossed over their chest. You can find many activities online related to the legend of the pretzel.

Water can also be a Lenten symbol. It has many meanings and one is as a reminder of our baptism. Making a bowl or other container for water and then encouraging your child to place it somewhere in your home to remember their baptism could be a meaningful activity. You could also suggest that children ask you about their own baptisms and whether there are any photos of them on the day they were baptized.

Palm leaves are a Lenten symbol and you can find directions online to make the traditional Palm Sunday ones into crosses.

The cocoon with the caterpillar inside which transforms into a butterfly is just one of many symbols for Lent which symbolize new life. There are plenty of crafts and other activities related to this symbol.

Children love animals and the donkey is a symbol for Lent. There are stories and books written from the perspective of the donkey that Jesus rode on as he entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

The rooster is a symbol of Lent and reminds us that Peter denied Jesus three times before the rooster crowed. The story of Peter's denial and how Jesus forgave him is a good story to share with your child to teach them about friendship and forgiveness.

An article from the Ministry Matters website called "Lent for Kids: Focusing on God's Time" includes activities for each week of Lent focusing on symbols.

Source: <https://www.preli.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Making-Lent-More-Meaningful-to-Children-booklet.pdf>

SS. PETER & PAUL—BUTTE  
RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION

# Brunch

FUNDRAISER

FEBRUARY 11TH

FOLLOWING 8:00 A.M. MASS  
IN THE CHURCH HALL



ST. JOSEPH'S  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST

FEBRUARY 4, 2024

8:00—11:00 a.m.

Atkinson KC Hall

ST. MARY'S—SPENCER

CYO  
FUNDRAISER



Spaghetti  
Dinner

FEBRUARY 25TH

5:00—7:00 P.M.



LOOK BACK AND  
THANK GOD  
LOOK FORWARD AND  
TRUST GOD



As you look back on your life, you will realize that every time you were being rejected from something good, you were actually being re-directed to something better.



St. Valentine was a bishop, and is thought to have been a physician. He was arrested for giving aid to Christian prisoners awaiting martyrdom, and while imprisoned he converted the jailer by restoring sight to the jailer's daughter. St. Valentine refused to deny Christ before the Emperor Claudius in the year 280 and won the jeweled crown of martyrdom by his faithful witness. The feast of St. Valentine was first established in 496 by Pope Gelasius I.

*Prayer on St Valentine's Day*

*Loving Father,*

*I pray for an open heart and mind, so that I may recognise and be grateful for all the love in my life. I pray that I might find a new sense of wholeness, joy and peace in your love. Remove all obstacles so that I may grow in love throughout my life. Give me the grace to trust in your loving plan for me, so that whatever my circumstances over the course of my life, I may know that I am not alone, that I am loved by You, my Loving Father, who is full of tenderness, mercy and compassion.*

AMEN

# LIVE LENT TOGETHER—2024

## LOOKING FOR SMALL GROUP LEADERS and PARTICIPANTS

This Lent, the Catholic Parishes of Western Holt and Boyd counties are again offering the opportunity for all our parishioners to grow closer to Jesus Christ through the power of Scripture and of learning from each other in small groups. LIVE LENT TOGETHER is an initiative of the Archdiocese to break open God's Word and to allow the fire of the Holy Spirit, who resides in each of our hearts, to guide us toward holiness of life through the power of a small group.

We are currently looking for small group leaders. The 6-week program is very easy to follow and requires very little prep. If you were a small group leader last year, please consider gathering your group again or starting a new group. Anyone contemplating being a small group leader, please feel free to call Jan Kunz @ 340-2303 for a one-on-one walk through of the program. There are a variety of choices for the study materials. The following is a list of the materials provided by the Archdiocese:

*Encounter*

*Mission*

*Mercy*

*Eucharistic Revival—2 programs available: Nourish and The Mystery*

*Sunday Gospels*

If you would like to look them over to see what might fit your group, you can find them on the Archdiocese website:

[archomaha.org/lent/](http://archomaha.org/lent/)

or contact the Parish Office at 336-1602. We will make copies for you and your group.

Call with your program choice and a number count or any other questions you might have.

You are welcome to do ANY book or study that you are called to do.

The main hope is that groups gather to break open God's word.

If you'd like to join a group and need help finding one, call Jan Kunz or the Parish Office.

Please prayerfully consider leading a group or joining a group and let's

**LIVE LENT TOGETHER!**

Thanking God after he answers a prayer is GRATITUDE.

Thanking him in advance is FAITH.

### GIRLS RETREAT

**\*\*GRATIA\*\***

for upcoming girls in

4th—6th grades

**JULY 9th-10th, 2024**

at Tintern Retreat Center

in Oakdale, NE

### BOYS RETREAT

**\*\*LEGION OF JOSEPH\*\***

for upcoming boys in

5th—7th grades

**JULY 17th-18th, 2024**

at Tintern Retreat Center

in Oakdale, NE

←  
**SAVE THE  
DATES:**  
→



# Ash Wednesday

## FASTING & ABSTINENCE OBLIGATIONS

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of universal fast and abstinence. Fasting is obligatory for all who have completed their 18th year and have not yet reached their 60th year.

Fasting allows a person to eat one full meal. Two smaller meals may be taken, not to equal one full meal. Abstinence (from meat) is obligatory for all who have reached their 14th year.

## ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024

8:10 a.m. Mass—O'Neill

8:15 a.m. Mass—Atkinson

12:15 p.m. Blessing and Distribution of Ashes—O'Neill

5:00 p.m. Mass—Stuart

6:00 p.m. Mass—SHBC (Spencer)

7:00 p.m. Mass—Amelia

7:00 p.m. Blessing and Distribution of Ashes—O'Neill

*LENT is a journey that moves us  
towards the Cross.*



**Knights of  
Columbus®**



**LENTEN  
FISH FRY**

### ATKINSON & STUART KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Stuart

Dates: 2/16—3/1—3/15

Location: St. Boniface Church Basement

Time: 5:00—7:30 p.m.

Dine-in or Carry-out

Atkinson

Dates: 2/23—3/8—3/22

Location: KC Hall

Time: 5:00—7:30 p.m.

Dine-in or Carry-out

### O'NEILL KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Dates: 2/9—2/16—2/23—3/1—3/8—3/15—3/22

Location: KC Hall

Time: 5pm-7pm

Info: Dine-in, Carry-out and Drive-thru will be available.

Food: Fried Fish, Baked Fish, French Fries, Baked Potatoes, Coleslaw, Buns, Mac and Cheese and Dessert Bars

*Thank You!*



Thanks so much to everyone who participated in the planning study for St. Patrick and St. Mary's! The Steier Group is compiling all our information and will present to parish leadership on February 13 with their findings. After that, we will create an overview for all our parishioners. In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to call the parish office @ 336-1602.  
Thanks again!