

# Communicatio Nostri Nuntium

## Sharing Our News—December 2023—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

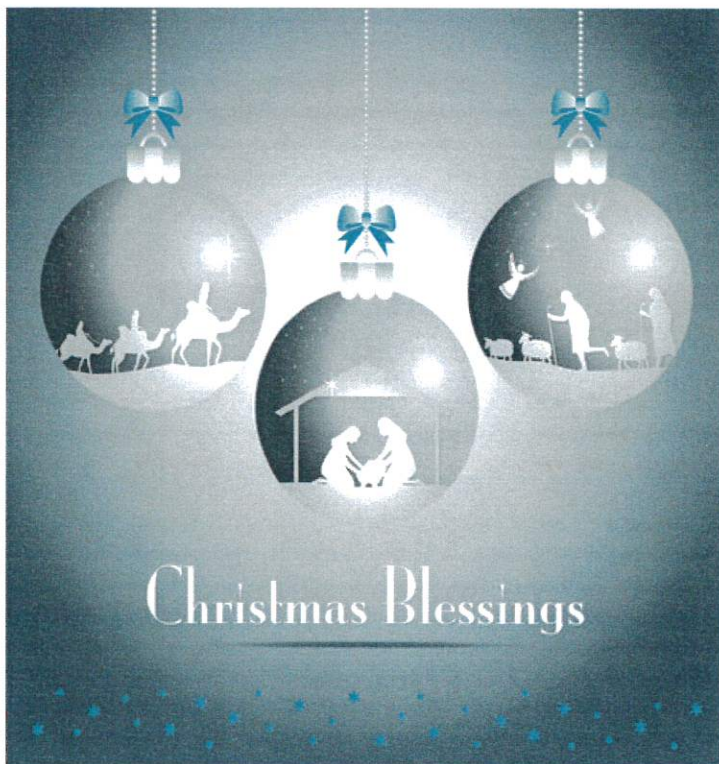
\*8:15 a.m. @ St. Joseph's—Atkinson

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



### A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

During this Christmas season, may you be blessed with the spirit of the season, which is

peace

the gladness of the season, which is

hope

and the heart of the season, which is

love.

## MINISTRY OF PRAISE—A WORD FROM DEACON FILIPS



Greetings Fellow Prayer Warriors!

Sunday, December 3rd, begins Advent season. Despite what the world is telling you, it is not Christmas season yet. For Catholics, Christmas season starts at the Christmas vigil Mass and ends on Epiphany January 5. The 12 days of Christmas. That is our joyful time as Christians. The church also sets out a time of waiting and longing and expectation for Christmas called Advent. Advent is sort of like Lent. Lent is a time of active waiting and expectation for Easter, and Advent is a time of active waiting for Christmas. We should be active in our waiting, not just sitting back and waiting for Christmas and Jesus to happen. But although most Christians seem to take Lent seriously, Advent has been overwhelmed by the commercialization of Christmas, the busyness of the season; work parties, family parties and obligations of giving kids a special time and jumping ahead to celebrating Jesus' birth before it occurs. But before it is too late, let's take a deep breath to try to experience Advent; actively waiting and expecting Jesus. It's hard to enjoy the feast if you are never hungry enough to have an appetite.

When we die or Jesus returns, we are not going to be judged based on whether we are "nice" or not. If we go through life without robbing banks or committing adultery, that is not enough to get us into heaven. Scripture tells us that we are called to fellowship with Jesus. Fellowship, friendship, relationship. As our evangelical friends correctly say; "A personal relationship with Jesus Christ." By the time we die, we need to be a friend of Jesus. From that fact we can reason that if we are His friend, we will follow his commandments and stop robbing banks or committing adultery if that is our thing. If we are His friend, we will want to come to Mass to worship Him and spend time with Him and we will talk to Him daily in prayer. If we are His friend, we will treat our neighbors with love and respect because they are His children too. If we are His friend, we will receive the Eucharist because that means we are taking our friend Jesus into us and allowing Him to slowly change us to be more like Him. Our religion is based on relationship not just rules. When we die, we do not want to knock on the Pearly Gates and have Jesus come out and say "Who are you again? I don't think I know you. You had better go to the other place!"

For the next month let's pray that the Advent season helps to draw back our fallen away family and friends to the Church, and all of us to a more personal friendship with Jesus. Following is a selection from my book on the Mass.

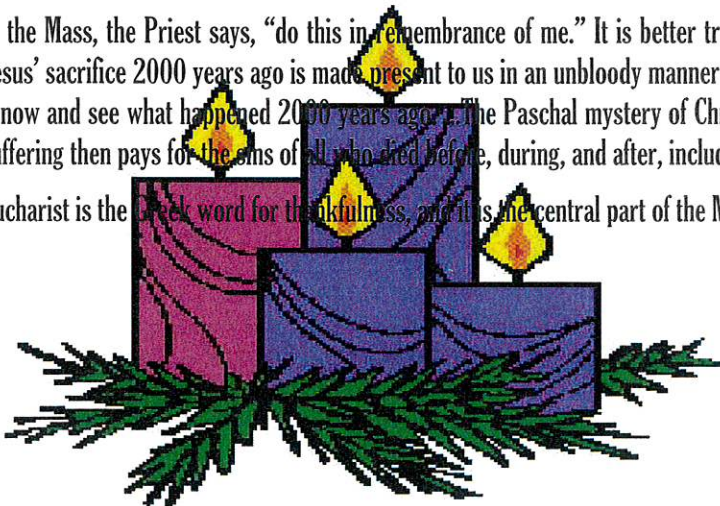
For more information or orders go to [www.spiritualworkspress.com](http://www.spiritualworkspress.com)

### THE MASS FOLLOWS THE LIFE OF JESUS:

Jesus' first 3 years in Galilee was Jesus' liturgy of the Word – reflected by our preaching the Word in the Mass. (Our Mass follows the example of Jewish worship up to this point.) At Palm Sunday Jesus transitions, and the crowds sing hosanna in the highest just as we do in the middle of Mass. On Good Friday Jesus was sacrificed for us – reflected in the liturgy of the Eucharist.

In the Mass, the Priest says, "do this in remembrance of me." It is better translated as "bring this back to life in me." The Mass is not just a memorial. Jesus' sacrifice 2000 years ago is made present to us in an unbloody manner. The sacrifice of the Mass is like a periscope or a time machine. We look into it now and see what happened 2000 years ago. The Paschal mystery of Christ is celebrated, not repeated... (CCC 1104). He died only one time, but His suffering then pays for the sins of all who died before, during, and after, including us (see CCC 601).

Eucharist is the Greek word for thankfulness, and it is the central part of the Mass because the most powerful graces come from it (see CCC 1407).



Until next month . . . Deacon Roger Filips



## In Loving Memory . . .

### Dale Nolan

November 11, 1927—October 25, 2023  
SHBC—St. Mary's—Spencer

### Juanita 'Nita' Hytrek

April 13, 1930—October 26, 2023  
St. Boniface—Stuart

### Thomas Edward "Tom" Turgeon

November 19, 1951—November 15, 2023  
SHBC—Ss. Peter & Paul—Butte



*Death leaves a heartache no one can heal,  
Love leaves a memory no one can steal.*



## Welcome to the Newly Baptized . . .

### Riggin Beau Kelly

Son of Nathan & Megan Kelly  
October 29, 2023  
St. Patrick's—O'Neill

### Payson Mae & Xander Jay Schafer

Daughter & Son of Dalton & Miranda Schafer  
November 4, 2023  
St. Boniface—Stuart



### Hadley Rose Seger

Daughter of Aaron & Taylor Seger  
November 19, 2023  
St. Joseph—Atkinson



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

## FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN ~ ISAIAH 9:6

For to us a Child is Born, to us a Son is  
Given and the Government will be upon  
His shoulder, and His name will be called  
Isaiah 9:6

**Wonderful**  
Counselor  
**MIGHTY GOD**  
Everlasting Father  
Prince of Peace



## DECEMBER—THE MONTH DEVOTED TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, it is a great time to ask some important questions about Mary, like: “What’s the deal with Catholics and Mary? Why do Catholics worship Mary? (We don’t.) How could a virgin give birth? What is the Immaculate Conception?” and “Why do Catholics pray to Mary?”

These are questions to ask throughout the time of Advent. It is a time when we are all invited to accompany the go deeper into the mystery of the Incarnation. Why does God ask for the help of a young Jewish Girl? How is it that he would entrust his Son to her care? What keys can we discover for our own Christian life when we reflect on Mary and her life, found in the Gospels?

Mary’s Participation

When she visited her cousin, Elizabeth, Mary proclaimed, “*Behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name*” (Luke 1:48-49). Mary proclaimed these powerful words not in arrogance but in humble recognition of the wonderful plan of God for all men and women, meaning, for you and me. In unfolding His plan, God invited Mary to actively participate in it. Such an invitation to man and woman by God to participate in the divine plan is not something new. This began from the beginning of creation: Adam and Eve were invited to become stewards of all that God has made (Genesis 1:28-30). However, Adam and Eve failed to play their parts with respect to God’s plan. With Mary, on the other hand, that all generations will call her blessed is a simple recognition that she indeed played her part precisely according to God’s plan. Along with her son, Jesus Christ, we see the new Adam and the new Eve. Jesus and Mary offer themselves to us not only as examples but the models for all men and women who desire to cooperate and collaborate with God.

Mary’s Magnificat

We are created by God “*in His own image and likeness*” (Genesis 1:26-27). Wow! Anyone who reflects on this wonderful reality could definitely live a happy life and die a happy death. This, of course, means that we need to take ourselves more seriously. We cannot and should not settle for living our lives only on the “natural” plane, but rather we must open our eyes to something greater, something supernatural. Mary teaches us to do precisely this in her *Magnificat*. There, she recognizes and gives thanks for the Lord’s action in human history: God is not a far away God, He is one that cares for his Creatures. Out of love, his supernatural grace penetrates, illuminates, and transforms the natural reality. In her *Fiat*, her “yes” to the Lord and his Plan, she becomes the model for all Christians, for all those who open their lives to the concrete action of the Lord and cooperate with it.

The Virgin Birth

This is utterly inconceivable in human terms but not for God. But that Mary was, is and remained a virgin after the birth of Jesus points to two realities: Jesus is the Son of God and has Mary for his mother. When God invites us to work with Him, divine grace does not destroy but rather perfects our human nature (Saint Thomas Aquinas).

The Immaculate Conception

That Mary was conceived without sin and remained unstained by sin throughout her life only indicates the power of God’s grace, given to us through and in Jesus Christ. In the “natural” plane, no one could affect any influence on the past. But in the “supernatural” plane, God’s grace in Christ flows not just in the present but also overflows in the past and in the future. Mary stands as a witness that God’s grace knows not the boundaries of time and space.

Mary’s Intercession

The Miracle at Cana (John 2:1-12) shows us two things: That Mary is the mother who shows concern for all her children. Her maternal voice is so effective that her Son, Jesus, hears it. For these reasons, Catholics have the courage to ask Mary our Mother to intercede, that is, to pray for us, her adopted sons and daughters in Christ.

How Can We Live Like Mary?

1. Be attentive to the Word of God as it comes to us in the Scriptures and in the Tradition of the Church. Allow it to grow in us. We may not find ourselves having to carry Jesus in our womb but we are invited to carry Jesus in our hearts and to give birth to him in the goodness of our thoughts, words, and actions.
2. Be attentive to Jesus Christ. As Christians, we are those who are like Christ. It is important that we encounter Jesus as a person in the Gospels, in our personal prayer, in the sacrifice of the Mass, and in one another. In as much as Jesus is true God, we encounter in him our very personal God. And in as much as Jesus is true man, we find in him our true selves — something that Adam and Eve failed to comprehend and achieve. Mary’s rosary is a concrete way of walking with Mary through the life of her Son, Jesus.
3. Be attentive to one another. We are a family: we have God as our Father, Jesus as our brother, and Mary as our mother. We live in communion and so it must “supernaturally” come to us to help one another — be it in the form of material assistance or spiritual help as in praying to God for one another.

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**Christmas PARTY**

**O'NEILL  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
CHRISTMAS PARTY**  
Sunday— Dec 17<sup>th</sup>—5:00pm.  
Serving chicken noodle soup and chili and cinnamon rolls.  
Santa will be there for the kids.

*Advent*

**FAMILY ADVENT BINGO**  
Cards available in the entryway of churches. Return to the parish offices (by Dec. 29th) with a BINGO for a prize, BUT you are challenged to get a BLACKOUT. If you start on Dec. 1st and do one activity a day, you will finish on Dec. 24th. All BLACKOUT BINGO cards will go into a drawing for a **GRAND FAMILY PRIZE!**

**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 December and early January:

December 6th - regular class + + + + December 13 - Christmas Party!

December 20th - NO CLASS + + + + December 27th - NO CLASS

January 3rd - NO CLASS

We will be doing the Advent Wreath Decorating Contest again. Families who are interested in participating can reach out to Whitney. More info will go home with students soon.

**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 Nov. 21st)

	AAA 2023-24 Goal	Participation Goal
Sacred Heart Parish-Boyd County	\$8046.64	\$13,172.50 54%
St. Joseph—Amelia	\$3285.00	\$3,600.65 54%
St. Joseph—Atkinson	\$8050.00	\$12,084.74 29%
St. Patrick—O'Neill	\$34635.23	\$47,022.39 30%
St. Boniface—Stuart	\$6145.00	\$ 8,604.44 39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$60,161.87</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 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!

**YOUTH GROUP**

SCHEDULE

7pm

Grade School Basement

October 25

November 8  
November 15  
November 29

December 6  
December 13  
(Christmas Party in the SMH Commons)

THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL  
By Hans Christian Andersen (1846)

It was terribly cold and nearly dark on the last evening of the old year, and the snow was falling fast. In the cold and the darkness, a poor little girl, with bare head and naked feet, roamed through the streets.

It is true she had on a pair of slippers when she left home, but they were not of much use. They were very large, so large, indeed, that they had belonged to her mother, and the poor little creature had lost them in running across the street to avoid two carriages that were rolling along at a terrible rate. One of the slippers she could not find, and a boy seized upon the other and ran away with it, saying that he could use it as a cradle, when he had children of his own. So the little girl went on with her little naked feet, which were quite red and blue with the cold.

In an old apron she carried a number of matches, and had a bundle of them in her hands. No one had bought anything of her the whole day, nor had anyone given her even a penny. Shivering with cold and hunger, she crept along; poor little child, she looked the picture of misery. The snowflakes fell on her long, fair hair, which hung in curls on her shoulders, but she regarded them not. Lights were shining from every window, and there was a savory smell of roast goose, for it was New-year's eve—yes, she remembered that.

In a corner, between two houses, one of which projected beyond the other, she sank down and huddled herself together. She had drawn her little feet under her, but she could not keep off the cold; and she dared not go home, for she had sold no matches, and could not take home even a penny of money. Her father would certainly beat her; besides, it was almost as cold at home as here, for they had only the roof to cover them, through which the wind howled, although the largest holes had been stopped up with straw and rags. Her little hands were almost frozen with the cold.

Ah! perhaps a burning match might be some good, if she could draw it from the bundle and strike it against the wall, just to warm her fingers. She drew one out—"scratch!" how it sputtered as it burnt! It gave a warm, bright light, like a little candle, as she held her hand over it. It was really a wonderful light. It seemed to the little girl that she was sitting by a large iron stove, with polished brass feet and a brass ornament. How the fire burned! and seemed so beautifully warm that the child stretched out her feet as if to warm them, when, lo! the flame of the match went out, the stove vanished, and she had only the remains of the half-burnt match in her hand.

She rubbed another match on the wall. It burst into a flame, and where its light fell upon the wall it became as transparent as a veil, and she could see into the room. The table was covered with a snowy white table-cloth, on which stood a splendid dinner service, and a steaming roast goose, stuffed with apples and dried plums. And what was still more wonderful, the goose jumped down from the dish and waddled across the floor, with a knife and fork in its breast, to the little girl. Then the match went out, and there remained nothing but the thick, damp, cold wall before her.

She lighted another match, and then she found herself sitting under a beautiful Christmas tree. It was larger and more beautifully decorated than the one which she had seen through the glass door at the rich merchant's. Thousands of tapers were burning upon the green branches, and colored pictures, like those she had seen in the show-windows, looked down upon it all. The little one stretched out her hand towards them, and the match went out.

The Christmas lights rose higher and higher, till they looked to her like the stars in the sky. Then she saw a star fall, leaving behind it a bright streak of fire. "Someone is dying," thought the little girl, for her old grandmother, the only one who had ever loved her, and who was now dead, had told her that when a star falls, a soul was going up to God. She again rubbed a match on the wall, and the light shone round her; in the brightness stood her old grandmother, clear and shining, yet mild and loving in her appearance.

"Grandmother," cried the little one, "O take me with you; I know you will go away when the match burns out; you will vanish like the warm stove, the roast goose, and the large, glorious Christmas tree." And she made haste to light the whole bundle of matches, for she wished to keep her grandmother there. And the matches glowed with a light that was brighter than the noon-day, and her grandmother had never appeared so large or so beautiful. She took the little girl in her arms, and they both flew upwards in brightness and joy far above the earth, where there was neither cold nor hunger nor pain, for they were with God.

In the dawn of morning there lay the poor little one, with pale cheeks and smiling mouth, leaning against the wall; she had been frozen to death on the last evening of the year; and the New-year's sun rose and shone upon a little corpse! The child still sat, in the stiffness of death, holding the matches in her hand, one bundle of which was burnt. "She tried to warm herself," said some. No one imagined what beautiful things she had seen, nor into what glory she had entered with her grandmother, on New Year's day.



## ST. PATRICK'S CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Would you like to help decorate the church for Christmas?

You can make a donation to purchase poinsettias or other Christmas decorations, and have it in your loved ones' honor or memory.



Envelopes are available at the church or parish office, or just call the parish office for more details @ 336-1602.



THE O'NEILL MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

## A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

SUNDAY DECEMBER 17TH @ 7:00 PM

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH O'NEILL, NE

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE COMMUNITY CHOIR?



# CHRISTMAS CLOSET DONATIONS

**NEW AND GENTLY USED ITEMS TO BE RE-GIFTED AT THE CHRISTMAS CLOSET MONDAY DECEMBER 11 5:30PM**

**O'NEILL COMMUNITY CENTER FINAL DONATION DAY - FRIDAY DECEMBER 8TH**

GIFT IDEAS INCLUDE:  
TOYS, GAMES, HOME DECOR, KITCHEN ITEMS, JEWELRY, SCARVES AND GLOVES, TOOLS, NEW CLOTHES WITH TAGS, STATIONERY ITEMS, CHRISTMAS ITEMS, NEW BLANKETS, CLEAN STUFFED ANIMALS, BABY ITEMS- ANYTHING YOU WOULD GIVE A LOVED ONE!

FOR QUESTIONS OR TO VOLUNTEER CALL RANELL OTTE 402.340.1751 OR CHRIS YATES 402.336.6202

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:



1st—Mass @ Parkside Manor—2:00 p.m.—Stuart  
3rd—RCIA Make-up Day (if needed) @ 4:00 p.m.—O’Neill (SMHS)  
4th—KC Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.—Stuart  
5th—Catholic Daughters Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.—O’Neill  
6th—Eucharistic Adoration—2-6 p.m.—St. Patrick’s—O’Neill  
6th—Religious Ed Classes/Youth Group Meet  
7th—Immaculate Conception Vigil Masses (see times elsewhere in this newsletter)  
8th—Immaculate Conception Masses (see times elsewhere in this newsletter)  
10th—RCIA @ 4:00 p.m.—O’Neill—(SMHS)  
11th—Christmas Closet/Soup Supper—5:30 p.m.—O’Neill Community Center  
11th—4th Degree KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Atkinson  
12th—Mass @ Good Sam—10:00 a.m.—Atkinson  
13th—Eucharistic Adoration—2-6 p.m.—St. Patrick’s—O’Neill  
13th—Religious Ed Classes/Youth Group Meet  
13th—KC Meeting @ 8:00 p.m.—O’Neill  
14th—St. Mary’s PreK/Preschool Christmas Program  
14th—Altar Society Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.—O’Neill (SMC)  
14th—St. Mary’s Grade School Program—7:00 p.m.  
17th—RCIA @ 4:00 p.m.—O’Neill—(SMHS)  
17th—KC Christmas Party @ 5:00 p.m.—O’Neill  
17th—Community Lessons & Carols—7:00 p.m.  
18th—Eucharistic Adoration—St. Boniface—Stuart—6-8 p.m.  
20th—Eucharistic Adoration—2-6 p.m.—St. Patrick’s—O’Neill  
20th—Mass @ Butte Senior Living Center—3:15 p.m.—Butte  
20th—Finance Committee Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.—St. Patrick’s—O’Neill  
24th—Christmas Eve Masses (see times elsewhere in this newsletter)  
25th—CHRISTMAS DAY—Masses (see times elsewhere in this newsletter)  
25th/26th—Parish Offices Closed  
27th—Eucharistic Adoration—2-6 p.m.—St. Patrick’s—O’Neill  
31st—New Year’s Eve  
31st—Solemnity of Mary Vigil Masses (see times elsewhere in this newsletter)  
January 1st—Solemnity of Mary Masses (see times elsewhere in this newsletter)



## 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.

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS

Heavenly Father,  
Bless this Christmas  
season and have our  
hearts draw closer  
to your son, Jesus.  
Amen

THINKABOUTSUCHTHINGS.COM

## 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.



From everyone at the offices of the Catholic Parishes of Western Holt & Boyd Counties—have a safe and splendid holiday season! We look forward to great things in 2024!

## PARISH OFFICES CLOSURES:

December 22nd—Closing at 1 p.m.

December 25th—Closed all day

December 26th—Closed all day

December 29th—Closing at Noon

January 1st—Closed all day

January 2nd—Closed all day



# STAY IN TOUCH WITH ALL THAT IS GOING ON IN OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES—JOIN FLOCKNOTE!

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**SACRED HEART OF BOYD CO.**

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**ST. BONIFACE—STUART**

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**ST. JOSEPH—ATKINSON**

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**HOLT BOYD CATHOLIC**

## ST. JOSEPH—ATKINSON

**ADVENT BABY SHOWER**


A baby basket will be set  
in the vestibule for  
baby items  
for 4 weeks.  
Sponsored by the  
SJ Altar Society



**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

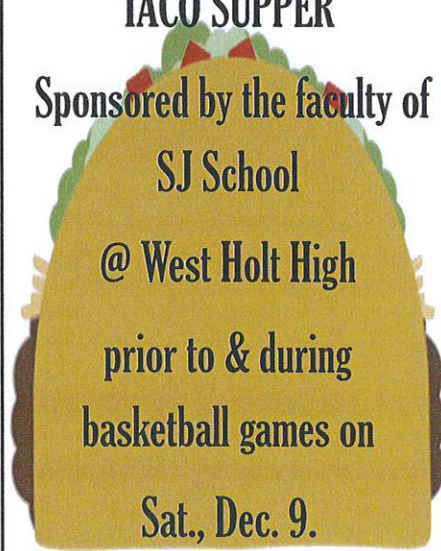
Wed., Dec. 6—7pm  
@ St Joseph Church.

Refreshments will be  
served following the  
program at the  
elementary school.



**TACO SUPPER**

Sponsored by the faculty of  
SJ School  
@ West Holt High  
prior to & during  
basketball games on  
Sat., Dec. 9.



# SACRED HEART OF BOYD COUNTY

On November 1st the Ss. Peter and Paul 5th and 6th grade students studied about Plenary Indulgences and their requirements.


We were determined to gain partial indulgences this year, and are making plans to work on full indulgences next year, then we put our knowledge to work by praying in church for those we had lost this past year.

AND then heading out to the cemetery to pray for our loved ones and the souls in Purgatory.

We visited family and friends graves, and shared stories.

Char stopped back to church on the 2nd to pray the Our Father and recite the Creed to complete our partial indulgences.

~ Submitted by Char Mitchell



**HOW TO GAIN INDULGENCES FOR SOULS IN PURGATORY.**  
*A brief outline on how to obtain a plenary indulgence for the Holy Souls in Purgatory*

**Plenary indulgences for the Poor Souls**  
 Six General rules for obtaining a plenary indulgence:

- 1.) State of grace at least when performing the indulgenced act
- 2.) Complete detachment from sin, even venial sin
- 3.) Confession (20 days before or after the indulgenced act)
- 4.) Communion (20 days before or after the indulgenced act)
- 5.) Prayers for the Supreme Pontiff (20 days before or after the indulgenced act)

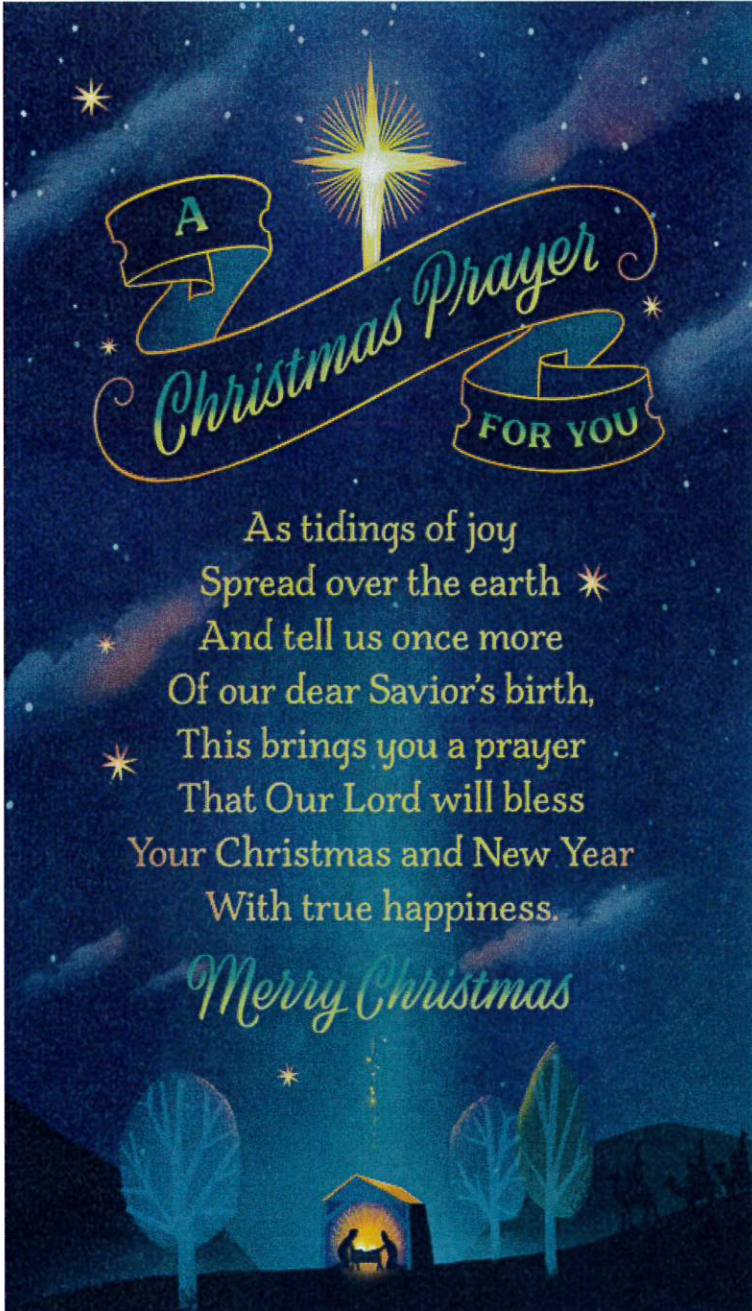
**Indulgenced act; a special good work with special conditions of place and time**  
 Indulgenced acts to be performed for obtaining a plenary indulgence:

- 1.) From November 1 to 8: visit of a cemetery with mental prayer for the poor souls.
- 2.) On November 2: visit of a church or an oratory with one Our Father and one Creed being recited.

A partial indulgence can be obtained any time by visiting a cemetery and praying for the Poor Souls. The following prayer is especially recommended:

REQUIEM AETERNAM DONA IIS, DOMINE. ET LUX PERPETUA LUCEAT IIS. REQUIEScant IN PACE. AMEN.	ETERNAL REST GRANT TO THEM, O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM. MAY THEY REST IN PEACE. AMEN.
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**A Christmas Prayer FOR YOU**

As tidings of joy  
 Spread over the earth \*  
 And tell us once more  
 Of our dear Savior's birth,  
 This brings you a prayer  
 That Our Lord will bless  
 Your Christmas and New Year  
 With true happiness.

*Merry Christmas*



St. Mary's—Spencer—Religious Ed classes assembled shoe boxes filled with gifts for Operation Christmas Child.

## ST. PATRICK'S PARISH AUCTION SENDS THANKS

To everyone for helping make the 2023 Fall Auction such a HUGE SUCCESS!  
A Big Shout Out to: the Auction Committee, the auctioneers, the volunteers,  
the KCs, the Altar Society, the donors and everyone that participated and  
purchased the day of the auction.

Thanks!

The total net profit:

**\$157,847.81**

*Thank You*

*thank you!*

## ST. JOSEPH—ATKINSON—PARISH AUCTION

Thank you so very much to ALL of the people that  
helped make the 2023 Parish Auction successful.

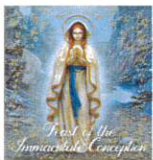
The total as of 11-19-2023:

**\$94,939.81**

*"Everything, absolutely everything . . .  
got started in Him and finds its purpose in Him."*

*~ Colossians 1:16*

### HOLY DAY MASS SCHEDULE



### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION VIGIL MASS DECEMBER 7TH

6:30 p.m.—SHBC

Ss. Peter & Paul—Butte

7:00 p.m.—St. Boniface—Stuart

\*\*\*\*\*

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS DECEMBER 8TH

8:10 a.m.—St. Patrick—O'Neill

8:15 a.m.—St. Joseph—Atkinson

7:00 p.m.—St. Joseph—Amelia

7:00 p.m.—St. Patrick—O'Neill

### THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD—VIGIL OF CHRISTMAS

#### DECEMBER 24TH

4:00 p.m.—SHBC—St. Mary's—Spencer

4:00 p.m.—St. Joseph—Atkinson

6:00 p.m.—St. Boniface—Stuart

6:00 p.m.—St. Patrick—O'Neill



### THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD—CHRISTMAS DAY

#### DECEMBER 25TH

12:00 a.m. (Midnight)—St. Patrick—O'Neill

9:00 a.m.—St. Joseph—Atkinson

10:30 a.m.—St. Patrick—O'Neill

11:15 a.m.—St. Joseph—Amelia

### 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