

SHARING OUR NEWS



MAY 2026



The Catholic Parishes of Western Holt and Boyd Counties



Assumption BVM – Lynch ● St. Boniface – Stuart ● St. Joseph – Amelia
Ss. Peter and Paul – Butte ● St. Joseph – Atkinson ● St. Patrick – O’Neill
St. Mary – Spencer

MASS SCHEDULES

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday:

St. Boniface – Stuart – 5:00 p.m.
St. Patrick – O’Neill – 5:00 p.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:

St. Joseph – Atkinson – 9:00 a.m.
St. Patrick – O’Neill – 10:30 a.m.
St. Joseph – Amelia – 11:15 a.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 Mass Times

Monday:

St. Boniface – Stuart – 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday:

St. Patrick – O’Neill – 5:15 p.m.
St. Boniface – Stuart – 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday:

(*School Masses subject to change)

*St. Patrick – O’Neill – 8:10 a.m.
*St. Joseph – Atkinson – 8:15 a.m.
SHBC Rotation

Thursday:

St. Patrick – O’Neill – 7:00 a.m.

Friday:

St. Patrick – O’Neill – 7:00 a.m.
St. Joseph – Atkinson – 8:15 a.m.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Roman Catholic Parishes of Western Holt and Boyd Counties are diverse communities of faith that welcome all people to continually encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Christ through prayer, word, and action.





MINISTRY OF PRAISE
A Word from Deacon Roger Filips

REFLECTION: “DID NOT OUR HEARTS BURN WITHIN US?”

Road to Emmaus (Luke 24) • May 2026

On Easter evening, two disciples walk away from Jerusalem toward Emmaus—carrying disappointment, confusion, and a grief that feels final. Their words say it all: “We had hoped.” They had trusted Jesus to redeem Israel, and then they watched Him die. Even reports of an empty tomb can’t yet break through the weight of loss. If we’re honest, many of us know that road: when prayer feels dry, when a diagnosis arrives, when relationships fracture, when we bury someone we love, or when we find ourselves again in the same old sin and wonder whether anything is changing.

Here is the hope of the Emmaus story: it’s precisely on that road that the Risen Jesus draws near. He doesn’t shame the disciples or keep His distance. He comes alongside them, listens, and walks with them. Then, before they recognize Him, He opens the Scriptures—showing how God’s promises, from Moses through the prophets, lead to the Messiah. That order matters. In the Church’s worship, the Word prepares our hearts before we meet Christ in the breaking of the bread. The readings are not a warm-up; God’s Word softens what has grown hard and awakens what has fallen asleep.

Still, even with “burning hearts,” their eyes remain closed. When they reach the village, Jesus seems ready to continue—but He waits to be welcomed. God does not force Himself upon us. And so they pray a simple, powerful prayer for every hard season: “Stay with us.” Jesus accepts the invitation, sits at table, takes bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to them—and in that moment they recognize Him. Emmaus becomes one of the clearest Gospel windows into the Eucharist: humble and hidden, yet truly present.

Then Jesus vanishes—not to abandon them, but to teach them a new way of finding Him: come to the altar; come to the table. This is why Mass matters: Word and Sacrament, Scripture and Eucharist—Christ staying with His Church. And the encounter never ends with us. The disciples rise at once and return to Jerusalem, even into the darkness, because grace becomes proclamation. As we gather, may this be our prayer: Stay with us, Lord—in Your Word and at Your table. And may we discover, again and again, that He has been with us the whole time.

Visit www.SpiritualWorksPress.com to learn how to purchase my catechism book to learn more.



Until next month . . . Deacon Filips

IN LOVING MEMORY

EDWARD "MIKE" MICHAEL GLEESON, JR.

November 15, 1949 - December 12, 2025

St. Patrick - O'Neill

JOAN TURNER

April 21, 1943 - March 30, 2026

St. Patrick - O'Neill

DORIS BRACHLE

November 3, 1959 - April 6, 2026

St. Patrick - O'Neill

RONALD BOETTCHER

August 26, 1944 - April 13, 2026

St. Patrick - O'Neill

Burial:

CAROLYN (COBB) JANSEN

January 5, 1938 - December 9, 2025

St. Joseph - Atkinson



WELCOME TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

EVE ELIZABETH KELLY

Daughter of Matthew & Sarah Kelly

March 28, 2026

St. Patrick - O'Neill

NAOMI MARIE KOLAR

Daughter of Nicholas & Katie Kolar

April 18, 2026

St. Boniface - Stuart

MARISOL MARIE TAPIA

Daughter of Armando Tapia-Casados &

Amy Schmitz

April 19, 2026

St. Patrick - O'Neill



CONGRATUATIONS TO THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR CATHOLIC PARISHES

OCIA 2026

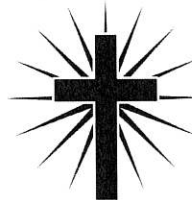


HUNTER ALDER

St. Patrick - O'Neill

ABBY CRONIN

St. Patrick - O'Neill



MARIANA MONTES

St. Patrick - O'Neill

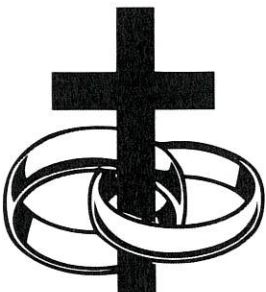
BRANDON ROMERO

St. Patrick - O'Neill

CODY JOHNSON

SHBC - St. Mary's - Spencer

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY MARRIED



JORDYN LAIBLE AND LOGAN MCCONNELL

April 18, 2026

St. Joseph - Atkinson

FIRST COMMUNIONS CELEBRATED



ST. JOSEPH – ATKINSON
April 19, 2026

Aurora Austria Nava
Coy Butterfield
Sophia Epley
Jaya Farewell
Charilie Frickel
Jackson Gotschall
Hadley Havranek
Zuri Jackson
Zane Jeffrey
Rory Lieswald
Rhett Millikan
Ella Oligmueller
Hazel Ruzek
Josie Schaaf
Gianna Slaymaker
Felipe Suarez
Emman Timmerman
Alyssa Welborn



ST. BONIFACE – STUART
April 25, 2026

Savannah Kohle
Rylee Olberding
Kaizley Schaaf
Ana Vazquez



Dear Lord,
we thank You and praise You for
the most precious gift of the
Holy Eucharist.
We ask You to bless all those
who have received Your
Body and Blood for the
first time.
You have provided for us richly
through the gift of Your
Body and Blood. Help them to
grow in love for You each
day of their lives.
Help them to always appreciate
the great gifts You have given us
all for our salvation.
In Jesus name we pray,
Amen.

ST. PATRICK – O'NEILL
April 25th & 26th

Tuck Boyle
Rhett Callison
Eleonor Calvo
Trake Chohon
Alonso Hernandez
Humaya Hernzndez
Camila Jimenez
John Koelzer
Axel Kohlman
Scarlet Larsen
Kaden Mahony
Kollins Mathine
Juaquin Montes
Emery Nolan
Mason Novak
Mack Ollendick
Jose Romero
Johanna Santillan
Kord Sibbel
Bonne Sladek
Benton Wecker
Knox Woodward



ST. JOSEPH – AMELIA
May 3, 2026

Finley DeVries
Rhett Hoffman
Brynnlee Tomjack

STUART PUBLIC SCHOOL

May 16, 2026

CECELIA ADDISON

Daughter of Jay & Sarah Addison

CAMERON KAUP

Son of Lucas & Abby Kaup

KAYDE RAMM

Son of Justin & Megan Ramm

DREW SCHMADERER

Son of Jon & Jennifer Schmaderer

MATTHEW YEMMA

Son of Jake & Shea Olberding

2026
class of

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

WEST HOLT PUBLIC SCHOOL

May 10, 2026

ANUL CHAVEZ

MONICA CHAVEZ

MAREK DVORAK

ZEKE KLABENES

ANEL MONASTERIO

KELLEN MONASTERIO

AVERY NEMETZ

MADALYN PISTULKA

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

May 10, 2026

THIAGO ARGENTINA

Son of Flavio & Claudia Argentina

Host Parents: Jacob & Tara Soukup

SAMANTHA ASCHE

Daughter of Paul & Jennifer Asche

LANE BYBEE

Son of Rob & Laura Kliesen

MYLES HAMILTON

Son of Jason & Desiree Hamilton

GAGE HEDSTROM

Son of Jim & Lisa Hedstrom

RAMSEE HOFER

Daughter of Jason Hofer & Karlee Hofer

ELLE HOFFMAN

Daughter of Preston & Jenna Hoffman

RUGER KRAFT

Son of Gert Shannahan

BRAYDEN KRUGMAN

Son of Tim and Falycia Krugman

WILL MEYER

Son of Susan Curran-Morrill

EMERSON MLNARIK

Daughter of Josh & Lisa Mlnarik

ANNA OTTE

Daughter of Matt & Ranell Otte

LASHANNA WERTH

Daughter of Monte & LaDonna Werth

GRACIE WILLIAMSON

Daughter of Curt & Autumn Williamson

LAUREN WINKELBAUER

Daughter of Matthew & Erika Winkelbauer

AUBREY WOHLERT

Daughter of Kris and Becky Wohlert

CHAMBERS PUBLIC SCHOOL

May 9, 2026

SAVANNAH HANSEN

Daughter of Tad & Kimberly Hansen

SUMMERLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL

May 9, 2026

LEAH WIESE

Daughter of Roger & Regina Wiese

O'NEILL PUBLIC SCHOOL

May 9, 2026

TOMAS ARCINIEGA

Son of Luis Arciniega & Maria Lopez

EDEN CALVO DIAZ

Daughter of Victor Calvo Menes and Marlen Diaz Aguilar

MOLLIE CORKLE

Daughter of Bryan & Becky Corkle

BRENNA DAVIS

Daughter of Tim & Nikki Davis

TAYA DICKAU

Daughter of Elvin & Brandi Dickau

TURNER HEISS

Son of Mitch & Amanda Heiss

BRODY JAKUBOWSKI

Son of Mike & Cindy Jakubowski

ANELA JIMENEZ

Daughter of Jacinto & Asiyadeth Jimenez

BRANDON ROMERO

Son of Jose Romero & Brenda Galindo

JENNA SCHNEIDER

Daughter of Todd & Joy Schneider

RYLEE SELBY

Daughter of Benny & Diane Selby

BOYD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

May 9, 2026

ASHLYNN FINNEGAN

Daughter of Jared & Alyse Finnegan

MAZEE JOHNSON

Daughter of Troy & Elizabeth Johnson

ALEX LECHTENBERG

Son of James & Jackie Lechtenberg

DAWSON PELC

Son of Darrin & Stacey Pelc
Guardians: Kevin & Ashley Pelc



Rejoice always,
Pray without ceasing,
In everything *Give Thanks*:
For this is the will of
God in Christ Jesus
for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

2ND ANNUAL LENTEN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Year Two Highlights

The second annual Women's Conference was once again a success. This year, 73 participants registered and 68 attended. Because the event was held in O'Neill, we anticipated a slight increase in attendance compared to last year in Spencer (67 registered, 61 attended).

We are deeply grateful for the support of the Catholic community of O'Neill. The Knights of Columbus made a significant cash donation, and the Catholic Daughters also contributed generously to help cover conference costs.

Our speaker was Sister Mary Jo Polock from Sacred Heart Monastery in Yankton. She had three different sessions with the theme "*A Desert Journey of the Heart*". These talks dealt with forgiveness, finding our way to God, and finding fruit in the "deserts" of our lives. All of these discussions were related to our Lenten journeys.

Anne Mohr also gave a short presentation on the "Seven Sisters Apostolate." This is an apostolate that will hopefully be starting in our parishes in the near future. This apostolate has 7 committed women pray one holy hour, every week for our priests.

A new addition this year was a conference store, which was very well received. St. Boniface generously took on the responsibility for operating the store; proceeds will remain with St. Boniface, as the conference does not plan to absorb that ongoing expense.

Each year we learn more about what works best, and planning continues to become easier. We are building a significant balance in our account from dish cloth sales, donations, and conference profit. The plan is to spend that on a big-name speaker and/or a couple's conference in the future. The conference will continue to rotate through our family of parishes. Next year's conference will be in Atkinson on February 27th. Mark your calendars.

Thank you again for the opportunity to help bring this conference from a dream to reality. We would welcome the chance to meet and discuss future plans.

With gratitude: special thanks to Fr. Burkhalter for offering confessions for an hour and a half.

Submitted by Ann Filips



The West Holt and Boyd County Evangelization would like to thank all the women that attended the second annual women's conference in March. Thank you to our speakers Sister Mary Jo Polok and Ann Mohr, BK catering and all the generous donors that made it possible. Thank you to all the people that helped put it on and for all the hard work behind the scenes.

FUNNY MOM STORIES THAT PROVE MOTHER ALWAYS KNOWS BEST

“I Know CPR!” – My mother had just finished taking a CPR class at a local college when she and I were in the mall and saw a big crowd gathered around a still body. Mom took off running at a speed I didn’t know she could muster, yelling, “Everyone back! I know CPR!” Just as she threw herself next to the body and was about to begin, a pair of strong hands pulled her to her feet. “Ma’am,” said a police officer beside her, “we are trying to arrest this man.”—Talea Torres

Weight loss contest – Mother and I were discussing our mutual weight problem one evening when I challenged her to a contest: If I lost the most weight in the next month, I wouldn’t have to pay her the \$6 that I owed her. If she lost the most weight, I would have to pay up. “All right,” Mom agreed, “but let’s wait two weeks before we start. There are some things I have to eat first.”—Irene Lane

Age is just a (made-up) number – My friend Emily and her mother bumped into an old family acquaintance on the street. “Is this your daughter?” the woman asked. “I remember her when she was this high! How old is she now?” Without pausing, Emily’s mom said, “24.” Emily, 35, nearly fainted on the spot. When the woman left, Emily asked her mom why she told such a whopper. “Emily,” her mother replied, “I’ve been lying about my age for so long, it suddenly dawned on me that I’d have to start lying about yours too.”—Robert Lee Whitmire

Time for Botox – “Keep making that face, and it’s going to freeze that way,” was what my mother used to say to us as kids. I knew times had changed recently when she caught my sister scowling and warned, “Keep making that face, and you’re going to need Botox.”—Mary Bouck

DIY drama – Mom had a small decorative windmill in her yard. A storm broke one of the blades, causing the windmill to shake violently. Dad announced that he would “take care of it” and rebalanced the windmill by snapping off the opposing blade. Watching him, Mom remarked, “I hope I never break a leg.”—Gerald Loffredo

Mom on gardening – I can’t tell the difference between a rose and a dandelion. So when it came time to fix up my garden, I had no clue which plants to keep and which ones to remove. Until, that is, my mother gave me this handy tip: “Pull them all up. If it comes back, it’s a weed.”—Cy Coggins

An anti-smoking PSA – A couple of hours into a visit with my mother, she noticed I hadn’t lit up a cigarette once. “Are you trying to kick the habit?” “No,” I replied, “I’ve got a cold, and I can’t smoke when I’m not feeling well.” “You know,” she observed, “you’d probably live longer if you were sick more often.”—Ian A. Hammel

Leave a message after the beep – My mother, a master of guilt trips, showed me a photo of herself waiting by a phone that never rings. “Mom, I call all the time,” I said. “If you had an answering machine, you’d know.” Soon after, my brother installed one for her. When I called the next time, I got her machine: “If you are a salesperson, press one. If you’re a friend, press two. If you’re my daughter who never calls, press 911 because the shock will probably give me a heart attack.”—Susan Starace Balducci

Wake-up call – I was sound asleep when the telephone jarred me awake. “Hi!” It was my peppy mother-in-law. She proceeded to rattle on about the busy day she had ahead and all the things that awaited her the rest of the week. “Mom,” I interrupted. “It’s five in the morning.” Her response: “Really? What are you doing up so early?”—Roseanne Sorcinelli

Car trouble – As we pulled into the parking lot, we saw a couple of people looking under the hood of their car. Concerned, Mom wondered aloud, “Do you think they have a flat tire?”—Barbara Hedden

When you become your mother – On our way to my parents’ house for dinner one evening, I glanced over at my 15-year-old daughter. “Isn’t that skirt a bit short?” I asked. She rolled her eyes and gave me one of those “oh, Mom” looks. When we arrived at my folks’ place, my mother greeted us at the door, hugged my daughter, then turned to me and said, “Elizabeth! Don’t you think that blouse is awfully low-cut?”—Elizabeth Scott

WHAT MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME

My mother taught me **TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE:**

"If you're going to kill each other, do it outside – I just finished cleaning!"

My mother taught me **RELIGION:**

"You better pray that will come out of the carpet."

My mother taught me about **TIME TRAVEL:**

"If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"

My mother taught me **LOGIC:**

"Because I said so, that's why."

My mother taught me **FORESIGHT:**

"Make sure you wear clean underwear in case you're in an accident."

My mother taught me **IRONY:**

"Keep laughing, and I'll *give* you something to cry about."

My mother taught me about the science of **OSMOSIS:**

"Shut your mouth, and eat your supper!"

My mother taught me about **CONTORTIONISM:**

"Will you *look* at the dirt on the back of your neck!"

My mother taught me about **STAMINA:**

"You'll sit there 'til all that spinach is finished."

My mother taught me about **WEATHER:**

"It looks as if a tornado swept through your room."

My mother taught me how to solve **PHYSICS PROBLEMS:**

"If I yelled because I saw a meteor coming toward you, would you listen then?"

My mother taught about **HYPOCRISY:**

"If I've told you once, I've told you a million times – Don't exaggerate!!!"

My mother taught me **THE CIRCLE OF LIFE:**

"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out."

My mother taught me about **BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION:**

"Stop acting like your father!"

My mother taught me about **ENVY:**

"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do!"



THANKS MOM!

Honor her for all that
her hands have done,
and let her works
bring her praise at the
city gate.

PROVERBS 31:31





Pray for our May Seminararian of the month

My name is **Brian Johnson**, and I am a member of Saint Ludger Parish in Creighton, Nebraska. It is a beautiful parish with a great family atmosphere. Family is very important to me. Some of my favorite things to do include being with family, playing sports, staying active, enjoying nature, watching movies, and spending time with Jesus.

Approaching the end of my days as a high school student, I took some time to really think about how I can best serve the Lord, and He came into my heart and flooded me with guidance, reassurance, and His friendship. Long ago, God placed a desire in my heart to help others. There are many beautiful ways to help others, but God did not give me peace in the pursuit of becoming an engineer or a math teacher, as I had intended. I came to realize that the most important way I could help others is spiritually. After all, what is more important than salvation? It became clear I was meant to go to the seminary. The idea of studying and living at St. John Vianney Seminary filled my heart with joy and my stomach with excitement. My hope was that I would be able to find brothers to discern with and to grow closer to the Lord as He shapes me, and He has done just that.

I advise anybody who is considering joining the seminary to cast off the fear, hesitation, and doubt that will try and close your heart off from the Lord. Simply be willing to answer the call the Lord has for you, wherever it may lead, and spend lots of time with the Lord, and He will take care of the rest. Our Blessed Mother is a powerful ally in discernment, as well. You always have a family in Christ.

God is good, all the time!

"For I know the *plans* I have for you,"

declares the LORD,

"plans to *prosper you* and not to harm you,

plans to give you *hope and a future.*"

JEREMIAH 29:11

ST. PATRICK - O'NEILL

GREETERS & USHERS NEEDED



We are in need of more greeters & ushers to be included on the regular weekend schedule. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our parish. You can let us know whether you would prefer Saturday or Sunday, as well as upcoming conflicts. Our goal is to get enough of them that you would be scheduled approximately once a month. Students & families are welcome! Contact the Parish Office to volunteer. 402-336-1602

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE NOTICE

Our daily mass schedule during the month of May is a bit different, so be sure to check the calendar.

Please note the first 2 weeks:

Tuesday May 5 - 5:15 pm Mass

Wednesday May 6 - 7 am Mass

Thursday May 7 - 8:10 am All School Seniors Recognition Mass

Friday May 8 - 7 am Mass

Tuesday May 12 - 5:15 pm Mass

Wednesday May 13 - 7 am Mass

Ascension of the Lord Thursday May 14 - 8:10 am All School Mass, 7 pm Mass

Friday, May 15 - 7 am Mass

After this, daily mass will return to regular schedule of 5:15 pm on Tuesdays and 7 am on Wednesdays through Fridays.



**MIND WORTHY HOSTS
THIRD ANNUAL
DALTON ALDER
MEMORIAL WALK**



Open to all—honoring loved ones, supporting mental health, and finding support together.

Location: O'Neill Track & Field

Date: Saturday, June 6th

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



- Free Will Donation Meal
- Silent Auction
- Free Mental Health Resources
- Counselor & Community Connections
- Luminaries
- Memorial Wall

Submit a photo for the memorial wall—no attendance required.

Questions? Contact: **Presley Pribil** (402-340-0942)

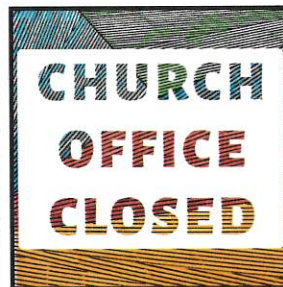
Hailey Scofield (402-961-9141) **Denise Pribil** (402-340-7016)

Follow us for more info: @mind_worthy_

COR MEN'S GROUP STARTING

The O'Neill Knights of Columbus Men's group COR is starting a new series called "Spiritual Warfare: The Battle Within". In this series, we'll dive into the reality of the spiritual battle we face every day and how to fight it as Catholic men. Through powerful video teachings, Scripture, and real discussion, we'll cover topics like temptation, discipline, prayer, the Sacraments, and how to protect yourself and your family. This is about the daily fight for your soul, your family, and your purpose as a man of God.

This new series starts Sunday, May 17th at 7pm at the KC Hall in O'Neill and will meet every other Sunday. All men are welcome. To join, please contact Ben Doolittle (402.336.6335) or see the Bulletin for more information.



**PARISH OFFICE
CLOSED**

MEMORIAL DAY

MONDAY, MAY 25

Enjoy the start of
summer!

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL – O'NEILL

Dear Friends and Family of St. Mary's,

Over the years, we have been blessed by the generosity of so many people who have continued to support St. Mary's School and its faith-based education. Your financial support of our Scholarship & Catholic Education Grant Program has enabled us to continue to provide a quality, Christian education at an affordable level, by assisting with tuition expenses for many of our students and families. Will you help another student continue their education at St. Mary's? If you would like to direct your gift specifically to a certain academic area, you can indicate that below. We ask that this form and the money be in to the parish office May 6, 2026 so that it can be recognized at our awards program on May 13th.. If you'd like to give online, or see more details about the specifics of this program, please visit stmarysoneill.org/support.

Through this program, as well as three larger estates that have been established in previous years, we have been able to offer tuition assistance to many of our families, both for academic excellence (scholarships) and for those who are in need of financial assistance (grants). Last year, \$19,100 was given to students as scholarships, and over \$40,000 was given in the form of grants.

We will present the awards to our students at the academic awards program in mid-May. All donors will be listed in the program. It really is a wonderful way to honor a loved one through a gift to this program.

Once again, on behalf of our school, administration, staff, and school families, thank you very much for your support of St. Mary's Scholarship and Catholic Education Grant Program. Your financial gifts are deeply appreciated by our students and parents. Please contact Jennifer Wallwey with any questions 402-336-1602.

Donor(s) Name _____

_____ I would like to give \$_____ towards **SCHOLARSHIPS** for St. Mary's students.

_____ I would like to give \$_____ towards **GRANTS** for St. Mary's students.

_____ I would like to give \$_____ to be used as most needed for St. Mary's students tuition offset.



Given in honor of: _____

Given in memory of: _____

Preference of scholarship subject area - cannot be guaranteed: _____

Checks should be made to St. Mary's Scholarships & Grants.

*Please submit all gifts for scholarships and grants to the Development Director. All gifts are tax deductible.
St. Patrick's Parish Center, Attn Jennifer, 313 E. Hwy 20, O'Neill NE 68763*

ST. MARY'S WISH LIST

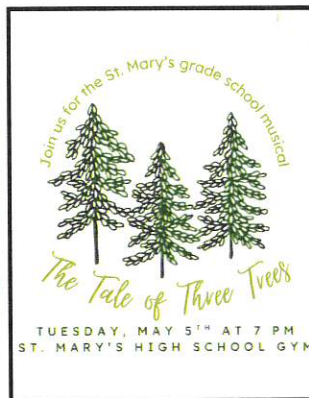
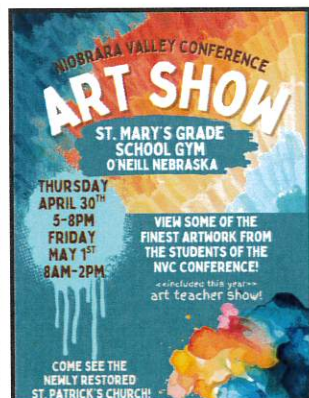
The Saint Mary's wish list is one way you can help to offset the costs of some of our "wishes" that aren't included in the regular budget. The wish list supplies a large amount of our 'extra' expenses for school and students that go beyond the basic budget for curriculum. We are currently working on fulfilling 2 needs:

- A second omnidirectional microphone & stand for the church due to our larger high school choir & grade school classes. (\$800)
- Building up a technology fund for ongoing expenses including chromebooks, accessories, upgrades, etc. (This would be a great place to direct memorials as well!)

Please contact Jennifer at jmwallwey@archomaha.org or 402-336-1602 to make a donation to help offset either of these expenses or make a general contribution. Or go online to stmarysoneil.org/wish-list

SPIRIT ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Copies of the April 2026 Alumni Newsletter are available to pick up at the back of St. Patrick Church, St. Patrick Parish Office, or can be found online at www.stmarysoneill.org/spirit-newsletter



Prayer to End a School Year
 God of wisdom,
 we thank you
 for all the gifts you have given us
 throughout this school year.
 We praise you for giving us life,
 for saving us in Christ,
 and for choosing us to be your people.

As we come to the end of this school year,
 we voice our gratitude
 for the good things you have done in us,
 and we praise you for all who have shared
 in the work of this school.

We ask you to bless them in your love
 and give them refreshment and peace.
 We praise you, God,
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
 who lives and reigns forever and ever.
 Amen.

Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers Revised Edition 1992B

WHAT IS EVANGELIZATION?

The simplest way to say what evangelization means is to follow Pope Paul VI, whose message *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (On Evangelization in the Modern World) has inspired so much recent thought and activity in the Church. We can rephrase his words to say that evangelizing means bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation and seeking to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself. At its essence are the proclamation of salvation in Jesus Christ and the response of a person in faith, which are both works of the Spirit of God.

Evangelization must always be directly connected to the Lord Jesus Christ. "There is no true evangelization if the name, the teaching, the life, the promises, the Kingdom and the mystery of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God are not proclaimed."

Source: <https://www.usccb.org>

We are all called to be evangelists and that looks different for each individual person. There are various opportunities to help evangelize in our parishes: leading Bible studies, Welcome and Bereavement committess, teaching in the Religious Ed programs, joining a Reach More training, and many more. The opportunities are only limited to your imagination. Open your heart and your mind to doing MORE for your parish. Contact Jan Kunz (402.340.2303 or jmkunz@archomaha.org) for more information.

Continued next month.....

ST. JOSEPH - AMELIA

Savannah Hansen, daughter of Tad and Kim Hansen, is a senior at Chambers High School and will Graduate May 9. After graduation she plans on attending Northeast Community College and major as a Physical Therapy Assistant. Congratulations and best wishes as you start the next chapter of your life.

OACCW SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Rev. Bernard Starman, Rev. Ross Burkhalter, Parishioners of St. Patrick and Western Holt and Boyd Counties' Parishes' Family:

Greetings from the Omaha Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (OACCW)! We are happy to announce that St. Mary's high school senior/St. Patrick Church parishioner Lauren Winkelbauer has been selected as the Omaha Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women (OACCW) 2026 Scholarship Winner. She was chosen as the winning applicant of the Rural Northwest Deanery, which is one of six deaneries represented in this year's OACCW scholarship selection process. Her application was then forwarded to OACCW for a chance at more scholarship monies.

We extend our congratulations to Lauren on her achievements, but especially in her faith life. We also thank her parents Matthew and Erika Winkelbauer, St. Mary's Literature/Journalism teacher Christina Spader who wrote a letter of recommendation, Rev. Bernard Starman and Rev. Ross Burkhalter, and the parish of St. Patrick for having a part in this young woman's faith life. We had a very difficult time choosing only one recipient, but we commend all the young women who applied and won in their respective Deaneries. If our world is in their hands, we have great faith they will do many good things. May God bless them all!

Any individuals or women's groups that would like to assist OACCW with future scholarship dollars so that we can increase the amount awarded, are urged to contact Kim Estes, 2025-2026 OACCW Scholarship Chair at 87671 467th Ave., Stuart, NE 68780 or phone 402-340-2866. We would love to have you partner with us to help these young women financially in their educational endeavors.

In Christ,

Kim Estes, 2025 and 2026 OACCW Scholarship Chair



St. Mary's presented "Were You There?"

The narrative drama featured the Passion Story from the view of different people who were present at Christ's passion and death. CYO read about their questions, comments and concerns, while the CCD portrayed the characters in this moving presentation.

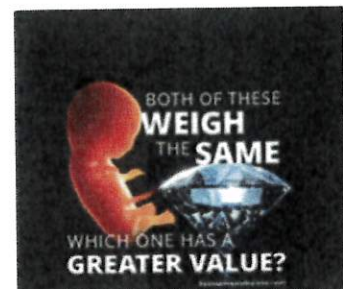
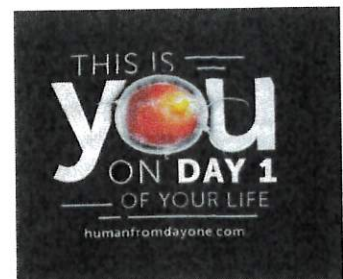


Sacred Heart Students Spread the Pro-life Flame That Was Ignited at the Nebraska Walk for Life

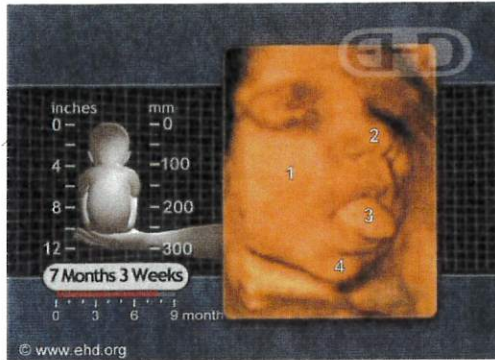
CYO students from Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Mary's partnered with Boyd Holt Right to Life and Human From Day One to sell t-shirts to communicate a message of respect for the humanity of unborn children.

After picking up t-shirts from the Human from Day One booth at the Walk for Life, they developed a plan to sell shirts that would be worn by students on the same day at school.

Boyd Holt RTL coordinated the purchase of shirts from Human From Day One out of Lincoln. This group focuses on exploring and learning about human development and communicating respect for human life at all stages. It uses logic and reason when standing up for life. Their magazine 'We Teach Think' is meant to encourage readers to examine assumptions and stimulate meaningful dialogue. It is available on-line. Boyd Holt RTL is exploring billboard options of the t-shirt designs.

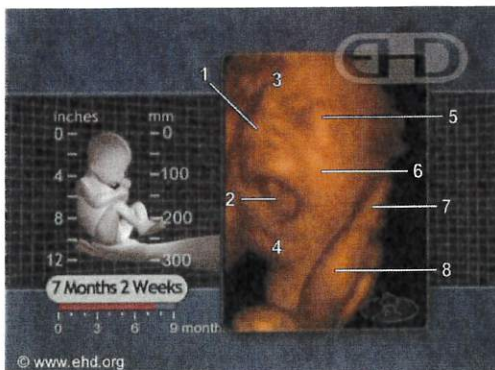


Spiritual Adoption ... 7 months already!



- Label Key:
1. nose
 2. mouth wide open
 3. forehead
 4. chin
 5. left eye
 6. cheek
 7. left hand
 8. left forearm

At week 28, your baby only has about 12 weeks to go until birth! Your baby keeps gaining weight to prepare for life outside of the womb, and his or her head is growing very quickly to make room for his or her quickly-growing brain! Other organs are being fine-tuned, as well – baby can now smell, and he or she can distinguish between high and low pitched sounds.



- Label Key:
1. cheek
 2. nose
 3. tongue
 4. chin

Heavenly Father, we love you very much. I/we beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby I/we have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.

Boyd County KCs Award Three Pro-life Artists in Local Contest

Each year, students in St. Mary's CCD create a poster to be entered in the annual Knights of Columbus pro-life prayer card contest. The Boyd County KCs choose three to forward on to the state competition. This year's winners recently received a check from the KCs. Next year's pro-life prayer card will feature the state winner.



Pancake Benefit for Nebraska Wildfires held in Boyd County

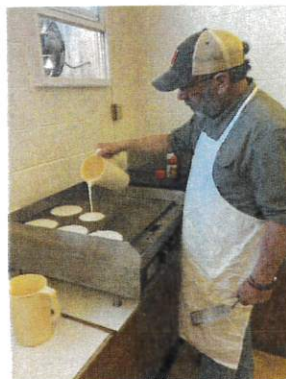
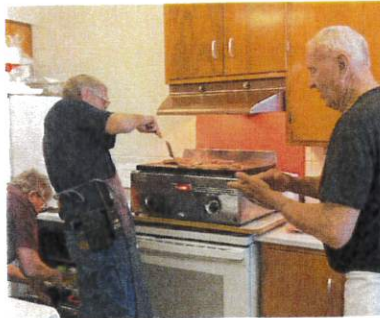
Sunday's Pancake Benefit was another step in the Knights of Columbus effort to help victims of the wildfires in western Nebraska.

The KCs teamed up with St. Mary's Altar Society to raise funds at a Pancake Benefit. Over 175 generous diners contributed \$7,957 on Sunday. The Knights and Altar Society thank everyone for their generosity!!!

Prior to Sunday, the Knights had already trucked 196 bales of hay 3,000 miles with the help of Isaac Koenig and Cody Bernt. The O'Neill Knights of Columbus had donated \$2,500, and the Stuart Council had donated \$500 in support of the effort.

The Knights stress that there have been many additional donors in Boyd County who have given money, hay, and time towards their relief efforts. Their next goal is to get fencing materials to those in need.

Grand Knight John Thiry shared that he had called 27 ranchers/farmers offering help, and 22 turned it down, asking that it be given to "someone more in need". John said it was quite moving to have people look beyond their own significant losses, and want to pass the help to someone else whose losses were greater.



ST. JOSEPH - ATKINSON



**THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
MASS SCHEDULES
(HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)**

Ascension Vigil Mass - May 13

St. Mary's - Spencer - 6:30 p.m.
St. Boniface - Stuart - 7:00 p.m.

Ascension Mass - May 14

St. Patrick - O'Neill - 8:10 a.m.
St. Joseph - Atkinson - 8:15 a.m.
St. Patrick - O'Neill - 7:00 p.m.
St. Joseph - Amelia - 7:00 p.m.

Memorial Day Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father,

With a sober heart we come before You this Memorial Day. We pause for a moment and call to mind all the men and women who have died in the service of our nation since 1776.

Dear God, please look with mercy on our brave and selfless brothers and sisters, who did not shirk from their task but gave themselves completely to the cause of defending and protecting us all. Bless all who have given their lives for the sake of liberty, and grant them eternal rest with You.

We remember also our brave men and women now serving in our Armed Forces, both at home and abroad. Dear God, send out Your angels to protect them all. Help them discharge their duties honorably and well. Please bring them safely home to their families and loved ones. Please bring Your peace and mercy to our troubled world.

We ask this, Father, in the name of Jesus, Your Son.
Amen.



St. Joseph School Kindergarten and 8th-grade graduation will take place on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at the 9:00 AM Mass. Eighth-grade graduates are Lainey Skrdla, Taylor Slaymaker, Jameson Dvorak, and Brody Borer. Kindergarten graduates are: Middle row: Gianna Slaymaker, Riggs Lieswald, Levi Nelson, and Jace Jeffrey. Front row: Archer Vogel, Kensington Runyan, and Stratton Troidl. Congratulations, graduates!

St. Joseph School presents
**ART SHOW
&
PROJECT DISPLAY
OPEN HOUSE**
at St. Joseph Elementary School
May 5th: 4:00-6:00 PM
May 6th: Following the 8:15 AM Mass



ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL GOALS:

PARISH:	RECEIVED:	GOAL EXCEEDED!	FUND GOAL:	PARTICIPATION GOAL:
Sacred Heart-Boyd County	\$13,938.27	GOAL EXCEEDED!	\$13,435.95	54%
St. Boniface-Stuart	\$9,635.00	GOAL EXCEEDED!	\$8,776.53	39%
St Joseph-Amelia	\$4,453.94	GOAL EXCEEDED!	\$3,672.66	54%
St Joseph-Atkinson	\$12,341.06	GOAL EXCEEDED!	\$12,326.43	29%
St Patrick-O'Neill	\$41,318.33		\$47,963.00	30%
Total: As of 3/24/2026	\$81,686.60		\$86,174.57	41%

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
jmkunz@archomaha.org
Dcn Roger Filips
rfilips@archomaha.org

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

Office: 313 E Hwy 20, 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—nmtomjack@archomaha.org

Business Manager: Cheleigh Sholes—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

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—charlotttehuckmitchell@gmail.com

St. Joseph—Atkinson

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—stjohndr@gmail.com

Phone: 402-340-0741

St. Boniface—Stuart

PO Box 190 Stuart, NE 68780

Phone: 402-924-3262 or 402-924-3803

Hours: Monday – Wednesday – Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Director of Ministries/Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Jan Kunz—jmkunz@archomaha.org or jankunz9@gmail.com

Phone: 402-340-2303

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.org
flocknote.com



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st – Mass @ Parkside – 2:00 p.m. – Stuart
- 3rd – 1st Communion – Amelia
- 3rd – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 4th – KC Meeting – 7:30 p.m. – Stuart
- 5th – Catholic Daughters Mtg – 7:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 6th – Prayer Partner Revelation – 7:00 p.m. – Stuart
- 7th – CCW Mtg – 7:00 p.m. – Butte
- 9th – Chambers, Summerland, O’Neill Boyd County Graduations
- 10th – MOTHER’S DAY
- 10th – Senior Honor Sunday – 9:00 a.m. – Atkinson
- 10th – St. Mary’s Graduation
- 10th – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 11th – 4th Degree KC Meeting – 7:30 p.m. – O’Neill
- 12th – Mass @ Good Sam – 10:00 a.m. – Atkinson
- 12th – Parish Council Mtg – 7:00 p.m. – Atkinson
- 13th – Ascension Vigil Mass (See times/places elsewhere in newsletter)
- 14th – Ascension Mass (See times/places elsewhere in newsletter)
- 16th – Stuart Graduation
- 17th – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 17th – COR Men’s Group – 7:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 18th – KC Mtg – Butte
- 19th – Parish Council Mtg – 7:00 p.m. – Stuart
- 20th – Mass @ Evergreen – 3:15 p.m. – O’Neill
- 20th – Finance Council Mtg – 7:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 23rd – St. Boniface Spring Shindig – 6:00 p.m. – Stuart
- 24th – St. Mary Altar Society Mtg – 9:00 a.m. – Spencer
- 24th – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 25th – MEMORIAL DAY
- 25th – Memorial Day Mass – 9:00 a.m. – Stuart
- 28th – Ladies Guild – 2:00 p.m. – Stuart
- 31st – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 31st – COR Men’s Group – 7:00 p.m. – O’Neill

A PRAYER TO BEGIN SUMMER

For more light in the day, we thank you,
 For gentle mornings, we thank you,
 For nighttime conversations,
 we thank you,
 For friends and family,
 we thank you,
 For gardens and all manner of creatures,
 we thank you.
 Help us, Creator and lover of our souls.

Help us love this earth.
 Help us dwell wholeheartedly in our lives
 this day.
 Help us pray as we walk, work, play, rest,
 and create.

Amen.

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The newsletter is available on the last full 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 at:
 jkunz@holtboydcatholic.org or jankunz9@gmail.com



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

holtboydcatholic.org

You will find . . .

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

SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO

