

Communicatio Nostri Nuntium

Sharing Our News—JUNE 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

*7:00 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

Summer Blessing for Families

May we make our homes places of relaxation,
joy, love, peace and safety.
May we be generous and considerate,
not thinking only about ourselves,
but helping others enjoy the blessings of the summertime.

Lord God, Creator of all things,
guide our steps and strengthen our hearts
during these months of summer and vacation days.
Grant us refreshment of mind and body.
May we constantly strive to make a meaningful difference
in the lives of our loved ones and in the world around us
as we enjoy the warm days of summertime.

-The Catholic Review



MINISTRY OF PRAISE—A WORD FROM DEACON FILIPS

Greetings Fellow Prayer Warriors!

This time of year, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, or Corpus Christi. To understand Corpus Christi, we must understand the pascal mystery. The pascal mystery is one of the fundamental doctrines of the church that we are all familiar with but maybe do not know or understand as well as we should.

The Pascal Mystery is the intentional passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus ...according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God. It is Jesus' taking our sins onto Himself and then dying to pay for them. This is what it means to say he died for our sins. The more we love, the more we are willing to suffer. To love perfectly, Jesus had to die.

In the Old Testament law, every head of household had to offer a sacrifice for his own and his family's sins. First, the Jewish man would put his hand on the head of the unblemished, perfect lamb. This symbolized the lamb taking on the family's sin. Then the lamb's throat was cut, killing it on the altar. The lamb's sacrifice was payment for the family's sins for that year.

We no longer need the blood sacrifice of tens of thousands of animals; Jesus only had to die one time to pay for all of man's sins for all of eternity, because He was the "perfect sacrifice" He is God. This is what we mean when we say Jesus is the "Lamb of God." John the Baptist said "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

We have an opportunity to participate in, and contribute to, Jesus' sacrifice at every Mass. Towards the end of the Eucharistic prayers at Mass, after the bread becomes the body and the wine becomes the blood, when the bells ring, and then there are prayers for us and the church, then Father lifts the host and chalice together, or if a deacon is serving, together they lift the body and blood, the priest is offering Jesus' passion and death for our intentions.

This is the moment that you can attach your little and imperfect sacrifices to Jesus' infinite and perfect sacrifice, and it is all offered to the God the Father by the priest. Jesus allows you to participate in the salvation of the world. Not because He can't do it himself, but because He loves us and allows us to participate in His work. This is how you and I can contribute to the salvation of the world.

This month lets pray for the success of the upcoming Eucharistic Congress and for greater Eucharistic devotion, including among those who do not go to the Congress. Following is the next selection on the Mass from my book "Pearls of the Universal Church" available from www.spiritualworkspress.com

Liturgy of the Eucharist in three movements:

1. The altar is prepared, the collection is taken. The money represents time and effort, the first fruits of which we offer back to God as a sacrifice, The gifts of bread and wine representing the fruit of the earth are brought to the altar while a hymn is sung. The Priest asks that all of our gifts be an acceptable sacrifice to the Father. We can also offer all of our personal sacrifices here to the Father, such as our daily work and our sufferings.
2. The Priest exhorts us to pray.
3. Movement #1, the Priest consecrates the sacrament of Holy Eucharist to make Jesus present; The Eucharistic Prayer is the highlight of the entire Mass. It includes the "epiclesis" where the Priest asks that the gifts become the body and blood of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit and the Consecration narrative recalling the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper.
4. Movement #2, we offer Jesus back to the Father as a perfect sacrifice with our smaller sacrifices attached; For the oblation the Priest (and Deacon if available) elevate the host and chalice asking the Father to accept the sacrifice of His Son, and our very selves, along with our joys, sorrows, and sufferings, so we can be brought into closer unity with God.
5. The Priest prays for the Church, both living and dead members, our Pope and Bishop, and anyone the Mass is especially offered for.
6. We sing or recite the Lord's Prayer and doxology. The usual posture is to fold your hands in the traditional manner. While other postures are also seen in many places these are not sanctioned in the Roman Missal, but are accretions added to the Mass. These innovations include holding hands and lifting the arms while praying, imitating the Priest's posture. The people should never hold up their arms to pray in Mass because this posture belongs to the authority of the Priest alone.
7. We exchange the Sign of Peace, usually a handshake, sometimes a hug, kiss, or wave.
8. Movement #3, we share a communal meal to renew our covenant with God and each other; The Priest, Deacon, and all other Catholics in good standing and of the proper age receive the Eucharist while a hymn is sung. Note, because a Catholic Eucharist is not just a shared, symbolic meal, but a sacrament of the Catholic Church, only Catholics without mortal sin, who have been prepared for first Eucharist may receive. Because it is the actual body and blood of Jesus, anyone receiving who does not believe it is Jesus' body commits sacrilege, or abuse of a sacrament. If that person does believe it is Jesus, he/she needs to be instructed in the faith and received into the Church so they can receive ASAP.

To be continued...



In Loving Memory ...

BURIALS

May 4, 2024

JOAN MARY GILMORE

8-30-1930—11-15-2011

St. Joseph—Atkinson

SAMUEL D. WATTERS

12-24-1951—06-13-2014

St. Joseph—Atkinson

JERRY P. WALLINGER

July 22, 1941—May 12, 2024

St. Boniface—Stuart

JOHN "JACK" TIELKE

January 3, 1932—May 18, 2024

St. Boniface—Stuart

What is a Dad?

A Dad is a person
 Who is loving and kind,
 And often he knows
 What you have on your mind.
 He's someone who listens,
 suggests, and defends
 A dad can be one
 of your very best friends;
 He's proud of your triumphs,
 but when things go wrong,
 A dad can be patient
 and helpful and strong.
 In all that you do,
 a dad's love plays a part
 There's always a place for him
 deep in your heart
 And each year that passes,
 you're even more glad,
 More grateful and proud
 just to call him your dad!
 Thank you Dad...
 for listening and caring,
 for giving and sharing,
 but, especially, for just being you.

Author Unknown



Congratulations to the newly married ...

Caitlyn Reiser & Jesse Cline

May 11, 2024

St. Patrick—O'Neill



Julia Emme & Peyton Stewart

April 27, 2024

St. Patrick—O'Neill



Eva Garcia & Sergio Cabrera

May 18, 2024

St. Patrick—O'Neill

JUNE—THE MONTH DEDICATED TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

June is known as the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus most simply because the solemnity of the Sacred Heart is celebrated during this month. This year, the solemnity falls on June 16. The date changes each year because it is celebrated on the Friday after the Corpus Christi octave, or the Friday after the second Sunday after Pentecost.

However, other reasons exist as to why June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart.

The feast dates back to 1673, when a French nun who belonged to the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary (Visitandines) in eastern France began to receive visions about the Sacred Heart.

Jesus appeared to Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque and revealed ways to venerate his Sacred Heart and explained the immense love he has for humanity, appearing with his heart visible outside his chest, on fire, and surrounded by a crown of thorns.

These different ways include partaking in a holy hour on Thursdays and the reception of the Eucharist on the first Friday of every month.

Jesus told Sister Margaret Mary: “My Sacred Heart is so intense in its love for men, and for you in particular, that not being able to contain within it the flames of its ardent charity, they must be transmitted through all means.”

These visions continued for 18 months.

On June 16, 1675, Jesus told Sister Margaret Mary to promote a feast that honored his Sacred Heart. He also gave Sister Margaret Mary 12 promises made to all who venerate and promote the devotion of the Sacred Heart.

He said: “I ask of you that the Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi be set apart for a special feast to honor my heart, by communicating on that day, and making reparation to it by a solemn act, in order to make amends for the indignities which it has received during the time it has been exposed on the altars. I promise you that my heart shall expand itself to shed in abundance the influence of its divine love upon those who shall thus honor it, and cause it to be honored.”

Sister Margaret Mary died in 1690 and was canonized by Pope Benedict XV on May 13, 1920.

These are the promises the Sacred Heart of Jesus made to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque:

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life.
2. I will give peace in their families.
3. I will console them in all their troubles.
4. I will be their refuge in life and especially in death.
5. I will abundantly bless all their undertakings.
6. Sinners shall find in my heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Tepid souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall rise speedily to great perfection.
9. I will bless those places wherein the image of my Sacred Heart shall be exposed and venerated.
10. I will give to priests the power to touch the most hardened hearts.
11. Persons who propagate this devotion shall have their names eternally written in my heart.
12. In the excess of the mercy of my heart, I promise you that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who will receive Communion on the first Fridays, for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance: they will not die in my displeasure, nor without receiving the sacraments; and my heart will be their secure refuge in that last hour.



Apparition of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

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Sacred Heart of Boyd Co.
68722

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68780

St. Joseph—Atkinson
68713

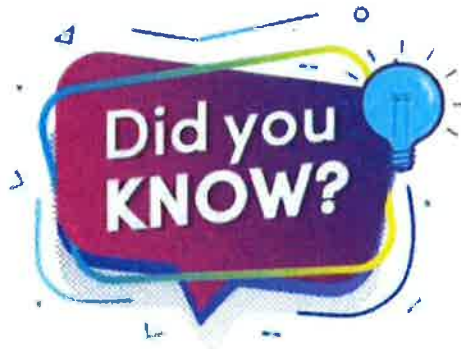
OR

HOLTBOYDCATHOLIC
(for information from ALL parishes)

TO

84576

or connect online at:
holtboydcatholic.flocknote.com



TUNE IN AND TURN IT UP!

Spirit Catholic Radio
broadcasts Father Starman's Mass on
Thursdays
@
10:30 a.m.

KC Fish Fry



Sunday— June 2

5:00—8:00 p.m.



Atkinson—KC Hall



ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Good News! The *On the Shoulders of Giants* campaign continues to showcase the generosity of our St. Patrick and St. Mary's community. The Lavigne Family Foundation hand-delivered their matching gift of \$200,000 to Father Starman, and we have officially met our Celebration Goal, which covers the preservation aspects of the church building projects.

Volunteers continue to reach out. If a volunteer is trying to reach you, please make time to meet with them; if you have a pledge card, please complete it, and return it to the parish office.

For more information on the capital campaign, visit StPatO'Neill.org/capital-campaign. Questions? Call Jennifer Wallwey at 402-336-1602 or Kim Guyer at 402-517-5832.

ICE CREAM

Last week, I took my children to a restaurant. My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads, he said, "God is good. God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if mom gets us ice cream for dessert. And liberty and justice for all! Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice cream! Why, I never!"

Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?" As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table.

He winked at my son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer." "Really?" my son asked. "Cross my heart." Then, in a theatrical whisper he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, I bought my kids ice cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his for a moment and then did something I will remember for the rest of my life. He picked up his sundae and, without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the woman.

With a big smile, he told her, "Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

GOD'S WINGS

An article in National Geographic several years ago provided a penetrating picture of God's wings. After a forest fire in Yellowstone National Park, forest rangers began their trek up a mountain to assess the inferno's damage. One ranger found a bird literally petrified in ashes, perched statuesquely on the ground at the base of a tree.

Somewhat sickened by the eerie sight, he knocked over the bird with a stick. When he gently struck it, three tiny chicks scurried from under their dead mother's wings. The loving mother, keenly aware of impending disaster, had carried her offspring to the base of the tree and had gathered them under her wings, instinctively knowing that the toxic smoke would rise.

She could have flown to safety but refused to abandon her babies. When the blaze had arrived and the heat had scorched her small body, the mother had remained steadfast.

Because she had been willing to die, those under the cover of her wings would live.

"He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge." - Psalm 91:4

Dalton Alder Memorial Walk

Registration DUE June 5th!!

Location: O'Neill Track

Date: Saturday, June 22, 2024

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

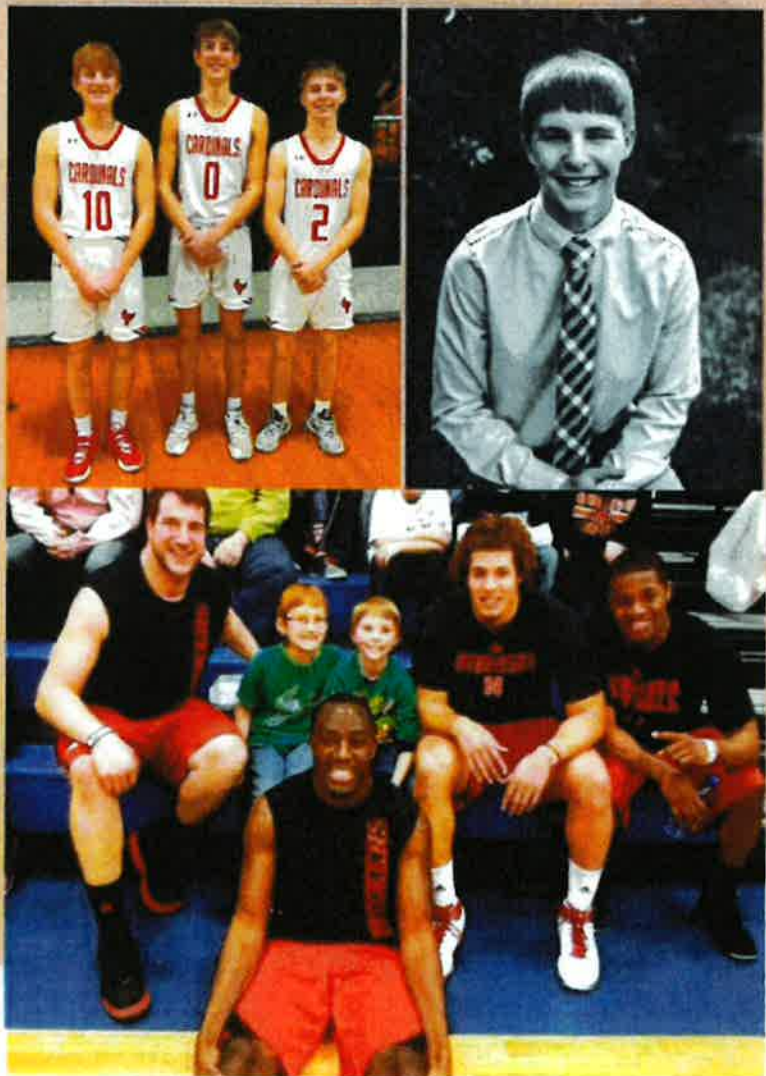
For help registering/donating, contact:

Presley Pribil at (402) 340 - 0942 or Tatelyn Smith at 402-382-5650

Be sure to register here!!



Scan here to donate:





CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 2nd—Divine Mercy Chaplet Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 2nd—COR Men’s Group—KC Hall—7:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 3rd—KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Stuart
- 4th—Catholic Daughters Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Evergreen—O’Neill
- 7th—Mass @ Parkside Manor—2:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 7th—St. Joseph School Board Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Atkinson
- 8th—St. Boniface 125th Celebration & Spring Shindig
- 9th—Divine Mercy Chaplet Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 9th—Banish the Darkness—6:00-7:30 p.m.
- 10th—4th Degree KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Atkinson
- 12th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 15th—21st—Totus Tuus in Spencer
- 16th—Father’s Day
- 16th—Divine Mercy Chaplet Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 16th—COR Men’s Group—KC Hall—7:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 19th—Juneteenth
- 19th—Mass @ Butte Living Center—3:15 p.m.—Butte
- 19th—Pastoral Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 19th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—Spencer
- 22nd—23rd—Peter’s Pence Collection
- 23rd—Divine Mercy Chaplet Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 24th—St. Mary Altar Society Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Spencer
- 27th—Ladies Guild—2:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 28th—St. Mary’s Alumni Weekend
- 29th—30th—Mission Co-op Appeal Collection—Stuart, Atkinson, Amelia
- 30th—Divine Mercy Chaplet Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 30th—COR Men’s Group—KC Hall—7:00 p.m.—O’Neill



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



STaubenville YOUTH Conference

This summer, over 50,000 Catholic teens across North America will attend one of 25 Staubenville Youth Conferences to encounter the God who calls us out of darkness and into his marvelous light. Lift your eyes to the glory of God.



Denver, CO @ Gaylord Rockies Resort

JUNE | 21-23 | 2024

Cost: TBD based on number of students attending - it will include: Conference Registration, Housing, and Meals

Contact Jordan with questions, for more information, or to sign up.
jmoser@stjosephatkinson.org

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The newsletter will be available on the last weekend of each month in the entryway of each parish. It will also be available on-line. If you or someone you know would like the newsletter mailed please contact Jan Kunz @ 402-340-2303 or call the Parish Office.

If you have any parish news that you would like in the newsletter, please email Jan Kunz @ jkunz@holtboydcatholic.org or jankunz9@gmail.com.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Dcn MJ Kersenbrock ~ Director of Operations

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Jan Kunz ~ Director of Evangelization & Catechesis

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Dcn Roger Filips

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

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Business Manager: Cheleigh Scholes—crsholes@archomaha.org

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Jennifer Wallwey—jmwallwey@archomaha.org

Youth Director: Bridget Bulau—bbulau@smcards.org

Religious Ed. Coordinator:

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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

BOOK REVIEW



The Gospel According to Video Games

by Jared Dees

Explore Christianity in a whole new way with the help of some of the most popular video games, systems, characters, and more. Accomplished author, speaker, and religious educator, Jared Dees, presents the gospel message in fresh and unexpected perspectives for anyone who has ever played video games.

Experience insights into Christianity based on some of the best video games of all time including *Pong*, *Pac-Man*, *Super Mario Bros.*, *Minecraft*, *Tetris*, *The Legend of Zelda*, *Final Fantasy*, *Pokémon*, *Fallout*, *The Last of Us*, *Red Dead Redemption*, *Animal Crossing*, *Candy Crush*, *Fortnite*, and many more.

Whether you are a dedicated gamer or look with joy upon your video gaming memories, this book will reignite your passion for gaming and rekindle a love for Jesus Christ.

F Always being Forgiving
A Helps protect his family with an Armor of God
T Being a Teacher and being an example
H A Helper in time of need or no need at all
E The memory of a father is Everlasting
R A father is looked up to and also Respected

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Happy Father's Day to all dads on

June 16th

SHBC—ST. MARY'S—SPENCER



St. Mary's Spencer Religious Education youth made and delivered May Baskets to the Lynch, Spencer and Butte communities.



May Crowning in Spencer, St. Mary's Catholic Church by CCD and Preschool youth .

Senior Recognition Mass was held April 28th at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Spencer. Pictured left to right: Nathan Koenig, McKenzie Snyder, Derek Jensen, Hunter Mizner, Deegan Johnson and Fr. Ross. Unable to attend: Lucas Filips.



ST. PATRICK—O'NEILL



- Religious Education ended another successful year. I'd like to give a huge shout out of thanks for all who helped, especially my teachers—Michael Stepp, Steph Nemec, Amy KinKennon and Mary Mlnarik. It's never too early to volunteer to help for next year. Please reach out if interested in teaching or co-teaching.
- Summer Bingo is also going on. Stop by the parish office to pick up a sheet. Prices will be given for a bingo or blackout. This is a great way to stay involved in your faith throughout the summer.
- Plans are underway for Summer Vacation Bible School. Volunteers, adult and high school aged, are needed. Please reach out to Whitney if interested 402-340-9304 or whitney.shaffer7@gmail.com. The dates for VBS are July 22nd—25th.

ST. JOSEPH—AMELIA



On May 5th, Senior Recognition Mass was held at St. Joseph's. The graduates were (l to r in the photos) Carole Homolka, daughter of Jerry Homolka, Jr. and Sandra Homolka and Claire Woeppel, daughter of Jeremy and Ann Woeppel. Also, on that same day, the May Crowning of Mary was done by Sandy Smith.



ST. BONIFACE—STUART



SENIOR RECOGNITION MASS

May 4, 2024

Seniors attending: Front (l to r) Savannah Kramer and Lacey Paxton. Back (l to r) Jonathan Fessler, Cory Gubbels, and Will Paxton. Not pictured: Simon Addison and Andrew Yemma.

2024 PRAYER PARTNER REVELATION

On May 1st, the seniors of Stuart High School gathered in the basement of St. Boniface Church to find out who their year-long prayer partner(s) had been. The students received gifts, smiles, and lots of advice. Punch and desserts were served.



On April 24th the St. Boniface 6th and 7th grade CCD class participated in a service project as part of their Confirmation Prep. The class along with parents cleaned up the landscaping on both sides of St. Boniface Church. The old rock and liner were removed, the ground worked up, new plants placed, and mulch laid on the East side of the church. The kids and parents also cleaned up the rock and grass on the West side of the church. The eventual plan is for all the old rock to be removed, new plants placed and then mulch added for easier upkeep on the West side of the church as well.

The purpose of Service during Confirmation preparation is to demonstrate the close relationship between faith and action. Service helps the confirmation candidates identify, develop, and place his/her gifts and talents at the service of others. During Confirmation Prep the students learn that service projects should be an intentional part of their Christian faith formation from the time of Baptism to the time of Death.

Thank you to the Students and Parents that were able to participate:

Kemberlyn Kohle, Karlee Wolf, Kole Estill, Alex Paxton, Collin Heiser, Mason Kaup, Kyler Schaaf, Truman Addison, Ali Wondercheck and Mac Wallinger, Amy Wolf, Tammy Heiser, Abby Kaup, Amber Schaaf, Sarah Addison, Travis and Tracy Ludwig.

Thank you to all our parents that support our students and our CCD programs by donating your time and talent in so many other ways and by supporting our children through their Confirmation Preparation journey !! ~ Submitted by Tracy Ludwig

St. Boniface Parish

Stuart, Nebraska

125th Anniversary



Spring Skindig

Celebration

SATURDAY

JUNE

8

| 5:00 pm |

Mass with Archbishop George Lucas
Following at the Stuart Auditorium:

| 6:00 pm |

Pork Loin Supper

| 7:00 pm |

Entertainment: MAGIC SHOW

Colorful Magic with Bruce

(Sponsored by Tri-Co Bank & Kaup's Financial)

Throughout the evening:

RAFFLE | SILENT AUCTION | BASKET RAFFLES

HOMEMADE COUNTRY 'CASH & CARRY' STORE

(Food Items Only)

Drawings following the Magic Show

A FAITHFUL FATHER

In the country of Armenia, in 1988, Samuel and Danielle sent their young son, Armand, off to school. Samuel squatted before his son and looked him in the eye. "Have a good day at school, and remember, no matter what, I'll always be there for you." They hugged and the boy ran off to school.

Hours later, a powerful earthquake rocked the area. In the midst of the pandemonium, Samuel and Danielle tried to discover what happened to their son but they couldn't get any information. The radio announced that there were thousands of casualties. Samuel then grabbed his coat and headed for the schoolyard. When he reached the area, what he saw brought tears to his eyes. Armand's school was a pile of debris. Other parents were standing around crying.

Samuel found the place where Armand's classroom used to be and began pulling a broken beam off the pile of rubble. He then grabbed a rock and put it to the side, and then grabbed another one.

One of the parents looking on asked, "What are you doing?" "Digging for my son," Samuel answered. The man then said, "You're just going to make things worse! The building is unstable," and tried to pull Samuel away from his work.

Samuel just kept working. As time wore on, one by one, the other parents left. Then a worker tried to pull Samuel away from the rubble. Samuel looked at him and said, "Won't you help me?" The worker left and Samuel kept digging.

All through the night and into the next day, Samuel continued digging. Parents placed flowers and pictures of their children on the ruins. But, Samuel just kept working. He picked up a beam and pushed it out of the way when he heard a faint cry. "Help! Help!" Samuel listened but didn't hear anything again. Then he heard a muffled voice, "Papa?"

Samuel began to dig furiously. Finally he could see his son. "Come on out, son!" he said with relief.

"No," Armand said. "Let the other kids come out first because I know you'll get me." Child after child emerged until, finally, little Armand appeared. Samuel took him in his arms and Armand said, "I told the other kids not to worry because you told me that you'd always be there for me!"

Fourteen children were saved that day because one father was faithful.



A FATHER'S EYES



Jonathan's mother died when he was very young and his father brought him up. Both of them shared a very special relationship. Jonathan loved to play football and his father made sure that he was always there to cheer his son at every match, even if Jonathan wasn't a part of the playing team. Jonathan being small sized, wasn't allowed to play in the main team. Nevertheless, he continued with his practice with full determination. Everyone thought that Jonathan would never be able to make it into the team, though somehow, his determination carried him through. The coach seeing his diligence and dedication decided to keep him on the roster.

One day during practice, the coach met him with a telegram. Jonathan was shocked to read the message contained in it. Swallowing hard, he mumbled to the coach, "My father died this morning. Will it be all right if I miss practice today?" The coach gently put his arm around his shoulder and said, "Take the rest of the week off, son, and don't even plan to come to the game on Saturday." On the day of the game, Jonathan's college team was losing badly to the rival team. The coach and the players had all lost hope when they saw Jonathan coming towards them. Jonathan ran up to the coach and pleaded him to allow him to play this match. At first, the coach wouldn't allow him to play. However after a lot of persuasion, the coach gave in. No sooner Jonathan joined the team in the field, their scores started to improve before both the teams were on a tie.

However, the real cheer came during the crucial closing seconds when he intercepted a pass and ran all the way for the winning touchdown. His team members were ecstatic. The crowd came running towards him to celebrate the win. After the match, the coach went up to Jonathan, who was seated alone in the corner of the locker room and asked, "Kid, I can't believe it. You were fantastic! Tell me what got into you? How did you do it?" He looked at the coach, with tears in his eyes, and said, "Well, you knew my dad died, but did you know that my dad was blind?" The young man swallowed hard and forced a smile, "Dad came to all my games, but today was the first time he could see me play, and I wanted to show him I could do it!"

Source: <https://www.loveyoufather.com/fathers-day-stories.html>



LET THE SUMMER FUN BEGIN



Cards at St. Patrick's Parish Center and St. Boniface Church. Get a Bingo or a blackout and return to the Parish Center (O'Neill) or DOM office (Stuart) to get your prize!

Play all summer long!

TOTUS TUUS

June 15th—June 21st
St. Mary's—Spencer

Vacation Bible School

Details coming!

July 22nd—July 25th
St. Patrick's—O'Neill

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



raising prayerful kids



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**

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

**Explore all the resources available at
eucharisticrevival.org.**

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



NATIONAL Eucharistic Pilgrimage

Consider being a pilgrim and walking closely with our Eucharistic Lord as we carry the Blessed Sacrament across Nebraska and the nation.

For times, and more events in western Nebraska, go to eucharisticcongress.org or archomaha.org



June 17 & 18 | All Saint Parish in Holdrege

- a fellowship dinner with the Perpetual Pilgrims who are traveling the entire St. Junipero Serra route, and Eucharistic Adoration on June 17. Then, on June 18, Mass and a Eucharistic Procession through Holdrege.

June 18 & 19 | Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Grand Island - a potluck dinner and a time of Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament at the Cathedral of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on June 18, followed by Mass celebrated by Bishop Hanefeldt and a Eucharistic Procession across the Platte River on June 19.

June 18 | St. Michael's Parish in Hastings - Eucharistic Adoration at St. Michael's, followed by a Eucharistic Procession to St. Cecilia's, where Adoration of Jesus will be held again.

June 19 | St. Ann's Parish in Doniphan - Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

June 20 & 21 | Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln - Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament on the evening of June 20 and throughout the night. Then, join us for Mass celebrated by Bishop Conley the morning of June 21, followed by a Eucharistic Procession to the St. John XXIII Diocesan Center.

June 21 | Cloisters on the Platte near Gretna - 5-mile Eucharistic Procession with Bishop Conley and Archbishop Lucas as the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage passes from Diocese of Lincoln into Archdiocese of Omaha.

June 21 | Holy Family Shrine near Gretna - Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament at the historic Holy Family Shrine in Gretna with Archbishop Lucas and Bishop Conley.

June 22 | St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church in Omaha - Mass, followed by a fellowship breakfast with the Perpetual Pilgrims

June 22 | St. Augustine Catholic Church in Winnebago - Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament at St. Augustine Indian Mission, followed by a formal Holy Hour with prayer, music, and reflection.

June 22 | St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Omaha - Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament at St. Wenceslaus Parish in Omaha.

June 23 | St. Cecilia Cathedral in Omaha - Sunday Mass celebrated by Archbishop Lucas at St. Cecilia Cathedral, followed by a Eucharistic Procession to St. John's Parish on the grounds of Creighton University.

June 23 | St. John's Parish at Creighton University in Omaha - Adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament at St. John's Parish at Creighton University, followed by a Eucharistic Procession from Nebraska into Iowa.

Grab some friends and family for a road trip, and join fellow Catholics at one of the Pilgrimage stops throughout Nebraska

**PRO-LIFE BALLOT INITIATIVE CALLED
"PROTECT WOMEN AND CHILDREN" NEEDS SIGNATURES**

"Protect Women & Children" differs from the morally evil pro-abortion proposal (Protect our Rights) launched in November 2023 which you can learn more about at necatholic.org.

The language of the Protect Women & Children proposal states: "Except when a woman seeks an abortion necessitated by a medical emergency or when the pregnancy results from sexual assault or incest, unborn children shall be protected from abortion in the second and third trimester."

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW The three Bishops of Nebraska—through the Nebraska Catholic Conference—stated it is morally permissible for Nebraskans to support the proposed initiative language from Protect Women & Children, for the following reasons:

- The proposal provides constitutional protection for preborn babies during the 2nd and 3rd trimester.
- The proposal leaves protections for preborn babies in the 1st trimester and in cases of rape, incest, or medical emergency to the Nebraska Legislature.
- The proposal does not affect Nebraska's current pro-life law which protects preborn babies at 12 weeks with exceptions for rape, incest, and medical emergency, and it leaves intact countless other health and safety laws passed over the last 50 years to protect women and babies from abortion.

The Bishops further determined that a voter can support the proposal, under the following conditions:

- The voter must understand that all abortion must be opposed, and that direct abortion is never morally acceptable under any circumstances.
- The voter must view this proposal as an incremental step toward full protection of all human life from abortion, and not as a permanent compromise. Supporters must remain committed to the effort of recognizing the right to life of all preborn children. (See **Saint Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life), paragraph 73**)
- The voter must accept that the proposal does not create any right to abortion in the Nebraska Constitution. The Nebraska Legislature remains free to provide greater protection for human life.
- The voter must understand that this proposal is an imperfect alternative to the intrinsically evil pro-abortion ballot initiative proposal launched in November. That pro-abortion ballot initiative cannot be supported under any circumstance and must be rejected.

Mary Haun (402-340-2696) and Jeanie Miller (402-340-5087) have completed training to circulate the petition. They can also train others to collect signatures. Contact them asap to help. Over 125,000 signatures are needed by the end of June.

Explaining the Alternative Pro-Life Ballot Initiative.



Launched by medical professionals, the **Protect Women & Children** ballot initiative would amend the Nebraska state constitution to protect babies in the second and third trimesters. Their proposed language states:

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



Protects Babies



Preborn babies would be constitutionally protected in the second and third trimesters.

The Nebraska Legislature could provide additional protections from abortion for women and babies.



Greater Protections Possible

Maintains Current Protections



Legal and health-related safeguards would remain intact to protect women & children from unsafe and coercive abortion practices. These safeguards include informed consent, parental notification, and license & inspection requirements for abortion facilities.



Can you support this initiative?

Catholics can morally support (sign the petition, volunteer, and vote for) this pro-life measure as a defense against the pro-abortion initiative, understanding and accepting the following:

- + The pro-life initiative does not create a right to abortion.
- + All abortion must be opposed, and direct abortion is never morally acceptable.
- + This is an incremental step toward protection for all innocent life, not a permanent solution or final compromise.

Request a talk on this issue at your parish or organization, provided by the Nebraska Catholic Conference.

Host us



Join in



Scan the QR code to volunteer with us and get involved to help protect women and babies in Nebraska.