



# SHARING OUR NEWS

## SEPTEMBER 2024

### 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

#### Weekend Masses

St. Boniface—Stuart—Saturday @ 5:00 pm  
St. Joseph—Atkinson—Sunday @ 9:00 am  
St. Joseph—Amelia—Sunday @ 11:15 am  
St. Patrick—O'Neill—Saturday @ 5:00 pm and Sunday @ 10:30 am

#### **Sacred Heart of Boyd County:**

##### Saturday:

Week 1: St. Mary's—Spencer @ 7:00 pm  
Week 2: St. Mary's—Spencer @ 7:00 pm  
Week 3: St. Mary's—Spencer @ 7:00 pm  
Week 4: Ss. Peter & Paul—Butte @ 7:00 pm  
Week 5: St. Mary's—Spencer @ 7:00 pm

##### Sunday:

Ss. Peter & Paul—Butte @ 8:00 am  
Ss. Peter & Paul—Butte @ 8:00 am  
Ss. Peter & Paul—Butte @ 8:00 am  
St. Mary's—Spencer @ 8:00 am  
Ss. Peter & Paul—Butte @ 8:00 am

#### MASS SCHEDULES

#### Weekday Masses

##### Monday

5:30 pm—Stuart

##### Tuesday

5:15 pm—O'Neill  
5:30 pm—Stuart

##### Wednesday

\*School Masses subject to change

\*8:10 am—O'Neill  
\*8:15 am—Atkinson  
6:30 pm—SHBC Rotation

##### Thursday

7:00 am—O'Neill

##### Friday

7:00 am—O'Neill  
8:15 am—Atkinson

#### NEW LOGO FOR ALL OF THE PARISHES OF WESTERN HOLT AND BOYD COUNTIES

The above logo incorporates the long history of education within the parishes. The yellow symbolizes cheerfulness, optimism, and intellect, an uplifting spirit color which seems fitting for uniting many parishes into ONE holy family. The layout/spacing/overall look of the hands down with the cross emerging from the Bible is a strong symbolism in the healing, guiding hands of our God that watches over our disciples of the church parishioners and to our disciples of the student body within the Parishes. The cross perfectly placed in the middle of the book presents a vision of the core foundation rooted deep in Christian faith through education and commitment to a lifelong desire to continue to learn and grow in faith. Keep your eye out for it and each time you see it remember that we are all one and stronger together. "We thank Creative Advantages for their generosity, their time, and their talent in creating our beautiful new logo!"



The LORD  
*bless you, and keep you:*

The LORD  
*make his face shine on you,  
and be gracious to you:*

The LORD  
*lift up his countenance on you,  
and give you peace.*

Numbers: 6, 24-26





## MINISTRY OF PRAISE—A WORD FROM DEACON FILIPS

Greetings Fellow Prayer Warriors!

We just came through several weeks of readings from the Eucharistic discourse given in the gospel of John, chapter 6. Our nation also celebrated our first Eucharistic Congress since WW2 this summer in Indianapolis, so let's summarize this important chapter which underpins most of what we understand about the reality of the Eucharist.

In John's Gospel the story starts with Jesus multiplying 5 barley loaves and two fish so that they fed 15-20 thousand people with 12 wicker baskets left over. That is the pre-Eucharistic sign. The next day the crowds catch up to Him and ask for another free meal and Jesus says, "I am the living bread that came down from Heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

The people heard "eat my flesh and drink my blood" and they were grossed out because what they heard was cannibalism. To be fair to them, in the original Greek, as Jesus repeats his command, He did not say "eat" but to "gnaw" or "chew" on my body, so the people were disgusted and most left Him. You will notice that Jesus did not run after them and say "wait wait! I was only speaking metaphorically, like when I said I was a sheepgate, or the good shepherd or the true vine. He let them go because He was not using a symbol here, he was being literal; "Eat my body, Drink my blood".

Even his closest disciples said, "wow, this is a hard saying". Jesus said, "are you leaving me too?" He was challenging them to believe Him. Peter said "Master to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." Good old, simple, not so bright Peter, He is saying that this is hard, and I don't understand it either, but based on what I have seen and heard so far, I believe, because you said so. That was a leap of faith. Jesus always makes us take a leap of faith to be with Him. Just because we have to take that final leap of faith does not mean that there isn't good evidence that Jesus is really present, body and soul in the Eucharist. Open a bible to the Gospel of John and read all of chapter 6 again.

This month lets pray again for the missionary spreading of the fruits of the Eucharistic Congress and for greater Eucharistic devotion, especially in our parishes. Following is the continuation of the chapter on Protestantism from my book "Pearls of the Universal Church" available from [www.spiritualworkspress.com](http://www.spiritualworkspress.com)

Protestants find themselves on a different path for many reasons including the following:

- They are born into it, raised in it, and never really questioned it (just like we might never have really questioned our own faith yet).
- Pride and rejection of Catholic teaching (usually on moral issues that interfere with the person's preferred sin).
- Erroneous instruction and prejudice.

Protestants in the past contributed much to this world:

- They were the first vocal opponents of slavery.
- They were the first to embrace capitalism and democracy as the path to human advancement.
- Most of America's founding fathers were Protestant. They understood the spirit of independence promoted by Protestantism and built it into this new country. Independence and individual liberty work much better as a secular, national principal than as a theological principal for a Church.
- Many Protestants were and are fervent Christians who truly love God.
- Many Protestants have died as martyrs in defense of Christianity, and many more are still dying today in hostile countries.

Despite Protestantism's best intentions, it has one fatal flaw; it rejects the authority of the magisterium of the Catholic Church as the descendants of Christ's apostles and the accumulated Sacred Tradition of the Church. Most Protestants believe in Sola Scriptura. Sola Scriptura means that everything one believes must come from the Bible alone. They reject the Pope, Bishops, and 2000 years of Sacred Tradition.

Until next month . . . Deacon Roger Filips



**In Loving Memory . . .**

**ROBERT "LEW" MUELLER**

July 14, 1948—July 29, 2024  
St. Joseph—Amelia

**HELEN ADAMS**

July 1, 1939—August 2, 2024  
St. Boniface—Stuart

**KATHY NICHOLS**

April 12, 1952—August 3, 2024  
St. Patrick—O'Neill

**ALICE FAHRENHOLZ**

February 4, 1939—August 10, 2024  
St. Boniface—Stuart

**ALICE BOYLE**

Jun 27, 1936—August 13, 2024  
St. Patrick—O'Neill

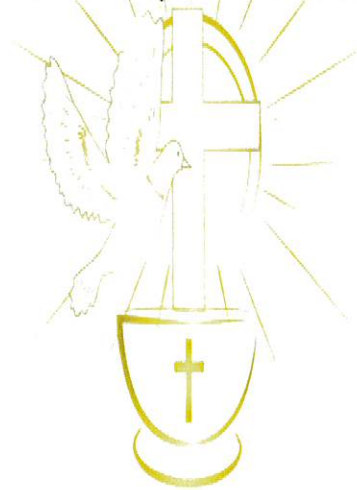
**MONTE LEE BROWN**

September 22, 1963—August 19, 2024  
St. Boniface—Stuart

**Welcome to the Newly Baptized...**

**CLAY ARTHUR GYDESEN**

Son of Grant & Jamie Gydesen  
August 11, 2024  
St. Joseph—Amelia



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



~ Psalm 139



**Congratulations to the newly married . . .**

**COURTNI KUNZ & KIRK PETERSON**

July 27, 2024  
St. Boniface—Stuart

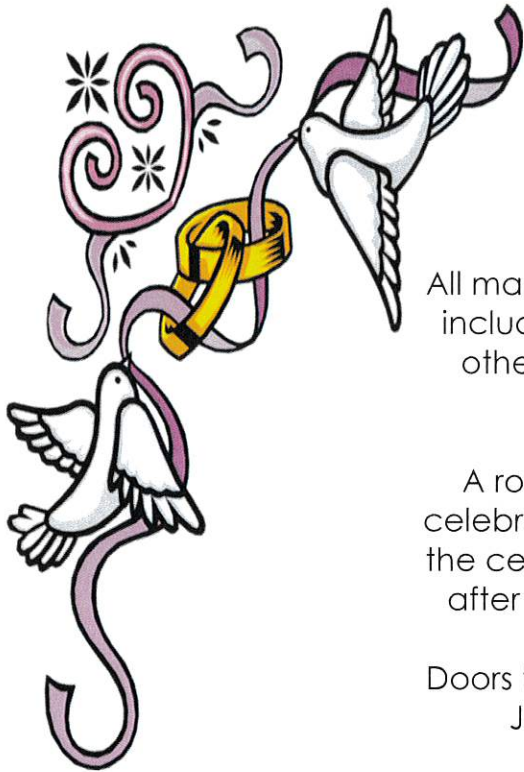
**ALLISON BECKER & MATTHEW HAUN**

August 24, 2024  
St. Patrick—O'Neill



*No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made complete in us."*

*~ 1 John 4:12*



## ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL MARRIAGE CELEBRATION

All married couples are invited to the annual marriage celebration, including the newly married, those celebrating milestone, and all other witnesses to holy matrimony. The celebration will be held **Sunday, October 20**, at St. Cecilia Cathedral.

A rosary will be offered at 2:00 p.m., and Archbishop Lucas will celebrate Mass at 2:30 p.m. There will NOT be a reception following the celebration, but Archbishop Lucas will remain in the Cathedral after Mass to take pictures with any couple who wishes to do so.

Doors to the Cathedral open at 1:45 pm. No RSVP is required. Email Jodi Phillips at [jmphilips@archomaha.org](mailto:jmphilips@archomaha.org) with questions.



worldwide

**marriage  
encounter**

## WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2024

Let Jesus feed your marriage! Deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance and renew your sacrament by attending the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on: Sept. 27-29, Lincoln, NE; Oct. 4-6, Grand Junction, CO; Nov. 1-3, Dillon, CO For questions, feel free to contact: Brenda & Gary Granger: 402-370-5839. Space is limited, so reserve your weekend early. For more information about Worldwide Marriage Encounter, please visit [www.wwme.org](http://www.wwme.org)



*When we put GOD first, all other things fall into their proper place.*

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68763

**SIGN UP FOR  
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NOTIFICATIONS:**

Keep in touch with us via email and text. Text the number of the parish you'd like notifications for below:

**St. Patrick—O'Neill**  
68763

**St. Joseph—Amelia**  
68711

**Sacred Heart of  
Boyd Co.**  
68722

**St. Boniface—Stuart**  
68780

**St. Joseph—Atkinson**  
68713

OR

**HOLTBOYDCATHOLIC**  
(for information from ALL parishes)  
TO  
84576

or connect online at:  
[holtboydcatholic.flocknote.com](http://holtboydcatholic.flocknote.com)

## ST. PATRICK'S CONFIRMATION & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Don't forget that confirmation classes (grades 7-9) and religious education (grades K-6) are starting back up on Wednesday September 11th, 6:30 pm. Confirmation will meet in the Parish Hall (downstairs in St. Mary's High School) and Religious Education meets in the St. Mary's Grade School. Registration forms can be downloaded from our website at [stpatoneill.org/youth](http://stpatoneill.org/youth). For questions regarding: confirmation, please contact Jenny Troester (402-340-4523) or Lori Laible (402-340-6570). For questions regarding: religious education, contact Whitney Shaffer at 402-340-9304.



**YOUTH  
GROUP**

**Start Date:**

September 11

**Time:**

7:00 p.m.

## ST. PATRICK'S YOUTH GROUP

**Grades:**

9-12

**Meeting Place:**

Basement of  
St. Mary's Grade  
School





## IN GOD WE TRUST

A few months ago, my husband and I were invited to spend the weekend at his employer's home. I was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the waterway, and cars costing more than our house. The first day and evening went well, and I was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live.

My husband's employer was quite generous as a host and took us to the finest restaurants. I knew I would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so I was enjoying myself. As the three of us were about to enter an exclusive restaurant one evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of us. He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. I wondered if I was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped and a few cigarette butts.

Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure.

How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up? Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at me. Finally, I could stand it no longer. I casually mentioned that my daughter once had a coin collection and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for us to see. I had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this?

"Look at it," he said. "Read what it says."

I read the words, "United States of America."

"No, not that; read further."

"One cent?"

"No, keep reading."

"In God we Trust?"

"Yes!"

"And?"

"And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin, I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray. I stop to see if my trust is in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God, that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!

When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I can not change. I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message. It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful! And God is patient.





## 8 THINGS CATHOLICS SHOULD DO EVERY DAY

### 1. Start the day with prayer, your Bible, and a talk with your Mother.

It sounds so simple, yet I don't understand why some days I can't seem to "fit" in prayer. **Our days need to be centered around this habit.** Make a date of it. Set your cell phone alarm to a time when you can pray and don't leave God stranded. Mornings are best, but if it doesn't work for you find a time that does. Pull out your Bible and read a line or two. The daily Mass readings are a great place to start. A goal for every Catholic is to say the Rosary every day, but some of us are in a season of life when this isn't possible. If you can't do a Rosary, start with at least a Hail Mary and work up to a decade or a chaplet.

*"Prayer is nothing else than union with God. When the heart is pure and united with God it is consoled and filled with sweetness; it is dazzled by a marvelous light."* – St. John Vianney

### 2. Smile. Use your manners. Be kind. Give out hugs.

Have you heard the old Hymn, "They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love..."? It's not necessarily true today. Christians have become just as rude and inconsiderate as everyone else, sometimes even more so! Let's reclaim our Christian love by smiling, letting others go first in line or helping old ladies cross the street.

*"Let us always meet each other with smile, for the smile is the beginning of love."* – Blessed Mother Teresa

### 3. Go on social media (i.e., **communicate!**), call a friend, visit a friend.

Yes, I know we have a bunch of posts about how social media is overused, but go ahead, use it! However, **use it in a way that glorifies God.** Share a scripture verse with a friend. Check-in on an old classmate. Daily connect with people to build relationships. (Don't stop there though, make it a weekly goal to get together in person with a friend or family member.)

*"Friendship is the source of the greatest pleasures, and without friends even the most agreeable pursuits become tedious."* – St. Thomas Aquinas

### 4. Tell someone you love them and why.

I don't know anyone who has ever gotten tired of hearing they are loved. It's even better when they are given a list of reasons why! Whether it is your parents, siblings, or your own children, make it a daily habit to tell at least one person in your life how much you love them.

*"You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working, and just so, you learn to love by loving. All those who think to learn in any other way deceive themselves."* -St. Francis de Sales

### 5. Talk about God.

Make God a part of your whole day, not just your prayer time. Bring Him into conversations with friends, family, even co-workers if you can. We talk about things we love – movies, restaurants, people... but we often fail to talk about God in the same way.

*"But this does not mean that we should postpone the evangelizing mission; rather, each of us should find ways to communicate Jesus wherever we are. All of us are called to offer others an explicit witness to the saving love of the Lord, who despite our imperfections offers us his closeness, his word and his strength, and gives meaning to our lives."* – Pope Francis

### 6. Sacrifice something.

It's so important that we learn to make daily sacrifices and offer them up to the Lord. It doesn't have to be anything crazy. Eat bread with no butter. Turn off the radio and drive in silence. It's the little things that cultivate our holiness and help us to overcome our attachment to things of the world.

*"There is no place for selfishness—and no place for fear! Do not be afraid, then, when love makes demands. Do not be afraid when love requires sacrifice."* – St. Pope John Paul II

### 7. Serve in some way.

Look for a way to serve someone every day. Again, this doesn't have to be something major like heading to Africa on a service trip. It can be doing the dishes for your mom, paying for a stranger's coffee, or picking up garbage as you walk down the street. **Don't let a day go by in which you did not do something for someone else.**

*"You know that our Lord does not look at the greatness or difficulty of our action, but at the love with which you do it. What, then, have you to fear?"* – St. Therese of the Child Jesus

### 8. Reflect on your day.

At the end of every day, take a few minutes to think back over the day. An examination of conscience is a great way to do this. Is there someone you need to forgive? Is there someone you need to seek forgiveness from? Think about the ways in which the Lord provided for you and be thankful for His many blessings. Thank Him! Ask yourself, did I move closer to or further from God through my actions today? How can I do better tomorrow? There is even an app for this created by a priest.

*"You must strive with all possible care to please God in such a manner as neither to do nor behold anything, without first consulting Him, and in everything to seek Him alone and His glory."* – St. Alphonsus Rodriguez



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill  
 2nd—LABOR DAY—Parish Center Closed  
 3rd—Catholic Daughters Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Evergreen /O’Neill  
 4th—Religious Ed Classes Start—Amelia, Stuart, Atk (Confirmation)  
 5th—CCW Mtg—7:00 p.m.—Butte  
 6th—Mass @ Parkside—2:00 p.m.—Stuart  
 8th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill  
 8th—Banish the Darkness—6:30 p.m.—O’Neill  
 8th—COR Men’s Group—7:00 p.m.—O’Neill  
 9th—Christian Mothers Mtg—6:00 p.m.—Stuart  
 9th—Reach More Training Groups—6:30 p.m.—O’Neill & Stuart  
 9th—4th Degree KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Atkinson  
 10th—Mass @ Good Sam—10:00 a.m.—Atkinson  
 10th—Parish Council Mtg—7:00 p.m.—Atkinson  
 11th—PATRIOT DAY  
 11th—ALL Religious Ed and Youth Group Meet  
 11th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—O’Neill  
 12th—Archbishop’s Dinner for Education—Omaha  
 15th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill  
 16th—Reach More Training—6:30 p.m.—O’Neill  
 17th—Parish Council Mtg—7:00 p.m.—Stuart  
 18th—Mass @ Butte Senior Living Center—3:15 p.m.—Butte  
 18th—Religious Ed/Confirmation Classes Meet  
 18th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—Butte  
 21st—Annual Appeal Launch  
 21st—Community Improvement Clean Up Day  
 21st—Out of the Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk—11:00 a.m.  
 22nd—St. Mary’s Confirmation—8:00 a.m.—Spencer  
 22nd—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill  
 22nd—COR Men’s Group—7:00 p.m.—O’Neill  
 23rd—Reach More Training Group—6:30 p.m.—O’Neill  
 23rd—Altar Society Mtg—7:30 p.m.—Spencer  
 25th—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Group Meets  
 25th—Finance Council Mtg—7:00 p.m.—O’Neill  
 26th—Ladies Guild—2:00 p.m.—Stuart  
 27th—Blue & Red Mass—8:10 a.m.—O’Neill  
 28th—Dueling Pianos—Atkinson  
 29th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill  
 30th—Reach More Training Group—6:30 p.m.—O’Neill




## 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



**Family Prayer for Patriot Day**  
And in Remembrance of 9-11



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**Dearest Jesus,**


**You are the source of all hope and peace.** We pray for all souls who lost their lives in terrorist attacks. Knowing our need for your protection, **WE ASK YOU TO PROTECT OUR COUNTRY AND OUR WORLD.**

**GIVE OUR PRESIDENT AND LEADERS wisdom** to do the right thing, and give our defenders **courage** AS THEY SERVE OUR COUNTRY.

We thank you for the **sacrificial love** shown by so many, like the firefighters, police officers, and other brave men and women, who continue to sacrifice their own time and lives to help others.

**Help us follow their example of selfless love and bravery to help those we see in need everyday.**

**Jesus, OUR LOVING SAVIOR, watch over us and guide us in your love.**



**AMEN.**

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HOLTCATHOLIC.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

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[rfilips@archomaha.org](mailto: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—[nmtomjack@archomaha.org](mailto:nmtomjack@archomaha.org)  
Business Manager:  
Cheleigh Scholes—[crsholes@archomaha.org](mailto:crsholes@archomaha.org)  
Director of Stewardship & Development:  
Jennifer Wallwey—[jmwallwey@archomaha.org](mailto:jmwallwey@archomaha.org)  
Youth Director:  
Bridget Bulau—[bbulau@smcards.org](mailto:bbulau@smcards.org)  
Religious Ed. Coordinator:  
Whitney Shaffer—[whitney.shaffer7@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mnolan@archomaha.org)  
Youth Minister/Religious Ed. Coordinator:  
Charlotte Mitchell—  
[charlottehuckmitchell@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:stjoechurchatkinson@gmail.com)  
Religious Ed. Coordinator:  
Linda Wolf—[stjohnsdr@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:stbonifacestuart@gmail.com)  
Director of Ministries/Religious Ed. Coordinator:  
Jan Kunz—[jankunz9@gmail.com](mailto:jankunz9@gmail.com)  
402-340-2303

## REDISCOVER REVERANCE

### ~ VEILING AT MASS ~

For over 2000 years, Catholic women have worn some kind of head covering in church. Though the particular reasons for doing so have varied, this practice has always focused on the transcendence of the place—the church, the very dwelling of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Having been given this magnificent Gift by Jesus himself, every Catholic church holds something not found anywhere else: the true, living presence of our Bridegroom, hidden under the appearance of bread and wine.

We veil as a sign of loving submission before God, and we do it anytime we find ourselves inside a Catholic church, where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved in the tabernacle.

If you are thinking about beginning this beautiful devotion, remember that it is God before Whom you wish to humble yourself. Like a religious habit, your veil is a public proclamation of your desire to submit to the will of God for your life. Your veil is also a sign of the great dignity inherent to a woman, who has the potential to receive life within herself...both human life and the supernatural life of God.

For more information go to: Veils by Lily @ [www.veilsbylily.com](http://www.veilsbylily.com)





## PANCAKES



Six-year-old Dan decided one Saturday morning to fix his parents pancakes. He found a big bowl and spoon, pulled a chair to the counter, opened the cupboard and pulled out the heavy flour canister, spilling it on the floor.

He scooped some of the flour into the bowl with his hands, mixed in most of a cup of milk and added some sugar, leaving a floury trail on the floor which by now had a few tracks left by his kitten.

Dan was covered with flour and getting frustrated. He wanted this to be something very good for Mom and Dad, but it was getting very bad.

He didn't know what to do next, whether to put it all into the oven or on the stove, and he didn't know how the stove worked! Suddenly, he saw his kitten licking from the bowl of mix and reached to push her away, knocking the egg carton to the floor. Frantically, he tried to clean up this monumental mess but slipped on the eggs, getting his pajamas white and sticky.

Just then he saw Dad standing at the door. Big crocodile tears welled up in Dan's eyes. All he'd wanted to do was something good, but he'd made a terrible mess. He was sure a scolding was coming, maybe even a spanking. But his father just watched him.

Then, walking through the mess, he picked up his crying son, hugged him and loved him, getting his own pajamas white and sticky in the process. That's how God deals with us. We try to do something good in life, but it turns into a mess. Our marriage gets all sticky, we insult a friend, we can't stand our job, or our health goes sour.

Sometimes, we just stand there in tears because we can't think of anything else to do. That's when God picks us up and loves us and forgives us, even though some of our mess gets all over Him.

But just because we might mess up, we can't stop trying for God or for others. Sooner or later, we'll get it right, and then they'll be glad we tried.



### *Banish the Darkness* Community Prayer Event

*Sunday, September 8*  
*6:30 pm*

*St. Patrick Catholic Church*

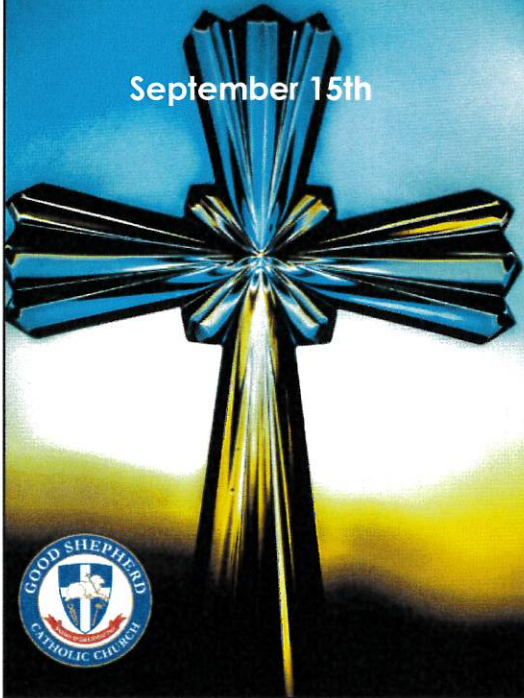
The O'Neill Ministerial Association invites our community to this prayer event as we come against the forces of darkness. Prayer directives will be shared as we go behind enemy lines in spiritual battle.

*For more information,*  
*call 402-336-1602 or 402-336-2272*



Prayer  
for Catechetical Sunday

September 15th



Heavenly Father, you spoke your word of instruction and guidance through the prophets and leaders of Israel. In the fullness of time you sent your only son Jesus Christ as the Word Incarnate to show us your ways and to give his life to show us the way to eternal life.

Jesus called his disciples to follow him and learn from him and then to be apostles of the word to the world. In every age, men and women have been called to follow in their footsteps, to educate and guide the nations in the truth of the Gospel. Today we pray for the teachers of our age, who guide our community, especially our youth, by their words and example. Help them to show us the truth of our faith and so experience the joy of the Gospel.

May their efforts lead us to a deeper growth in our faith and our relationships to you and one another. Keep them ever safe in these days of pandemic and bless them all with the joy and satisfaction that comes from spread your Word in all that they do. May all who are a part of our formation programs here at Good Shepherd learn of your goodness, to them and in them. May our efforts of growth in the faith be graced for their success and the benefit our church community.

AMEN

September 29th

**O JESUS,  
OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST,**

hear my humble prayers on behalf of your priests. Give them a deep faith, a bright and firm hope, and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of their priestly life. In their loneliness, comfort them. In their sorrows, strengthen them. In their frustrations, point out to them that it is through suffering that the soul is purified and show them that they are needed by the Church.

**PRIESTHOOD  
SUNDAY**

May God bless all of our teachers in our Catholic schools and Religious Education programs. Your time, talent and dedication to planting and tending to the seeds of faith in our children is very much appreciated! THANKS!

**THANK YOU!!**

Thanks to  
**Fr. Bernard Starman**  
and  
**Fr. Ross Burkhalter**

for all that you do to shepherd and lead our Family of Parishes. The countless hours of planning, leading, listening, and doing all that you have to do does not go unnoticed.

**HAPPY PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2024**

*You are*  
**Appreciated**



## COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DAY

The O'Neill Ministerial Association is sponsoring a COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DAY on September 21<sup>st</sup> in conjunction with NATIONAL CLEAN UP DAY. In partnership with Avera St. Anthony's Hospital, local congregations are/will be taking applications for any citizen who needs extra help within their home environment. We will also be asking for volunteers (individual/youth/civic groups) to assist in this community project. Applications must be received by August 31<sup>st</sup> to be considered and can be picked up at your church office and, when completed, can be returned to same location or dropped off at Avera St. Anthony's reception desk.

Clean up assistance will be within the scope of the volunteer's capabilities and so determined as appropriate by the OMA Committee. Examples are gutter-cleaning, yardwork, painting, small repairs, tree trimming, etc.

If you &/or your family, or group, are interested in volunteering - submit your name and contact number to the church office at 402-336-1602. You will be contacted with follow up information!



## ST. MARY'S SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS



**Grade School Grandparents Mass & Open House** Wednesday September 11 at 8:10 am

**Homecoming Week** is September 22<sup>nd</sup> to September 27<sup>th</sup>! There will be a kick off and bonfire on the evening of Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup> with all sorts of fun throughout the week. On Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> we will have All School Mass at 8:10 am (with a special "Red & Blue Mass" honoring our First Responders), early dismissal at 11:30 am, the football game vs. Ainsworth at 2:30 pm, and Homecoming Dance that evening!

**Please note: No School on Monday September 2<sup>nd</sup> or Wednesday September 18<sup>th</sup>.**

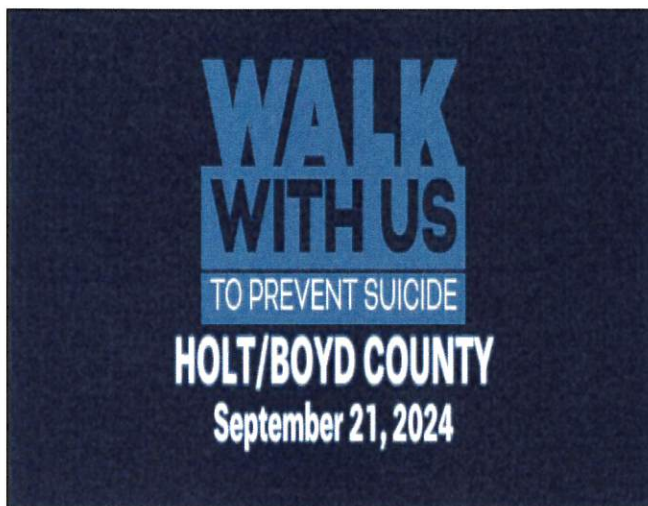
**You can still sign up to be a Classroom Partner for our teachers at St. Mary's!** We are seeking not only financial support for our classrooms, but also prayer partners for each classroom! Please contact Jennifer at 402-336-1602 for more information or go online to <https://www.stmarysoneill.org/classroom-partners>



## HOLT/BOYD COUNTIES OUT OF THE DARKNESS COMMUNITY WALK

Join us at the First Annual Holt/Boyd Out of the Darkness Community Walk on Saturday, September 21st at the O'Neill High School Track & Field! On-site registration begins at 11 am, and the program begins at 12 pm. The Community Walks, held in hundreds of cities across the country, are the core of the Out of the Darkness movement, which began in 2004. These events give people the courage to open up about their own connections to the cause, and a platform to create a culture that's smarter about mental health. Friends, family members, neighbors and coworkers walk side-by-side, supporting each other and in memory of those we've lost.

Now, more than ever, it's important to be there for one another and take steps to safeguard our mental health and prevent suicide. Help AFSP Nebraska save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide. Register, start your team, and/or donate today! <https://afsp.org/holtboyd> You can contact co-chairs Amy Wells or Kelli Dempster with questions. 402-587-2720 or wells.amy@protonmail.com or kelli@ncdhd.ne.gov



A stylized poster for 'DUELING PIANOS' featuring 'Colorado Keys'. The background is black with white and yellow splatters. A yellow banner at the bottom contains event details. The text 'DUELING PIANOS' is in large white and yellow letters. Below it, 'featuring Colorado Keys' is written in white cursive. A small graphic of a piano keyboard with a red 'C' is visible. The yellow banner contains the following text: 'September 28th @ the Atkinson Farmer's Market', 'Social Hour starting @ 5 PM', 'Dinner: 6 PM', 'Show: 7-10 PM', 'Tickets Individual: \$100', 'Reserved Table of 8: \$850', 'Ticket includes Dinner &amp; Show', 'Must be 21+ to attend | Cash Bar', and 'Tickets available by contacting Becky Skrdla @ 402-984-4394'. At the bottom right, it says 'Proceeds to benefit St. Joseph School'.

## ST. PATRICK'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE:



We're ready to kick off another great year!

**September :**

**4th—Parent Meeting 6:30p.m.**

**11th—First Night of Class**

**18th—Regular Class**

**25th—Regular Class**

All will take place at St. Mary's Elementary. We are always in need of volunteers to bring snacks for our students. Reach out to Whitney if you're willing to help, 402-340-9304.





# HEART OF A CHILD MINISTRIES

heartofachildministries.org

## Celebration of Life 2-Day Family Event

October 9-10, 2024

O'Neill St. Mary's School | 300 N. 4th St., O'Neill, NE 68763

Hosted by Boyd Holt Right to Life and Their Underwriters

For All Ages and All Christians!

### Wednesday, October 9th

7 PM - Family-friendly live ultrasound presentation in the gym where all ages see a real baby in the womb on the big screen, hear Scripture and fun fetal facts.

7:30-8 PM - Two different options:

- K-3rd grade and their families - make **Celebration of Life** bags in Parish Hall
- 4th grade and up - stay in the gym to hear beautiful adoption story by Heart of a Child Ministries founder Nikki Schaefer

8-8:30 PM - Middle school and up will witness the powerful story of Sarah Howarth. From being at a Planned Parenthood, homeless, pregnant, and ready to choose abortion to instead having the courage to walk out, find a maternity home, and choose life, Sarah shares about her amazing, life-changing choice and the gift that her son, Jude, has been in her life.



Maci Binder and Molly Fry, Sonographers



Nikki Schaefer, Founder



Sarah Howarth, Speaker

### Thursday, October 10th

St. Mary's School will offer four age-appropriate presentations. Contact Jeanie Miller at 402.340.5087 for the schedule and details.

- K-3rd
- 4-6th
- 7-8th
- 9-12th

Friends, parents and grandparents welcomed and encouraged to attend.

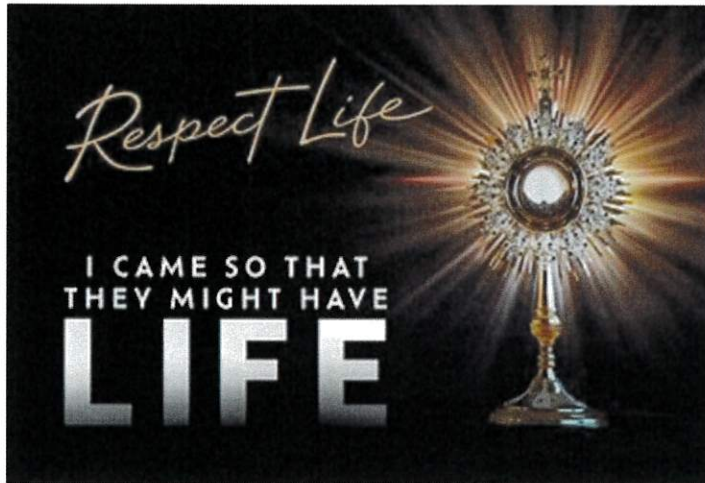
View presentation trailers here:



heartofachildministries.org/presentations/



## Your chance to live for life...



- The weekends of Sept 7/8 and 14/15, we need help distributing voter guides
- Sunday, Oct 6 is Life Chain in O'Neill. This one-hour ecumenical prayer vigil is held on

main street. We need more people on prayer team, and help with organizing and promoting within your church. **And we need your presence and prayers. Bring friends!**

- Wednesday, Oct 9 and 10, Heart of a Child Ministries presentations in O'Neill. (see separate page) Check out [heartofachildministries.org](http://heartofachildministries.org) to see what a beautiful message they share.
- We also ask that you spend time in prayer asking that we are good stewards of time, talents, and treasure as we dig in to protect life before the election. Babies and moms are depending on us like never before.

Call pro-life chairman, Jeanie Miller 402-340-5087 to volunteer or for more information

### Pray for a spiritual and moral awakening.

*Pray that God opens eyes to the moral truth about abortion. Millions of Americans have accepted abortion without thinking about it. Pray for opportunities to persuasively challenge that mindset with thought provoking questions and biblical truth. Pray that the world will see abortion for what it is. We've been handed an opportunity to shine the light on darkness, pray for the courage to boldly stand for life. See verses 2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 85; Acts 26:15-1*



## NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

The Revival continues ... check out these opportunities

**Walking With Purpose** offers various Bible studies for women of different ages and stages of life. Find a group near you, sign up online, or start a group in your parish or virtually. [walkingwithpurpose.com](http://walkingwithpurpose.com)

**Those Who Believe Don't Leave** — a virtual event with Matthew Kelly on Sept 10. Sign up at [Dynamic Catholic](http://DynamicCatholic.com).

**Christ our Life Conference** A weekend of faith sharing, faith building, and praise ... featuring speakers like Fr. Robert Spitzer, Jeff Cavins, Jason Everett and more. Singer and story-teller Steve Angrisano will also be on hand. Get details at [christourliveiowa.com](http://christourliveiowa.com)

**You Tube** search for National Eucharistic Congress to see what the excitement is all about  
[eucharisticrevival.org](http://eucharisticrevival.org) explore how God desires to heal, renew, and unify the church and the world ... all through the gift of Himself in the Eucharist