

SHARING OUR NEWS



APRIL 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

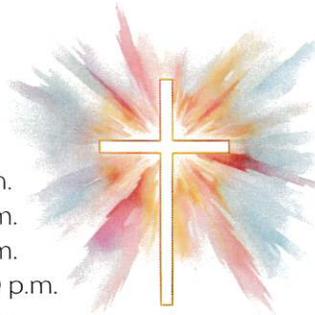
Saturday:

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

I want to recommend a wonderful book I just re-read called "Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist" by Brant Pitre. I highly recommend this book for anyone who wants to learn more about the Eucharist.

First, Dr. Pitre highlights how the Eucharist was prefigured in the manna the Jews ate in the desert, which most of us know about. He also explained how in the temple, the Jewish Levitical priests had the "Bread of the Presence" (also translated as "The Bread of the Face of God") and this also prefigures the Eucharist. The bread signified God's face present in the temple to His people. This bread is described in Leviticus and was offered by the Levitical priests to God as a sacrifice. Jesus justified his disciples harvesting and eating wheat on the sabbath because they are His new priests. He explained how David could eat the sacrificial Bread of the Presence in the temple when he was on the run because he and his descendants, including Jesus, are priests in the order of Melchizedek, not Levitical priests. So, the concept of the Eucharist builds on the Old Testament manna and Bread of the Presence.

Notice that Jesus does not cut off a piece of roast lamb and say, "This is my body." He breaks bread and says, "This is my body!" Then he identifies himself as the bread broken for us. For all of this to be true, Jesus' action at the Last Supper would have to have been a miracle, and not just a sign or a symbol, but this isn't really a problem, as St. Cyril said; "Jesus once in Cana turned the water into wine, which is akin to blood; is it incredible that He should have turned wine into blood?"

Dr. Pitre also explains that Jesus did not complete the Passover meal in the upper room with his disciples. The Passover/Eucharist meal was finished on the cross the next day. The ancient Passover meal had four cups of wine mixed with a little water. Jesus drank the first three cups with the appropriate prayers and blessings: The first cup with the introductory rites, the second with the proclamation of scripture from Exodus, and the third cup of blessing after the eating of the meal, (which Jesus now identified as His blood.)

The fourth cup would ordinarily be drunk after singing the psalms of praise, which they did sing, but Jesus refused the final cup and said He "would not drink again the fruit of the vine until He drinks it new in the kingdom of God". In the Garden He three times prays "Father if it be possible, let this cup (the final cup) pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." Remember that it still Passover night. This explains why He would refer to a crucifixion as a cup. On the way to Golgotha, he was offered wine to dull the pain, but He refused. But just before He dies, He said, "I thirst" and drank the final cup of wine from the sponge. Then He said, "It is finished", and died. Not only was His life finished, or his mission, but also the final Passover, which has now been transformed into the first Eucharist. Jesus has united the Last Supper to the cross. Both the Last Supper and the cross say the same thing: "This is my body given for you." Both the Last Supper and the cross were done for the forgiveness of sins. Both were done as a ransom for many.

The Last Supper is what made the cross a sacrifice, not an execution. The Last Supper had everything a sacrifice to God requires, a priest (Jesus), an offering (Jesus), and a liturgy (the Passover ritual). This is why when we celebrate the Eucharist, we not only make present the Last Supper in the upper room, but we also make present the sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary.

And there it is. The next time someone accuses you of celebrating a dead liturgy, you know that it is actually infinitely powerful and infinitely beautiful. Order "Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist" by Dr. Brant Pitre.



Until next month ...

IN LOVING MEMORY

ALAN WAYNE STRAKA

February 2, 1965 – February 24, 2026
St. Joseph – Atkinson

JUDY L. OBERMIRE

February 20, 1945 – February 27, 2026
St. Joseph – Atkinson

AGNES ENGELHAUPT

March 20, 1945 – February 28, 2026
SHBC – St. Mary’s – Spencer

JANENE PETERSON

February 2, 1948 – March 1, 2026
St. Patrick – O’Neill

LEO O’MALLEY

January 6, 1931 – March 17, 2026
St. Patrick – O’Neill

COLETTE CLARK UTTECHT

May 1, 1955 – March 19, 2026
St. Patrick – O’Neill

SUSAN HURLEY

September 29, 1952 – March 22, 2026
St. Patrick – O’Neill

LEWIS “LEW” D. PIERSON

April 18, 1932 – March 23, 2026
St. Patrick – O’Neill



WELCOME TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

PHOENIX RAY EMME

Son of Jacob & Whitney Emme
February 22, 2026
St. Patrick – O’Neill

AVA LOU BILSTEIN

Daughter of Riley & Riley Bilstein
March 7, 2026
St. Patrick – O’Neill

JUDD JACOB McCLINTIC

Son of William & Kristine McClintic
March 7, 2026
St. Patrick – O’Neill

HALLIE SCOTT NOVAK

Daughter of Zachary & Sabrina Novak
March 8, 2026
St. Patrick – O’Neill

TY LAWRENCE SKRDLA

Son of Chris & Becky Skrdla
March 8, 2026
St. Joseph – Atkinson

LILY MARIE OHRI

Daughter of Danny & JoElla Ohri
March 14, 2026
SHBC – St. Mary – Spencer

JACK FRANCIS MATHIS

Son of Grant & Makala Mathis
March 14, 2026
St. Boniface – Stuart



UPCOMING FIRST COMMUNIONS

St. Joseph – Atkinson – April 19, 2026

St. Patrick – O’Neill – April 25 and April 26, 2026

St. Boniface – Stuart – April 25, 2026

St. Joseph – Amelia – May 3, 2026



*“Let the little children come to me....
for the kingdom of heaven
belongs to such as these.”
Matthew 19:14*

Prayer for the Earth

To restore the waters
To refresh the air

We join with the earth and with each other

To renew the forests
To care for the plants
To protect the creatures

We join with the earth and with each other

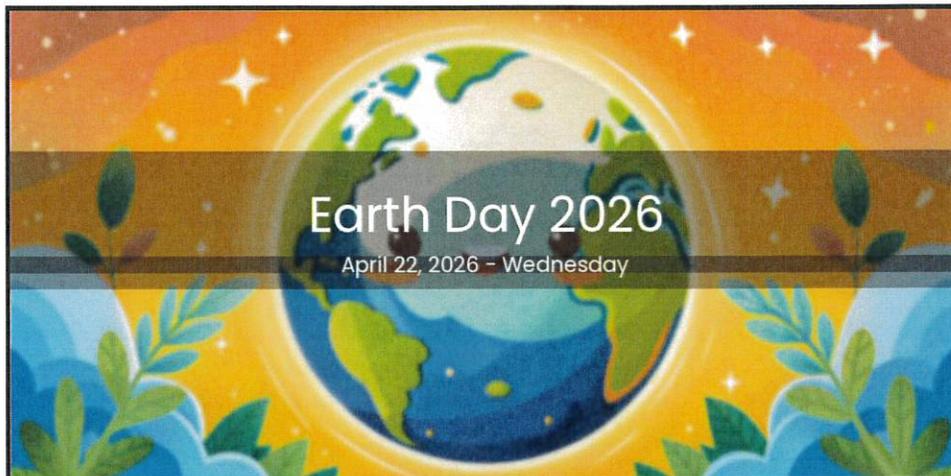
To celebrate the seas
To rejoice in the sunlight
To sing the song of the stars

We join with the earth and with each other

To recreate the human community
To promote justice and peace
To remember our children

We join with the earth and with each other

We join together as many and diverse expressions
Of one loving memory; for the healing
of the earth and the renewal of all life.



PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Almighty Father,
You have created for us some definite purpose.

Grant us the grace to know the path
You have planned for us in this life
and to respond with a generous "Yes."

Make our archdiocese, parishes, homes and hearts
fruitful ground for Your gift of vocations.

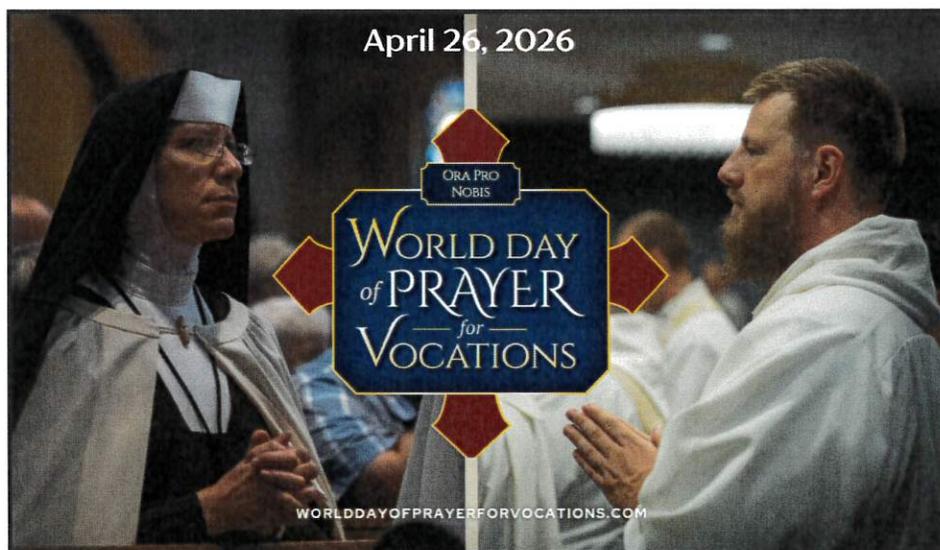
May our young people respond
to Your call with courage and zeal.

Stir among our men a desire and
the strength to be good and holy priests.

Bless us with consecrated religious and
those called to a chaste single life,
permanent deacons,
and faithful husbands and wives,
who are a sign of Christ's love for His Church.

We commend our prayer for vocations to You, Father,
through the intercession of Mary our Mother,
in the Holy Spirit, through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



DO YOU LOVE ME?

One day, I woke early in the morning to watch the sunrise. Ah! ... the beauty of God's creation is beyond description. As I watched, I praised God for His beautiful work. As I sat there, I felt the Lord's presence with me. He asked me, "Do you love me?" I answered, "Of course, God! You are my Lord and Savior!"

Then He asked, "If you were physically handicapped, would you still love me?"

I was perplexed. I looked down upon my arms, legs and the rest of my body and wondered how many things I wouldn't be able to do and thought about the things that I take for granted. I answered, "It would be tough Lord, but I would still love You."

Then the Lord said, "If you were blind, would you still love my creation?"

How could I love something without being able to see it? Then I thought of all the blind people in the world and how many of them still loved God and His creation. So I answered, "It's hard to think of it, but I would still love you."

The Lord then asked me, "If you were deaf, would you still listen to my word?"

How could I listen to anything being deaf? Then I understood. Listening to God's Word is not merely using our ears, but our hearts. I answered, "It would be tough, but I would still listen to Your word."

The Lord then asked, "If you were mute, would you still praise My Name?"

How could I praise without a voice? Then it occurred to me, God wants us to sing from our very hearts and souls. It never matters what we sound like. And praising God is not always with a song, but when we are persecuted, we give God praise with our words of thanks. So I answered, "Though I could not physically sing, I would still praise Your Name."

And the Lord asked, "Do you really love Me?"

With courage and a strong conviction, I answered boldly, "Yes Lord! I love You because You are the one and true God!"

I thought I had answered well, but God asked, "Then why do you sin?"

I answered, "Because I am only human. I am not perfect."

"Then why in times of peace do you stray the furthest? Why only in times of trouble do you pray the earnest?"

I had no answers ... only tears.

The Lord continued. "Why only sing at fellowships and retreats? Why seek Me only in times of worship? Why ask things so selfishly? Why ask things so unfaithfully?"

The tears continued to roll down my cheeks. "Why are you ashamed of Me? Why are you not spreading the good news? Why in times of persecution, you cry to others when I offer My shoulder to cry on? Why make excuses when I give you opportunities to serve in My Name?"

"You are blessed with life. I made you not to throw this gift away. I have blessed you with talents to serve Me, but you continue to turn away. I have revealed My Word to you, but you do not gain in knowledge. I have spoken to you but your ears were closed. I have shown My blessings to you, but your eyes were turned away. I have heard your prayers, and I have answered them all. Do you truly love me?"

I could not answer. How could I? I was embarrassed beyond belief. I had no excuse. What could I say to this? When my heart had cried out and the tears had flowed, I said, "Please forgive me Lord. I am unworthy to be Your child."

The Lord answered, "That is My Grace, My child."

I asked, "Then why do you continue to forgive me? Why do You love me so?"

The Lord answered, "Because you are My creation. You are my child. I will never abandon you. When you cry, I will have compassion and cry with you. When you shout with joy, I will laugh with you. When you are down, I will encourage you. When you fall, I will raise you up. When you are tired, I will carry you. I will be with you until the end of days, and I will love you forever."

Never had I cried so hard before. How could I have been so cold? How could I have hurt God as I had done? I asked God, "How much do You love me?"

The Lord stretched out His arms, and I saw His nail-pierced hands. I bowed down at the feet of Christ, my Savior. And for the first time, I truly prayed.

ONE SOLITARY LIFE



Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty. Then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put His foot inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but Himself...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed upon a cross between two thieves. While He was dying His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth - His coat. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

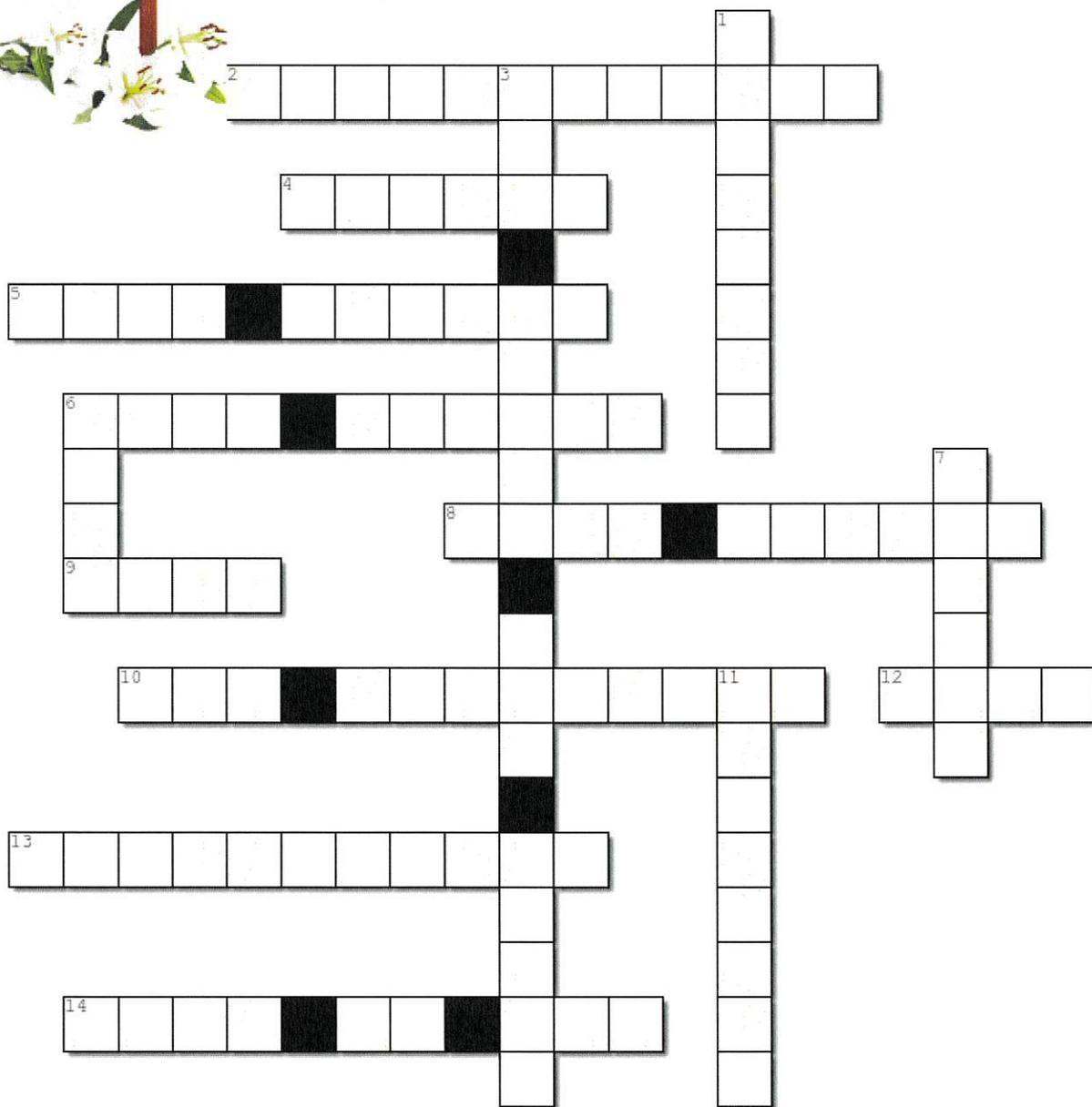
Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is a centerpiece of the human race and leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that were ever built; all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.



Easter - Religious Themed

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

2. The religion derived from Jesus Christ
4. Good news
5. The Friday before Easter
6. The meal eaten by Jesus and his disciples on the night of his betrayal
8. The Sunday before Easter
9. A house, chamber, or vault for the deceased
10. The first day of Lent
12. Exalted or worthy of complete devotion
13. The act of crucifying
14. A figurative representation of Christ

Down

1. One who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another
3. The beginning and ending
6. The 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Easter
7. One who brings salvation
11. Early followers of Jesus

Answers found on page 14

Spiritual Adoption ... 6 months old!



At 24 weeks, your baby is 14 inches now and weighs about 1 2/3 of a pound. Babe is starting to put on a lot more baby fat now, to keep him warm at birth –and make him look very cute! He also sometimes makes breathing movements when he inhales amniotic fluid. This helps him get ready to breathe real air when he is born. holymen.com

Your baby is about 11½ inches long and weighs 1 pound, gaining steadily at a rate of about 6 ounces per week. Much of that weight comes from growing organs, bones, muscle, and accumulating baby fat.

Wondering what (and who) your baby will look like? If you had a baby cam at 24 weeks pregnant, you'd almost be able to tell by now. That beautiful face, though still tiny, is almost fully formed, complete with eyelashes, eyebrows, and hair.

Will your baby have brown, black, blond, or red hair — or something in between? Actually, right now locks are white, since there's no pigment yet. The fat that will be piled on under baby's skin is also missing from the picture right now.

Until those fat deposits are made, that very tender skin is still very transparent, which means a close look would let you see clear through to all the organs, bones, and blood vessels. Fortunately, that see-through look won't last much longer.

From whattoexpect.com



KCs Step Up With Fire Relief

The first of 3 loads of hay already committed to the cause headed out Tuesday, Mar 24 from Boyd County. Knights in O'Neill and Boyd County are coordinating the effort which focuses on sending hay and fence posts. If you want to contribute money or resources, contact their financial secretaries: Boyd County: Bill Engelhaupt, 402-340-5827 ... O'Neill: Dana Wecker, 402-340-0019. Watch your bulletins for updates and more opportunities to help.



**Pancake
Benefit
Breakfast**

*All proceeds go directly to
those impacted by the
recent wildfires in western
Nebraska*

**Sunday, April 12
9 am to 1 pm
Spencer St. Mary's**

**Hosted by Boyd Co. Knights of Columbus
and St. Mary's Altar Society**



Pray for our April Seminararian of the month.

Hello! I am **Thomas Matya**. I attend St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Gretna and I graduated from Gretna High School in 2016. I am the oldest of five children and

have lived in Omaha my entire life.

I first thought of being a priest when I was younger, after receiving my First Communion. I used to “celebrate Mass” with my siblings using my little missal and crackers. Through middle school and my first two years of high school, I did not give much thought about being a priest.

My pastor, Fr. Norman Hunke, planted the seeds when he suggested I think about being a priest when I was in seventh or eighth grade. I began to pray more deeply about becoming a priest as I entered my junior year of high school.

I attended a day retreat with the seminarians of the Archdiocese and that introduced me the joy they experienced. I also attended a seminary visit to St. John Vianney Seminary that year. Going on the seminary visit helped answer many questions about what seminary would be like and it helped dispel many fears.

I said yes to entering seminary as God had removed all the obstacles to entering it. I am currently enrolled at the North American College in Rome.

To any men considering the priesthood, pray for the grace to open yourself up to God’s will. He will never send you where His grace cannot sustain you. Frequent Confession as well as visiting the Blessed Sacrament will help you to be open to His grace.

“For I know the *plans* I have for you,”

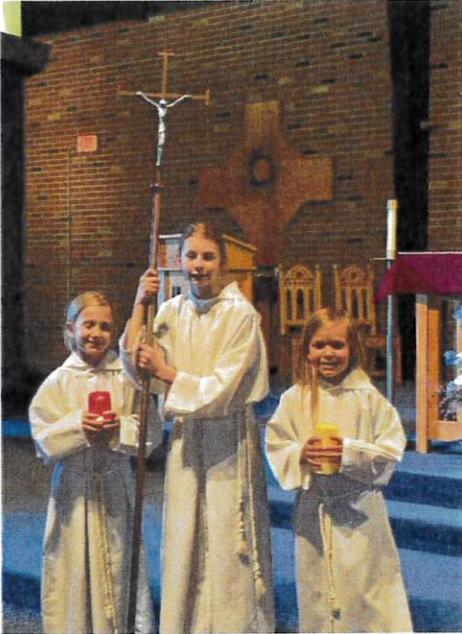
declares the LORD,

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

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

JEREMIAH 29:11

SHBC - SS. PETER & PAUL (BUTTE) AND ST. MARY'S (SPENCER)



During the Lenten season we walk the Way of the Cross every week at Sts. Peter and Paul CCD.

Everyone takes a turn carrying the Processional Cross and our red candles.

We would like to share the 7th Station:

Jesus Falls for the Second Time.

Jesus walked the way of the cross, even when he fell down. Once a traveler asked a saint who lived with friends in a place of prayer, "What do you do here?" The saint said, "We get up, and we fall down. And we get up again." The saint meant that everyone there, no matter how hard they tried, they did wrong things. Did things they did not want to do. That's what the saint called "falling down." We do bad things, too, sometimes. We are mean to a friend or family member. We don't help when we can. That's when we fall down. And just like the saint, we keep our eyes on Jesus and get up again.



St. Mary's, CCD and CYO take turns leading the Stations of the Cross on Wednesday nights.



Seven students made their First Reconciliation at St. Mary's. Afterwards, they went to Mass, then shared a meal with family, Fr. Ross, and the other students.

Were You There

St. Mary's CCD and CYO invite you to their narrative drama based on the song "Were You There".
Wed., April 1 at 7 pm in Spencer.

ST. MARY'S - 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.

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**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*

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With grateful hearts, we extend our sincere thanks to everyone who supported the St. Mary's Catholic School Gala.

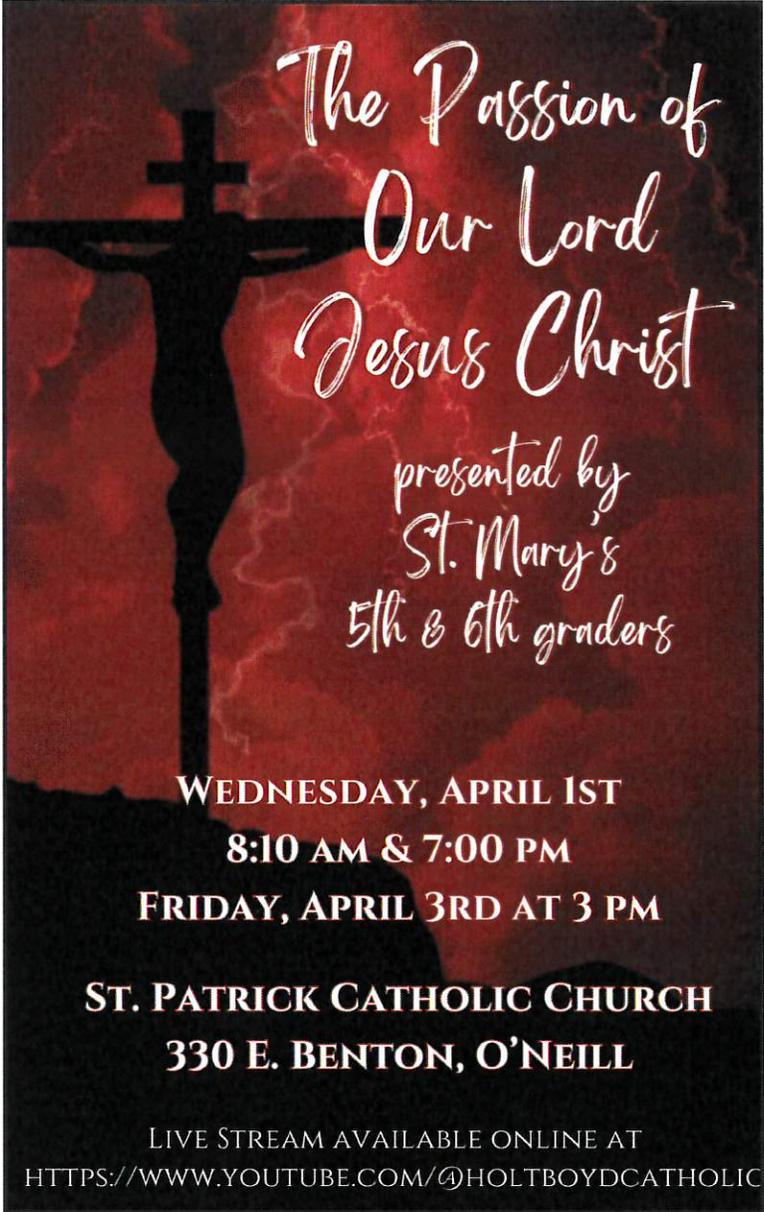
To those who so generously donated, your kindness and belief in our mission made a lasting impact. To our volunteers, sponsors, and dedicated helpers, your time, energy, and care brought every detail of the evening to life. And to all who attended, your presence filled the night with joy, fellowship, and a shared commitment to our school community.

Because of you, the gala was not only a wonderful celebration, but also a meaningful success that will continue to bless our students and programs. Your support strengthens our mission to nurture faith, learning, and service in each of our students.

We are deeply grateful to be part of such a generous and faithful community.

With heartfelt thanks,  
St. Mary's Catholic School





*The Passion of  
Our Lord  
Jesus Christ*

*presented by  
St. Mary's  
5th & 6th graders*

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1ST  
8:10 AM & 7:00 PM  
FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD AT 3 PM**

**ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH  
330 E. BENTON, O'NEILL**

LIVE STREAM AVAILABLE ONLINE AT  
[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@HOLTBOYDCATHOLIC](https://www.youtube.com/@HOLTBOYDCATHOLIC)

**THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF JESUS**

It is finished; I've done it all.  
I've prepared the way, answered the call.  
I've taken the keys to hell and death.  
The bondage of sin I've taken on myself.  
They crucified me...I endured the pain, endured the shame.  
Nailed to the cross the scripture being fulfilled;  
they cast lots for my clothes but I loved them still.  
**Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do**  
Nailed to the cross between two thieves;  
One rebuked me but the other believed.  
And because of his faith paradise he received.  
**Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.**  
Nailed to the cross a concern for my mother,  
I entrusted her care, her life to another.  
John, the Disciple will be her son  
I know I can trust him, he's the one  
**"Woman, behold your son!"**  
Nailed to the cross I was all alone.  
I knew the presence of my Father was gone.  
In agony and pain, I called out His name.  
He could not look upon the sin and shame.  
**"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"**  
Nailed to the cross, all things accomplished  
Now I thirst, sour wine they give.  
I sacrifice my life so they can live.  
**"I thirst!"**  
The scripture fulfilled, my work is done  
I've paid the price and victory is won.  
**It is finished!"**  
Nailed to the cross I called out to my Father  
as I breathed my last breath;  
as I conquer death, as I obey your command;  
I commit my Spirit into your hands.  
**Father, "into Your hands I commit My spirit."**  
**Having said this, He breathed His last.**  
**JESUS DIED SO WE COULD LIVE!**

**ST. PATRICK  
PARISH OFFICE CLOSINGS**

- April 2nd  
Closing @ Noon
- April 3rd  
Closed All Day
- April 6th  
Closed All Day



Wishing you all a very happy  
and blessed Easter!

*Seniors and Juniors  
& their dates*

ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US FOR PROM MASS  
ON SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH AT 5 PM  
AT ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH.

WE WILL MEET AT 4:45 PM IN THE ST.  
MARY'S COMMONS & PROCESS IN FOR MASS.  
LADIES ARE ASKED TO PLEASE BE SURE THEIR  
SHOULDERS ARE COVERED FOR MASS.

*All St. Mary's & O'Neill High School  
students are invited to join us at mass.*



## *Palm Sunday of the Passion*

### **Saturday March 28, 2026**

5 pm Mass—St. Patrick O'Neill  
5 pm Mass—St. Boniface Stuart  
7 pm Mass—St. Mary's Spencer

### **Sunday March 29, 2026**

8 am Mass—Ss. Peter & Paul Butte  
9 am Mass—St. Joseph Atkinson  
10:30 am Mass—St. Patrick O'Neill  
11:15 am Mass—St. Joseph Amelia

## *Wednesday, April 1, 2026*

8:10 am Passion Play—St. Patrick O'Neill  
7 pm Passion Play—St. Patrick O'Neill

## *Holy Thursday, April 2, 2026*

7 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper — St. Boniface Stuart  
7 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper — St. Patrick O'Neill

## *Good Friday, April 3, 2026*

3 pm Passion Play—St. Patrick O'Neill  
3 pm Service of the Lord's Passion—St. Boniface Stuart  
3 pm Service of the Lord's Passion—St. Mary's Spencer  
5 pm Stations of the Cross—Assumption BVM Lynch  
7 pm Service of the Lord's Passion/Shadow Show—St. Joseph Atkinson  
7 pm Service of the Lord's Passion—St. Patrick O'Neill  
7 pm Stations of the Cross—St. Boniface Stuart  
7 pm Stations of the Cross—Ss. Peter & Paul Butte

## *Holy Saturday, April 4, 2026*

8:30 pm Easter Vigil—St. Boniface Stuart  
8:30 pm Easter Vigil —St. Patrick O'Neill

## *Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026*

8 am Easter Mass—Ss. Peter & Paul Butte  
9 am Easter Mass—St. Joseph Atkinson  
10:30 am Easter Mass—St. Patrick O'Neill  
11:15 am Easter Mass—St. Joseph Amelia

*Catholic Parishes of Western Holt & Boyd Counties*





Congratulations to Jim & Pat Gokie on receiving the Spirit of St. Mary's Award at the recent Red Carpet Gala, and to Pat Drueke on receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award at the Red Carpet Gala!

**ST. JOSEPH - AMELIA**

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> :

Stations of the cross in Amelia for CCD kids and their families

Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> :

reconciliation for the second and third grades after mass

Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> :

Children's Mass

Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> : Last CCD class

Community Service project – park cleanup and end of the year family picnic to follow

Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> :

First Communion, Senior recognition, and May Crowning

**Answers to the Crossword Puzzle on page 7:**

**Across**

- 2. The religion derived from Jesus Christ (christianity)
- 4. Good news (gospel)
- 5. The Friday before Easter (good friday)
- 6. The meal eaten by Jesus and his disciples on the night of his betrayal (last supper)
- 8. The Sunday before Easter (palm sunday)
- 9. A house, chamber, or vault for the deceased (tomb)
- 10. The first day of Lent (ash wednesday)
- 12. Exalted or worthy of complete devotion (holy)
- 13. The act of crucifying (crucifixion)
- 14. A figurative representation of Christ (lamb of god)

**Down**

- 1. One who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another (disciple)
- 3. The beginning and ending (the alpha and omega)
- 6. The 40 weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Easter (lent)
- 7. One who brings salvation (savior)
- 11. Early followers of Jesus (apostles)

**SS. PETER & PAUL - BUTTE**

Butte CYO Spring Update

Butte CYO has had a busy and meaningful spring. Over the past several weeks, we have been reflecting on Luke 6:45 and Matthew 12:34: "For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of." Through these passages, students have taken a deeper look at how their words reflect what they truly believe.

We've had thoughtful discussions about how we interact with others—friends, family, and classmates—and how those interactions shape both what we say and what we accept from others. Students have been challenged to consider whether they are changing their words to fit their audience and whether the words they hear align with what they want to hold in their hearts.

I encourage all of you, just as our students have been encouraged, to take time to reflect: Are the words we speak and the words we listen to a reflection of Jesus, or a reflection of the world?

As the weather improves, our students are also looking forward to giving back to the community. We will be helping with the town clean-up on April 8 and will once again assist with work at the cemetery.

We would also like to recognize our two graduating seniors, Claire and Madalyn. They have been wonderful leaders in our classroom, leading by example with strong faith and character. They will be greatly missed, and we wish them all the best in the next chapter of their journeys.



**ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL GOALS:**

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

## 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—charlottehuckmitchell@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](http://holtboydcatholic.org)

[flocknote.com](http://flocknote.com)



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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Passion Play @ 8:10 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 1<sup>st</sup> – Confessions – 5:30–6:15 p.m. – Lynch
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Parish Office Closes @ noon – O’Neill
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – CCW Mtg – 7:00 p.m. – Butte
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Parish Office Closed – O’Neill
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Confessions – 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Atkinson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Good Friday Services & Stations of the Cross (times/places elsewhere)
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Easter Vigil Masses – 8:30 p.m. – O’Neill & Stuart
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Easter Masses (times/places elsewhere)
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Parish Office Closed
- 6<sup>th</sup> – KC Meeting – 7:30 p.m. – Stuart
- 7<sup>th</sup> – OCIC Class – 4:30 p.m. – O’Neill
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Reach More Training – Parish Office – O’Neill – 6:30 p.m.
- 7<sup>th</sup> – Catholic Daughters Mtg – 7:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 8<sup>th</sup> – Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet
- 8<sup>th</sup> – KC Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Reach More Training – Parish Office – O’Neill – 6:30 p.m.
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Altar Society Meeting – 6:30 p.m. – O’Neill
- 11<sup>th</sup> – OMA Community Clean Up Day – O’Neill
- 12<sup>th</sup> – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 12<sup>th</sup> – COR – 7:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 13<sup>th</sup> – 4th Degree KC Meeting – 7:30 p.m. – Stuart
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Mass @ Good Sam – 10:00 a.m. – Atkinson
- 14<sup>th</sup> – OCIC Class – 4:30 p.m. – O’Neill
- 14<sup>th</sup> – Reach More Training – Parish Office – O’Neill – 6:30 p.m.
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Mass @ Evergreen – 3:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet
- 15<sup>th</sup> – Pastoral Council Mtg – 7:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 16<sup>th</sup> – Priests Jubilee – 1:30 p.m. – O’Neill
- 18<sup>th</sup> – First Communion – 9:00 a.m. – Atkinson
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Brunch following Mass – 9:00 a.m. – Butte
- 19<sup>th</sup> – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 20<sup>th</sup> – KC Meeting – 8:00 p.m. – Spencer
- 21<sup>st</sup> – OCIC Class – 4:30 p.m. – O’Neill
- 21<sup>st</sup> – Reach More Training – Parish Office – O’Neill – 6:30 p.m.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – First Communion Pictures/Practice – 6:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet
- 23<sup>rd</sup> – Ladies Guild – 2:00 p.m. – Stuart
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Teachers Faith Formation – 8:00 a.m. – Atkinson
- 25<sup>th</sup> – First Communion – 5:00 p.m. – Stuart and O’Neill
- 26<sup>th</sup> – First Communion – 10:30 a.m. – O’Neill
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Coffee & Rolls following Mass – 9:00 a.m. – Spencer
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 26<sup>th</sup> – COR – 7:00 p.m. – O’Neill
- 28<sup>th</sup> – OCIC Class – 4:30 p.m. – O’Neill
- 28<sup>th</sup> – Reach More Training – Parish Office – O’Neill – 6:30 p.m.
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet

**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

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