



SHARING OUR NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

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



★
FOR
unto us a
Child ^{is} born,
unto us a Son
is given; and the government
will be upon His shoulder. And
His name will be called
Wonderful
Counselor,
Everlasting Father
PRINCE OF PEACE
PRINCE OF PEACE
ISAIAH
9:6



MINISTRY OF PRAISE

A Word From Deacon Roger Filips

Greetings Prayer Warriors,

St. Paul says explicitly that we should think of ourselves as stones built up into a magnificent church. We usually experience church in our local parish. In addition to the usual issues with roofs, electrical, and furnaces, we also have to deal with the human church. We are told to build up the church, but in recent years it seems like we are mostly managing our own decline. Instead of adding human stones to the church, we are having to carefully remove some old stones without causing the whole human structure to collapse like a bad Jenga tower.

Even worse, sometimes in a small parish we find our stone rubbing up against a neighboring stone, and there is friction, or maybe some chemical reaction between your two stones that is damaging not only to each other but to the entire church. During boom times this friction might not cause much damage, but especially in hard times like these, we need to be strong and unified, not causing unnecessary friction.

In the long view, the church has had several ups and downs over the last 2000 years and at some point, God will bring us another up. If you pay attention, you can see green shoots of new growth starting in different places throughout the world already. I have even seen a couple of green shoots in our local parishes, but it is very early and none of us may live long enough to see full renewal.

So, let's commit to being the Church God wants: a people where God's Spirit lives and works. We are called to unity, holiness, and service. The real temple, or church, is not made of stones, but of people. Let's live in a way that honors this truth.

The following is a selection on Protestantism from my book "Pearls of the Universal Church" available from www.SpiritualWorksPress.com

Until the Anglican Lambeth Conference in 1930, all Protestants agreed with the Catholic Church that contraception was against God's will. Protestants rapidly changed their teaching because their people wanted to use contraceptives and they took a vote, which suddenly changed their position. The Catholic Church is not a democracy, and it has to preach the truth. It cannot change.

The Bible supports everything the Catholic Church teaches, but some of it is not explicit because not everything was written down. As John 21:25 states "I suppose not even the world itself could contain the books that would be written." The Church can never teach anything contrary to scripture, however. The Catholic Church has been the same Church and has taught the same faith for 2,000 years. Protestant Churches have been around ¼ as long and are rapidly breaking up, most recently over homosexual marriage and female clergy. If you read the writings of the early Church Fathers, you can see that they practiced the same faith we do and taught the same morals (read *The Fathers Know Best* by Jimmy Akin). The only change is that we have developed a deeper understanding of the faith.



Until next month . . . Deacon Filips



IN LOVING MEMORY . . .

GERALD "JERRY" STEINHAUSER

February 7, 1944—October 27, 2025
St. Boniface—Stuart

MAXINE OLBERDING

May 25, 1937—October 31, 2025
St. Boniface—Stuart

LAWRENCE "LARRY" MINTON

October 9, 1931—November 3, 2025
St. Patrick—O'Neill



WELCOME TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED . . .

BRAX DANIEL MLADY

Son of Breydon & Lauren Mlady
November 1, 2025
St. Joseph—Atkinson

ALAN OCTAVIO CHAVEZ-BARRAZA

Son of Daniel & Adylene Barraza
November 15, 2025
St. Joseph—Atkinson

BENEDICT JOHN HEBBERT

Son of Joe & Makala Hebbert
November 16, 2025
St. Boniface—Stuart

ASHTEN KAY REIMAN

Daughter of Dylan & Laura Reiman
November 16, 2025
SHBC—Ss. Peter & Paul—Butte

JAYCI JO GALL

Daughter of Jerod & Heather Gall
November 23, 2025
St. Joseph—Atkinson

CHRISTMAS IS LIGHT

When we think on the Christ child at this Christmas season, we remember the tender story surrounding his birth. Many of the story's elements are symbolic of the gospel principles we try to cultivate in our lives.

We are reminded that we are all **innkeepers**. We try to warmly welcome in the Savior with all our hearts rather than renting him a single room. Hopefully he has come in to lodge as a permanent guest and not as an itinerant traveler.

The **shepherds** were humble men who, while keeping watch over their flocks, did not hesitate to put their business aside to go with haste and find the babe. From them we learn when to put our own temporal affairs aside and seek the more spiritual.

We remember the **wise men** from the east who searched out the Son of God. These were spiritually sensitive men who came to worship the King. After much searching, inquiry, and effort, they found Him. Truly, wise men still seek Him.

These **magi** presented treasures to the Christ child that were offerings from their hearts and hands. The gifts they bore were their very best. When we offer a gift to the Savior from our hearts it is our very best.

Light also abounds in this simple story. In many instances the symbol of light was chosen to herald the Savior's birth:

The prophet Samuel predicts of the great lights in heaven where a day, a night, and a day would be as if it were one day and no night...and it shall be the night before He is born.

Samuel also tells of a new **star** that shall appear "such an one as ye have never beheld."

The shepherd witnessed the light of the Lord's glory as it shone round about them in their fields.

The wise men were directed by the light of the new star in the east, that went before them until it came and stood over where the young child was.

The light of Christ is both real and symbolic. We see it in the faces of each other and those who have come to accept His gospel. We are anxiously engaged in bringing this light to people in the Lord's kingdom.

We wish you a sweet and joyous holiday season and may your lives be filled with his light.



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the
whole cosmos

in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.



JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Pilgrimage Stop

Assumption BVM—Lynch

Assumption BVM Church in Lynch has been selected as one of the pilgrimage stops throughout this year for the Jubilee of Hope. To help receive a plenary indulgence, the following will take place in Lynch on the 1st and 5th (when applicable) Wednesdays of each month. This will continue through the entire year on the following date: December 3rd. Please feel free to journey over to Lynch during this special year-long celebration of hope.

+ Reconciliation +

5:30 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

+ Mass +

6:30 p.m.

+ Eucharistic Adoration—following Mass - 8:00 p.m.

W H B C
EVANGELIZATION

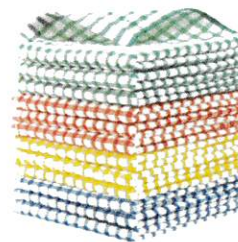


DISH CLOTH FUNDRAISER

Sponsored by:
The Rural Women's Conference Committee

A Division of the Catholic Parishes of Western Holt & Boyd Counties

\$ 2 . 0 0 E A C H



AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT:
BUTTE, ATKINSON, AND O'NEILL PARISH OFFICES
AND THE DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES OFFICE IN STUART

CONTACT ANN FILIPS - 605.929.1125

JAN KUENZ - 404.520.4303

KELLI TOMJACK - 404.556.1146

WITH QUESTIONS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION



A LENTEN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

**"A DESERT
JOURNEY
OF THE
HEART"**

WHEN:

MARCH 28, 2026
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

WHERE:

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH HALL
O'NEILL, NEBRASKA
300 N 4th St.

FEATURED SPEAKER • Sr. Mary Jo Polak, OSB

Enter into the silence of the desert this Lent and take
time away to explore the depths of your heart.

Discover the oasis of grace hidden there.

(Day will include Adoration & Confession)

**ALL
WOMEN
WELCOME!**

REGISTRATION:

9:30 A.M.

COST:

\$30/individual or
\$150 for a Table of 6

RSVP:

by March 21st
or
\$40/individual
after March 21st or the
day of the conference

CONTACT:

Ann Filips
605.929.4726
annfilips@icloud.com

or

Jan Kunz
402.340.2303

jankunz9@gmail.com

Name _____ Parish _____

Lunch Provided: Gluten Free _____ Other Food Allergy _____

\$30 per person _____ \$150 for a table of 6 (list names on the back) _____

Mail to: Jan Kunz—PO Box 160—Stuart, NE 68780

\$40 at the door. Limited spots available.

Make checks
payable to:
WHBC Evangelization

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER—CHRISTMAS EVE 1881

By Rian B. Anderson

It was Christmas Eve 1881. I was fifteen years old and feeling like the world had caved in on me because there just hadn't been enough money to buy me the rifle that I'd wanted for Christmas. We did the chores early that night for some reason. I just figured Pa wanted a little extra time so we could read in the Bible.

After supper was over I took my boots off and stretched out in front of the fireplace and waited for Pa to get down the old Bible. I was still feeling sorry for myself and, to be honest, I wasn't in much of a mood to read Scriptures. But Pa didn't get the Bible, instead he bundled up again and went outside. I couldn't figure it out because we had already done all the chores. I didn't worry about it long though, I was too busy wallowing in self-pity. Soon Pa came back in. It was a cold clear night out and there was ice in his beard. "Come on, Matt," he said. "Bundle up good, it's cold out tonight." I was really upset then. Not only wasn't I getting the rifle for Christmas, now Pa was dragging me out in the cold, and for no earthly reason that I could see. We'd already done all the chores, and I couldn't think of anything else that needed doing, especially not on a night like this. But I knew Pa was not very patient at one dragging one's feet when he'd told them to do something, so I got up and put my boots back on and got my cap, coat, and mittens. Ma gave me a mysterious smile as I opened the door to leave the house. Something was up, but I didn't know what.

Outside, I became even more dismayed. There in front of the house was the work team, already hitched to the big sled. Whatever it was we were going to do wasn't going to be a short, quick, little job. I could tell. We never hitched up this sled unless we were going to haul a big load. Pa was already up on the seat, reins in hand. I reluctantly climbed up beside him. The cold was already biting at me. I wasn't happy. When I was on, Pa pulled the sled around the house and stopped in front of the woodshed. He got off and I followed. "I think we'll put on the high sideboards," he said. "Here, help me." The high sideboards! It had been a bigger job than I wanted to do with just the low sideboards on, but whatever it was we were going to do would be a lot bigger with the high side boards on.

After we had exchanged the sideboards, Pa went into the woodshed and came out with an armload of wood – the wood I'd spent all summer hauling down from the mountain, and then all Fall sawing into blocks and splitting. What was he doing? Finally I said something. "Pa," I asked, "what are you doing?" You been by the Widow Jensen's lately?" he asked. The Widow Jensen lived about two miles down the road. Her husband had died a year or so before and left her with three children, the oldest being eight. Sure, I'd been by, but so what?

Yeah," I said, "Why?"

"I rode by just today," Pa said. "Little Jakey was out digging around in the woodpile trying to find a few chips. They're out of wood, Matt." That was all he said and then he turned and went back into the woodshed for another armload of wood. I followed him. We loaded the sled so high that I began to wonder if the horses would be able to pull it. Finally, Pa called a halt to our loading, then we went to the smoke house and Pa took down a big ham and a side of bacon. He handed them to me and told me to put them in the sled and wait. When he returned he was carrying a sack of flour over his right shoulder and a smaller sack of something in his left hand. "What's in the little sack?" I asked. Shoes, they're out of shoes. Little Jakey just had gunny sacks wrapped around his feet when he was out in the woodpile this morning. I got the children a little candy too. It just wouldn't be Christmas without a little candy."

We rode the two miles to Widow Jensen's pretty much in silence. I tried to think through what Pa was doing. We didn't have much by worldly standards. Of course, we did have a big woodpile, though most of what was left now was still in the form of logs that I would have to saw into blocks and split before we could use it. We also had meat and flour, so we could spare that, but I knew we didn't have any money, so why was Pa buying them shoes and candy? Really, why was he doing any of this? Widow Jensen had closer neighbors than us; it shouldn't have been our concern.

We came in from the blind side of the Jensen house and unloaded the wood as quietly as possible, then we took the meat and flour and shoes to the door. We knocked. The door opened a crack and a timid voice said, "Who is it?" "Lucas Miles, Ma'am, and my son, Matt, could we come in for a bit?"

Widow Jensen opened the door and let us in. She had a blanket wrapped around her shoulders. The children were wrapped in another and were sitting in front of the fireplace by a very small fire that hardly gave off any heat at all. Widow Jensen fumbled with a match and finally lit the lamp.

Continued on page 7 . . .

Continued from page 6 . . .

"We brought you a few things, Ma'am," Pa said and set down the sack of flour. I put the meat on the table. Then Pa handed her the sack that had the shoes in it. She opened it hesitantly and took the shoes out one pair at a time. There was a pair for her and one for each of the children – sturdy shoes, the best, shoes that would last. I watched her carefully. She bit her lower lip to keep it from trembling and then tears filled her eyes and started running down her cheeks. She looked up at Pa like she wanted to say something, but it wouldn't come out.

"We brought a load of wood too, Ma'am," Pa said. He turned to me and said, "Matt, go bring in enough to last awhile. Let's get that fire up to size and heat this place up." I wasn't the same person when I went back out to bring in the wood. I had a big lump in my throat and as much as I hate to admit it, there were tears in my eyes too. In my mind I kept seeing those three kids huddled around the fireplace and their mother standing there with tears running down her cheeks with so much gratitude in her heart that she couldn't speak.

My heart swelled within me and a joy that I'd never known before, filled my soul. I had given at Christmas many times before, but never when it had made so much difference. I could see we were literally saving the lives of these people.

I soon had the fire blazing and everyone's spirits soared. The kids started giggling when Pa handed them each a piece of candy and Widow Jensen looked on with a smile that probably hadn't crossed her face for a long time. She finally turned to us. "God bless you," she said. "I know the Lord has sent you. The children and I have been praying that he would send one of his angels to spare us."

In spite of myself, the lump returned to my throat and the tears welled up in my eyes again. I'd never thought of Pa in those exact terms before, but after Widow Jensen mentioned it I could see that it was probably true. I was sure that a better man than Pa had never walked the earth. I started remembering all the times he had gone out of his way for Ma and me, and many others. The list seemed endless as I thought on it.

Pa insisted that everyone try on the shoes before we left. I was amazed when they all fit and I wondered how he had known what sizes to get. Then I guessed that if he was on an errand for the Lord that the Lord would make sure he got the right sizes.

Tears were running down Widow Jensen's face again when we stood up to leave. Pa took each of the kids in his big arms and gave them a hug. They clung to him and didn't want us to go. I could see that they missed their Pa, and I was glad that I still had mine.

At the door Pa turned to Widow Jensen and said, "The Mrs. wanted me to invite you and the children over for Christmas dinner tomorrow. The turkey will be more than the three of us can eat, and a man can get cantankerous if he has to eat turkey for too many meals. We'll be by to get you about eleven. It'll be nice to have some little ones around again. Matt, here, hasn't been little for quite a spell." I was the youngest. My two brothers and two sisters had all married and had moved away.

Widow Jensen nodded and said, "Thank you, Brother Miles. I don't have to say, May the Lord bless you, I know for certain that He will."

Out on the sled I felt a warmth that came from deep within and I didn't even notice the cold. When we had gone a ways, Pa turned to me and said, "Matt, I want you to know something. Your ma and me have been tucking a little money away here and there all year so we could buy that rifle for you, but we didn't have quite enough. Then yesterday a man who owed me a little money from years back came by to make things square. Your ma and me were real excited, thinking that now we could get you that rifle, and I started into town this morning to do just that, but on the way I saw little Jakey out scratching in the woodpile with his feet wrapped in those gunny sacks and I knew what I had to do. Son, I spent the money for shoes and a little candy for those children. I hope you understand."

I understood, and my eyes became wet with tears again. I understood very well, and I was so glad Pa had done it. Now the rifle seemed very low on my list of priorities. Pa had given me a lot more. He had given me the look on Widow Jensen's face and the radiant smiles of her three children.

For the rest of my life, whenever I saw any of the Jensens, or split a block of wood, I remembered, and remembering brought back that same joy I felt riding home beside Pa that night. Pa had given me much more than a rifle that night, he had given me the best Christmas of my life.

ST. PATRICK—O'NEILL



**ST. PATRICK'S CHRISTMAS
DECORATION DONATIONS**

Would you like to help decorate the church for Christmas? You can make a donation to purchase poinsettias or other Christmas decorations, and put them in your loved ones' honor/memory.

Envelopes are available at the church or Parish Office. Call the Parish Office for more details @ 336-1602.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSINGS



Closed All Day: December 24th, 25th, 26th

Closing at Noon: December 31st

Closed All Day: January 1st and 2nd



THE O'NEILL MINISTERIAL
ASSOCIATION PRESENTS
THE THIRD ANNUAL

**Festival of Nine
Lessons and Carols**

SUNDAY DECEMBER
21ST @ 6:00 PM

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

INTERESTED IN JOINING
THE FESTIVAL CHOIR?
SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW OR
TEXT WILLIAM OTTE @
402.340.5490



CHRISTMAS CLOSET

MONDAY DECEMBER 15

5:30PM

O'NEILL COMMUNITY CENTER

FREE SOUP SUPPER!

KIDS SHOPPING AREA! CRAFTS! VISIT FROM SANTA!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

MANY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14

**ANY TIME AFTER 9:00AM- LATE AFTERNOON
OR AT THE EVENT 5:15-8:30**

NEW AND GENTLY USED ITEMS
TO BE RE-GIFTED AT THE
CHRISTMAS CLOSET
GIFT IDEAS INCLUDE:

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

**FINAL DONATION DAY
FRIDAY DECEMBER 11TH
BY 4PM AT TRAIN DEPOT**

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

ST. JOSEPH—AMELIA

St Joseph Amelia Church had their annual fundraising meal on Sunday, November 23. They served smoked pork and baked beans, smoked and baked by the Casual Smokers. Many homemade salads and desserts accompanied the main course. Besides a wonderful meal, lots of visiting and fellowship was enjoyed.



ST. JOSEPH—ATKINSON

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Wednesday, December 3
7:00 p.m.
in the church

Cookies and refreshments
following @ St. Joseph's
Elementary School



ADVENT BABY SHOWER

A baby bassinet will be set
in the vestibule for baby items
for 4 weeks.



Sponsored by the
St. Joseph's Altar Society

THANK YOU FROM BEGINNINGS



Dear Friends of the Catholic Parishes of Western Holt and Boyd Counties,
Just a note to say thanks so much for being part of the Baby Bottle Fundraiser! Your help keeps the doors of Beginnings open. Because of your prayers and gifts, lives are saved and hearts are changed. Please never doubt how important you are to this ministry. God bless you so much!

Mandy, Ruth, Nerec, and Kelcie



A CHRISTMAS PRAYER



Loving Father, help us to remember the
birth of Jesus, that we may share in
the song of the angels, the gladness of the
shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love
all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift and
good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from the evil by the blessing which Christ brings
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy
children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.

Amen!

~ Robert Lewis Stevenson



A Christmas Prayer

THANK YOU, LORD, FOR COMING TO EARTH TO SAVE US FROM OUR SINS-
FOR TAKING ON HUMAN FLESH-
FOR BEING GOD WITH US IN OUR JOYS AND IN OUR SORROWS
AND WALKING THE SHADOWED PATHS OF LIFE WITH US.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DAILY PROVISIONS AND BLESSINGS-
AND FOR HARD TIMES THAT TEACH US TO TRUST YOU-
THANK YOU FOR OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS-

MAY WE BE LIKE THE SHEPHERDS WHO WENT AND TOLD
ALL THEY HAD SEEN AND HEARD ABOUT THE SAVIOR-
AND MAY WE BE LIKE THE WISE MEN WHO BROUGHT GIFTS
AND OFFER OUR LIVES AS LIVING SACRIFICES.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!

Merry Christmas everyone!

"I am the bread of life." John 6:48

Dear God, bless our family as part of your creation.
Help us care for one another and everything you create. Amen.

8 Reasons to Bring Your Child to Mass

Children learn to value what their parents and extended family value. And they learn not so much by what we say as what we do. Make regular participation at Mass together a priority. Taking our children to Mass will:

1. **Reveal their true identity as beloved children of God.** In a fast-changing world, children need to know that they are valued and they are loved.
2. **Shape their values.** People take on the values of those they associate with. Join together with the people who strive to follow Jesus' way.
3. **Connect them with many generations.** Mass unites people of all ages.
4. **Populate their imaginations with stories of faith.** Expose your child to the stories that lead to abundant life.
5. **Fill their hearts with songs that shape their souls.** Music has impact. The songs we sing at Mass help us see how God is active in our lives.
6. **Nurture their inner life.** Attend to your whole child; don't neglect his or her spiritual self. Worship brings our spiritual selves to life.
7. **Feed them on the journey.** Our children will face many challenges in their lives. Jesus offers his very self to them to strengthen, encourage, and free them no matter what comes.
8. **Help them find their true home.** God longs for the whole family to gather around the table. In the Eucharist, we realize that we are all one in God.

Attending Mass as a Family

- Sit close to the sanctuary where your child can see what is going on.
- Dress appropriately, remember that you are on holy ground.
- When entering the church, cross and bless yourselves with holy water.
- Before entering the pew, genuflect out of love and reverence for God, who is present in the tabernacle.
- Let your child see you participate in the Mass.
- Teach your child to be observant and aware of the meaning of pictures, statues, images, crucifixes, Stations of the Cross. Someday, when your child visits a church of another faith, they may ask why you do not go there. You can refer to these special items to help you answer these questions.
- Remember Sundays are holy days of obligation and warrant confession if missed without a good reason.

Excerpts taken from "Catechist's Journey" Joe Paprocki www.loyolapress.com 800-621-1008

Saints Peter and Paul Youth Stock Food Banks



The CCD youth of Saints Peter and Paul came together with all their muscles and prayers to put together some meals for the local Food Banks!!! It all started this fall with a Pampered Chef Fundraiser, thanks to Janelle Viereck for being a great leader!!

Thanks to the parents and youth who hit the streets and raised nearly \$400 due to the generosity of all those who bought something!!

There was a secret donor who challenged them with a matching donation. This added another \$500! (Thanks to JH Trucking and Jeremy Huck!)

This group of kids chose 6 recipes, shopped for the food, packaged the meals, loaded the van, and finished their mission by delivering with a smile. Eighty meals-in-a-bag were assembled with love, care, laughs and prayers!!

The extras were put in the back of church. Happy Thanksgiving!

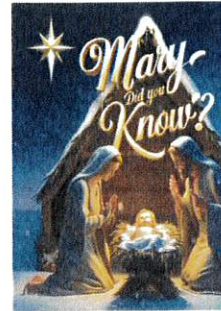


MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, CONTINUE TO SHOW DEEP LOVE FOR EACH OTHER. 1 PETER 4:8



**Fr. Leo Hausman and
Fr. Owen Korte
Are coming to help us prepare
for Christmas.
They will be at available for
Reconciliation at
St. Mary's Church in Spencer
Sunday, Dec. 14 from 3-5 pm
Eucharistic Adoration
will also be held.**

Spencer St. Mary's CCD
and CYO will present a
Living Nativity
Sunday, Dec. 14 at 5:15 in
the church. All are invited
to come for this the
narrated drama, then
come to the hall for the



SOUPER SUPPER that follows. Each
CCD/CYO family will bring a different soup
to try – and designate a local
organization/non-profit for their soup. Diners
will try the different soups and vote for their
favorite. The family with the winning soup
will get \$50 to give to their group. Two
runner-up families will get \$25 for their
group. Prizes are courtesy of the Altar
Society, CCD, and CYO.
The Altar Society will also have a dessert bar.

**Heavenly Father, we love you very
much. I/We beg you to spare the
life of the unborn baby (and
parents) that I/we have spiritually
adopted who is in danger of
abortion.**

**I/We, the undersigned, willingly and joyfully
agree to spiritually adopt this unborn baby
and pray for him/her, and its mom and dad
until delivery on June 24, 2026.**

Name your Spiritually adopted baby

Your signature



We are inviting our churches to
join Boyd Holt Right to Life and
Spiritually Adopt a child whom
you will pray for until scheduled
delivery in June. Pray the
parents find resources they need
to nurture their child. Pray the
Holy Spirit will put supportive
people in their path. See Boyd
Holt RTL's Facebook page for
updates on baby's development.

**SIGN UP FOR
FLOCKNOTE
NOTIFICATIONS:**

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

St. Patrick—O'Neill
68763

St. Joseph—Amelia
68711

**Sacred Heart of
Boyd Co.**
68722

St. Boniface—Stuart
68780

St. Joseph—Atkinson
68713

OR

HOLTBOYDCATHOLIC
(for information from ALL parishes)
TO
84576
or connect online at:
holtboydcatholic.org
flocknote.com

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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



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
iankunz9@gmail.com

JUST A LITTLE
Reminder

All end of the year donations should be postmarked or made by December 31st.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL GOALS:

PARISH:	RECEIVED:	FUND GOAL:	PARTICIPATION GOAL:
Sacred Heart-Boyd County	\$9,197.00	\$13,435.95	54%
St. Boniface—Stuart	\$4,435.00	\$8,776.53	39%
St Joseph—Amelia	\$2,295.00	\$3,672.66	54%
St Joseph—Atkinson	\$6,915.00	\$12,326.43	29%
St Patrick—O'Neill	\$17,770.00	\$47,962.84	30%
Total: As of 11/25/2025	\$40,612.00	\$86,174.41	41%



CONTACT INFORMATION



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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—jmwallwey@archomaha.org

Youth Director:

Bridget Bulau—bbulau@smcards.org

Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Whitney Shaffer—whitney.shaffer7@gmail.com

Sacred Heart of Boyd County

Office: PO Box 8, Butte, NE 68722

Phone: 402-775-0067

Hours: Monday—Thursday 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Secretary:

Marge Nolan—mnolan@archomaha.org

Youth Minister/Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Charlotte Mitchell—

charlottehuckmitchell@gmail.com

402-336-7826

St. Joseph—Atkinson

Office: PO Box 220, Atkinson, NE 68713

Phone: 402-925-2122 Fax: 402-925-2104

Hours: Wednesday—Friday 8 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Secretary:

Gayle Jungman—stjoechurchatkinson@gmail.com

Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Linda Wolf—stjohnldr@gmail.com

402-340-0741

St. Boniface—Stuart

PO Box 190 Stuart, NE 68780



Phone: 402-924-3262

Director of Ministries/Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Jan Kunz—jmkunz@archomaha.org or

jankunz9@gmail.com

402-340-2303



LITTLE OLD DONKEY THAT HAD LITTLE TO SAY

It was the night before Christmas when all the beasts came together from the farthest places of the earth to talk. The first voice to be heard was the deep, rich bass of the lion. "I speak," he said, "as the king of beasts." And truly he looked a king with his beautiful thick mane and his tawny rippling muscles. "I won't repeat my good deeds. I shall not again tonight repeat the shining stories of the days when the Romans loved me. I shall not recall the story of the one man, Daniel, who defied me in my own den — a story humbling to me — which I have often told you to prove I am not proud. I shall say nothing of my stealthy fury that makes the whole continent tremble at the very sound of my name..."

"Then I shall speak," — and by the trumpet sound, the beasts knew the elephant spoke. "I am the biggest beast on earth. My size and my strength awe nations. Yet I can walk so softly and lightly that no ear can hear my coming. Isn't that something to be proud of? And I don't believe any of you can flip a tremendous teak log over your shoulder as handily as I can. That takes power. Yes, and who else here has been a beast of war? Who else has crossed the Alps? You know how very high the Alps are! I and my strong brothers helped the famous General Hannibal and his soldiers over them in one of his great campaigns. And Hannibal's in history books all over the world."

A strange, whispering voice broke in: "You know me, the giraffe. Usually I stay silent, but I hope you'll remember I'm the tallest and can look down on you. But please don't think I am bragging because I'm up here above you. I eat from the tops of trees. Nobody else here can do that. Besides, being the tallest, I can run faster than most..."

"Let me interrupt." It was the leopard's voice. "You'd have to move pretty fast to outrun certain striped and spotted cousins of mine who hold most of the speed records. Right, cousins?" The tiger nodded his head and the cheetah, fastest of all, smiled.

The camel, till now, had been chewing his cud and watching with sad eyes. He cleared his throat and his voice rasped out: "I am neither handsome nor fleet. I have some trouble keeping clean. But I have the right to feel as proud as anyone here. I helped build the pyramids of Egypt! Have any of you ever tackled a job that big? I am also the only animal in the world that can have two humps on his back. I am used to going many days without water, across scorching sands that would burn the feet off most of you within hours. My friends, the camel counts, and I have a right to feel happy."

For a long while after the camel's speech, there was silence. Then the llama coughed and said: "I am by nature modest. One thing, however — I, have had much experience crossing mountains. You have heard of the Andes, my home, and the war work I've done." Others spoke too. The goose honked, "I laid a golden egg once. Who else has done that?" The turtle said, "I'm the slowest. It's better. When you go fast, you go round in circles." The fox said: "I am the slyest, the trickiest, and probably the brainiest of you all." The zebra said: "For confusion, I'm best. Am I black with white stripes or white with black?" The grizzly bear said: "Who that is as heavy as I can climb a tree as well?" And the polar bear said: "Can anybody but me swim with icebergs or catch fish with a paw?"

All this time a little grey beast stood listening. Finally, the other animals looked his way. There wasn't much he could do but speak. "I am a donkey," he began, in a voice so hoarse and low that the beasts leaned forward to hear. "I can't run fast or go days without water. I couldn't swim a stroke among icebergs. I've never climbed a tree. Nobody is afraid of me."

Lower and lower sank the little donkey's voice. His ears drooped, and his head was bowed. The other beasts could hardly hear him. Suddenly he raised his head. His eyes looked far away in time and space and there was a strange glow around him. "Only one thing I have ever done has stuck in my mind. It happened a long, long time ago...on the way to Egypt in the dark of night. I carried a mother who carried a King."



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

1st—KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Stuart
 2nd—OCIC Class—4:30 p.m.—O'Neill
 3rd—Pilgrims of Hope Pilgrimage—5:30 p.m.—Lynch
 3rd—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet
 5th—Mass @ Parkside—2:00 p.m.—Stuart
 6th/7th—Religious Retirement Fund Collection
 7th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 7th—OCIA—4:00 p.m.—Parish Office—O'Neill
 7th—Immaculate Conception Vigil Masses (See times/places elsewhere)
 7th—COR Men's Group—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 8th—Immaculate Conception Masses (See times/places elsewhere)
 8th—4th Degree KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Stuart
 9th—OCIC Class—4:30 p.m.—O'Neill
 10th—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet
 10th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 13th—Christmas Festival Practice—1:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 14th—OCIA—4:00 p.m.—Parish Office—O'Neill
 15th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—Spencer
 16th—OCIC Class—4:30 p.m.—O'Neill
 17th—Pastoral Council—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 17th—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet
 18th—Living Nativity—7:00 a.m.—O'Neill
 21st—Christmas Festival Practice—1:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 21st—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 21st—OCIA—4:00 p.m.—Parish Office—O'Neill
 21st—Festival of Lessons & Carols—6:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 21st—COR Men's Group—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 24th/26th—Parish Office Closed
 24th—Christmas Eve Masses (See times/places elsewhere)
 25th—Christmas Masses (See times/places elsewhere)
 28th—Coffee & Rolls following Mass at St. Mary's—Spencer
 28th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 31st—New Year's Eve
 31st—Parish Office Closes at 12:00 p.m.
 31st—Vigil of Solemnity of Mary Masses (See times/places elsewhere)
 1st—Solemnity of Mary Masses (See times/places elsewhere)



MASS SCHEDULES

Vigil of Immaculate Conception

December 7th

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



Immaculate Conception

December 8th

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

MERRY
 Christmas

Christmas Eve

December 24th

4:00 p.m.—St. Joseph—Atkinson
 4:00 p.m.—St. Mary's—Spencer
 4:00 p.m.—St. Patrick—O'Neill
 6:00 p.m.—St. Boniface—Stuart



Christmas Day

December 25th

12:00 a.m.—Midnight Mass
 St. Patrick—O'Neill
 9:00 a.m.—St. Joseph—Atkinson
 10:00 a.m.—Ss. Peter & Paul—Butte
 10:30 a.m.—St. Patrick—O'Neill
 11:15 a.m.—St. Joseph—Amelia



Vigil of Solemnity of Mary

December 31st

6:30 p.m.—Assumption BVM—Lynch
 7:00 p.m.—St. Boniface—Stuart



Solemnity of Mary

January 1st

9:00 a.m.—St. Joseph—Atkinson
 9:00 a.m.—St. Patrick—O'Neill
 11:15 a.m.—St. Joseph—Amelia