

SHARING OUR NEWS

JANUARY 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 – 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

Joseph Our Male Role Model

Some guys have a problem with the Catholic faith. Look at your priests and deacons. We wear lacy things that sort of look like dresses. There is always all of this relationship talk, and we know how awkward that is for guys. There is singing. We all know that church ladies run the parish. They outrank everyone else except the pastor. We are always honoring Mary, who is harder for men to relate to than women. Jesus was a man, but He was also God, so it can be hard to relate to Him. What we need is a good masculine role model, like Joseph.

Think of what St. Joseph is honored for today. I am sure he was a good craftsman and worked hard, but have you ever seen anything he ever built? These things have long since fallen apart. St. Joseph is honored for his relationship with Jesus, as His protector and teacher and provider, as His stepfather. We remember him for his relationship with Jesus, not his work or his career. And so it is with us. All of those things we spend so much time worrying about and building up; our careers, our farm, our business, our wealth, none of that really matters in the end. It is chaff in the wind. It will all be gone someday just like what Joseph built during his career. What matters is what lasts. We remember St. Joseph for his faith and his relationship with Jesus, his spiritual leadership of the Holy Family, how he was a protector, teacher, and provider. That is the only thing that our descendants will remember us for if we were men of faith and if we had a relationship with Jesus. Were we the spiritual leaders of our family? Did we protect, teach and provide for our family? Did we take our family to Mass every week and let them see us practice the faith? Kids do what dad does, not what mom or dad says, or even what mom does.

It is good to work hard and take care of your family, but in the end none of that matters if you are skipping the Mass and a relationship with your lord and savior. Resolve to be remembered for your relationship with Jesus just like Joseph. Nothing else is important. Happy New Year.

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

The Catholic Church and the Pope do not have the authority to make major changes such as ordaining "female Priests", allowing divorce and remarriage, or "homosexual marriage", or changing anything in the creed. These are examples of dogma, meaning it is part of the unchangeable faith. The Church could allow married male Priests because that is a discipline that the Church believes to be beneficial and not dogma. However, celibacy has been a beneficial discipline for so long that it is very unlikely to change.

Until next month . . .

A WEALTHY FATHER LEARNS A LESSON

One day a very wealthy father took his son on a trip to the country for the sole purpose of showing his son how it was to be poor. They spent a few days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

After their return from the trip, the father asked his son how he liked the trip. "It was great, Dad," the son replied.

"Did you see how poor people can be?" the father asked. "Oh Yeah," said the son.

"So what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered, "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night."

"Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight.

We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "It showed me just how poor we really are."

Too many times we forget what we have and concentrate on what we don't have. What is one person's worthless object is another's prize possession. It is all based on one's perspective.

Sometimes it takes the perspective of a child to remind us what's important.

Isn't it incredible how the wisest words can sometimes come from the mouths of babes?!? The son taught this wealthy father a crucial lesson of true contentment. Worldly possessions have no lasting value. Rather, God wishes for us to focus on the eternal treasures He has in store!

"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Hebrews 13:5

IN LOVING MEMORY

ALICE MARX

May 11, 1946 – December 2, 2025
Formerly of St. Patrick – O'Neill

AGNES KROBOT

January 10, 1923 – December 2, 2025
St. Boniface – Stuart

THELMA ROSE SCHMITZ

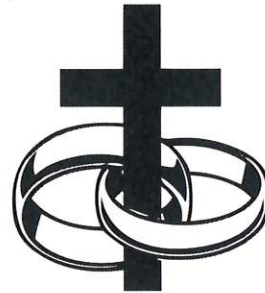
December 1, 1933 – December 18, 2025
SHBC – Ss. Peter & Paul – Butte



CONGRATULATIONS NEWLYWEDS

MEGAN PETER & DYLAN LOCKHORN

November 29, 2025
St. Patrick – O'Neill



WELCOME TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

COOPER GENE CARR

Son of Kyle & Kelley Carr
December 7, 2025
St. Joseph – Amelia

PAXTON ALVIN REYNOLDS

Son of Shelton & Rylie Rynolds
December 7, 2025
St. Patrick – O'Neill

JERZIE CAPRI KELLY

Daughter of Nathan & Megan Kelly
December 14, 2025
St. Patrick – O'Neill

LUX WILLIAM DEXTER

Son of Mason & Jade Dexter
December 20, 2025
St. Boniface – Stuart

LORELEI STARR KLASNA

Daughter of Skye & LaLa Klasna
December 21, 2025
St. Patrick – O'Neill



THOMAS LUKE BULAU

Son of Luke & Bridget Bulau
December 24, 2025
St. Patrick – O'Neill

New Year Prayer
A special prayer is offered
For you
On New Year's Day—
May God in His unceasing love
Send many gifts your way,
And may He fill your heart with peace
And be forever near,
Blessing you and guiding you
Throughout the coming year.
Happy New Year

bless THIS MESS

A man came home from work and found his three children outside, still in their pajamas, playing in the mud, with empty food boxes and wrappers strewn all around the front yard. The door of his wife's car was open, as was the front door to the house and there was no sign of the dog. Proceeding into the entry, he found an even bigger mess. A lamp had been knocked over, and the throw rug was wadded against one wall. In the front room the TV was loudly blaring a cartoon channel, and the family room was strewn with toys and various items of clothing. In the kitchen, dishes filled the sink, breakfast food was spilled on the counter, the fridge door was open wide, dog food was spilled on the floor, a broken glass lay under the table, and a small pile of sand was spread by the back door. He quickly headed up the stairs, stepping over toys and more piles of clothes, looking for his wife. He was worried she might be ill, or that something serious had happened. He was met with a small trickle of water as it made its way out the bathroom door. As he peered inside, he found wet towels, scummy soap, and more toys strewn over the floor. Miles of toilet paper lay in a heap and toothpaste had been smeared over the mirror and walls. As he rushed to the bedroom, he found his wife still curled up in the bed in her pajamas, reading a novel. She looked up at him, smiled, and asked how his day went. He looked at her bewildered and asked: "What happened here today?" She again smiled and answered, "You know every day when you come home from work, and you ask me what in the world I do all day?" "Yes," was his incredulous reply. She answered, "Well, today I didn't do it."

What a great reminder to take time out to appreciate the little things that may be getting overlooked. Maybe you've felt this way too? Like the little things you do go unnoticed? But just remember that, as the Steven Curtis Chapman song says, "you do everything you do to the glory of the One who made you." Even if others don't see, our God does!



30 BIBLE VERSES <i>about</i> NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS		
Psalms 51:10-11	Philippians 3:12-15	Jeremiah 29:11
Proverbs 16:9	Colossians 3:14-15	Luke 6:31
James 5:13-16	Isaiah 43:18-19	Matthew 28:18-20
Luke 6:27-28	Luke 6:27	Ephesians 6:18
2 Timothy 2:15	Romans 8:28	Psalms 23:1
Lamentations 3:40	2 Corinthians 5:17	Psalms 139:23-24
Lamentations 3:22-23	Joshua 24:15	James 1:19-21
1 Peter 1:3	Psalms 102:27	2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
Numbers 9:22	Isaiah 40:31	Mark 12:30
Philippians 1:6	2 Timothy 1:7	Philippians 4:13
B BIBLE PORTAL		

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 HOLE IN THE BOAT

One day a man was asked to paint a boat by an owner of boat. He brought with him paint and brushes and began to paint the boat a bright red, as the owner asked him.

While painting, he realized there was a hole in the hull and decided to repair it. When finished painting, he received his money and left.

The next day, the owner of the boat came to the painter and presented him with a nice check, much higher than the payment for painting.

The painter was surprised, "You've already paid me for painting the boat," he said.

"But this is not for the paint job. It's for having repaired the hole in the boat."

"Ah! But it was such a small service, certainly it's not worth paying me such a high amount for something so insignificant!"

"My dear friend, you do not understand. Let me tell you what happened.

When I asked you to paint the boat, I forgot to mention about the hole.

When the boat dried, my kids took the boat and went on a fishing trip.

They did not know that there was a hole. I was not at home at that time.

When I returned and noticed they had taken the boat, I was desperate because I remembered that the boat had a hole.

Imagine my relief and joy when I saw them returning from fishing.

Then, I examined the boat and found that you had repaired the hole! You see, now, what you did? You saved the life of my children! I do not have enough money to pay your "small" good deed."

Moral of the story:

So, no matter who, when or how, just continue to help, sustain, wipe tears, listen attentively and carefully repair all the "leaks" you find, because you never know when one is in need of us or when God holds a pleasant surprise for us to be helpful and important to someone.





Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

St. Joseph Catholic School
Atkinson, NE

St. Mary's Catholic School
O'Neill, NE

Catholic Schools Week 2026
JANUARY 25 – 31, 2026

www.NCEA.org/csw • #CSW2026

ST. JOSEPH – ATKINSON PARISH CARNIVAL

(in conjunction with
Catholic Schools Week)

January 23, 2026
Atkinson Community Center

Meal – 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Games – 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK KICK OFF AT ST. MARY'S – O'NEILL

St. Mary's will be having their annual Catholic Schools Week Kick Off Mass on Sunday, January 25th at 10:30 am at St. Patrick in O'Neill. Students/families will be involved in all aspects of the mass, and we look forward to seeing you all then as we celebrate Catholic Schools in our communities!

THE IMPORTANCE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

As we embark on the celebration of Catholic Schools Week 2026, this is a time for reflection on the invaluable impact of Catholic education on the lives of our children. This week is not merely a time for festivity but an opportunity to recognize the special role that Catholic schools play in shaping the minds, hearts, and spirits of our young learners. This year's theme, "United in Faith and Community," illustrates the mission of our schools and our common faith in creating a community of learners who support and uplift one another.

We celebrate our schools each day but Catholic Schools Week is the point in time for a poignant celebration that transcends the boundaries of education, instilling a sense of purpose and faith in the hearts of students, educators, and the entire community. It is a time when the profound impact of Catholic education becomes evident, as these schools not only impart knowledge but also cultivate values that resonate with the teachings of compassion, integrity, and service.

The week serves as a reminder that Catholic schools are not just institutions of learning, but nurturing grounds for the religious and academic development of individuals who are empowered to navigate the complexities of life with a strong moral compass. In a world often filled with challenges, Catholic Schools Week stands as a testament to the enduring commitment of our schools to shape not only the minds but also the souls of those entrusted in our care.

Source: <https://catholicspirit.com/news/catholic-schools-week-highlights-the-unique-qualities-that-define-catholic-schools>



YEAR END ACTIVITES AT ST. JOSEPH - AMELIA

CCD students singing at the Chambers Hometown Christmas celebration.
Mr. DeVries accompanied the carolers.



Below shows the students making crafts and assembling over 50 gift bags with crafts, homemade goodies and other feel good items for residents of the community.

This is one of their major community service projects that the kids love doing.

The recipients love receiving the bags delivered by the students.



ST. BONIFACE – STUART CCD NEWS



Sixteen joyful 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade CCD singers entertained the residents at Parkside Manor on December 10th.

**Christmas Carolers*
on the right*



CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY CHALLENGE

20 students and adults participated in the 2025 St. Boniface CCD Corporal Works of Mercy Challenge raising \$610.01! "Corporal works of mercy consist especially in feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and burying the dead. Giving alms to the poor is one of the chief witnesses to fraternal charity" (love.). [Catechism of the Catholic Church 2447].

For our Advent Challenge each participant was asked to perform at least 5-6 chores/jobs/acts of kindness for family or neighbors, raising an average of \$1-2 per chore. Older students and adults can still perform the 5-6 acts of kindness and give a donation. The money raised this year goes to Klothes 4 Kids which is a Stuart organization that has been functioning for many years and provides groceries, socks, coats, shoes, boots, jeans, snow pants, gloves, hats, hygiene items, washing detergent, school supplies, etc. to local families in need. A team does the shopping and wrapping and the delivery to families is done during Christmas week.

Examples of acts and kindness and chores done by the students and adults include cleaning the bathroom, cleaning the table, sweeping the kitchen, helping grandma with chores, giving a family member a hug, washing grandma's dishes, helping dad with chores, helping decorate the tree, help make cookies, set the table, organize cubbies, fold blankets, clean the basement, help a neighbor with trash, walk neighbor's dog, help clean the car, clean my room, sweep the leaves, vacuum, mop, feed pets, clean out dishwasher, serve for a funeral, bring totes up, shovel snow, clean chicken coop, firewood, put up tables, empty silverware, staying patient with a family member even when it was hard, give a book to a neighbor boy, donate to the food pantry, and visiting an elderly neighbor.

Thank you to all who participated,
all the acts of kindness, and all the donations to Klothes for Kids!

This is the true spirit of Christmas!

Submitted by Jonna Kohle



EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – SOLEMNITY

Quote:

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ~Matthew 2:10-11

Reflection: All of God's creation gives Him glory and praises Him by its very existence. Psalm 143 states, "Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all shining stars. Praise him, highest heavens, you waters above the heavens. Let them all praise the LORD's name; for he commanded and they were created..." Though creation gives praise to God simply by existing and thus, revealing its Creator, today's solemnity commemorates the one moment in time when God used a star to manifest His eternal glory.

At the time of Jesus' birth, it was commonly believed that a new star would appear whenever a new ruler was born. The Father in Heaven used this belief to honor His Son Who was born as the new King. The three Magi from the East were astrologers. When they saw this "new star," they chose to follow it to discover the new King. Creation itself, in the form of a star, pointed the way, thus giving glory to the newborn King, manifesting Him to the whole world as symbolized by the Magi.

The word "Epiphany" means "manifestation." Therefore, as we honor this moment in time when the Christ Child was made manifest to the world, we need to look into our own hearts. There, we discover Christ's ongoing manifestation to us so that we can worship Him Who has also chosen to be born within our hearts. We must diligently seek out that manifestation of God within us and respond to it in the same ways that the Magi responded.

First of all, the Magi were determined. When they saw a sign from the heavens that pointed to a new King, they stopped everything and departed in haste to find Him. When God speaks to you and manifests Himself to you in some way, nothing could be more important than to be attentive to His voice and follow His manifestation with the same haste.

The Magi brought the Christ Child gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. God was honored and glorified through His creation by the giving of these gifts. God created gold to manifest His beauty and dignity. It was a gift that symbolized kingship. When we ponder the natural gift of gold given to the Christ Child, we are inspired to give Him our own gift of symbolic gold by prayerfully acknowledging Him as our own King to whom we pledge our complete submission.

Made from the sap of trees found in India, northeastern Africa, and the Arabian peninsula, frankincense and myrrh are also fruits of God's creation. Used in worship to symbolize prayers rising to heaven, frankincense symbolizes the Christ Child's divinity. We offer frankincense to Christ when we acknowledge His divine nature, since He is God in the flesh. Often used in burial, myrrh honors the Christ Child Who came to give His life as a sacrifice for many. We offer myrrh to profess our belief in the saving power of Christ's death on the Cross and our need for that gift of salvation.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany, try to see it as a historical event in which you are invited to share. God wants to manifest Himself to you today. When this happens, you must respond with faith and worship, giving God the greatest glory by giving Him your very life and offering Him your spiritual gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Prayer: *Most glorious Christ Child, the Father in Heaven honored Your birth by placing a star over the place where you lay. Through that new star, Your divine presence was made manifest to the world in the Magi who responded with faith and worship. Please manifest Yourself to me within my own soul where You wish to be born, and give me the love and zeal I need to follow the example of the Magi, offering You my own gifts in adoration and trust. Jesus, I trust in You.*

Source: <https://mycatholic.life/saints/saints-of-the-liturgical-year/>

INSPIRATION FOR A NEW YEAR

The Lantern on the Hill

Every New Year's Eve, Mia would wrap herself in a thick wool scarf, pull on her worn leather boots, and climb the hill behind her childhood home. At the top, she'd light a single paper lantern and watch it drift into the night sky, carrying her whispered wish: "Please, let me find the courage to leave and follow my dream."

For years, the ritual was the same—hopeful but safe. She stayed in her small town, working at the local café, sketching in the quiet hours but never showing her art to anyone.

One particularly cold December 31st, as the wind bit at her cheeks, she realized she was tired of wishing. That night, instead of asking for courage, she declared aloud, "This year, I will act."

By February, she had applied to an art program in the city. By spring, she was living in a tiny apartment with paint-stained floors, attending classes, and nervously displaying her work at a student exhibition.

When her first painting sold, she thought of the lantern—not as a symbol of longing anymore, but as a reminder that dreams take flight only when you let them go into the world.

The 365 Pebbles

Ethan had a habit of making grand New Year's resolutions—run a marathon, learn a new language, write a book—only to abandon them by February. One January 1st, feeling frustrated, he decided to try something different. He found a large glass jar and filled it with 365 smooth, white pebbles.

The rule was simple: each day he did something—no matter how small—that moved him toward his goals, he would remove one pebble. Some days it was a big step, like signing up for a 5K race or booking a guitar lesson. Other days, it was something tiny but meaningful, like reading a chapter of a book or calling an old friend.

By mid-year, the jar was noticeably lighter. The visual reminder kept him going, even on days when motivation was low. By December 31st, the jar was empty, but his life was full—he had run his first race, learned to play three songs on the guitar, and rekindled friendships he thought were lost.

The jar taught him that transformation isn't about giant leaps—it's about the steady rhythm of small, consistent steps.

The Letter to the Future

On the morning of January 1st, Sofia sat at her kitchen table with a cup of tea and a blank sheet of paper. She decided to write a letter to herself, dated one year in the future. In it, she described the life she wanted to be living: waking up early to exercise, cooking healthy meals, spending weekends exploring new places, and surrounding herself with people who inspired her.

She sealed the letter in an envelope and tucked it into the back of her bookshelf, almost forgetting about it as the months passed. But something subtle happened—her choices began to align with the vision she had written. She started saying yes to invitations that scared her, no to habits that drained her, and yes again to opportunities that felt like growth.

When she opened the letter the following New Year's Day, she was stunned. Nearly everything she had written had come true—not because of magic, but because she had given herself a clear map to follow.

The letter became a tradition, a yearly reminder that the future is shaped by the intentions we set today.

THE BEST TIME FOR NEW BEGINNINGS IS NOW

Rosary Garden taking shape



Construction of the Rosary Garden at Spencer St. Mary's is on hold until spring. This fall, Charlie Koenig and volunteers framed and poured the walkway, then the colored beads were poured by FCF Construction. The colored concrete is texturized to give added contrast to the walk, which is handicap accessible and features room for three benches. Donations and/or sponsorship for benches, towards the Marian statue, and landscaping are still needed. Melissa Koenig, project coordinator, can be reached at 402-340-6635. The committee, which includes Liz Johnson, Breg Finnegan, Denise Hausman, and Angela Witt thank everyone for their generous contributions to the construction phase of the Rosary Garden.

Spiritual Adoption



12 weeks down,
28 to go

Babies are

- 2.1 inches long and weighs and 2.1 lbs, on average
- opening and closing their fingers and curling their toes, their nails are forming and their brain is developing fast! And, yes, baby may already resemble Aunt Melba (or Cousin Fred). Seriously, by this point, their face is sporting a recognizable profile with a defined nose and chin.
- Babies have all their bones, muscles, limbs, and organs, plus working digestive, urinary, and circulatory systems. Their liver is even making red blood cells! From here on out, it's all about getting bigger and stronger.

For mom, nausea and fatigue usually start to fade, but may be replaced by headaches and dizziness. (from www.thebump.com)

Spencer St. Mary's Prepares for Christmas

Christ's coming was honored during Advent at St. Mary's. A Living Nativity was presented by the grade and high school students, after an afternoon of making encouragement cards and going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Encouragement Cards will be sent to agencies and groups who support people needing a lift due to current struggles in their lives.

St. Nicholas, i.e. Santa Claus stopped in to pay his homage to the Christ Child in the manger, when the script reminded all to "give what we have in service to God." He stuck around after the Living Nativity to listen to children share their wish lists.

A "Souper Supper" was hosted in the Hall. Twenty families each brought a pot of soup for sampling, and designated an area organization or service to be their beneficiary. Diners received a ticket to vote for their favorite soup, which then won funds for the organization associated with the soup. Prize money was provided by the Altar Society, CCD, and CYO. Beef Noodle Soup edged out the others and \$50 will be given to their organization, which was Ponca Creek Living. There was a 3-way tie for runner up, and each will receive \$25 for their beneficiary. These soups and their causes were Potato Soup for Bright Horizons, Gluten Free Chicken Noodle Soup for Beginnings, and Cheeseburger Soup for Spencer Volunteer Fire Department. Other organizations in the running to receive funds were: Lynch Fire Department, Lynn Theater, Spencer Community Foundation Fund, Boyd Holt Right to Life, Boyd Country Ministerial Association, Spencer Fire and Rescue, Holt County Animal Shelter, and Valley Hope.

Bite size candies, cookies, cakes, homemade ice cream, and other holiday sweets were provided by the Altar Society to round out the 'sampling' theme of the evening. A new parish family was recognized, and prizes were awarded to the top Fall Festival ticket sellers.



SS PETER AND PAUL CCD/CYO ENDS 2025 WITH SOME FUN

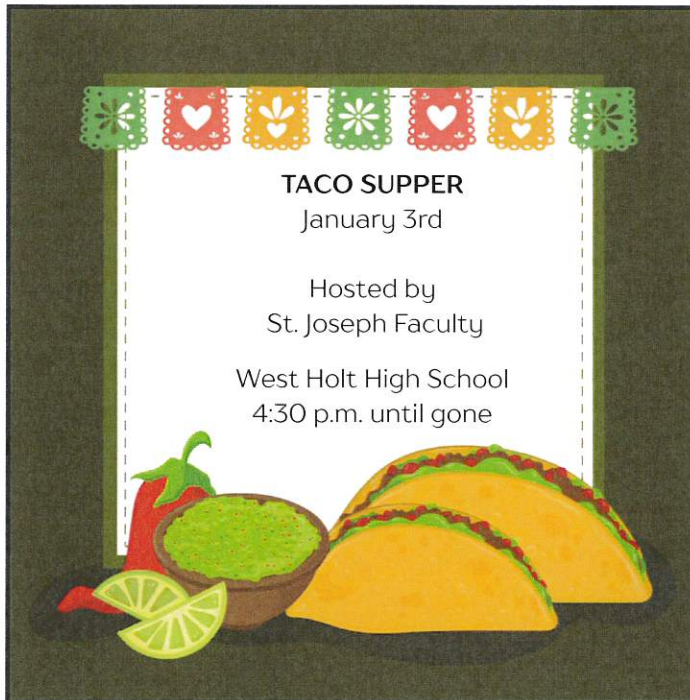
Well, we closed our Religious Education year of 2025 with the excitement of gifts exchanged, treats and funny stories about blinking socks (Hadley, I want a pair) and a few very competitive rounds of Advent Bingo!!! Then the grand ripping open!!! We celebrated Jesus' birthday a bit early but keep the reminder always...

He came so we could live!

Happy Birthday Jesus from all of us at Saints Peter and Paul CCD and CYO.
(Char left her phone at work so no pictures)

See you all back for classes in January 2026!

Submitted by: Char Mitchell



LOCAL KC FREE THROW CONTESTS

St. Boniface – Stuart
Sunday, January 18

Stuart High School Gym
Doors open at 12:30 p.m.
Shoot starts at 1:00 p.m.

and

St. Joseph – Atkinson
Sunday, January 25

West Holt High School
Doors open at 12:30 p.m.
Shoot starts at 1:00 p.m.

"Even the greatest was once a beginner. Don't be afraid to take that first step." — Muhammad Ali.

"No matter how hard the past, you can always begin again." — Buddha.

"The beginning is always today." — Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley.

"The magic in new beginnings is truly the most powerful of them all." — Josiyah Martin.

"Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step." — Martin Luther King Jr..

"Nothing in the universe can stop you from letting go and starting over." — Guy Finley.

"Every sunset is an opportunity to reset." — Unknown.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL GOALS:

PARISH:	RECEIVED:	FUND GOAL:	PARTICIPATION GOAL:
Sacred Heart–Boyd County	\$10,777.00	\$13,435.95	54%
St. Boniface—Stuart	\$9,385.00	\$8,776.53	39%
St Joseph—Amelia	\$2,995.00	\$3,672.66	54%
St Joseph—Atkinson	\$9,285.00	\$12,326.43	29%
St Patrick—O'Neill	\$34,120.00	\$47,962.84	30%
Total: As of 12/23/2025	\$66,562.00	\$86,174.41	41%

CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Bernard Starman ~ Pastor
bgstarman@archomaha.org
Fr. Ross Burkhalter ~ Senior Associate Pastor
rcburkhalter@archomaha.org
Dcn MJ Kersenbrock ~ Director of Operations
mjkersensbrock@gmail.com
Jan Kunz ~ Director of Evangelization & Catechesis
jmkunz@archomaha.org
Dcn Roger Filips
rfilips@archomaha.org

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

Office: 313 E Hwy 20, O'Neill, NE 68763
Phone: 402-336-1602
Fax: 402-336-1533
Hours: Monday—Friday—8 a.m.—4 p.m.
After hours emergency number: 402-340-0277
Parish Receptionist: Nancy Tomjack—nmtomjack@archomaha.org
Business Manager: Cheleigh Sholes—crsholes@archomaha.org
Director of Stewardship & Development: Jennifer Wallwey
jmwally@archomaha.org
Youth Director: Bridget Bulau—bbulau@smcards.org
Religious Ed. Coordinator:
Whitney Shaffer—whitney.shaffer7@gmail.com

Sacred Heart of Boyd County 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

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—stjohndr@gmail.com
Phone: 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
Phone: 402-340-2303

SIGN UP FOR FLOCKNOTE NOTIFICATIONS:

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

St. Patrick—O'Neill 68763
St. Joseph—Amelia 68711
Sacred Heart of Boyd Co. 68722
St. Boniface—Stuart 68780
St. Joseph—Atkinson 68713

OR

HOLTBOYDCATHOLIC
(for information from
ALL parishes)
TO 84576

or connect online at:
holtboydcatholic.org
flocknote.com



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JANUARY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

1st – Solemnity of Mary Masses (see bulletins for times)
 1st – Ss Peter & Paul CCW Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Butte
 1st / 2nd – Parish Office Closed
 2nd – Mass @ Parkside—2:00 p.m.—Stuart
 4th – Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 4th – COR Men's Group—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 5th – KC Meeting – 7:30 p.m. – Stuart
 6th – OCIC Class—4:30 p.m.—O'Neill
 7th – Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet
 11th – Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 11th – OCIA—4:00 p.m.—Parish Office—O'Neill
 12th – KC 4th Degree Meeting – 7:30 p.m. – O'Neill
 13th – OCIC Class—4:30 p.m.—O'Neill
 13th – Parish Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Atkinson
 14th – Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet
 17th / 18th – Confirmation – O'Neill
 18th – Brunch following Mass – Ss. Peter & Paul – Butte
 18th – Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 18th – OCIA—4:00 p.m.—Parish Office—O'Neill
 18th – COR Men's Group—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 19th – KC Meeting – Butte
 20th – OCIC Class—4:30 p.m.—O'Neill
 20th – Parish Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – Stuart
 21st – Mass at Evergreen – 3:15 p.m. – O'Neill
 21st – Staff Christmas Party – 5:00 p.m. – KC Hall
 21st – Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet
 22nd – Ladies Guild – 2:00 p.m. – Stuart
 25th – 31st – Catholic Schools Week
 25th – Coffee & Rolls following Mass at St. Mary – Spencer
 25th – Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 25th – OCIA—4:00 p.m.—Parish Office—O'Neill
 27th – OCIC Class—4:30 p.m.—O'Neill
 28th – Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet
 28th – Finance Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – O'Neill

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

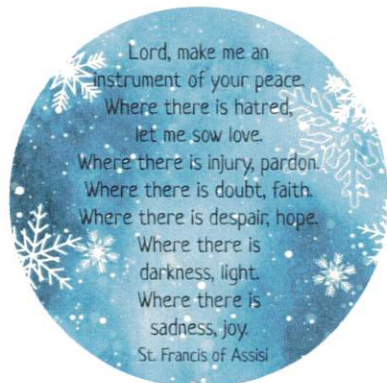
Winter
Blessings

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



NO
 St. Patrick
 Youth Group Meeting
 January 21st
 due to
 staff Christmas party!

TUNE IN AND TURN IT UP



SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO