

# SHARING OUR NEWS

JULY 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 – 7:00 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

Lord, help me believe.

In the Gospel of John, chapter 6, Jesus says, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven.” This is the moment when many of His listeners begin to struggle. They wonder how Jesus could possibly give them His flesh to eat. But Jesus does not soften His teaching or explain it away as merely symbolic. Instead, He says with even greater clarity, “My flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.”

Saint John’s Gospel also gives us a striking detail in the Greek text. Earlier, the word used for “eat” is *phago*, a general word for eating. Later, John uses the word *trōgō*, which means to chew, gnaw, or eat in a more visceral way. Jesus Himself spoke Aramaic, not Greek, but the way John records this teaching shows that Jesus intensified his teaching. He did not back away from the teaching, even when many disciples started to leave Him.

This teaching was difficult for the disciples because they did not yet understand how Jesus would give Himself to us under the appearances of bread and wine. They were envisioning cannibalism. It can still be difficult for people to believe today. Yet this is what the Church has always taught: after the consecration, what appears to be bread and wine is no longer merely bread and wine. It is truly Jesus Christ—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. In the Eucharist, we do not receive a symbol of Jesus; we truly receive Him.

Do we fully understand how this mystery works? Of course not. If we could fit all of God and His mysteries into our little minds, He would not be God. But we are not saved by perfectly understanding every mystery of God; we are saved by trusting Him. Jesus said it, the Church teaches it, and the saints built their lives around it. Therefore, with faith, we believe.

If we receive the Body of Christ, then we are called to live more like Christ. That is part of the point. The Eucharist is not only meant to comfort us; it is meant to change us from within. Every worthy reception of Holy Communion should draw us deeper into the life, love, mercy, and mission of Jesus.

A simple prayer may be the best place to begin: “Lord, help me believe. Help me believe that You are truly here. Help me receive You with greater faith, reverence, and gratitude. Change me from within, so that I may love what You love and do what You would do.”

Now I begin my chapter on Social Justice from my book “Pearls of the Universal Church” available from [www.SpiritualWorksPress.com](http://www.SpiritualWorksPress.com).

If we are Christian, we are in relationship with God. This changes our behavior. Today unfortunately amongst Catholics there tends to be a division, which roughly mirrors the liberal/conservative split in politics. Liberally inclined Catholics usually are called social justice Catholics. They emphasize more taxes and spending on welfare programs. Conservative Catholics tend to be called pro-life Catholics, and the life issues are the most important to them. The Church calls for us to both take care of the poor and defend innocent life.

We all have different gifts, and we have to share them because we all need each other (see CCC 1936–1937). Our complementary gifts make up the body of Christ (the Church). We are brothers and sisters because we have the same father (God). It is not “I and God.” It is not “you and God.” It is “we (the Church) and God.” If my relationship with God is poor, it hurts you, and vice versa.

Until next month . . . Deacon Filips



**IN LOVING MEMORY**

**WILLIAM (BILL) ROSICKY**

February 19, 1939 – March 25, 2026  
SHBC – ABVM – Lynch

**FR. LUVERNE “LUKE” WILLIAM STEFFES**

July 2, 1943 – June 5, 2026  
St. Joseph – Atkinson

**JACQUELINE J. ROHDE**

January 16, 1930 – June 5, 2026  
St. Patrick – O’Neill

**NORMA SKJOLD**

May 10, 1945 – June 9, 2026  
St. Patrick

**ROY CADWALLADER**

March 10, 1955 – June 9, 2026  
St. Boniface – Stuart

**JIM GALLAGHER**

March 28, 1933 – June 10, 2026  
St. Patrick – O’Neill

**DARLENE MCALLISTER**

SHBC – St. Mary’s – Spencer

**VANESSA QUINTERO BARAJAS**

St. Patrick – O’Neill

**MEL E. STRACKE**

September 26, 1941 – June 19, 2026  
St. Boniface – Stuart



**WELCOME TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED**

**KATHRYN ROSE KACZOR**

Daughter of Ryan & Jessica Kaczor  
May 31, 2026  
SHBC – St. Mary’s – Spencer

**CANNON JOHN CAVANESS**

Son of Colton & Jacie Cavaness  
June 7, 2026  
St. Joseph – Amelia

**DEAN RAY HAUN**

Son of Matthew and Allison Haun  
June 13, 2026  
SHBC – St. Mary’s – Spencer

**MAESIK JOSEPHINE OLIGMUELLER**

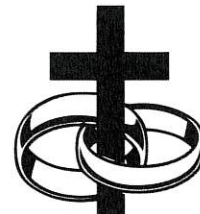
Daughter of Dylan and Alyssa Oligmueller  
June 13, 2026  
St. Joseph – Atkinson



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
NEWLY MARRIED**

**EMILY MORROW and JARED ATKESON**

May 30, 2026  
St. Patrick – O’Neill



**f FAITH**

## EC LIFE – THE EVANGELICAL CATHOLIC

When we started having children, my wife told me that we were going to create memories.

We never had much money, but that never stopped us from creating good memories! We camped at the beach, skied in the local mountains, spent days at the park, and made good use of passes to Sea World and the Zoo.

We're blessed to live near the beach, and I can't remember many summer days that didn't involve peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and hours in the surf and sand.

I realize now—we didn't just create memories for our kids... we created them for ourselves too.

In *Laborem exercens*, St. John Paul II reminds us that work is for the person—not the other way around. That means rest isn't a luxury; it's part of our dignity. God himself rested on the seventh day, not because he needed to, but because we do. Rest teaches us how to live.

Furthermore, in *Gaudium et spes*, the Church teaches that leisure should “develop and strengthen” the human person. Real fun isn't empty—it forms us. It deepens relationships. It restores the heart.

As a young boy, my father taught me how to fish, play tennis, ride a bike, catch a ball, and water ski, among other things. Sadly, cancer took him before his 40th birthday. I often think about those last days of his life. I doubt he lay in that hospital bed wishing he had worked more. I know where his heart was—with us, his seven kids—wanting every last second to be with us.

That lesson stayed with me.

It gave me a zest for life. I appreciate each day as a gift. And when my kids ask, “Hey Dad, want to go do this?” they already know the answer:

“Yeah... let's go!”

The Church doesn't see joy, play, and leisure as distractions from the spiritual life—they're part of it. *Dies Domini* speaks about Sunday as a day of joy, rest, and celebration. It's not just to stop working, but to remember what life is really about—God, family, and the gift of being alive.

We live in a world that often treats fun as escape—something to numb out with. But the Catholic vision is different.

True leisure doesn't pull us away from life... it brings us back to it.

It restores us. Reconnects us. Reminds us who we are.

So maybe the question isn't, “Do I take enough time off?”

Maybe it's this:

“Am I living a life that's actually worth remembering?”

Because one day, we'll all come to the end of our lives. And I don't think any of us will wish we had squeezed in one more meeting.

But we might wish for one more day at the beach.

One more laugh.

One more “Yeah... let's go!”

And I know God, in his goodness, is inviting us into that kind of life right now.

*Source: Bob with the EC <life@evangelicalcatholic.org>*

*Bob Schrimpf is a Pastoral Associate at St. Charles Borromeo parish in San Diego.*

# RAINFOREST FALLS VBS

Exploring the Nature of God

**July 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 am - 11:30 am**

**Grades K - 5**

**St. Patrick's Parish Hall**

**300 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St. - O'Neill**

**NO CHARGE** to attend but we will accept free will donations to help defray the cost.

Register or volunteer to help by scanning the QR code or pick up a registration sheet in the entrance of church or at the Parish Office at 313 E Hwy 20. Drop paper registrations off at the Parish Office.



Call or text Emily @ 605.660.0118 or  
Whitney @ 402.340.9304

# RAINFOREST FALLS VBS REGISTRATION FORM

(One per child)

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Last school grade completed \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies, medical conditions, or special needs:

\_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission for my child's picture to be printed in the newspaper and/or newsletter and to be placed on the parish's social media platforms.

Circle one: Yes or No

## 20 FUN FACTS ABOUT 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY: AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY

1. The Declaration of Independence was actually approved on July 2nd, 1776. The Continental Congress voted for independence two days before the famous date, leading John Adams to predict that July 2nd would be celebrated with parades and festivities.
2. Only two people signed the Declaration on July 4th, 1776. Despite popular belief, most delegates didn't sign until August 2nd, 1776, when the official parchment copy was ready.
3. The Liberty Bell didn't ring on July 4th, 1776. The famous story of the Liberty Bell ringing to announce independence is a myth—the bell was actually cracked and couldn't ring at that time.
4. Benjamin Franklin wanted the turkey as America's national bird. While debating national symbols, Franklin argued that the bald eagle was a "bird of bad moral character" and preferred the turkey as more respectable.
5. The first 4th of July celebration happened in 1777 in Philadelphia. The city marked the first anniversary with a thirteen-gun salute, festivities, and fireworks, establishing traditions that continue today.
6. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams both died on July 4th, 1826. Remarkably, both founding fathers passed away on the exact 50th anniversary of the Declaration's adoption, just hours apart.
7. Calvin Coolidge was born on July 4th, 1872. The 30th President of the United States shares his birthday with the nation, making him the only president born on Independence Day.
8. The first public reading of the Declaration happened in Philadelphia. Colonel John Nixon read the document aloud in Independence Square on July 8th, 1776, to a crowd of colonists.
9. Americans purchase over 200 million pounds of fireworks annually for July 4th. The tradition of fireworks dates back to the first anniversary celebration, inspired by John Adams' vision of "illuminations" marking the holiday.
10. The largest firework display happens in New York City. Macy's 4th of July Fireworks typically launches over 75,000 shells and attracts more than 3 million spectators along the East River.
11. "The Star-Spangled Banner" was written during the War of 1812, not the Revolution. Francis Scott Key penned the national anthem in 1814 after witnessing the British bombardment of Fort McHenry.
12. The Pledge of Allegiance wasn't written until 1892. Francis Bellamy created the pledge for the 400th anniversary of Columbus's arrival in America, and it became associated with patriotic holidays like Independence Day.
13. Americans consume 150 million hot dogs on July 4th. The National Hot Dog and Sausage Council estimates this massive consumption makes Independence Day the biggest hot dog holiday of the year.
14. The Nathan's Famous Hot Dog Eating Contest started in 1972. Held annually at Coney Island, this competitive eating event has become a beloved 4th of July tradition broadcast on national television.
15. Red, white, and blue became patriotic colors during the Civil War. While these colors appeared on the flag earlier, they gained stronger symbolic meaning as patriotic colors during the 1860s conflict.
16. More than 16,000 communities hold 4th of July parades. From small towns to major cities, Independence Day parades represent one of the most widespread traditions in American celebration.
17. Americans spend over \$7 billion annually on fourth of July celebrations. This massive economic impact includes everything from food and beverages to fireworks, decorations, and travel, making Independence Day one of the biggest spending holidays of the summer.
18. Independence Day became a federal holiday in 1870. While Americans celebrated July 4th from the beginning, it took nearly a century for Congress to officially recognize it as a paid federal holiday.
19. Thousands of new Americans are sworn in as citizens on July 4th each year. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services holds special naturalization ceremonies on Independence Day, making it a profoundly meaningful day for new Americans to officially join the nation.
20. Three presidents have died on July 4th. In addition to Jefferson and Adams in 1826, James Monroe also passed away on Independence Day in 1831, creating an extraordinary historical coincidence that spans three founding era presidents.

Source: <https://funworldfacts.com/fun-facts-about-4th-of-july/>



# Pray for our June Seminararian of the month

Luke Capoun, who is in Discipleship IV  
at St. John Vianney seminary

I was raised in a great Catholic household with three older siblings. My family was very involved in our parish community, St. Wenceslaus, in Omaha. I followed my siblings through grade, middle, and eventually to Skutt Catholic High School, where I made some amazing and intentional friendships. I also met a seminararian who led my group of friends in Lectio Divina and other faith-sharing activities during his pastoral year. Through this experience at Skutt, I came to understand my faith. I saw how its teachings matched my personal experience, and I knew that I had to dive in headfirst. I prayed that my experience at the St. John Paul II Newman Center at the University of Nebraska-Omaha would be fertile ground for me to do so, and fertile it was.

When I got to the Newman Center, I again encountered some amazing individuals who taught me how to dialogue about abortion, play Spikeball, and, most importantly, discern my vocation. I fell in love with the liturgy at the Newman Center and devoted many hours to serving Masses and simply wasting time with God in the chapel. After two profound years at the Newman Center, I discerned the call to seminary through God's grace and further discernment of a priestly vocation!

I am attending the Saint John Vianney Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. My classes are edifying and truth-filled.

I recommend everyone focus and pray on the two questions of identity St. Francis asks, "Who are You, Lord God?" and "Who am I?" These two questions have been vital to my discernment but are vital for every Catholic to know who we should be rooted in. I want to thank the Archdiocese of Omaha for being a vessel for God's work in my life through education and the opportunity to receive the sacraments daily. I also want to thank you all for your prayers and continued support of seminararians!

"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

**ST. JOSEPH'S - AMELIA**

**IS LOOKING FOR...**

**High School Youth Group  
Hosts/Teachers**

**What you'll do:**

- **Welcome 9th-12th graders into your home 2 nights a month for 1 hour.**
- **Help run games, small group time, (lesson plans/materials provided) and keep the night rolling**
- **Be a safe, fun, adult presence students can trust**

**You're a fit if you:**

- **Love Jesus and love students**
- **Can commit to 2 nights per month**
- **Are an adult and can pass a background check**
- **Have energy, patience, and a sense of humor**

**No experience needed - we'll train you!**

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED OR WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION,**

**PLEASE CALL:  
ELLIE METSCHKE  
402-580-1512**



## WHAT IS EVANGELIZATION?

Let's talk about individuals and society:

The continuing story of salvation in Christ involves each of us one by one as well as society itself. How else could it be? Conversion speaks of the change of heart that, as a member of the Church, each one must undergo. The Gospel speaks across time and space to each human being, each mind, each heart. It asks us what we think about our lives, how we hope, whom we love, and what we live for. If faith is not transforming each heart and life, it is dead.

But faith is not something that only happens to each of us individually or privately, within ourselves. The Gospel also speaks to society itself, with its values, goals, and systems. The Gospel must overflow from each heart until the presence of God transforms all human existence. Sometimes this means that, as believers, we must confront the world as did the prophets of old, pointing out the claims of God to societies that are blind to God. More often, however, this means that we must let our faith shine on the world around us, radiating the love of Jesus by the everyday way we speak, think, and act.

The fruits of evangelization are changed lives and a changed world—holiness and justice, spirituality and peace. The validity of our having accepted the Gospel does not only come from what we feel or what we know; it comes also from the way we serve others, especially the poorest, the most marginal, the most hurting, the most defenseless, and the least loved. An evangelization that stays inside ourselves is not an evangelization into the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Source: <https://www.usccb.org>

We are all called to be evangelists and that looks different for each individual person. There are various opportunities to help evangelize in our parishes: leading Bible studies, Welcome and Bereavement committees, teaching in the Religious Ed programs, joining a Reach More training, and many more. The opportunities are only limited by your imagination. Open your heart and your mind to doing MORE for your parish. Contact Jan Kunz (402.340.2303 or [jmkunz@archomaha.org](mailto:jmkunz@archomaha.org)) for more information.

Continued next month.....

FILL YOUR CUP, NOURISH YOUR MIND, AND FUEL YOUR HEART AND SOUL  
BY ATTENDING A

### REACH MORE TRAINING

Reach More is NOT a program. It's a twelve-week adventure of discovery, prayer, community, skills, and habit formation to help you become a happier, more effective: friend, spouse, parent, co-worker, neighbor, listener, witness...Catholic.

It's for Catholics who want to: grow closer to Jesus, learn how to make more of an impact for God's Kingdom within their existing relationships, and build community with fellow parishioners who strive for the same things.  
New training groups starting soon.

Contact Jan Kunz @ 402.340.2303 for more information.

SCAN AND WATCH THE VIDEO FOR MORE INFORMATION



NEED A LITTLE MORE??

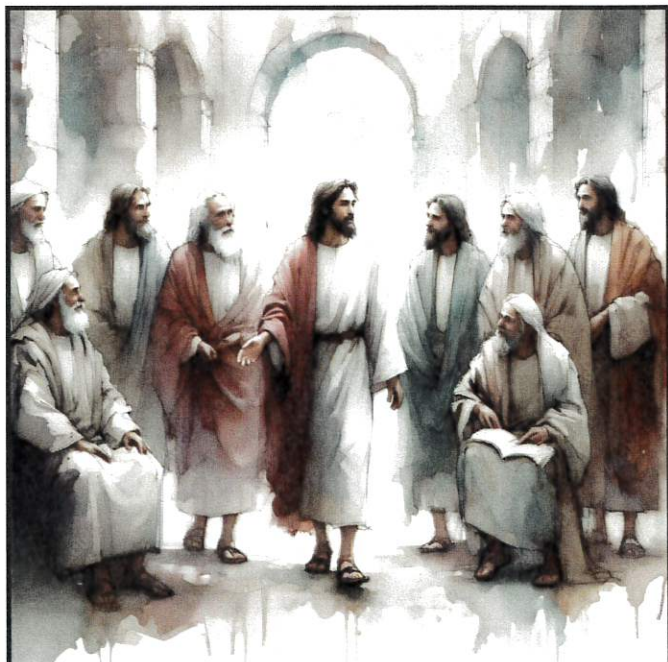
READ THIS ARTICLE:

'REACH MORE' HELPS CATHOLICS SHARE THEIR PERSONAL FAITH  
[HTTPS://CATHOLICERAID.ORG/LOCAL/REACH-MORE-HELPS-CATHOLICS-SHARE-THEIR-PERSONAL-FAITH/](https://catholiceraid.org/local/reach-more-helps-catholics-share-their-personal-faith/)



# DISCIPLE

Following Jesus' Call



## 5 REASONS GOD MIGHT SEND AN ANGEL

1. To give a message from God – There are many examples in the Bible of when God sends an angel to give a specific message to an individual or people. In Genesis 18, God sent three men, messengers, to Abraham and Sarah to tell them that she would bear a son. He sent an angel to Sarah's servant Hagar in the desert, as she fled in Genesis 16, to give hope that she was not forgotten.
2. To protect us – Many times God sends angels to protect, guard, and fight for us. God tells us in Psalm 91 that He would give angels charge concerning us to guard us in all our ways. God sent an angel to Daniel in the lion's den. Daniel 6:22 says that he shut the mouth of the lions so that no harm came to him who was found blameless before God.
3. To serve believers – God sends angels to minister to those who hurt or need strength. After Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness and stood strong against the temptations of the devil, Matthew 4:11 says, "Then the devil left him, and behold, angels, came and were ministering to him."
4. To execute God's judgment – Angels can be used by God to punish sin and to bring his judgment. In Revelation, we see specific times that God will give angels the charge to execute his judgment. Revelation 12:7-9 tells us, "Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him."
5. To give praise and worship to God – Angels are mighty beings of praise and worship unto God. Revelation 4:8 says, "Day and night they never stop saying, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.'"

Source: <https://www.godtube.com/blog/29-inspirational-stories-about-angels-on-earth.html>



### THE ANT AND THE CONTACT LENS



Brenda was a young woman who was invited to go rock climbing. Although she was scared to death, she went with her group to a tremendous granite cliff.

In spite of her fear, she put on the gear, took a hold on the rope, and started up the face of that rock. Well, she got to a ledge where she could take a breather. As she was hanging on there, the safety rope snapped against Brenda's eye and knocked out her contact lens. Well, here she is on a rock ledge, with hundreds of feet below her and hundreds of feet above her. Of course, she looked and looked and looked, hoping it had landed on the ledge, but it just wasn't there. Here she was, far from home, her sight now blurry. She was desperate and began to get upset, so she prayed to the Lord to help her to find it.

When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for the lens, but there was no contact lens to be found. She sat down, despondent, with the rest of the party, waiting for the rest of them to make it up the face of the cliff. She looked out across range after range of mountains, thinking of that Bible verse that says, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth." She thought, "Lord, You can see all these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and You know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me."

Finally, they walked down the trail to the bottom. At the bottom, there was a new party of climbers just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out, "Hey, you guys! Anybody lost a contact lens?" Well, that would be startling enough, but you know why the climber saw it? An ant was moving slowly across the face of the rock, carrying it.

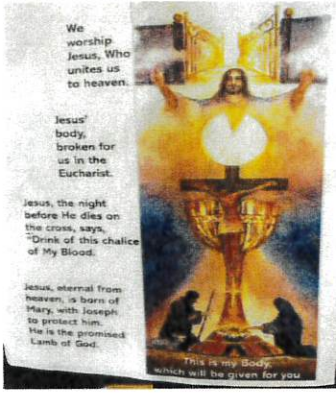
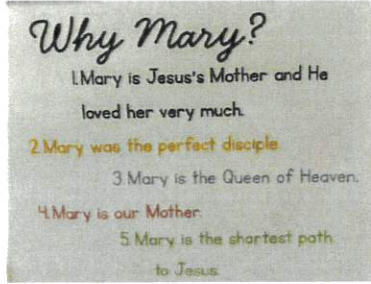
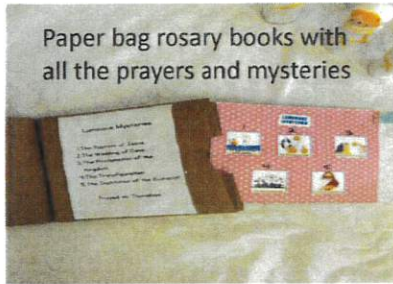
Brenda told me that her father is a cartoonist. When she told him the incredible story of the ant, the prayer, and the contact lens, he drew a picture of an ant lugging that contact lens with the words, "Lord, I don't know why You want me to carry this thing. I can't eat it, and it's awfully heavy. But if this is what You want me to do, I'll carry it for You."

I think it would probably do some of us good to occasionally say, "God, I don't know why you want me to carry this load. I can see no good in it and it's awfully heavy. But if you want me to carry it, I will." God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

-Author Unknown

## Sacred Heart Students Join CCD Marian Pilgrimage

Thirteen students from Butte and Spencer have spent their summer Tuesdays at St. Anthony's in Fairfax to learn "Why Mary?", why do we give so much honor and esteem to Jesus' mother? Each week they traveled to a different site of a Marian apparition, and listened to Mary's messages to the world. One week, Fr. Gary explained that Mary is like the moon, she has no light of her own but is a perfect reflection of her "Son's light. We should try to be like her and reflect Jesus' love to others. Students had passports that were stamped for each of their stops.

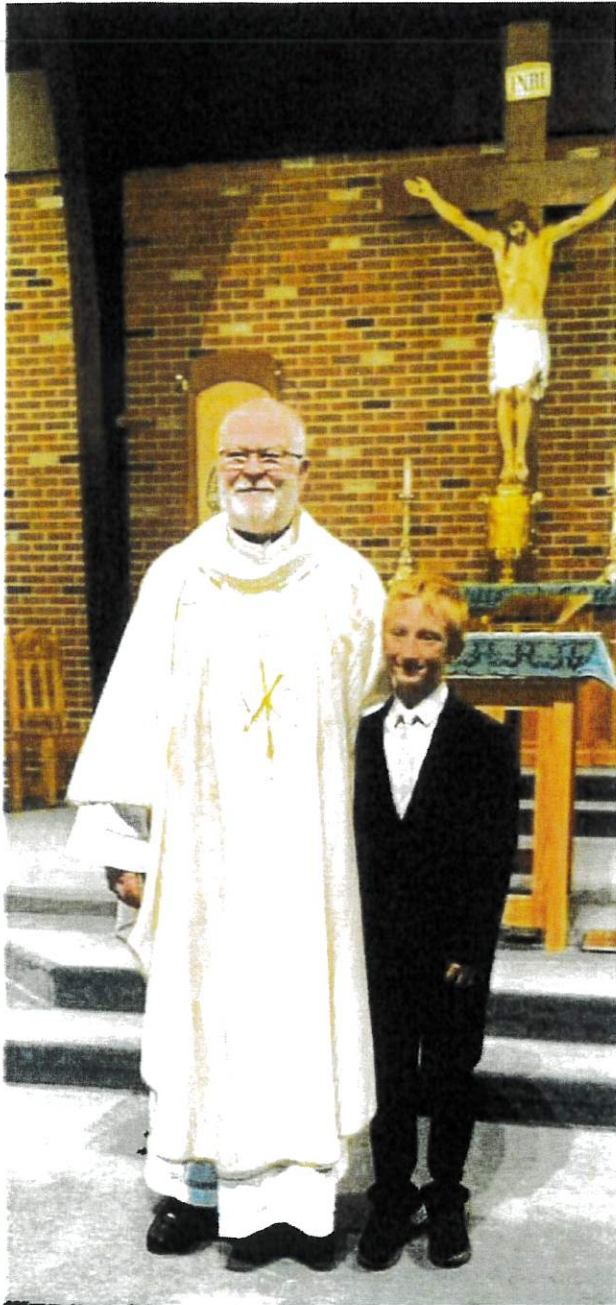


Crafts, escape rooms, skits, Adoration and Mass offered daily.



## Our Spiritually Adopted Babies are here!

Thank you for all your prayers. Please continue to support moms and unborn babies as best you can. Consider praying a Memorarie prayer each day, spiritually adopting a new baby, or contributing to Boyd Holt Right To Life's billboard campaign. (more info coming next month).



## Saints Peter and Paul CCD Program

Congratulations  
Grayson and Katrina  
On receiving your  
1st Communion!

A heart felt Thank You to  
Fr. Starman and  
Carie Reiman for all you  
do for our youth.



## MY BUSY DAY

"Mommy, look!" cried my daughter, Darla, pointing to a chicken hawk soaring through the air.

"Uh huh," I murmured, driving, lost in thought about the tight schedule of my day.

Disappointment filled her face. "What's the matter, Sweetheart?" I asked, entirely dense.

"Nothing," my seven-year-old said. The moment was gone. Near home, we slowed to search for the albino deer that comes out from behind the thick mass of trees in the early evening. She was nowhere to be seen. "Tonight, she has too many things to do," I said.

Dinner, baths and phone calls filled the hours until bedtime.

"Come on, Darla, time for bed!" She raced past me up the stairs. Tired, I kissed her on the cheek, said prayers and tucked her in.

"Mom, I forgot to give you something!" she said. My patience was gone.

"Give it to me in the morning," I said, but she shook her head.

"You won't have time in the morning!" she retorted.

"I'll take time," I answered defensively. Sometimes no matter how hard I tried, time flowed through my fingers like sand in an hourglass, never enough. Not enough for her, for my husband, and definitely not enough for me.

She wasn't ready to give up yet. She wrinkled her freckled little nose in anger and swiped away her chestnut brown hair.

"No, you won't! It will be just like today when I told you to look at the hawk. You didn't even listen to what I said."

I was too weary to argue; she hit too close to the truth. "Good night!" I shut her door with a resounding thud.

Later though, her gray-blue gaze filled my vision as I thought about how little time we really had until she was grown and gone.

My husband asked, "Why so glum?" I told him.

"Maybe she's not asleep yet. Why don't you check," he said with all the authority of a parent in the right. I followed his advice, wishing it was my own idea.

I cracked open her door, and the light from the window spilled over her sleeping form. In her hand, I could see the remains of a crumpled paper. Slowly I opened her palm to see what the item of our disagreement had been.

Tears filled my eyes. She had torn into small pieces a big red heart with a poem she had written titled, "Why I Love My Mother!"

I carefully removed the tattered pieces. Once the puzzle was put back into place, I read what she had written:

Why I Love My Mother

Although you're busy, and you work so hard  
You always take time to play I love you, Mommy because I am the  
biggest part of your busy day!

The words were an arrow straight to the heart. At seven years old, she had the wisdom of Solomon.

Ten minutes later I carried a tray to her room, with two cups of hot chocolate with marshmallows and two peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. When I softly touched her smooth cheek, I could feel my heart burst with love.

Her thick dark lashes lay like fans against her lids as they fluttered, awakened from a dreamless sleep, and she looked at the tray.

"What is that for?" she asked, confused by this late-night intrusion.

"This is for you because you are the most important part of my busy day!" She smiled and sleepily drank half her cup of chocolate. Then she drifted back to sleep, not really understanding how strongly I meant what I said.

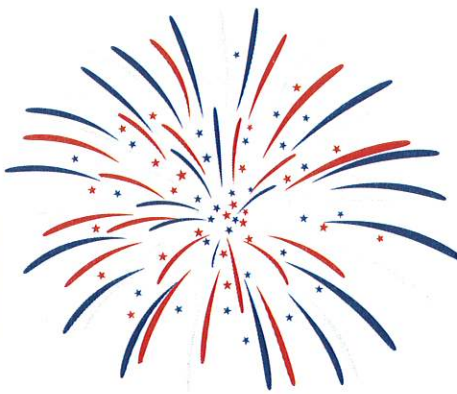
-Author Unknown

ST. PATRICK - O'NEILL

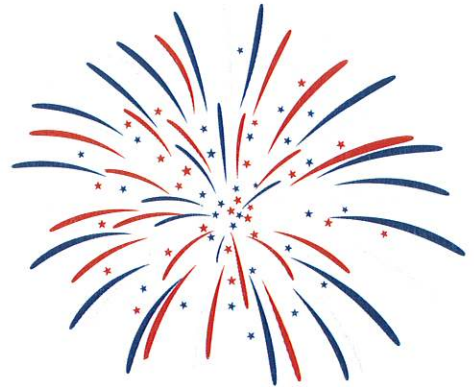


BEST CHOICE SAVE-A-LABEL

We are now collecting Best Choice labels to redeem for cash for the church and/or school. Shop at your local community grocer for Best Choice family of brands products (bestchoicebrand.com/where-to-buy), clip the UPC portion with the words "Best Choice" above them, and simply turn them in to the baskets at the back of the church or at the Parish Office!



HAPPY 4th OF JULY



ST. BONIFACE - STUART

15TH ANNUAL FAMILY FUN NIGHT

JULY 2, 2026

STUART AUDITORIUM

5:00 - 7:30 P.M.

- CARNIVAL GAMES
- INFLATABLE OBSTACLE COURSE
- POPCORN
- CANDY
- PRIZES

AND IT'S ALL FREE!

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

JOIN US!



July 4th BINGO



1:00 - 4:00 pm

St. Boniface Church Basement

- Air Conditioning!
- Handicap Accessible!

AND



4:00 pm

Main Street, Stuart



1st Place -\$500 2nd Place -\$200 3rd Place -\$100  
4th, 5th, 6th & 7th Places -\$50 each

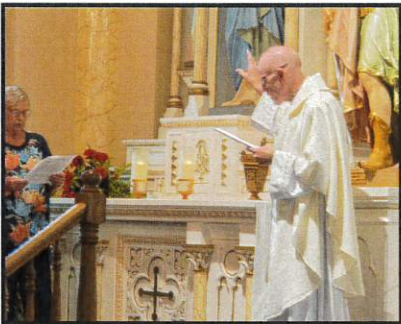
\$10/Ticket available at Southside Mini Mart and Family Fun Night

**ST. BONIFACE – STUART**



Students that attended JC Camp in May were from left to right: Alex Paxton, Kole Estill, Truman Addison, Karlee Wolf, Kemberlyn Kohle, Cecelia Addison, Ali Wondercheck, Alyssa Karo, and Megan Karo. Not pictured: Annie Ludwig.

**CHRISTIAN MOTHERS INDUCT NEW MEMBERS**



On June 9<sup>th</sup>, the Christian Mothers at St. Boniface in Stuart inducted 3 new members into their group. Fr. Ross Burkhalter blessed the medals and led the ladies in the readings and prayers for the ceremony. President Mary Ellen Scholz passed out the medals to the three inductees. Several Christian Mothers attended the induction that followed the daily Mass. The newest members of the Christian Mothers are pictured to the left with Fr. Burkhalter. From left to right: Tiffany Gotschall, Linda Minchow, and Lisa Keogh.

## 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

jwallwey@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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# JULY

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

3<sup>rd</sup> – Parish Office Closed  
3<sup>rd</sup> – Mass @ Parkside – 2:00 p.m. – Stuart  
4<sup>th</sup> – INDEPENDENCE DAY  
5<sup>th</sup> – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O’Neill  
6<sup>th</sup> – Reach More – 1:00 p.m. – O’Neill  
7<sup>th</sup> – Eucharistic Adoration – 6:00 p.m. – O’Neill  
7<sup>th</sup> – Catholic Daughters Mtg – 7:00 p.m. – O’Neill  
8<sup>th</sup> – KC Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – O’Neill  
10<sup>th</sup> – Parish Office Closes @ 12:00 p.m.  
12<sup>th</sup> – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O’Neill  
12<sup>th</sup> – COR Men’s Group – 7:00 p.m. – O’Neill  
13<sup>th</sup> – Rainforest Falls VBS – 9:00 a.m. – O’Neill  
13<sup>th</sup> – Reach More – 1:00 p.m. – O’Neill  
13<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Degree KC Mtg – 7:30 p.m. – O’Neill  
14<sup>th</sup> – Rainforest Falls VBS – 9:00 a.m. – O’Neill  
14<sup>th</sup> – Mass @ Good Sam – 10:00 a.m. – Atkinson  
14<sup>th</sup> – Eucharistic Adoration – 6:00 p.m. – O’Neill  
14<sup>th</sup> – Parish Council Mtg – 7:00 p.m. – Atkinson  
15<sup>th</sup> – Rainforest Falls VBS – 9:00 a.m. – O’Neill  
15<sup>th</sup> – Mass @ Evergreen – 3:15 p.m. – O’Neill  
16<sup>th</sup> – Rainforest Falls VBS – 9:00 a.m. – O’Neill  
17<sup>th</sup> – Rainforest Falls VBS – 9:00 a.m. – O’Neill  
17<sup>th</sup> – Parish Office Closes @ 12:00 p.m.  
17<sup>th</sup> – RNW Deanery Mtg – 2:30 p.m. – Creighton  
19<sup>th</sup> – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O’Neill  
20<sup>th</sup> – Reach More – 1:00 p.m. – O’Neill  
20<sup>th</sup> – Eucharistic Adoration – 6:00 p.m. – Stuart  
20<sup>th</sup> – KC Mtg – Butte  
21<sup>st</sup> – Eucharistic Adoration – 6:00 p.m. – O’Neill  
21<sup>st</sup> – Parish Council Mtg – 7:00 p.m. – Stuart  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Finance Council Mtg – 7:00 p.m. – O’Neill  
23<sup>rd</sup> – Ladies Guild – 2:00 p.m. – Stuart  
24<sup>th</sup> – Parish Office Closes @ 12:00 p.m.  
26<sup>th</sup> – Coffee & Rolls following 8:00 a.m. Mass – Spencer  
26<sup>th</sup> – St. Mary Altar Society Mtg – 9:00 a.m. – Spencer  
26<sup>th</sup> – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O’Neill  
26<sup>th</sup> – COR Men’s Group – 7:00 p.m. – O’Neill  
27<sup>th</sup> – Reach More – 1:00 p.m. – O’Neill  
27<sup>th</sup> – Eucharistic Adoration – 6:00 p.m. – Stuart  
28<sup>th</sup> – Eucharistic Adoration – 6:00 p.m. – O’Neill  
31<sup>st</sup> – Parish Office Closes @ 12:00 p.m.



## 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](mailto:jkunz@holtboydcatholic.org) or [jankunz9@gmail.com](mailto:jankunz9@gmail.com)

Let Your  
Light Shine

Matthew 5:16

## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

[holtboydcatholic.org](http://holtboydcatholic.org)

You will find . . .

- websites for individual parishes
- a detailed calendar of Masses and events
- live stream of the Mass
- St. Mary’s & St. Joseph’s Catholic Schools information

## SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO

