



SHARING OUR NEWS

NOVEMBER 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

(Masses will be in Atkinson until the end of November due to the church renovation)

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

give thanks

IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES; FOR THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:18



Greetings Prayer Warriors,

MINISTRY OF PRAISE *A Word From Deacon Roger Filips*

We are all familiar with the parable of the persistent widow who faces down an unjust judge who neither fears God nor respects people. But the widow continues to demand justice, day after day, until finally he relents. Note that she doesn't just ask for justice, she demands it. Jesus' message here is clear: "Pray always without giving up." If even a corrupt judge will eventually respond to persistence, how much more will God — who is perfectly loving and just — answer the prayers of his children!

The widow's demand for justice teaches us to pray faithfully, never giving up, even if the answer is delayed or not the answer we want. We do have to trust in God's timing. God hears every prayer, even if his response isn't immediate. God is not a vending machine where we put in a prayer request, and we get back what we want back. The persistent widow's story reassures us to trust not just in God's power to answer, but in his wisdom about when and how he answers.

But persistence works both ways with God, he is also persistent with us. We are not slaves serving an angry God. We are called to be friends with God, and a friendship has to go two ways, so God is also persistent with us. Just like in a human relationship, we need to persist because God will persist until our death. Sometimes God is called the Hound of Heaven, because He is just like a bloodhound on a fugitive's trail, he keeps coming and coming and coming until he catches us. What an amazing capture that is, when we stop running and turn to embrace Him!

The following is another excerpt from my book "Pearls of the Universal Church" which can be found at www.SpiritualWorksPress.com.

Protestants cut out seven books of the Old Testament that were agreed upon by the early Church. Some of these books disagreed with Martin Luther's ideas, especially about purgatory (see chapter 7). Protestants also do not necessarily have the same understanding of the Communion of Saints as Catholics, even though they might profess the same Apostles' Creed. The Catholic doctrine teaches that we are all united in the same Church—those of us on earth, those in purgatory, and those in heaven. We can pray for each other and help each other get to heaven.

Protestants do not believe in purgatory. They believe we either go straight to heaven or hell. This raises a question: Are we perfect enough to go straight to heaven, or would we like a chance to clean up our souls first?

Martin Luther believed that all of us were totally sinful and evil due to Original Sin. The only way we can get to heaven, according to Luther, is for God to ignore our faults and only look at what Jesus did instead. Catholics, on the other hand, believe that God's grace from Jesus' sacrifice actually changes us for the better. Luther thought we were so evil that we cannot improve, and Jesus' grace just covers over how sinful we really are.



Until next month . . . Deacon Filips



IN LOVING MEMORY . . .

ROBERT GARTNER

June 30, 1942—October 7, 2025
St. Patrick-O'Neill

CAROL A. MCKAY

July 5, 1944—October 8, 2025
St. Joseph Atkinson

JIM KUNZ

May 9, 1958—October 11, 2025
St. Boniface—Stuart

BARBARA JANE FRIEDEL

March 6, 1938—October 11, 2025
St. Boniface—Stuart

JAMES "JIM" SHOEMAKER

October 13, 1942—October 20, 2025
St. Patrick—O'Neill



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY MARRIED. . .

CAITLIN BUTTERFIELD & CASH COSGROVE

October 4, 2025
St. Joseph—Atkinson



WELCOME TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED . . .

JULIAN SANTIAGO CHAVEZ

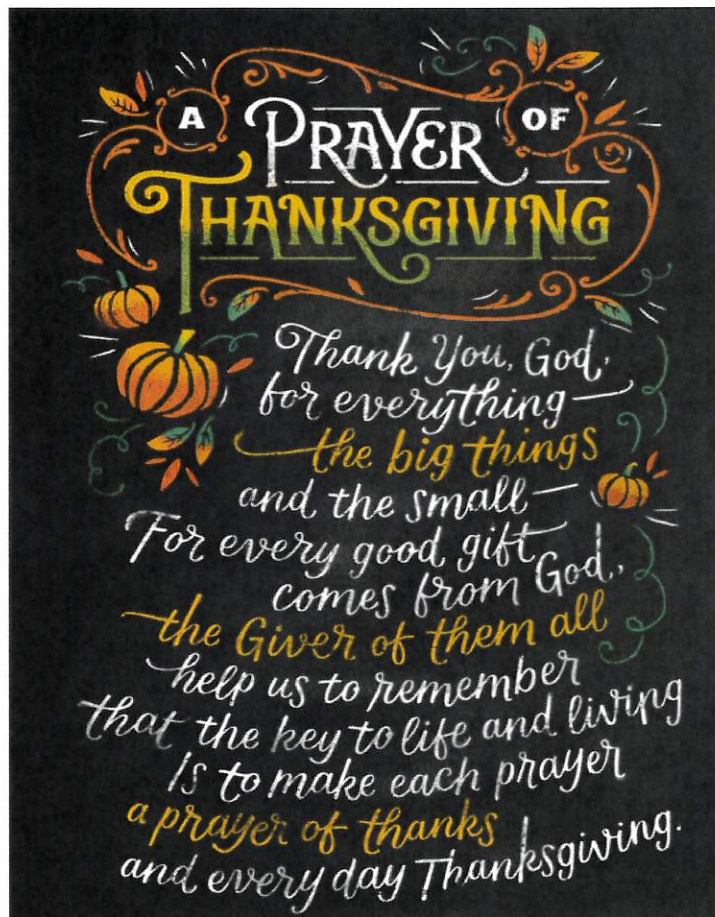
and

ELODY MARTINA CHAVEZ

Children of Julian & Citially Salazar
September 27, 2025
St. Joseph—Atkinson

MERRIT ALLEN KILMURRY

Son of Wes & Kellyn Kilmurry
October 18, 2025
St. Boniface—Stuart



Avera@Home

CARING HEARTS... ...WILLING HANDS



If you are interested in more information about how you can help patients and families in your community find dignity, meaning, and peace during this time of passage please call Avera@Home Hospice at (605) 668-8327.

The work of a Hospice volunteer makes each day a little brighter.

Avera@Home is offering a unique opportunity for caring, concerned individuals to make a difference by becoming a member of the Hospice Team as a hospice volunteer.

We offer a comprehensive training program which will prepare you to provide comfort, companionship and compassion to our hospice patients and families during the most difficult time of life's journey.



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 dates: October 29, November 5th, and 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.

WTHC
EVANGELIZATION

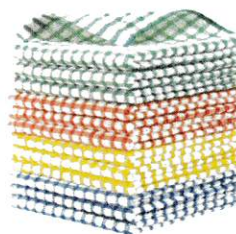


DISH CLOTH FUNDRAISER

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 - 605.929.4726
JAN KUNZ - 402.240.2301
KELL TOMJACK - 402.316.1446
WITH QUESTIONS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

Parish Auction

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

 9:00 AM
LUNCH 11:00 AM
FIREWOOD 2:00 PM

 OCTOBER 26TH

 COMMUNITY CENTER
206 W 5TH STREET
ATKINSON, NE

— RAFFLE —

TICKETS: \$10 EACH | 6 FOR \$50

GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ADVENTURE
Choose between: Bryce Canyon, Big Bear, South Dakota,
Grand Canyon, and Glacier National Park

NEBRASKA HUSKERS FOOTBALL TICKETS
6 Tickets to Nebraska vs Iowa 11/28/2025

Scan QR Code or contact Jenna or Cheliegh to purchase Raffle tickets
Jenna Dvorak (402.340.5554) & Cheliegh Sholes (402.340.1929)
Need not be present to win



SCAN THE QR CODE TO PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS

TICKETS: \$10 EACH | 6 FOR \$50



KC BREAKFAST

November 9, 2025
8 a.m.—12 p.m. @ the KC Hall in Atkinson
Serving: pancakes, sausage and eggs



KC POULTRY PARTY

Sunday,
November 23, 2025

Cards & Lunch @ 11:30 a.m.
all throughout the day

Evening games start at 6:30 p.m.
with food still being served.

Try your luck at winning a
turkey or ham for your Thanksgiving
meal!

KC LIVER & ONIONS AND SOUP DINNER

Monday,
November 24, 2025

Serving starts at 11:30 a.m.



Proceeds will go to
St. Joseph School

ALTAR SOCIETY SOUP SUPPER

in conjunction with
THE PARADE OF LIGHTS
Sunday,

November 30, 2025
4:30 p.m. @ the KC Hall

Menu includes: Chili, Chicken
Noodle soup, relish, veggies,
and dessert.

ST. PATRICK Fall Auction

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2ND
O'NEILL COMMUNITY CENTER**



Family Friendly

Bounce Houses. (**Supervision not provided for Bounce Houses**) Kids Grab Bags. Free childcare for ages 4 and under.



Delicious Lunch

Brisket sandwiches, chips, salad, and homemade desserts. Knights of Columbus will have a bar available for drinks.



Auction Items

Household items, gift certificates, farm items, seed, gift baskets and handmade items from St. Mary's Classes, art, furniture, baked goods, canned items, home decor, tools, and so much more! Online, silent, and live auction!



Raffles \$10 each or 6/\$50

Half a Beef, processing included
Up to \$1000 in Shamrock Bucks
(prizes of \$1000, \$500, and \$250)
75" LG Class \$K UHD Smart TV



Schedule

11:30 am Lunch begins
12:30 pm Auction begins
2:00 pm St. Mary's Class Items raffled off
3:00 pm Farm & Ag Hour
4:00 pm Raffle Items Drawn

**CONTACT PARISH OFFICE FOR RAFFLE TICKETS
402-336-1602, 313 E HWY 20, O'NEILL**

**Online Auction goes live on October 24 at
www.stpatoneill.org/auction**



"Remember
this,

whoever
sows
sparingly
will
also
reap
sparingly.

and
whoever
sows
generously
will
also
reap
generously."

2 Corinthians
9:6



ST. PATRICK AUCTION REMINDERS:

We are still accepting donations for the fall auction for St. Patrick and St. Mary's! They can be dropped off at the Parish Office at 313 E Hwy 20 on weekdays between 8 am and 4 pm before auction weekend, or they may be dropped off at the O'Neill Community Center on Friday October 31 between 9 am and 3 pm, Saturday November 1 between 8 am and 2 pm, or Sunday November 2nd between 10 am and 1 pm. If you would like someone to pick your donation up, please call the Parish Office at 402-336-1602 and speak to Jennifer.

Just a reminder that we are asking that all families of the parish and school donate for the lunch. Each family last names A to M, donate \$10 toward the cost of supplies for the meal, and last names N to Z, bring a 9 x13 dessert, 2 dozen cookies, or 2 pies.

CYO Kicks Off Year with First Service Project—Submitted by Britanie Brewster

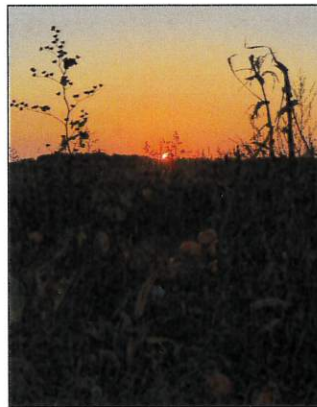
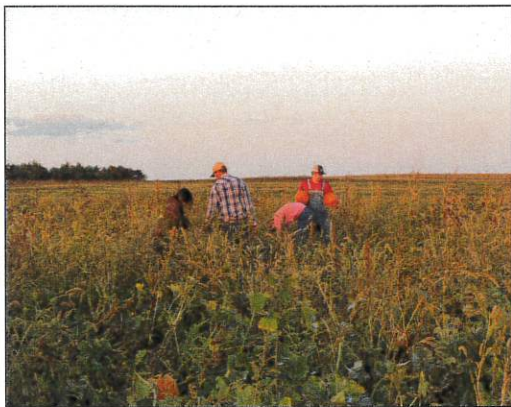
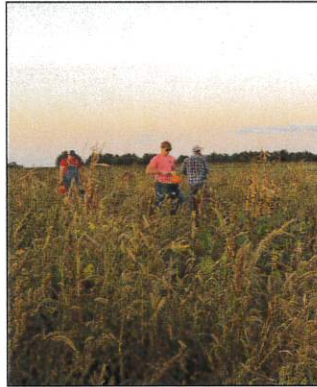
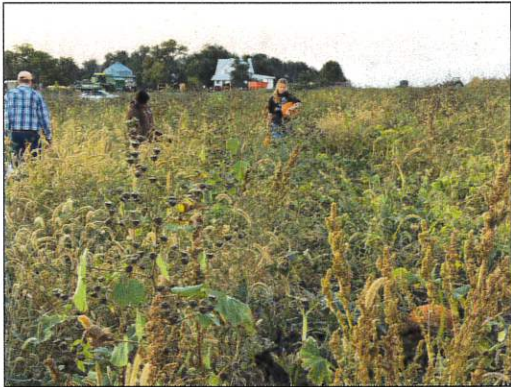
On Wednesday, September 24, 2025, the Butte CYO gathered at the farm of Jim and Sandy Liewer for their first volunteer project of the year. Each fall, the group sets aside an evening to help the Liewers harvest pumpkins, and it has become a special tradition of fellowship and service.

This project was especially meaningful as it marks the beginning of the CYO's commitment to spend one evening each month giving back to our community as stewards of service. By working together in faith, the youth are learning the joy of helping others while strengthening the bonds within our parish family.

The evening was filled with hard work, laughter, and teamwork as the students harvested a variety of pumpkins—including small white pumpkins, traditional large orange pumpkins, and striking black night pumpkins. Their willingness to roll up their sleeves and serve is a wonderful example of living out their faith through action.

We would like to extend a special thank-you to Jim and Sandy Liewer for welcoming us to their farm and allowing us to share in this tradition. Their kindness and generosity make it possible for our youth to grow in service while experiencing the beauty of God's creation.

Pictured are the students picking and loading pumpkins, the full group of pumpkin pickers, and images that show the beauty of the Liewer farm where this special evening of service took place.



*God, thank You for being the source of wisdom and knowledge. Please teach me more about You each day so I can know and understand You better. Guide my actions and decision making so that I can live a life that honors You. In Jesus' name,
Amen.*



ST. PATRICK RELIGIOUS ED STARTS OFF THEIR NEW YEAR



K-5 Religious Education is in full swing! We have enjoyed being back together on Wednesday evenings.

We kicked off the year with a snack party and getting acquainted with new faces and new teacher, Therese Liewer.



The 4th and 5th graders also led a living rosary.



A Prayer for Veterans Day

Almighty God, on this day in 1918,
--11th day, 11th month, 11th hour of that day--
we signed the armistice to end the war:
"the war to end all wars," we prayed.

But other wars would come
and many more would serve.
So Armistice Day—renamed, reborn—now Veterans Day
to recognize, salute, all who answered duty's call.

We know too well
there have been times
we did not honor those who honored us
through sacrifice and service
during times of deadly war and all-too-fragile peace.

Today we hope, we pray, that we have learned
to offer thanks,
to show support, respect, and gratitude
to veterans, their families, to those who serve today.

May we welcome home all those who serve,
with open arms, with grateful hearts,
and caring, healing hands;
taking time to hear their stories,
giving time to ease their pain,
knowing that some wounds of war will never fully heal.

Grant us strength, we pray, to keep our faith
that thanks to those we honor with our words and prayers today,
one day we'll beat our swords to plowshares
and war will be no more.

...and let us say, amen.



VETERANS DAY PROGRAMS

NOVEMBER 11, 2025

St. Mary's Grade
School Program

GS GYM @ 8:30 AM

St. Mary's High School
Program with
SMH & OHS

HS GYM @ 10:00 AM



THE O'NEILL MINISTERIAL
ASSOCIATION PRESENTS
THE THIRD ANNUAL

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

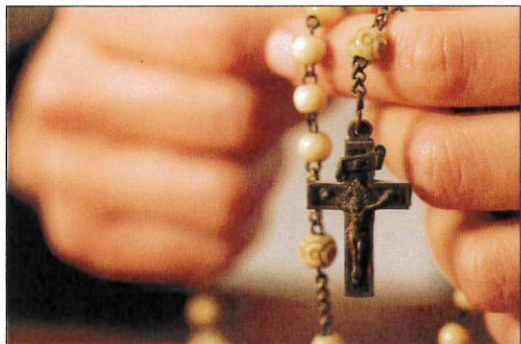
SUNDAY DECEMBER
21ST @ 6:00 PM

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



ROSARY RALLY FOR VOCATIONS



The Archdiocese of Omaha Vocations Office is leading its third-annual, month-long Rosary Rally in November to help encourage young men and women discerning vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We are seeking to increase our rosaries prayed this year to 50,000! All are invited to join in asking for Our Lady's intercession in support of those discerning and living out their vocation!

This isn't a single event, but a month-long campaign in November bringing the people of the Archdiocese together in person and online to pray the rosary for vocations.

How the Rosary Rally Works:

1. Pray the Rosary in November for Vocations.
2. Log your rosary on OmahaVocations.org

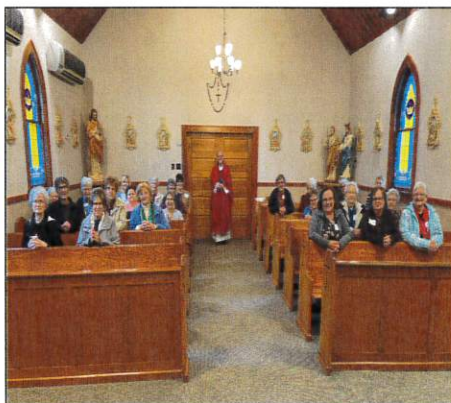
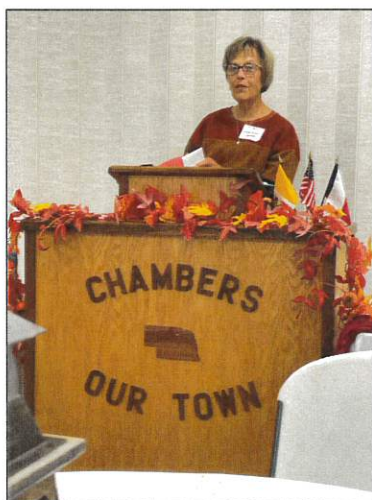
**You can also record it by emailing rosary@archomaha.org or calling [402.513.8569](tel:402.513.8569)



Why We Are Praying:

Young men and women discerning priesthood and religious life are in a spiritual battle and need your support.

RURAL NORTHWEST DEANERY MEETING HELD IN CHAMBERS



The fall Rural Northwest Deanery meeting was held on Tuesday, October 14th. This year's meeting was hosted by the St. Joseph Altar Society of Amelia. Thirty plus women traveled from the area and met at the Chambers Community beginning at 9:00. They enjoyed muffins and fruit before the meeting started at 9:30. The secretary, Karen Funk, took roll call and read the minutes from the spring meeting. A wonderful talk was given by the guest speaker, Jeanie Miller of Holt/Boyd Right to Life. She shared some wonderful insights about her work with Right to Life in the area and gave information about new laws and drugs that are in the works regarding abortions. The ladies traveled out to Amelia for mass with Father Ross Burkhalter at 11:30. Beautiful music was provided by Duane DeVries, who also provides the music at mass each week throughout the year for St. Joseph's. Everyone returned to the Community Center for a delicious lunch provided by the Altar Society.

The afternoon session started with a talk given by Father Burkhalter, the RNW Spirituality Advisor. The day ended with finishing the deanery meeting. The treasurer's report was given by Rose Keller. Old and new business was discussed. The spring RNW Deanery meeting will be held at St. Joseph's in Atkinson. Dates and times will be announced later when the details are ironed out. It was a great faith-filled day. The women were treated to some homemade goodies for their journeys home.

THANKFUL FOR THE THORNS

Sandra felt as low as the heels of her Birkenstocks as she pushed against a November gust and the florist shop door. Her life had been easy, like a spring breeze. Then, in the fourth month of her second pregnancy, a minor automobile accident stole her ease. During this Thanksgiving week, she would have delivered a son. She grieved over her loss. As if that weren't enough, her husband's company threatened a transfer. Then her sister, whose holiday visit she coveted, called saying she could not come. What's worse, Sandra's friend infuriated her by suggesting her grief was a God-given path to maturity that would allow her to empathize with others who suffer. "Had she lost a child? No - she has no idea what I'm feeling," Sandra shuddered. Thanksgiving? "Thankful for what?" she wondered. For a careless driver whose truck was hardly scratched when he rear-ended her? For an airbag that saved her life but took that of her child?

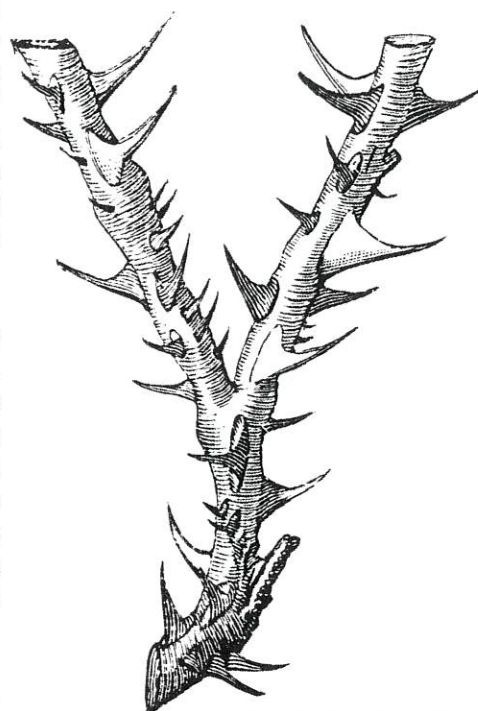
"Good afternoon, can I help you?" The flower shop clerk's approach startled her. "Sorry," said Jenny, "I just didn't want you to think I was ignoring you." "I . . . I need an arrangement." "For Thanksgiving?" Sandra nodded. "Do you want something beautiful but ordinary, or would you like to challenge the day with a customer favorite I call the 'Thanksgiving Special'?" Jenny saw Sandra's curiosity and continued. "I'm convinced that flowers tell stories, that each arrangement insinuates a particular feeling. Are you looking for something that conveys gratitude this Thanksgiving?" "Not exactly!" Sandra blurted. "Sorry, but in the last five months, everything that could go wrong has."

Sandra regretted her outburst but was surprised when Jenny said, "I have the perfect arrangement for you." The door's small bell suddenly rang. "Barbara, hi!" Jenny said. She politely excused herself from Sandra and walked toward a small workroom. She quickly reappeared carrying a massive arrangement of green bows, and long-stemmed thorny roses. Only, the ends of the rose stems were neatly snipped, no flowers. "Want this in a box?" Jenny asked. Sandra watched for Barbara's response. Was this a joke? Who would want rose stems and no flowers! She waited for laughter, for someone to notice the absence of flowers atop the thorny stems, but neither woman did. "Yes, please. It's exquisite," said Barbara. "You'd think after three years of getting the special, I'd not be so moved by its significance, but it's happening again. My family will love this one. Thanks."

Sandra stared. "Why so normal a conversation about so strange an arrangement?" she wondered. "Ah," said Sandra, pointing. "That lady just left with, ah . . ." "Yes?" "Well, she had no flowers!" "Yep. That's the Special. I call it the 'Thanksgiving Thorns Bouquet.'" "But, why do people pay for that?" In spite of herself, she chuckled. "Do you really want to know?" "I couldn't leave this shop without knowing. I'd think about nothing else!" "That might be good," said Jenny.

"Well," she continued, "Barbara came into the shop three years ago feeling very much like you feel today. She thought she had very little to be thankful for. She had lost her father to cancer, the family business was failing, her son was into drugs, and she faced major surgery." "Ouch!" said Sandra. "That same year, I lost my husband. I assumed complete responsibility for the shop and for the first time, spent the holidays alone. I had no children, no husband, no family nearby, and too great a debt to allow any travel." "What did you do?" "I learned to be thankful for thorns." Sandra's eyebrows lifted. "Thorns?"

"I'm a Christian, Sandra. I've always thanked God for good things in life and I never thought to ask Him why good things happened to me. But, when bad stuff hit, did I ever ask! It took time to learn that dark times are important. I always enjoyed the flowers of life but it took thorns to show me the beauty of God's comfort. You know, the Bible says that God comforts us when we're afflicted and from His consolation we learn to comfort others." Sandra gasped. "A friend read that passage to me and I was furious! I guess the truth is, I don't want comfort. I've lost a baby and I'm angry with God." She started to ask Jenny to "go on" when the door's bell diverted their attention.



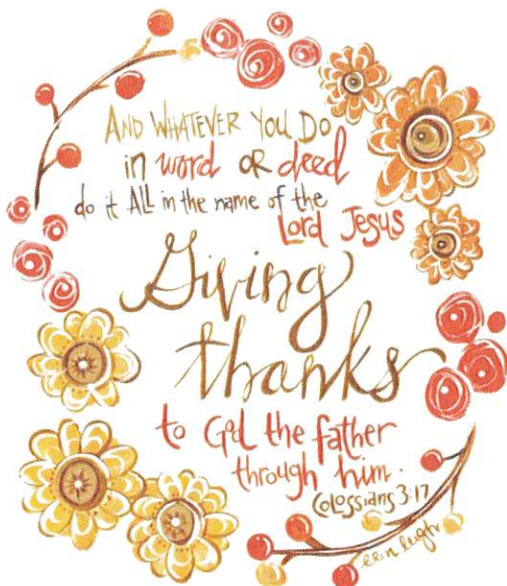
Continued on page 11 . . .

"Hey, Phil!" shouted Jenny as a balding, rotund man entered the shop. She softly touched Sandra's arm and moved to welcome him. He tucked her under his side for a warm hug. "I'm here for twelve thorny long-stemmed stems!" Phil laughed, heartily. "I figured as much," said Jenny. "I've got them ready." She lifted a tissue-wrapped arrangement from the refrigerated cabinet. "Beautiful," said Phil. "My wife will love them." Sandra could not resist asking, "These are for your wife?" Phil saw that Sandra's curiosity matched his when he first heard of a Thorn Bouquet. "Do you mind me asking, Why thorns?" "In fact, I'm glad you asked," He said. "Four years ago my wife and I nearly divorced. After forty years, we were in a real mess, but we slogged through, problem by rotten problem. We rescued our marriage - our love, really. Last year, at Thanksgiving, I stopped in here for flowers. I must have mentioned surviving a tough process because Jenny told me that for a long time she kept a vase of rose stems --- stems! - -- As a reminder of what she learned from 'thorny' times. That was good enough for me. I took home stems. My wife and I decided to label each one for a specific thorny situation and give thanks for what the problem taught us. I'm pretty sure this stem review is becoming a tradition." Phil paid Jenny, thanked her again and as he left, said to Sandra, "I highly recommend the Special!"

"I don't know if I can be thankful for the thorns in my life, " Sandra said to Jenny. "Well, my experience says that thorns make roses more precious. We treasure God's providential care more during trouble than at any other time. Remember, Sandra, Jesus wore a crown of thorns so that we might know His love. Do not resent thorns." Tears rolled down Sandra's cheeks. For the first time since the accident, she loosened her grip on resentment. "I'll take twelve long-stemmed thorns, please." "I hoped you would, " Jenny said. "I'll have them ready in a minute. Then, every time you see them, remember to appreciate both the good and hard times. We grow through both." "Thank you. What do I owe you?" "Nothing. Nothing but a pledge to work toward healing your heart. The first year's arrangement is always on me."

Jenny handed a card to Sandra. "I'll attach a card like this to your arrangement but maybe you'd like to read it first. Go ahead, read it." My God, I have never thanked Thee for my thorn! I have thanked Thee a thousand times for my roses, but never once for my thorn. Teach me the glory of the cross I bear, teach me the value of my thorns. Show me that I have climbed to Thee by the path of pain. Show me that my tears have made my rainbow.

-Author Unknown



THANK YOU, LORD

Even though I clutch my blanket and growl when the alarm rings. Thank you, Lord, that I can hear. There are many who are deaf.

Even though I keep my eyes closed against the morning light as long as possible. Thank you, Lord, that I can see. Many are blind.

Even though I huddle in my bed and put off rising. Thank you, Lord, that I have the strength to rise. There are many who are bedridden.

Even though the first hour of my day is hectic, when socks are lost, toast is burned, tempers are short, and my children are so loud.

Thank you, Lord, for my family. There are many who are lonely.

Even though our breakfast table never looks like the picture in magazines and the menu is at times unbalanced.

Thank you, Lord, for the food we have. There are many who are hungry.

Even though the routine of my job often is monotonous. Thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to work. There are many who have no job.

Even though I grumble and bemoan my fate from day to day and wish my circumstances were not so modest.

Thank you, Lord, for life.

-Author Unknown

Sacred Heart Celebrates Confirmations



Confirmands at St. Peter and Paul on Sept. 25 include Aaron Melton, Baleigh Koenig, Easton Reiser, Emerson Higgins, Kenze Reiman, and Landon Melton. Fr. Starman was celebrant, and Deacon Filips assisted. Mary Haun, Denise Hausman, and choir ladies filled the church with beautiful music. Ed Peppel lectured, Claire Reiman and Madalyn Reiser were servers. On behalf of the Altar Society, Kathy Peppel presented a Bible to each Confirmand. Food and fellowship with family, friends, and parishioners followed in the hall.

St. Mary's celebrated Confirmation Sept. 26 for eight students, including Levi Purviance, Emma Ohri, Miri Johnson, Kayl Finnegan, Kole Larsen, Weylan Finnegan, Case Reiman, and Jake Ohri. Fr. Starman was celebrant, and Deacon Filips assisted. Concelebrants were Fr. Louis Nolette and Fr. Neal Nolette (Jake and Emma's great-uncles). Liturgical roles were filled by Confirmands' family. Tony Koenig and Leonard Ohri lectured, Grace Finnegan and Andrew Ohri served. Mary Finnegan was EMHC. Deegan Johnson and Blaine Purviance ushered, Offertory Gifts were presented by Ashlynn Finnegan, Mazee Johnson, and Jase Larsen. Braylee Finnegan, Kip Reiman, and Grady Witt



passed out programs. Music was provided by Mary Haun and St. Mary's Choir. St. Mary's Altar Society hosted a potluck brunch for family, friends, and parishioners following Mass.

The 2025 Confirmation classes thank all who made our day special for us. First of all, to our teachers Char Mitchell, Denise Hausmann, and Mary Haun for their hard work and dedication. Thanks also to Fr. Starman for being celebrant, to Deacon Filips for assisting, to Fr. Burkhalter for being available for Reconciliation and practice, to our sponsors for spending time with us as we prepared for this sacrament, to our parents, to those that assisted with the liturgical roles for Mass, to Sts. Peter and Paul Altar Society for the Bibles and reception meal, to St. Mary's Altar Society for hosting the potluck brunch, and to everyone else who cooked, cleaned, and decorated. Special thanks to the parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish for supporting us and instilling in us what faith looks like. We appreciate everything that has been done for us.

Heart of a Child shares their Celebration of Life with students and families Oct. 1 in O'Neill



Grade school students and families learned fun facts about fetal development and watched live ultrasounds of babies in the womb. They were awed by the fetal models of babies, and some enjoyed cuddling them. Each child made a Celebration of Life bag that included their own little fetal model at 12 weeks. Brandi Dexter was the mom who shared her baby via ultrasound. She also shared the story of her first child being premature, and what it felt like to hold her son when he was so small.



A message about the humanity of life in the womb, and the power of shame and hope was shared with the middle school and older audience. They heard adoption stories, including one by Kris Harvey. Megan Myers used her abortion story to illustrate how just a seed of misplaced shame can color the lens of how we see things and gradually dissolve our self worth and derail our dreams. But hope can do the same. When someone plants and nourishes a seed of hope, it changes the course of our lives by changing the lens by which we see it. Jesus' love is that hope. She challenged listeners to be Jesus' hands and feet to bring that hope to others. She stressed that just one degree of change today can hugely impact the future, because it's influence grows as time passes. She said doing small things can unleash ripples of Jesus' love and make a difference in in people and in the world. Jessica Warnke was the mom for evening ultrasounds.

Spiritual Adoption

Boyd Holt Right to Life also initiated a Spiritual Adoption on Oct. 1. Go to their Facebook page for details, or check back here next month.

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

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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
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or connect online at:
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You will find . . .

- ♦ websites for individual parishes
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- ♦ live stream of the Mass
- ♦ St. Mary's & St. Joseph's Catholic Schools information



PARISH OFFICE CLOSING



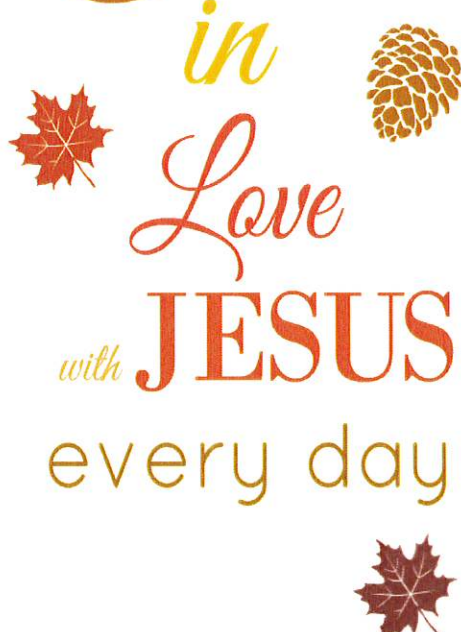
St. Patrick's Parish Office will close at noon on November 26th and be closed November 27th & 28th

Wishing you a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

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 Kunz at jkunz@holtboydcatholic.org or jankunz9@gmail.com.

Fall
in
Love
with JESUS
every day



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ST. PATRICK RENOVATION PROGRESS

Here is the progress report as of October 20, 2025. Remember you can check out current pictures on our website at www.stpatoneill.org/st-patrick-restoration-project

The progress of our renovation is moving forward very well.

- The scaffolding is now down, exposing the beauty of the entirety of the walls and the mural in the sanctuary.
- The Stations of the Cross and the Marian devotion items have been placed back on our wall.
- A group of parishioners have tirelessly cleaned the body of our church.
- The platform for the reredos (high altar) has been finished.
- A middle aisle of steps has been built in the choir loft.
- The subfloor in the nave of the church has been placed and is ready for carpeting to be laid.

In mid-November the pews, reredos, ambo, altar of sacrifice, and statue stands will be finished and will arrive to be placed in church.

Please continue to pray for the success of our renovation, as there is a fair amount of work to be done. Our goal is to celebrate Mass at St. Patrick's in late November!!

-Deacon MJ Kersenbrock

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

NOVEMBER 2, 2025



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

1st—Parish Auction Drop Off— 8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
 2nd—Daylight Savings Time Ends
 2nd—St. Patrick Parish Auction
 2nd—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 2nd—Ss. P & P CCW Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Butte
 3rd—Reach More Training—6:30 p.m.—O'Neill
 3rd—KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Stuart
 4th—OCIC Class—4:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 4th—Catholic Daughters Mtg—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 5th—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet
 6th—Ss P & P CCW Mtg—7:00 p.m.
 7th—Mass @ Parkside—2:00 p.m.—Stuart
 9th—KC Pancake Breakfast—8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
 9th—Christmas Festival Practice—1:00 p.m.—2:30 p.m.
 9th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 9th—OCIA—4:00 p.m.—Parish Office
 9th—COR Men's Group—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 10th—Reach More Training—6:30 p.m.—O'Neill
 10th—4th Degree KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—O'Neill
 11th—VETERAN'S DAY
 11th—Grade School Veteran's Day Program—8:30 p.m.
 11th—Mass @ Good Sam—10:00 a.m.—Atkinson
 11th—High School Veteran's Day Program—10:00 a.m.
 11th—OCIC—4:00 p.m.—Parish Office
 11th—Parish Council Mtg—7:00 p.m.—Atkinson
 12th—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet
 12th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 15th/16th—Catholic Charities Collection
 16th—Christmas Festival Practice—1:00 p.m.—2:30 p.m.
 16th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 16th—OCIA—4:00 p.m.—Parish Office
 17th—Reach More Training—6:30 p.m.—O'Neill
 17th—KC Meeting—Butte
 18th—OCIC Class—4:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 18th—Parish Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Stuart
 19th—Mass @ Evergreen—3:15 p.m.—O'Neill
 19th—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet
 20th—KCs & Deceased Spouses of KCs Mass & Dinner—6:30 p.m.
 23rd—St. Joseph—Amelia Meal Fundraiser—11:00 a.m.
 23rd—Christmas Festival Practice—1:00 p.m.—2:30 p.m.
 23rd—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 23rd—OCIA—4:00 p.m.—Parish Office
 23rd—Community Thanksgiving Worship Service—7:00 p.m.
 23rd—COR Men's Group—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 24th—KC Liver & Onion Feed—Atkinson—11:30 a.m.
 24th—Reach More Training—6:30 p.m.—O'Neill
 25th—OCIC Class—4:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 26th—Parish Office Closes at Noon
 26th—Finance Council Mtg—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 27th—HAPPY THANKSGIVING
 27th/28th—Parish Office Closed
 30th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill




St. Joseph's Amelia Catholic Church

INVITES EVERYONE TO A FREE-WILL

SMOKED PORK MEAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

11 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.
CHAMBERS LEGION CLUB

Serving pork sandwiches & baked beans
 by The Casual Smokers
 along with many
 delicious salads & desserts.




November Prayer



Lord,

As November unfolds, we're reminded of Your countless blessings. With the changing season, warm our hearts and guide our thoughts. For those feeling lonely or in loss, bring comfort. As we enter a season of gratitude, fill us with generosity and love. Thank you for being our constant guide and strength.

In Jesus' name,
 Amen.

