



SHARING OUR NEWS

SEPTEMBER 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

Prayer For September

Dear God, Here we are, at the start of a new month. I'm not sure what's coming, but I trust you have a plan.

Guide me every day, will you? Sometimes things get confusing, but I know you'll show me the right steps.

When things get tough, I'm going to need some extra strength. Help me stand tall and face whatever comes my way.

This month, I hope for good times and blessings. May good things come my way and may I always remember to be thankful.

Help me spread kindness. I want to be there for others, just like you're always there for me.

Keep an eye on my family and friends, keep them safe and happy.

And, most of all, let's spend time together this month. Amidst all the busyness, remind me to stop, breathe, and chat with you.

Thanks for being my rock, always. Here's to the new month ahead. I'm taking it on, knowing you're by my side. In Jesus' name, Amen.





MINISTRY OF PRAISE

A Word From Deacon Roger Filips

Greetings to our Prayer Warriors,

The Letter to the Hebrews says, "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen," Faith is not simply about believing certain facts or following certain rules. Faith is about trust—a trust so deep that it gives us confidence even in the face of uncertainty. Faith tells us that hope is not empty, and that the invisible realities promised by God are more solid and enduring than the material world around us. The spiritual world and the kingdom of God are more real than what you see with your own eyes in this world. This physical world exists only in the mind of God, and the universe will end when God lets it end. This universe is not real. The spiritual world: God, and heaven and hell and the angels and our immortal souls are real, and they will never end. Reality is not what you think it is.

We are called to trust in God's promises, even when we cannot see the way forward, because we know the One who holds the future, and we trust Him. Living by faith also means being generous—If we truly believe that our treasure is in heaven, then we are liberated from the anxiety that binds us. We are free to give, to serve, and to love in ways that make no sense to the world, but which are totally logical to those who trust in the promise of God.

Finally, faith means being ready, living each day in joyful expectation of God coming into our lives. This doesn't mean living in fear or anxiety, but in hope and attentiveness. It means seeing each day as a gift, each encounter as an opportunity to meet Christ—in the poor, in the suffering, in our families, in our neighbors.

Trust in God, be generous, be ready. Faith is not a feeling. It is a choice—a daily decision to trust the love and fidelity of God. Let us ask the Lord to deepen our faith, to surrender our fears, our doubts, and our need for control.

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

"ARE YOU SAVED?"

Answer from Protestant: "Yes, I am. I absolutely know I am going to heaven because Jesus saved me."

Answer by Catholic: "Yes, Jesus saved me, and now I am trying not to blow it." We hope for heaven but won't know for sure until we die. Everything will be made clear then.



Some other differences between Catholics and Protestants and between Protestants and other Protestants also exist: Many Protestants think we worship Mary. This is false. We honor her because of her role in salvation history and ask her to petition Jesus for what we need. She is Jesus' mother, and it is difficult for a son to deny a beloved mother's request (see the Wedding at Cana, John 2:1-2).

Most Protestants deny all the sacraments except Baptism. They have ceremonies for the rest but do not consider them to be sacraments.

Until next month . . . Deacon Filips

IN LOVING MEMORY . . .

MICHELLE CLOSSON

August 24, 1971—May 8, 2025
St. Joseph—Atkinson

FLORENCE CATHERINE KAUP

January 31, 1948—July 25, 2025
St. Joseph—Atkinson

RAMONA ANN BABL

October 3, 1930—July 26, 2025
St. Patrick—O'Neill

HAROLD DEAN REISER

April 22, 1935—August 1, 2025
SHBC—Ss. Peter & Paul—Butte

KENNEDY JO YOUNG

April 17, 2025—August 15, 2025
St. Joseph—Atkinson

PAUL SYLVESTER HOSTERT

June 29, 1934—August 17, 2025
SHBC—Ss. Peter & Paul—Butte

WELCOME TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED . . .

ALLIE ROSE SUKUP

Daughter of Kordell & Brittany Sukup
July 26, 2025
St. Boniface—Stuart

RAMSEY ELLA DAWKINS

Daughter of Robert & Rhonda Dawkins
July 27, 2025
St. Joseph—Atkinson

KIPTON THOMAS LAMMERS

Son of Brenton & Brooke Lammers
August 16, 2025
St. Patrick—O'Neill

MARIE ANN SNYDER

Daughter of Wayne & Tiffany Snyder III
August 23, 2025
St. Patrick—O'Neill

BEAU WILLIAM SCHAFER

Son of Dalton & Miranda Schafer
August 23, 2025
St. Boniface—Stuart



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY MARRIED

**MICHELLE KOENIG &
JOE MCGUIRE**

August 2, 2025
St. Patrick—O'Neill

**ASHLEY HAUSMANN &
CODY JOHNSON**

August 9, 2025
St. Patrick—O'Neill



**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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Sign up as a parishioner with the zip code 68780 to create your **FREE** account.

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



Let your light so shine
Matthew 5:16

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.

September

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

1st—LABOR DAY—Parish Office Closed
 2nd—Mass @ Good Sam—10:00 a.m.—Atkinson
 2nd—Catholic Daughters Mtg—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 3rd—Pilgrims of Hope Pilgrimage Stop—Lynch
 3rd—Religious Ed/Youth Group Classes in area parishes
 4th—CCW Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Butte
 5th—Mass @ Parkside—2:00 p.m.—Stuart
 7th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 7th—COR Men's Group—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 8th—4th Degree KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—O'Neill
 9th—Parish Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Atkinson
 10th—Religious Ed/Youth Group Classes in area parishes
 10th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 13th—Holt/Boyd Out of the Darkness Walk—11:00 a.m.
 14th—St. Joseph-Amelia Confirmation Practice 12:15 p.m.
 14th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 15th—KC Meeting—Butte
 16th—Parish Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Stuart
 17th—Mass @ Evergreen—3:15 p.m.—O'Neill
 17th—Confirmation Practice—5:00 p.m.—Stuart
 17th—Confirmation Practice—7:00 p.m.—Atkinson
 17th—Religious Ed/Youth Group Classes in area parishes
 18th—Archbishop's Dinner for Education—Omaha
 20th—CONFIRMATION—5:00 p.m.—Stuart
 20th—Confirmation Practice—8:00 p.m.—Spencer
 21st—CONFIRMATION—9:00 a.m.—Atkinson
 21st—CONFIRMATION—11:15 a.m.—Amelia
 21st—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 21st—COR Men's Group—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 24th—Religious Ed/Youth Group Classes in area parishes
 24th—Confirmation Practice—7:00 p.m.—Butte
 24th—Finance Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill
 25th—Ladies Guild—2:00 p.m.—Stuart
 27th—CONFIRMATION—7:00 p.m.—Butte
 28th—CONFIRMATION—8:00 a.m.—Spencer
 28th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill



PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Labor Day
 September 1, 2025

OCIA CLASSES (FORMERLY RCIA) STARTING SOON

The OCIA, Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, is the process through which people may enter the church as an adult. If you know someone who would like to learn more about and/or join the Catholic church, or you yourself are interested, please contact the Parish Office at 402-336-1602, or Deacon MJ Kersenbrock mjkersenbrock@archomaha.org
 Classes will begin Sept. 7.

THE BIBLE IN 50 WORDS



God made.
 Adam bit.
 Noah arked.
 Abraham split.

Jacob fooled.
 Joseph ruled.
 Bush talked.
 Moses balked.

Pharaoh plagued.
 People walked.
 Sea divided.
 Tablets guided.

Promise landed.
 Saul freaked.
 David peeked.

Prophets warned.
 Jesus born.
 God walked.
 Love talked.

Anger crucified.
 Hope died.
 Love rose.

Spirit flamed.
 Word spread.
 God remained.



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
jkunz@holtboydcatholic.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—**nmptomjack@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**
 402-336-7826

St. Joseph—Atkinson

Office: PO Box 220, Atkinson, NE 68713

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

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

Secretary:

Gayle Jungman—**stjoechurchatkinson@gmail.com**

Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Linda Wolf—**stjohndr@gmail.com**
 402-340-0741

St. Boniface—Stuart

Office: 106 E 4th St. PO Box 190 Stuart, NE 68780

Phone: 402-924-3262

Hours: Tuesday—Thursday 8 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Secretary:

Deb Kramer—**stbonifacestuart@gmail.com**

Director of Ministries/Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Jan Kunz—**jankunz9@gmail.com**
 402-340-2303



GOD LOOKED DOWN
 ON THE WORLD
 that **HE** created & saw
 His **FARMER** NEEDED A partner
 TO WORK **HIM** during
 BESIDE **HIM** during
 Good Times & Bad,
 Someone to help him
 with nurturing of their
LAND, Family, Friends,
NEIGHBORS, & Community
 that's why He made a
Farmer's Wife



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: September 3rd, October 1st, 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.

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.

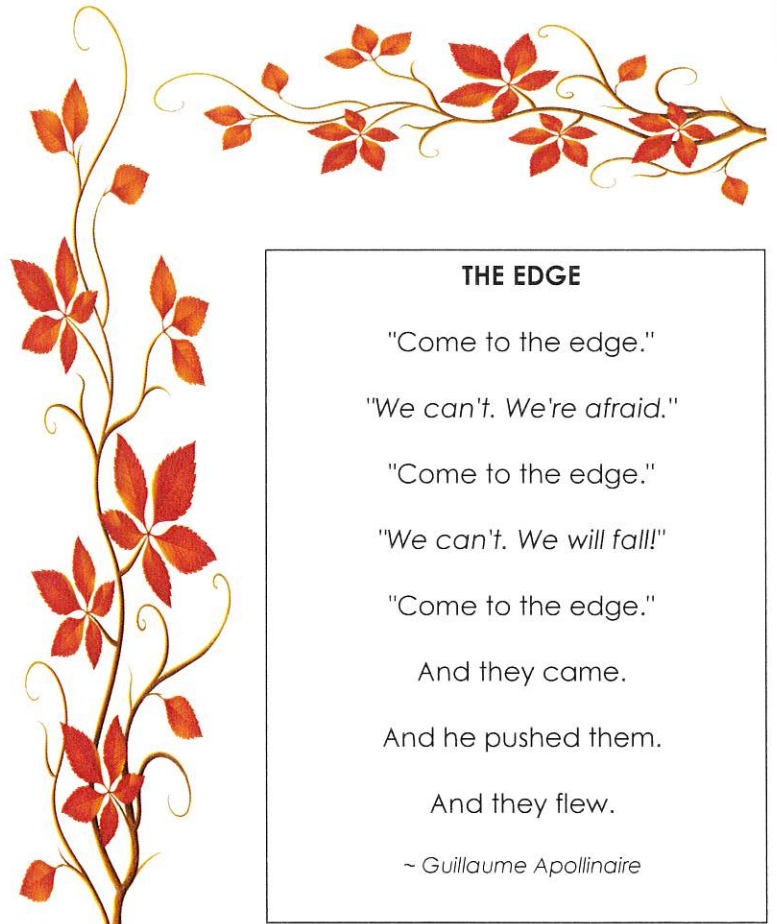
UPCOMING LIFE CHAIN

Sunday—October 5—2025

Registration starts at 1:30 p.m. at the corner of
3rd and Douglas in O'Neill.



Mark your calendar and
plan to join in silent prayer
from 2:00—3:00 p.m.



THE EDGE

"Come to the edge."

"We can't. We're afraid."

"Come to the edge."

"We can't. We will fall!"

"Come to the edge."

And they came.

And he pushed them.

And they flew.

~ Guillaume Apollinaire

ST. JOSEPH—ATKINSON



**ST. JOSEPH—ATKINSON
ALTAR SOCIETY NOTE**

Altar Society Dues Collection

Before & After Mass in the Entrance on:

September 7th
and
September 14th

Dues are \$15

Or mail to:
Diane Rentschler
47691 883rd Rd
Atkinson, NE 68713

Or drop off at the Rectory



**ST. JOSEPH—ATKINSON
ANNUAL AUCTION**

is set for
OCTOBER 26, 2025

Atkinson Community Center

Mark your calendars and think about how you
can help with this major fundraiser for the
parish.

*"Be kind and merciful. Let no one ever come to you without coming
away better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness:
kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile,
kindness in your warm greeting. In the slums, we are the light of God's
kindness to the poor. To children, to the poor, to all who suffer and are
lonely, give always a happy smile.
Give them not only your care but also your heart."*

~ St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta



SHAKE IT OFF

One day, a farmer's donkey fell down into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway. It just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey.

He invited all his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement, he quieted down.

A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. He would shake it off and take a step up.

As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, he would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

MORAL:

Life is going to shovel dirt on you, all kinds of dirt. The trick to getting out of the well is to shake it off and take a step up. Each of our troubles is a stepping stone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up!



ST. MARY'S UPDATES — O'NEILL

We thank those who helped to make the playground turf and new sod in front of the school happen so quickly! It looks absolutely fantastic!



THANK YOU!

INTRODUCING PARENTS, TEACHERS & CARDINALS



This is a new organization at St. Mary's School! Our mission: Partnering in faith to support student growth through family & school collaboration. PTC exists to bring parents, teachers, and students together in a spirit of community and faith. We're excited to build strong connections that support our children's education and spiritual development.

Contact the Parish Office at 402-336-1602 to get your name on the list for more information. Let's grow together in faith and community at St. Mary's!

St. Mary's is still looking for Classroom Partners to pair with our teachers. 1 – If you would be willing be a prayer partner for our teachers, we would love to have you. You just will stay in touch (usually by email) with your teacher and they will keep you posted with prayer concerns and thanksgiving throughout the year! 2 – We are assigning a partner to every teacher to help offset their out of pocket expenses for their classrooms. This money is for them to use as they see fit, whether that is classroom rewards, decorations, books, or whatever they deem best. Any additional amounts go directly to the wish list where all of our teachers can request items that are typically outside of the regular budget. If you would like to do either or both of these things, you can sign up online at www.stmarysoneill.org/classroom-partners or contact Jennifer at jmwallwey@archomaha.org or 402-336-1602.



ST. MARY'S RED CARPET GALA

Big News from the 2025 St. Mary's Red Carpet Gala!

We are thrilled to announce that this year's Gala brought in a record-breaking \$149,262.67 in net income! Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, this event was a huge success and it's making a real impact.

Proceeds from the Gala are going toward:

- Continuation of the school's mental health program
- New health and social studies curriculum
- ESU technical support
- Vertimax equipment for all junior high and high school students and athletes
- Teacher wish list funds
- New turf for the playground

We're beyond excited about what this event helps us accomplish each year, and it's all thanks to YOU, our amazing supporters.

Mark your calendars: Next year's Red Carpet Gala is set for March 21, 2026 — and we can't wait to do it all again!

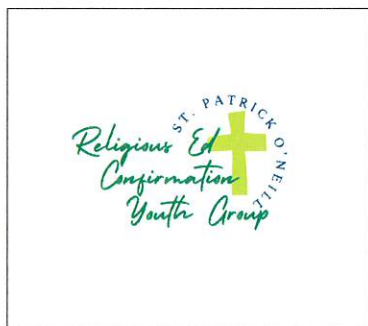




ST. PATRICK— O'NEILL

Mark your calendars now the upcoming St. Patrick Fall Auction on Sunday, November 2nd at the O'Neill Community Center. We are always looking for solicitors and volunteers if you would like to help out with the largest fundraiser of the year for St. Patrick Church! New & gently used donations can be dropped off at the Parish Center at 313 E Hwy 20. If you would like to sponsor a raffle prize, make a donation, or assist in any way, please contact Jennifer at 402-336-1602 or jmwallwey@archomaha.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, CONFIRMATION, AND YOUTH GROUP INFORMATION



Religious Ed (Grades K-5) starts SEPTEMBER 3rd at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Grade School.

Confirmation Class (Grades 6 & 7) starts SEPTEMBER 10th from 6:30—7:30 p.m. at the Troester Home (405 E Londonderry Dr.) This is not for St. Mary's students. Call Lori Liabe at 402-340-6570 with questions.

Youth Group (Grades 8—12) is scheduled to begin on SEPTEMBER 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Mary's Common, though that date might change due to expected maternity leave.

Registration forms are available at the Parish Office or you can download them at stpatoneill.org/religiouseducation.



INFORMATION REGARDING CHILDREN WHO HAVE MISSED SACRAMENTS

If you have a child or children that are above the age of 8 and have NOT received their 1st Reconciliation and/or 1st Communion, an older child that has not received their Confirmation, or if your child is NOT baptized, please contact the Parish Office soon at 402-336-1602 for information on classes. Classes will be starting in September!

Autumn

*Let the fields be jubilant, and
everything in them; let all the trees
of the forest sing for joy:*

Psalms 96:12





Beginnings

Pregnancy Resource Center

2025 BABY BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

AUG. 24th TO SEPT. 28th

Grab a bottle and help save and change lives!



Scan the code to give online



or mail your donation to:
P.O. Box 821 O'Neill, NE 68763



Happening now!



GRANDPARENTS DAY

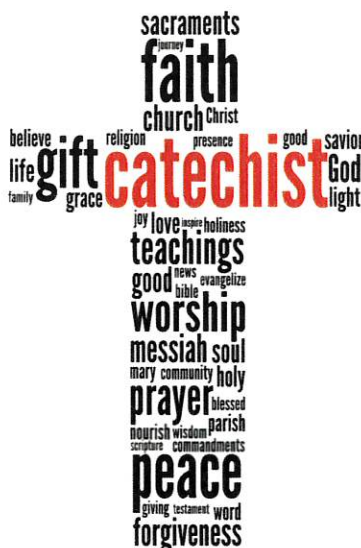
September 7, 2025

GRANDPARENTS

Grandparents are special people with wisdom and pride. They are always offering love and kindness and are always there to guide. They often make you feel so confident and strong. Their arms are always open no matter what you did wrong. They try to help out in every way that they can. They love all their grandchildren the same whether you're a child, woman or man. They are always there to listen and to lend a helping hand. They show you respect and they try to understand. They give their love, devotion and so much more, that's easy to see. Grandparents, what perfect examples of the kind of person that we should be.

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

September 21, 2025



PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

September 28, 2025

THANKSGIVING PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

"Lord Jesus,

Thank You for anointing Your priests and sending them to proclaim Your good news and acts. They are a wonderful gift to the church, and we offer praise and thanksgiving in return.

I pray, Lord, that You may keep their fire to serve the church burning and let Your power shine through their weakness. And may the gift of Mary, the mother of our dear Jesus Christ, be Your gift to every priest.

In Your name, I pray,

Amen"

COME TO ME

HEALING RETREAT



Isaiah 55

Join us for this half-day healing retreat offered by the Archdiocese of Omaha for all who long for healing of past hurts and want to reclaim their identity as a son or daughter of the Father.

COME TO ME 2025 HEALING RETREAT

Saturday, October 4, 2025 • 10:00 am - 5:30 pm

St. Patrick Church

3480 Hwy 32 • Tekamah, NE 68061

St. Patrick's Parish is a leisurely drive from anywhere in the archdiocese:

30 minutes - Winnebago

60 minutes - Omaha • Columbus • Norfolk • Schuyler • South Sioux City

**REGISTER BY
September 27, 2025
bit.ly/3EmRbxj**



For more information, contact the Victim Outreach and Prevention Office: **402.827.3798**

Fellowship will be offered after the retreat • Mass counts for Sunday obligation

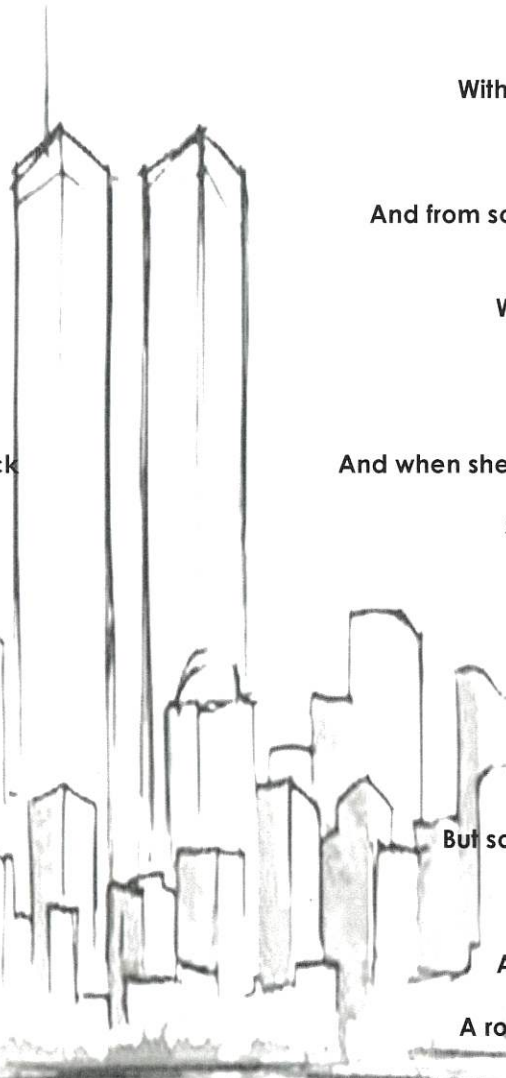
Deacon Tim McNeil will provide formation on God's gift of restoration and mercy through a relationship with the Person of Jesus Christ. There will also be time for personal reflection and prayer.

Fr. Andy Sohm will administer the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Sacrament of Healing, and celebrate Mass as ways to embrace God's merciful love.



**Archdiocese
of Omaha**

Her hair was up in a ponytail.
 Her favorite dress tied with a bow.
 Today was Daddy's Day at school,
 And she couldn't wait to go.
 But her mommy tried to tell her
 That she probably should stay home.
 Why the kids might not understand
 If she went to school alone.
 But she was not afraid;
 She knew just what to say.
 What to tell her classmates
 Of why he wasn't there today.
 But still her mother worried
 For her to face this day alone.
 And that was why, once again,
 She tried to keep her daughter home.
 But the little girl went to school,
 Eager to tell them all
 About a dad she never sees,
 A dad who never calls.
 There were daddies along the wall in back
 For everyone to meet.
 Children squirming impatiently,
 Anxious in their seats.
 One by one, the teacher called,
 A student from the class
 To introduce their daddy
 As seconds slowly passed.
 At last, the teacher called her name,
 Every child turned to stare.
 Each of them was searching
 For a man who wasn't there.
 "Where's her daddy at?"
 She heard a boy call out.
 "She probably doesn't have one,"
 Another student dared to shout.
 And from somewhere near the back,
 She heard a daddy say,
 "Looks like another deadbeat dad,
 Too busy to waste his day."
 The words did not offend her
 As she smiled up at her Mom
 And looked back at her teacher,
 Who told her to go on.
 And with hands behind her back,
 Slowly, she began to speak.
 And from the mouth, of a child,
 Came words incredibly unique.
 "My Daddy couldn't be here
 Because he lives so far away.
 But I know he wishes he could be,
 Since this is such a special day.
 And though you cannot meet him,
 I wanted you to know
 All about my daddy
 And how he loves me so.
 He loved to tell me stories.
 He taught me to ride my bike.
 He surprised me with pink roses,
 And taught me to fly a kite.



We used to share fudge sundaes
 And ice cream in a cone.
 And though you cannot see him,
 I'm not standing here alone.
 "Cause my daddy's always with me
 Even though we are apart.
 I know because he told me,
 He'll be forever in my heart."
 With that, her little hand reached up
 And lay across her chest,
 Feeling her own heartbeat,
 Beneath her favorite dress.
 And from somewhere in the crowd of dads,
 Her mother stood in tears,
 Proudly watching her daughter,
 Who was wise beyond her years.
 She stood up for the love
 Of a man not in her life,
 Doing what was best for her,
 Doing what was right.
 And when she dropped her hand back down,
 Staring straight into the crowd,
 She finished with a voice so soft,
 But its message clear and loud.
 "I love my daddy very much.
 He's my shining star.
 And if he could, he'd be here,
 But heaven's just too far.
 You see, he was a fireman
 And died just this past year
 When airplanes hit the towers
 And taught Americans to fear.
 But sometimes when I close my eyes,
 It's like he never went away."
 And then she closed her eyes
 And saw him there that day.
 And to her mother's amazement,
 She witnessed with surprise,
 A room full of daddies and children,
 All starting to close their eyes.
 Who knows what they saw before them.
 Who knows what they felt inside.
 Perhaps for merely a second,
 They saw him at her side.
 "I know you're with me Daddy,"
 To the silence, she called out.
 And what happened next made believers
 Of those once filled with doubt.
 Not one in that room could explain it,
 For each of their eyes had been closed.
 But there, on the desk beside her,
 Was a fragrant long-stemmed pink rose.
 And a child was blessed, if only for a moment,
 By the love of her shining bright star.
 And given the gift of believing
 That heaven is never too far.



real life catholic

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Mount Marty University Cimpl Arena
1105 West 8th Street, Yankton, SD 57078

REBOOT

A LIFE-CHANGING EVENT

This high-energy, 2-hour event with internationally acclaimed speaker **Chris Stefanick** will awaken your faith, reignite your joy, and equip you with tools to live the life God created you for: A life of JOY!

It will help you rediscover the JOY you were created for, and is perfect for everyone... even friends, family, and children (12+) who may not be actively practicing their faith.



SCAN QR CODE TO SECURE YOUR SPOT OR GO TO:
[HTTPS://BUYTICKETS.AT/REALLIFECATHOLIC/1663065](https://buytickets.at/reallifecatholic/1663065)



Sponsored By:

Catholic Community Foundation of Eastern SD
Mount Marty University, Yankton SD
St. Martin of Tours Pastorate, SD (8 parishes)
Our Catholic Family, NE (12 parishes)

Free Hot Dog Supper sponsored by the Knights of Columbus (5 councils of NE & SD)

Do not let cost deter you...scholarships available.
Contact barbara.rezac@mountmarty.edu

We are looking into getting a bus for our Family of Parishes. There will be more specifics regarding the bus details as the event gets closer. If you are interested in going, please scan the QR code or go online and purchase your tickets. If you are interested in riding the bus, contact Jan Kunz @ 402-340-2303 or jankunz9@gmail.com to get on the list. Attendees riding the bus will help pay for the bus costs which will be determined when the number of participants is tallied. To ensure your spot for this awesome opportunity, get your tickets today! Call Jan Kunz (402.340.2303) or Jeanie Miller (402.340.5087) with any questions.

Check out more information on our parishes Facebook pages and click on the link for easy ticket ordering!

Heart of a child Ministries



CELEBRATION OF LIFE
FOR YOUTH GROUPS & FAMILIES
WED. OCT 1 7-8:30
O'NEILL COMMUNITY CENTER

Explore life as a gift to be celebrated! Enjoy live music

7 PM: see a Family-friendly live ultrasound of a real baby in the womb, hear Scripture and fun fetal facts

7:30 - little ones go to make Celebration of Life bags others listen to beautiful adoption stories, then grades 4-6 leave to make their bags

8:00 Middle School and up hear the story of Megan Meyers. Her passion is to help others find healing and freedom from guilt and shame through the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. Megan will share her testimony about living in the shame of having had an abortion and finding restoration and redemption through Jesus Christ.

SPONSORED BY BOYD HOLT RIGHT TO LIFE
AND THEIR UNDERWRITERS

Still not convinced???

Preview video trailers at: heartofachildministries.org

call 402-340-5087

message Boyd Holt Right to Life on Facebook
or see posters/bulletins sent to your church

Mary-Thon

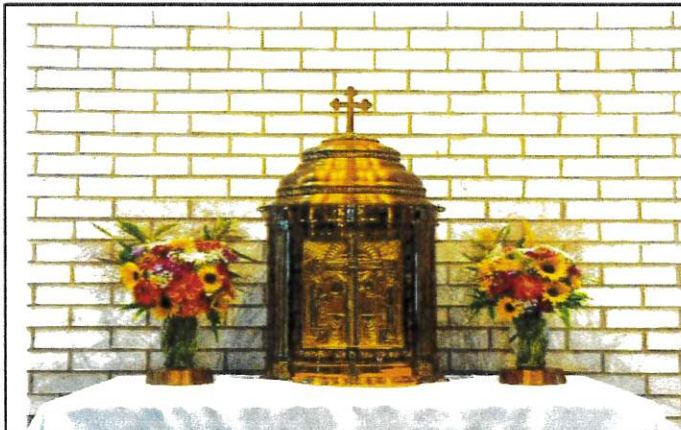
The Rosary Garden committee would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to our Sacred Heart Parish Family and all those who so generously donated in the month of June to our Mary-thon for the Rosary Garden. We exceeded our \$5000 goal!

We would also like to extend a thank you to the St. Mary's Altar Society for matching the \$5000 and for all your help in planning. With your generous help we are able to start cement work very soon!

We will continue accepting donations for the Rosary Garden for the following needs: Mary sculpture, garden supplies for the center garden, benches, lighting, and future upkeep of the Rosary Garden. Please feel free to donate in memory of a loved one or sponsor a bench or another part of the garden.

Please mark your donations and put them in the collection basket or use the marked envelopes and mail to the parish office.
Thank you for your generosity.

For questions contact: Melissa Koenig, Liz Johnson, Breg Finnegan, Angela



Spencer St. Mary's Tabernacle has been decorated with beautiful floral arrangements each week this summer, courtesy of 2 High School girls who make them, and then give them away after Mass. St. Mary's is thankful to Mazee and Miri Johnson, who raise flowers and sell bouquets, for taking the initiative to share their talents with our church family. They are the daughters of Troy and Liz Johnson.

ABVM Church in Lynch is stop for Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope



Assumption window at ABVM in Lynch

How appropriate that our Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary church was chosen as a pilgrimage site this year during the Jubilee Year of Hope.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrates the entrance of the Blessed Mother into heavenly glory. Mary's Assumption serves as a reminder that life on earth is a pilgrimage toward our ultimate destination.

"In the Assumption, we witness God's faithfulness to Mary, and we renew our hope that, by the Holy Spirit, we too are destined for eternal glory. Her Magnificat becomes our pattern of rejoicing in what God has done, and trusting in what He will do." *Rosary in a Year, day 238, Fr. Mark-Mary*

Throughout her life, the Blessed Mother continually chose to deepen her relationship with God. Her response was always a yes to God's will. By choosing to love and follow God in our daily lives, we strengthen our relationship with Him. This relationship embodies the true meaning of heaven: "To live in heaven is 'to be with Christ'" CCC, 1025.

Our Blessed Mother demonstrates that the way we live today can prepare us, in hope, to enter into heavenly glory at the end of our lives.



On the first Wednesday of each month, you are invited to come to Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary in Lynch. During the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025, Reconciliation is offered from 5:30-6:15;

Mass is celebrated at 6:30

Eucharist Adoration is available follow Mass- 8:00 pm