

SHARING OUR NEWS



SEPTEMBER 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 – 8:10 a.m.
*St. Joseph – Atkinson – 8:15 a.m.
SHBC Rotation

Thursday:

St. Patrick – O'Neill – 7:00 a.m.

Friday:

St. Patrick – O'Neill – 7:00 a.m.
St. Joseph – Atkinson – 8:15 a.m.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Roman Catholic Parishes of Western Holt and Boyd Counties are diverse communities of faith that welcome all people to continually encounter Christ, know Christ, and proclaim Christ through prayer, word, and action.





MINISTRY OF PRAISE

A Word from Deacon Roger Filips

Trusting Christ in the Storm

As Elijah learned in the tiny whispering sound on the mountaintop, God often reveals Himself in ways we do not expect. The Lord frequently comes to us quietly, gently, and in a way our hearts can receive. In the Gospel story of Jesus walking on water, that same nearness appears in a more dramatic way: Christ walks to the disciples across the storm-tossed sea.

At first, they do not recognize Him. Fear makes Him seem like a ghost. But Jesus speaks: "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid." His words are more than comfort. He is revealing Himself as the Lord who is stronger than the storm.

Peter's response gives us a picture of faith that is both bold and fragile. He steps out of the boat because Jesus calls him. He begins to sink not because he has no faith, but because the wind distracts him and fear takes over. Yet even then, Peter teaches us one of the simplest and most powerful prayers: "Lord, save me." Jesus does not wait for Peter to have perfect faith before helping him. He reaches out immediately and catches him.

That is good news for us. Grief, illness, family struggles, financial worries, and fear can all feel like storms. At times, our suffering seems louder than the voice of Christ. But Jesus still comes to us. He still says, "Do not be afraid." He still calls us to trust Him, and when we begin to sink, He is close enough to catch us.

Faith does not mean we never feel afraid. Faith means we keep turning toward Jesus, especially when the storm makes Him hard to see. Like a child jumping into a father's arms even when he cannot see clearly, we trust because our Father sees us, calls us by name, and will not let us fall.

The following is an excerpt about social justice from my book "Pearls of the Universal Church". For more information go to www.SpiritualWorksPress.com

Pope John XXIII said every man has a right to necessary "medical care" (among other things) (Pacem in Terris 11), but "medical care" as understood by the Pope is not the same as "health care" as understood by modern society with free tooth cleanings, birth control, Viagra, and abortions. He was talking about delivering babies, removing tumors, and prescribing antibiotics.

A "right" to something does not mean someone has a right to forcibly confiscate what you have earned from your labor to pay for what they need or want. A right does mean we cannot be discriminated against when we need something. Everyone has a right to apply for a job to support himself without being discriminated against. The state should also make arrangements to provide basic medical care, food, and shelter in emergencies.

Until next month . . . Deacon Filips



IN LOVING MEMORY

LOIS REGINA TUNENDER
May 26, 1945 – July 27, 2026
St. Joseph – Atkinson

DOROTHY ANN CONNOT
November 21, 1928 – July 31, 2026
SHBC – St. Mary's – Spencer

KATHLEEN A. RAASCH
July 14, 1944 – August 10, 2026
SHBC – Ss. Peter & Paul – Butte

DIANE M. MORGAN
April 4, 1956 – August 24, 2026
St. Joseph – Atkinson

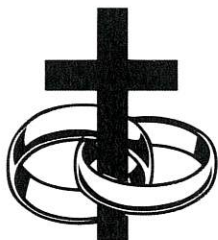
BOB McKAY
October 8, 1947 – August 25, 2026
St. Patrick – O'Neill



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY MARRIED

EMILY PONGRATZ & TATE SCHMADERER
July 25, 2026
St. Boniface – Stuart

JAMIE KOENIG & NATHAN HAUN
August 22, 2026
St. Patrick – O'Neill



WELCOME TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

JOAQUIN TRUMAN MILLER
Son of Jose Ponce & Jordan Miller
August 1, 2026
St. Patrick – O'Neill

SOPHIA GRACE KRAMER
Daughter of River & Amanda Kramer
August 9, 2026
St. Patrick – O'Neill



FOR EVERYTHING
— COMES FROM —
GOD ALONE.
EVERYTHING LIVES BY
HIS POWER
AND EVERYTHING
— IS FOR —
HIS GLORY

ROMANS 11:36



COMING JANUARY 2027: New Federal Tax Credit Opportunity



Starting January 1, 2027, you can direct up to **\$1700** of your federal income tax liability to support K-12 private school scholarships. Scan the QR code to learn more and sign up for updates.

The
LORD
Your
GOD
HE IS THE
ONE
WHO GOES
With
YOU
Deuteronomy 31:6



ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

OCIA 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 would be interested, please contact Deacon MJ Kersenbrock mjkersenbrock@archomaha.org or the Parish Office at 402-336-1602. Classes will begin September 13.



ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR CHILDREN

If you have a child or children that are above the age of 7 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 or Jan Kunz at 402-340-2303 for information on classes. OCIC classes will be starting in September!

THE SEVEN SORROWS OF MARY: A GUIDE TO THE DEVOTION

The Origins of the Seven Sorrows Devotion

While the contemplation of Mary's grief dates back to the early Church Fathers, the formalized devotion to the Seven Sorrows—also known as the Seven Dolors—gained its liturgical structure through the Servite Order in the 13th century. However, it was St. Bridget of Sweden who elevated this practice to a global scale in the 14th century.

Through her mystical revelations, Our Lady issued a heart-wrenching lament: "I look around at all who are on earth, to see if by chance there are any who pity Me, and meditate upon My Sorrows; and I find that there are very few."

Our Lady explicitly requested that her children meditate daily on her seven specific "dolors," attaching seven magnificent promises to the recitation of seven Hail Marys. While the Church specifically honors this mystery during the month of September, it remains a powerful daily practice for those seeking to console the heart of Mary and draw closer to the Passion of her Son.

The Seven Promises to St. Bridget

Our Lady revealed to St. Bridget that she would grant seven specific graces to those who honor her daily by meditating on her tears and sorrows while praying seven Hail Marys.

Peace in the Home: I will grant peace to their families.

Divine Enlightenment: They will be enlightened about the divine mysteries.

Consolation in Pain: I will console them in their pains and I will accompany them in their work.

Answered Petitions: I will give them as much as they ask for as long as it does not oppose the adorable will of my divine Son.

Spiritual Defense: I will defend them in their spiritual battles and I will protect them at every instant of their lives.

A Holy Death: I will visibly help them at the moment of their death; they will see the face of their Mother.

Immediate Entry to Heaven: Those who propagate this devotion will be taken directly from this earthly life to eternal happiness, for all their sins will be forgiven.

The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin: Summary & Scripture

To practice this devotion, one meditates on each of the following seven events, typically followed by one Hail Mary for each.

1. The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34–35)

As Mary presents the Infant Jesus in the Temple, the aged Simeon predicts that a sword of sorrow will pierce her soul. This is the "beginning of the end," where Mary's joy is forever joined to the shadow of the Cross.

2. The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13–14)

The Holy Family escapes in the night and travels to Egypt, fleeing the murderous intent of Herod. Mary experiences the sorrow of exile and the fear for her Child's life, and the knowledge of the death of the Holy Innocents.

3. The Loss of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2:43–45)

For three agonizing days, Mary and Joseph search for the young Jesus in Jerusalem. This represents the greatest interior pain: the perceived "loss" of God's presence.

4. Meeting Jesus on the Way to Calvary (Luke 23:26–27)

Mary watches her Son, beaten and disfigured, carrying the heavy wood of the Cross. Their eyes meet in a silent exchange of love and shared redemptive suffering.

5. Standing at the Foot of the Cross (John 19:25–27)

Mary endures the three-hour agony of her Son. She becomes the "Queen of Martyrs" not by shedding her blood, but by the "martyrdom of the heart."

6. Mary Receives the Dead Body of Jesus (John 19:38–40)

The Pietà. The Body of the Savior is placed in the arms of His Mother. She who once held Him as an infant now holds Him as the sacrificed Lamb.

7. The Burial of Jesus (John 19:41–42)

Mary watches as the stone is rolled across the entrance of the tomb. She enters into the "Great Silence," waiting in perfect trust for the Resurrection.



Pray for our Sep. Seminararian of the Month - Ethan Menning

What a blessing and joy it is to be a seminararian representing the Archdiocese of Omaha! I am so incredibly excited to see where the Lord takes me and how many amazing people I will encounter.

I have always been a Nebraska "cradle Catholic" boy, having a home in Gretna. I love to run, play spikeball, and watch and play baseball and football (Go Big Red!). In the first grade, my family became parishioners at St. Patrick in Elkhorn. There, I would encounter the Lord in radical ways. I went to school there through eighth grade and was confirmed to the Church in 2018 by Archbishop Lucas. Throughout my high school years, I attended Steubenville Conferences, You are Loved retreats, Cloisters on the Platte, Virtus et Veritas, a discernment group called SALT, and weekly fellowship with the St. Patrick Youth Group. Without St. Pat's, my home, I would not be where I am now.

After graduating from St. Patrick, I went to Gretna High School. My heart was torn open, realizing how many people never experience the Heart of the Father and His comfort, mainly because people do not tell them! The Lord gave me many wonderful opportunities for evangelization and to encounter different beliefs.

After my first semester of freshman year, I promised myself I needed to bring the Gospel to the people around me dynamically and enthusiastically. However, I had no idea what that meant at the time. I would have the blessing to meet and reengage many faithful friends who wanted to draw nearer to the Father and talk about our beautiful encounters with the world. I would be inspired by my family, friends, youth ministers, and my priestly formators and directors. Through the example of on-fire priests and parishioners, I realized that the Lord was calling me to the seminary to pursue the priestly call and serve the Lord as a beacon of truth and hope.

After I graduated from Gretna High in 2022, I was accepted into St. John Vianney Seminary on the University of St. Thomas campus in St. Paul, Minnesota. I majored in philosophy and Catholic studies. I am continually surprised at how carefully, specifically, and peacefully the Lord forms my heart here and prepares me to serve you all! The other seminararians here are such authentic and caring friends. The most insightful formators care deeply about the heart of the individual man.

Any discerning man ought always to cling to our Blessed Momma Mary. The Lord desires peace, comfort, restoration, and big things from you! The Lord does not call the perfect but desires to make you the best version of yourself. Listen to Jesus and Momma Mary and admire the holy examples in your life. Know that all of the Archdiocese of Omaha (or "The Big O," as we say at SJV!) is in my prayers. I cannot express how much your support means to me. Peace of Christ!



"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



A CHILD'S TEN COMMANDMENTS TO PARENTS

1. My hands are small; please don't expect perfection whenever I make a bed, draw a picture, or throw a ball. My legs are short; please slow down so that I can keep up with you.
2. My eyes have not seen the world as your have; please let me explore safely: don't restrict me unnecessarily.
3. Housework will always be there. I'm only little for a short time – please take time to explain things to me about this wonderful world, and do so willingly.
4. My feelings are tender; please be sensitive to my needs; don't nag me all day long. (You wouldn't want to be nagged for your inquisitiveness.) Treat me as you would want to be treated.
5. I am a special gift from God; please treasure me as God intended you to do, holding me accountable for my actions, giving me guidelines to live by, and disciplining me in a loving manner.
6. I need your encouragement, but not your praise, to grow. Please go easy on the criticism; remember, you can criticize the things I do without criticizing me.
7. Please give me the freedom to make decisions concerning myself. Permit me to fail, so that I can learn from my mistakes. Then someday I'll be prepared to make the kind of decisions life requires of me.
8. Please don't do things over for me. Somehow that makes me feel that my efforts didn't quite measure up to your expectations. I know it's hard, but please don't try to compare me with my brother or sister.
9. Please don't be afraid to leave for a weekend together. Kids need vacations from their parents, just as parents need vacations from kids. Besides, it's a great way to show us kids that your marriage is very special.
10. Please take me to church regularly to set a good example for me to follow. I enjoy learning more about God.

By Dr. Kevin Leman

DECLARING GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE OVER OURSELVES

I am already loved—even when I mess up, God still loves me.

God's love is unchanging. I cannot earn more of God's love, and I can't be disqualified from receiving His love.

God's love doesn't lessen, or increase based on what I do or don't do.

God's love is unconditional—it's not based upon conditions of performance, gifting, ability, beauty or spiritual goodness.

I am already loved—fiercely, immeasurably and without exception.

He is always wooing me to a deeper intimacy.

He loves me; He hears me when I pray; He sees me—the good and ugly.

He knows me—every intricate detail, the very core of who I am (even better than I do), and He still loves me.

Nothing in all creation can separate me from His love.

© By M.S.Lowndes

WHAT IS EVANGELIZATION?

Other Implications of Evangelization:

Evangelization, then, has both an inward and an outward direction. *Inwardly* it calls for our continued receiving of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, our ongoing conversion both individually and as Church. It nurtures us, makes us grow, and renews us in holiness as God's people. *Outwardly* evangelization addresses those who have not heard the Gospel or who, having heard it, have stopped practicing their faith, and those who seek the fullness of faith. It calls us to work for full communion among all who confess Jesus but do not yet realize the unity for which Christ prayed. Pope John Paul II, in his encyclical on missionary activity, summed up the three objectives of mission: to proclaim the Gospel to all people; to help bring about the reconversion of those who have received the Gospel but live it only nominally; and to deepen the Gospel in the lives of believers.

We know that the word "evangelization" sometimes raises uncomfortable images for Catholics—especially in the culture of the United States, where evangelism has sometimes meant only an individual response to enthusiastic preaching, a style of mass religion, a contrived way to recruit new members, or, at its worst, a way to play on people's needs. Still, we use the word "evangelization" because its root meaning is "Gospel" (Good News) and because it calls us, even if it is uncomfortable, to live the faith of our baptism more openly and to share it more freely.

We want to make it clear that evangelization means something special for us as Catholics. We can see what it means by looking at what happens to evangelized people. Not only are they related to Jesus by accepting his Gospel and receiving his Spirit; even more, their lives are changed by becoming disciples, that is, participants in the Church, celebrating God's love in worship and serving others as Jesus did.

Some might think of evangelization solely in terms of Jesus and our relationship with him. Yet our relationship with Jesus is found in our relationship with the community of Jesus—the Church. The way to Christ is through the community in which he lives. Did not Jesus say, "I am with you always" and "Whatever you did for one of these least [brothers and sisters of mine], you did for me"? Did not the Jesus who met Paul on the road to Damascus say that he lived in his persecuted followers, the Church? Jesus is present in and among his disciples, the People of God.

Evangelization, then, has different implications depending on our relationship to Jesus and his Church. For those of us who practice and live our Catholic faith, it is a call to ongoing growth and renewed conversion. For those who have accepted it only in name, it is a call to re-evangelization. For those who have stopped practicing their faith, it is a call to reconciliation. For children, it is a call to be formed into disciples through the family's faith life and religious education. For other Christians, it is an invitation to know the fullness of our message. For those who have no faith, it is a call to conversion to know Christ Jesus and thus experience a change to new life with Christ and his Church.

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) for more information.

Continued next month.....

P. R. A. I. S. E.

Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament!
Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!
Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp!
Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!
Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals!
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord! – Psalm 150 (NKJV)

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



REACH MORE TRAINING

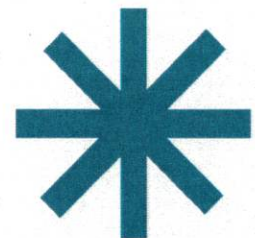
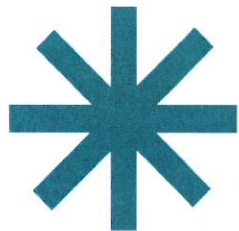


Reach More is NOT a program. It's a twelve-week adventure of discovery, prayer, community, skills, and habit formation to help you become a happier, more effective: friend, spouse, parent, co-worker, neighbor, listener, witness...Catholic.

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



GOD'S COVER LETTER

To Whom It May Concern....

I heard you were considering a new manager for your life. I would like to apply for the job.

I believe I am the most qualified candidate applying. I am the only one that has ever done this job successfully. I was the first manager of life. In fact, I made all lives, so naturally I know how humanity works, and what is best to get people back into proper working condition. Hiring me will be exactly like having the manufacturer as your personal mechanic.

If this is your first time considering me, I would just like to point out that my salary has already been paid by my son, Jesus on the cross of Calvary. This salary covers the time prior to my hiring as well as my present and future employment.

If you decide to hire me I will need to receive from you an acknowledgment that you erred in not hiring me sooner. I understand this is a strange requirement, but since you violated the manufacturer's warrantee by placing your being under inferior management, this is a necessary prerequisite to my engagement.

Lastly, I will require a carte blanche (a blank check) to reorganizing and managing your life. I intend to make some major changes and revisions. They are not for you to worry about. I need your permission to execute these changes, My way and in My time. I will establish new goals and objectives and restructure your life to meet these requirements. Please keep your hands out of the way. Don't try to help me and don't resist me and we will get along fine. I really do need your full commitment and cooperation in this. If you give me those, the process of getting your life back to manufacturer's intentions can go smoothly, without delays. I assure you: you will be pleased with the outcome.

I will require a verbal contract to all these stipulations in the presence of witnesses.

Yours Sincerely,

GOD

P.S. I created the heavens and the earth. I AM.

BELOW IS MY RESUME...

GOD Everywhere All over, Every Place ~ Phone: (123) 456-PRAY

EXPERIENCE From the beginning of time. Before the beginning of time. From everlasting to everlasting. I made time.

ABILITY All Powerful

PRIOR EMPLOYMENT Created the universe, put the galaxies in place, formed man. Established heaven and earth by My spoken Word and am currently holding up the world by My power.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING: I AM and I have all knowledge.

CHARACTER REFERENCE: Love, light, and life (1 John 4:16, 1 John 1:5, John 14:6). A representative, but by no means conclusive list of other character traits follows: Wisdom (James 1:5), Comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3), Truth (John 8:32), Healer (1 Peter 2:24), Strength (Phil. 4:13), Forgiveness (1 John 1:9), Provider (Phil. 4:19), Mercy (Ephesians 2:24), Good (Matthew 19:17), Peace (Romans 14:17).

AVAILABILITY Willing and ready to take over your life. Able to put your life together again. Will bring all of who I AM into your life. Can start now.

SALARY REQUIREMENT: Work in your life has already been paid for through the blood of My Son, Jesus. Your only responsibility is to commit initially and on a daily basis. To trust and obey what Jesus has done and wants to do in your life.

Other references available upon request.

- Author Unknown

**SEPTEMBER 7,
2026**



The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883. By 1894, 23 more states had adopted the holiday, and on June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed a law making the first Monday in September of each year a national holiday. American labor has raised the nation's standard of living and contributed to the greatest production the world has ever known and the labor movement has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pays tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership – the American worker.

The following are quotes to inspire hard work and success.

"The reward of a thing well done is having done it." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Without labor, nothing prospers." – Sophocles

"Work is not man's punishment. It is his reward and his strength and his pleasure." – George Sand

"All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity." – Martin Luther King Jr.

"Labor is the ladder through which human dignity and creative excellence are expressed." – Anonymous

"He who labors diligently need never despair." – Menander

"To find joy in work is to discover the fountain of youth." – Pearl S. Buck

"The dignity of labor depends not on what you do, but how you do it." – Anonymous

"Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard." – Tim Notke

"Celebrate the strength that labor brings to life." – Anonymous

"The harder you work for something, the greater you'll feel when you achieve it." – Anonymous

"Labor Day is a reminder that dreams are achieved with sweat and determination." – Anonymous

"The future depends on what you do today." – Mahatma Gandhi

"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out." – Robert Collier

"Work hard in silence, let your success make the noise." – Frank Ocean

"Labor is the foundation of all success stories." – Anonymous

"Great things come to those who are willing to work hard for them." – Anonymous

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, and learning." – Pele

"Every job is a self-portrait of the person who does it." – Anonymous

"Your work is your signature on the world." – Anonymous



**I
O'Neill**

ALLOW US TO GIVE YOU A HAND!

*Practical Help.
Personal Connection.
Christlike Love.*

**NEIGHBORS HELPING
NEIGHBORS**

Connecting volunteers with elderly neighbors for practical help and encouragement.

- ✓ Changing light bulbs or smoke detector batteries
- ✓ Moving furniture or boxes
- ✓ Minor household repairs
- ✓ Light seasonal tasks
- ✓ Friendly conversation, prayer, and encouragement



Always free. Always neighborly. Always done with love.

No one in our community should feel unseen or unsupported.



**I
O'Neill**

I Heart O'Neill is a ministry of O'Neill Assembly of God, created to serve our elderly neighbors with simple, practical household tasks. But it's about more than tasks—it's about encouragement, presence, and genuine connection.

For help, volunteer, or more info:
Call Easton Cook — (402) 336-8161
Email: eastoncook71@gmail.com



With gratitude for the following gifts given as
memorials in the last several months:

St. Mary's Foundation
In memory of Ron Boettcher

St. Mary's School – Don & Delphine Schmidt Endowment

In memory of Jim Gallagher
In memory of Bernard & Jackie Rohde
In memory of Arloe Crawford
In memory of Ramona Babl
In memory of JoAnn Schaaf
In memory of Norma Skjold
In memory of Marge (Walters) Stuijbergen
In memory of Mike Gleeson
In memory of Ron Boettcher

St. Patrick Church
In memory of Dennis & Jeanne Baumert
In memory of Lew Pierson

*Thank
you*

YOU'RE INVITED TO A
Special Mass
HONORING LOCAL
FIRST RESPONDERS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2026
8:10 A.M.

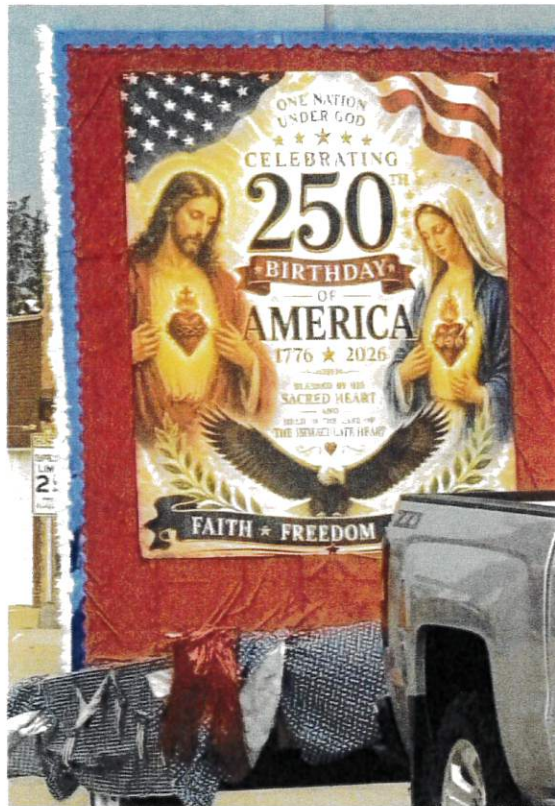
*St. Patrick's Church,
O'Neill*

OUR SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY
ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR
★ SACRIFICE AND SERVICE. ★

Please RSVP via text to 402-340-1751 by
Friday, September 25, 2026 with the number of attendees
from your agency.

**Sacred Heart float in Boyd County Fair Parade
reminds us that America is**

***Blessed
by His
Sacred
Heart***



***Held in the
care of the
Immaculate
Heart***

...if then My people, upon whom My name has been pronounced, humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their evil ways, I will hear them from heaven and pardon their sins and heal their land.

Now, therefore, My eyes shall be open and My ears attentive to the prayer of this place;

Be a voice for the voiceless!

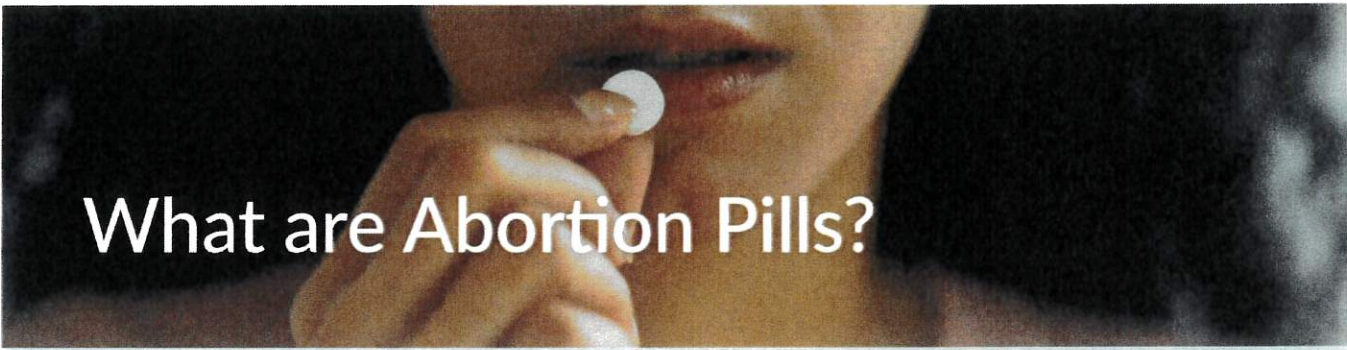
***Come join Life Chain Sun. Oct 4
A prayer vigil to protect life from abortion
from 2-3:00 along
Douglas St. in O'Neill***

*Registration begins at 1:30 at the
corner of 3^d and Douglas St.*

Abortion activists are pushing through legislation to codify a "right" to abortion in federal law. Their goal is to cancel every single state law protecting a preborn baby's right to life. They've already been successful in 9 states and the District of Columbia. Only thirteen have a total ban. Nebraska has a ban after 12 weeks, with limited exceptions. Twenty seven other states have some restrictions.

Unrestricted access to the abortion pill is allowing abortion rates to increase, which means we have to focus on changing hearts, not just laws.

***Prayer is the foundation for protecting life at all stages, and your prayers at Life Chain can strengthen that foundation. Please don't sit it out this year!! If you've come before, come again and bring friends. If you've never come, this is the year to start.
(bring a chair if you can't stand)***



What are Abortion Pills?

Most abortions are no longer done by surgery in clinics, but by taking pills.

The rate of women taking abortion pills is increasing (and is at hundreds of thousands per year).

The first pill (mifepristone) kills preborn babies by cutting them off from blood and oxygen. A second pill (misoprostol) then helps push the babies' remains out. While these drugs can have other uses, they are a deadly combination for preborn children.

In addition to ending the lives of babies, abortion pills are dangerous for the mothers who take them.

They have been found to cause four times as many complications as surgical abortions. A 2025 study found that 10 percent of women who take abortion pills need to get urgent treatment for problems afterward like infections, hemorrhages, or remains of the baby not having come out.

But the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has taken shortcuts over the years and removed guardrails around the pills. This allows the abortion industry to push the abortion pill more and more.

In 2021, the FDA made the abortion pill available even without an in-person doctor visit.

That means a woman might be taking the pill dangerously late in her pregnancy, or during a complicated pregnancy where it would be unsafe, and a doctor wouldn't know.

Being able to get abortion pills by a "telehealth" video appointment and mailed to your home, or at your local pharmacy, also means abortions are now

happening everywhere and anywhere, often with women suffering through the trauma of delivering their dead baby alone.

This easier access to abortion pills also increases the chances of their being used by abusive partners or sex trafficking criminals against a woman's will.

Because abortion pills can be sent through the mail, they are also often being sent from states with pro-abortion laws to women in states with pro-life laws. That means the pro-life states don't have the ability to protect life and women in need like they were supposed to after the Supreme Court finally overturned *Roe v. Wade* in 2022.

Some women who take the first abortion pill may have time to change their mind with an "abortion pill reversal" process, but some states are trying to block access to this last chance for life.

What can you do to help protect women and babies from abortion pills?

1. Pray for women who are deceived by the abortion industry.
2. Share the risks of the abortion pill with your friends.
3. Sign up for Respect Life Prayer and Action to help protect women and babies from these dangerous drugs at respectlife.org/prayer-and-action.

If you or someone you know has participated in abortion, know that mercy, hope, and healing are available through diocesan Project Rachel Ministry. Learn more at HopeAfterAbortion.com.

For sources of data, see <https://www.usccb.org/resources/What-Are-Abortion-Pills-Sources.pdf>
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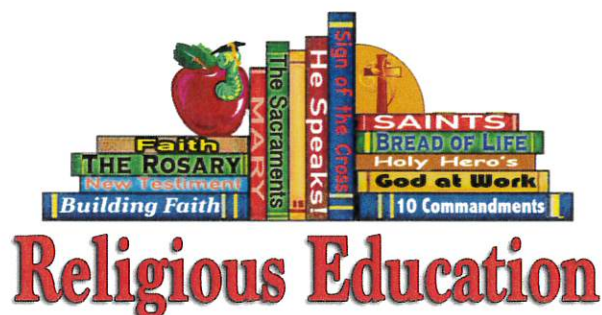


United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Secretariat of
Pro-Life Activities

usccb.org/prolife

*Children
are
God's love-gift;
they
are
heaven's
generous reward.
Psalms 127*



Classes start on September 9th!

New this year...

YOUTH GROUP!

Meeting date is TBD.

Watch for details!



Congratulations to Bentley Dexter and his partner Jake Ehlers on being the national runners up at national FCCLA in Washington DC the first part of July.

Also Attending from Saint Joseph Amelia were Daniel O'Malley, Maggie Hansen, and Callie Tomjack.

Congratulations to everyone for earning the trip to DC and to Bentley Dexter for placing. We are so proud of all of you!

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Office: 313 E Hwy 20, O'Neill, NE 68763

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Parish Receptionist: Nancy Tomjack—nmtomjack@archomaha.org

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Whitney Shaffer—whitney.shaffer7@gmail.com

Amelia - Religious Ed. Coordinator

Ellie Metschke - elliemetschke@gmail.com

Sacred Heart of Boyd County

PO Box 8, Butte, NE 68722

Phone: 402-775-0067

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

Secretary: Marge Nolan—mnolan@archomaha.org

Butte - Youth Minister/Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Charlotte Mitchell—charlottehuckmitchell@gmail.com

Spencer - Religious Ed. Coordinators:

Mary Haun - rmhaun@nntc.net; Breg Finnegan - ardbreg@yahoo.com; JoElla

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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

flocknote.com



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

1st – Eucharistic Adoration – 6:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 1st – Catholic Daughters Mtg – 7:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 3rd – CCW Mtg – 7:00 p.m. – Butte
 4th – Mass @ Parkside – 2:00 p.m. – Stuart
 6th – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 6th – COR Men's Group – 7:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 7th – LABOR DAY
 7th – Parish Offices Closed
 8th – Mass @ Good Sam – 10:00 a.m. – Atkinson
 8th – Eucharistic Adoration – 6:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 8th – Parish Council Mtg – 7:00 p.m. – Atkinson
 9th – Mass @ Evergreen – 3:15 p.m. – O'Neill (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!)
 9th – Religious Ed/Youth Group/Confirmation Classes Start
 9th – KC Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 12th /13th – Holy Land Olive Art – Various Parishes
 13th – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 13th – Safe Environment Training – 3:00 p.m. – O'Neill (SMH)
 13th – OCIA – 4:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 14th – CEC Mtg – 5:30 p.m. – O'Neill
 14th – Christian Mothers Mtg – 6:00 p.m. – Stuart
 14th – Reach More – 6:30 p.m. – O'Neill
 14th – 4th Degree KC Mtg – 7:30 p.m. – O'Neill
 15th – Eucharistic Adoration – 6:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 15th – Parish Council Mtg – 7:00 p.m. – Stuart
 16th – Religious Ed/Youth Group/Confirmation Classes Meet
 20th – Brunch following Mass @ Ss P & P – Butte
 20th – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 20th – COR Men's Group – 7:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 21st – OACCW Annual Convention – Wayne
 21st – Reach More – 6:30 p.m. – O'Neill
 21st – KC Mtg – Butte
 22nd – Eucharistic Adoration – 6:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 23rd – Religious Ed/Youth Group/Confirmation Classes Meet
 24th – Ladies Guild – 2:00 p.m. – Stuart
 25th –27th – CEC Men's Weekend – Norfolk
 27th – Coffee & Rolls following 8:00 a.m. Mass – Spencer
 27th – St. Mary Altar Society Mtg – 9:00 a.m. – Spencer
 27th – Divine Mercy Chaplet – 3:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 28th – Reach More – 6:30 p.m. – O'Neill
 29th – Blue & Red Mass – 8:10 a.m. – O'Neill
 29th – Eucharistic Adoration – 6:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 30th – Religious Ed/Youth Group/Confirmation Classes Meet

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The newsletter is available on the last full weekend of each month in the entryway of each parish. It will also be available on-line. If you or someone you know would like the newsletter mailed, please contact Jan Kunz @ 402-340-2303 or call the Parish Office. If you have any parish news that you would like in the newsletter, please email Jan at:
 jkunz@holtboydcatholic.org or jankunz9@gmail.com



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

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