

SHARING OUR NEWS

FEBRUARY 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

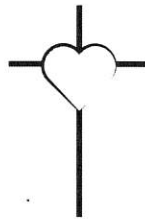
Saturday:

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)

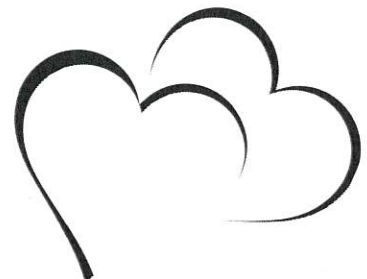
*St. Patrick – O'Neill – 8:10 a.m.
*St. Joseph – Atkinson – 8:15 a.m.
SHBC Rotation

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

Recently, there has been a noticeable rise in interest in the Catholic faith in our country. This trend seems to have accelerated with the aftermath of the Charlie Kirk shooting. There was something about his openness, honesty and courage in discussing his faith, even with hostile audiences, that touched people. His assassination proved his courage in defending the faith. (He had serious death threats for years.) His widow, Erika's public Christian forgiveness of his killer seared many hearts who saw it.

Events marked by violence and uncertainty often lead individuals and communities to seek comfort and meaning through religion. I have seen this myself in conversations with young people who told me that the country seems to have gone down a dead-end with secularism and moral relativism, and they are seeking a rock they can cling to. Nationally, Bible sales are up 10% and many parishes are noting a sudden uptick in interest and practicing the faith. It seems like the places where the Catholic faith suffered the most are seeing the most healing, but it is spreading to even our rural parishes.

We all fall short of what God wants from us, and we all need to move in His direction. For a non-believer to become a Bible-Believing Evangelical is a big step. It is another big step for an Evangelical Protestant to surrender themselves to the care of the Catholic Church.

Although there are examples of boomer-age people coming home, the larger trend is for adults Charlie Kirk's age and younger to seek God. They are the ones filling the pews with their large families. Some of them have gone back to the Latin Mass or have started wearing the chapel veil again to give greater glory to God. What is going on here?

I think that the rejection of so many sacred things 50 years ago, such as our liturgy, our beautiful music and churches, our acts of popular piety, and more importantly our distinct Catholic culture, have run their course and people miss them. Not just intellectually, but in their bones, as they watch cities burn, families crumble or fail to form at all, and our religious vocations disappear. All of us, Catholic, Protestant, and secular, have to ask if we didn't go down a dead-end road and maybe we should reverse course?

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

We must not be anti-Protestant. We should see Protestants as brothers and sisters who do not yet have the full truth. If the truth were explained to them fully, many of them would join us. These days, most Protestants are Protestant for the same reason many Catholics are Catholic. They were born into it and never seriously questioned it.

We should not argue with Protestants. We should pray for them, be an example to them, and help educate them if they will listen. In the meantime, we should work with our Christian brothers and sisters on issues we do agree upon. We have much more in common with them than we have differences. Secularism, moral relativism, and atheism, not Protestantism, are the biggest threats to Catholicism today because they appeal to our lazy, independent, prideful natures.

Until next month . . .

IN LOVING MEMORY

EDWARD "ED" REIMAN

July 10, 1942 – December 27, 2025
Ss. Peter & Paul – Butte

JOHN SHALD

September 7, 1946 – December 28, 2025
St. Boniface – Stuart

ANNABELL ADAMSON

May 28, 1931 – December 31, 2025
St. Patrick – O'Neill

CHRISTINE MARIE ANDERSEN

July 21, 1961 – January 8, 2026
St. Joseph – Atkinson

NORMA JEAN HOSTERT

May 19, 1937 – January 19, 2026
Ss. Peter & Paul – Butte



WELCOME TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

AMELIA BEATRIZ SCHNEIDER

Daughter of Hayden & Mayra Giovanna Schneider
December 27, 2025
St. Patrick – O'Neill

ALLIE DUGAN ANDREW

Daughter of Luke & Katelyn Andrew
January 3, 2026
St. Patrick – O'Neill

CREE ROGER JESSE

Son of Cole & Kayla Jesse
January 10, 2026
St. Patrick – O'Neill

THEODORE HOWARD PRYOR

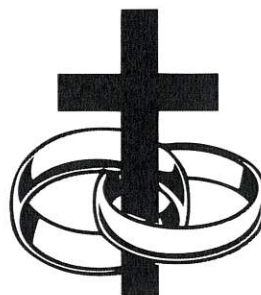
Son of Andrew and Christine Pryor
January 18, 2026
St. Joseph – Atkinson



CONGRATULATIONS NEWLYWEDS

STEPHANIE AND WILLIAM MARES

January 10, 2026
St. Patrick – O'Neill



*God has
you in
the palm
of His
hand.*

ISAIAH 49:16

JESUS, OUR ONE AND ONLY LOVE



Jesus is truly the One and Only Love—the only One who will never reject us, never leave us, never hurt us, and who will always love us perfectly.

"No one has ever seen God, but God, the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known."

John 1:18 (NIV)

Do you remember those days of "first love?" I met my husband when I was just a young teenager. But it didn't take me long to think that maybe he was the one. I was definitely in love.

I'm sure my girlfriends tired of my incessant talking about him. He consumed the totality of my conversations. When my parents finally gave me the okay to date, he became my "one and only." After several years of dating, while in college, we married.

In our lifetimes we will experience many kinds of love: parental, marital, close friends, etc. But no matter how much we treasure those here on earth, there is One whose love is like no other. The Bible calls Him, "God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side." He is the One who helps us know what God's love is like, because He "made Him known" when He came to earth.

When I think about Jesus in this way, I realize He is truly the lover of our souls—the One from whom all affection stems. Without Him, there's no way we could ever understand or express any kind of love.

No matter how deeply we feel about our human relationships, they will disappoint us at some time. Their love will always be imperfect, because we are all flawed. But Jesus is truly the One and Only Love—the only One who will never reject us, never leave us, never hurt us, and who will always love us perfectly.

I "fell in love" with Jesus when I was an eight-year-old child. Through the years, my love for Him has grown stronger and deeper. I've failed Him many times, but He has always loved me.

I hope I never get tired of talking about Him.

Faith step: Is Jesus your One and Only Love? Write Him a love letter today, telling Him how you feel about Him.

-Rebecca Barlow Jordan - Source: <https://quideposts.org/daily-devotions/loved-ones-devotions/your-love-letter-to-jesus/>



THE GIRL IN THE PINK DRESS

There was this little girl sitting by herself in the park. Everyone passed by her and never stopped to see why she looked so sad. Dressed in a worn pink dress, barefoot and dirty, the girl just sat and watched the people go by.

She never tried to speak. She never said a word. Many people passed by her, but no one would stop.

The next day, I decided to go back to the park in curiosity to see if the little girl would still be there. Yes, she was there, right in the very spot where she was yesterday and still with the same sad look in her eyes.

Today, I was to make my own move and walk over to the little girl. For as we all know, a park full of strange people is not a place for young children to play alone. As I got closer, I could see the back of the little girl's dress. It was grotesquely shaped. I figured that was the reason people just passed by and made no effort to speak to her.

Deformities are a low blow to our society, and heaven forbid if you make a step toward assisting someone who is different. As I got closer, the little girl lowered her eyes slightly to avoid my intent stare.

As I approached her, I could see the shape of her back more clearly. She was grotesquely shaped in a humped over form. I smiled to let her know it was okay -- I was there to help, to talk. I sat down beside her and opened with a simple, "Hello." The little girl acted shocked and stammered a "hi" after a long stare into my eyes. I smiled, and she shyly smiled back.

We talked until darkness fell and the park was completely empty. I asked the girl why she was so sad. The little girl looked at me with a sad face and said, "Because, I'm different." I immediately said, "That you are!" and smiled. The little girl acted even sadder and said, "I know."

"Little girl," I said, "you remind me of an angel, sweet and innocent." She looked at me and smiled, then slowly she got to her feet and said, "Really?" "Yes, you're like a little Guardian Angel sent to watch over all people walking by." She nodded her head yes, and smiled.

With that, she opened the back of her pink dress and allowed her wings to spread. Then she said, "I am. I'm your Guardian Angel," with a twinkle in her eye. I was speechless -- sure I was seeing things. She said, "For once, you thought of someone other than yourself. My job here is done." I got to my feet and said, "Wait, why did no one stop to help an angel?"

She looked at me, smiled, and said, "You're the only one who could see me." Then she was gone.



A LENTEN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

"A DESERT JOURNEY OF THE HEART"

WHEN:

MARCH 28, 2026

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

WHERE:

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH HALL

O'NEILL, NEBRASKA

300 N 4th St.

FEATURED SPEAKER • Sr. Mary Jo Polak, OSB

Enter into the silence of the desert this Lent and take time away to explore the depths of your heart.

Discover the oasis of grace hidden there.

(Day will include Adoration & Confession)

**ALL
WOMEN
WELCOME!**

REGISTRATION:

9:30 A.M.

COST:

\$30/individual or

\$150 for a Table of 6

RSVP:

by March 21st

or

\$40/individual

after March 21st or the day of the conference

CONTACT:

Ann Filips

605.929.4726

annfilips@icloud.com

or

Jan Kunz

402.340.2303

jankunz9@gmail.com

Name _____ Parish _____

Lunch Provided: Gluten Free _____ Other Food Allergy _____

\$30 per person _____ \$150 for a table of 6 (list names on the back) _____

Mail to: Jan Kunz—PO Box 160—Stuart, NE 68780

\$40 at the door. Limited spots available.

Make checks
payable to:
WHBC Evangelization



WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE – FEBRUARY 2

World Day for Consecrated Life will be celebrated in the Church on Sunday, February 2, 2026, and in parishes over the weekend of January 31 – February 1. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life, and be sure to thank them on their special day. May they continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING – FEBRUARY 8



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Union of Superiors General has designated February 8 as an annual day of prayer and awareness against human trafficking. February 8 is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. Once Josephine was freed, she became a Canossian nun and dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the poor and suffering. She was declared a Saint in 2000.



WORLD MARRIAGE DAY – FEBRUARY 8



The observances of National Marriage Week (Feb. 7-14) and World Marriage Day (Sunday, Feb. 8) are an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. This year's theme is "**Man and Woman He Created Them: Together with Purpose.**"

PRAYER FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Almighty and eternal God, you blessed the union of married couples so that they might reflect the union of Christ with His Church: look with kindness on them. Renew their marriage covenant, increase your love in them, and strengthen their bond of peace so that, with their children, they may always rejoice in the gift of your blessing. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Source: foryourmarriage.org

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK – FEBRUARY 11

As the Church prepares to observe the World Day of the Sick on February 11, Pope Leo XIV is urging Catholics around the world to rediscover compassion not as a feeling alone, but as an active, sacrificial love that bears the pain of others.

In his message for the 34th World Day of the Sick, Pope Leo XIV reflects on the Gospel parable of the Good Samaritan, describing it as a timeless model for Christian charity and solidarity with those who suffer. The theme of this year's observance, "The compassion of the Samaritan: loving by bearing another's pain," invites the faithful to examine how love becomes real through presence, care, and shared responsibility.



WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 11 FEBRUARY 2026



St. Joseph Catholic School
Atkinson, NE

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

Catholic Schools Week 2026
JANUARY 25 – 31, 2026

www.NCEA.org/csw • #CSW2026

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: MORE THAN JUST
EDUCATION**

- Catholic schools offer more than academic instruction; they focus on forming the whole person.
- These institutions integrate faith, morals, and values into their teaching approach.
- They aim to prepare students for both this life and eternal life with God.
- Community and service play a significant role in the Catholic school experience.
- Parents often choose these schools for their emphasis on discipline and character development.
- The Church sees Catholic schools as a vital part of its mission to educate and evangelize.

Source: <https://www.catholicshare.com/catholic-schools-why-theyre-more-than-just-education/>



We are thrilled to host our 4th Annual Red Carpet Gala on Saturday, March 21st, in support of St. Mary's Catholic Schools.

As we prepare for this special evening, we invite you to partner with us in supporting the 2026 Red Carpet Gala.

We are currently seeking sponsors, underwriters, and auction donations to help make this event a success. To learn more about available opportunities, please scan the QR code or reach out to one of the committee members listed below.

Thank you for your generosity & continued support of St. Mary's Catholic Schools.



Brittany Boyle - bboyle@smcards.org
Molly Krotter - m_chohon@hotmail.com
Chelsea McIntosh - chelsea.mcintosh.s.c@gmail.com

<https://events.handbid.com/lp/2026-red-carpet-gala>

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH CELEBRATES CONFIRMATION

St. Patrick's Church in O'Neill was the setting for Confirmation on the weekend of January 17 – 18, 2026.

Twenty-six students were confirmed by Reverend Bernard Starman at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday and thirty were confirmed at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday.

Deacon MJ Kersenbrock assisted.

Thanks to their teachers at St. Mary's High School and in the St. Patrick's Religious Education Program: Bridet Bulau, Lori Laible, and Jennifer Troester.



**COME, HOLY SPIRIT, FILL THE HEARTS OF YOUR FAITHFUL
AND KINDLE IN THEM THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE.**

Saturday Evening Confirmation Candidates



Sunday Morning Confirmation Candidates



THE STORY OF THE BRAVE PRIEST & MARTYR BEHIND VALENTINE'S DAY:
UNCOVERING THE MYSTERIOUS LEGEND

Many of us associate February 14 solely with love and romance, but it is also a day that honors the rich history and devoted life of Saint Valentine. Despite the festivities surrounding this celebration, much of Saint Valentine's life remains a mystery.

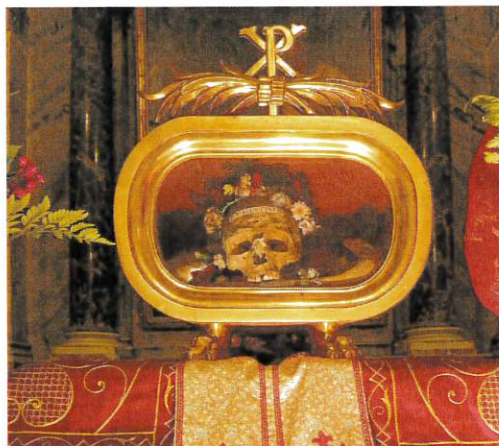
According to tradition, Saint Valentine was a third-century Catholic priest born in Terni, a small town in Umbria, but lived under the reign of Emperor Claudius II in Italy for most of his life.

Emperor Claudius struggled to recruit men into his military and believed their reluctance stemmed from strong attachments to their wives and children. In response, he banned all marriages and engagements for the time being.

Recognizing this injustice, Valentine defied the emperor's orders and celebrated marriages in secret. He strongly believed in the beauty and sacredness of marriage and sought to uphold its significance as a Catholic sacrament. Eventually, Valentine's defiance was discovered, resulting in his arrest and eventual execution in 270 A.D. It is believed that before his death, he left a heartfelt farewell note, signed with the now-famous words, "From Your Valentine."

Each year, Saint Valentine's hometown of Terni showers the community with decorations and festivities. Community vendors craft outdoor markets into a heart shape that can be seen from above. Many celebrate this feast with wine, cheese, and sweets. Concerts, dancing, and chocolate tastings are just a few of the activities locals enjoy in what has come to be known as the "Love City."

The remains of what is believed to be Saint Valentine's skull are displayed in Rome in the Basilica di Santa Maria.



Skull of Saint Valentine / Dnlor 01, CC BY-SA 3.0 AT, via Wikimedia Commons

The true origins of Valentine's story remain unclear, as historical accounts have intertwined his story with those of two other martyred saints who share his name. However, what is known about the patron of love is widely accepted and held to be true in many cases.

Source: <https://ewtn.co.uk/chpop-the-story-of-the-brave-priest-martyr-behind-valentines-day-uncovering-the-mysterious-legend/>

O St. Valentine, love of Christ and of the Church, we ask your intercession that we may learn how to love God above all things and to selfishly love one another. O glorious St. Valentine, pray for us, that we too may have the steadfast faith of the martyrs.

Amen.



13 Weeks: The unborn baby is about 3 inches long, weighing approximately 3 ounces. His/her facial expressions may resemble the parents. The baby is active, but baby is too small for mother to feel anything.

14 Weeks: At this age, the heart pumps several quarts of blood through the body every day. The unborn baby's eyebrows have formed and eye movement can be detected.

15 Weeks: In the growth development of the unborn baby, a wild production of nerve cells begins and continues for a month. A second surge will occur at 25 weeks. By now the baby also has an adult's taste buds.

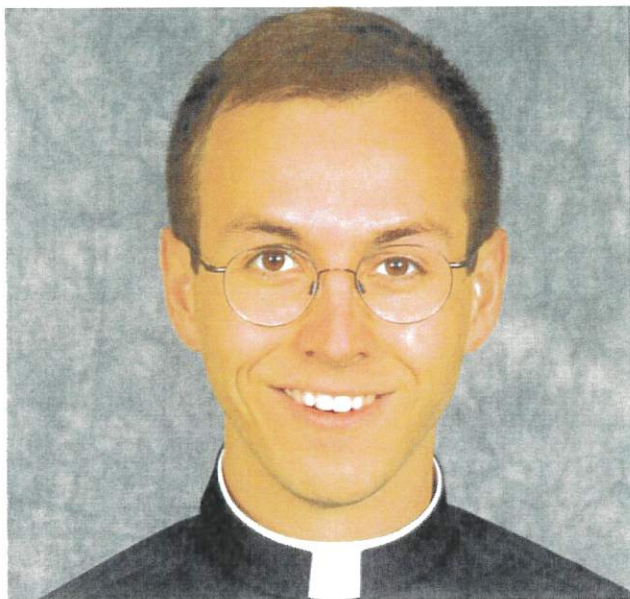
4 Months: The unborn baby is now only 5 ½ inches long, weighing approximately 5 ounces. He/she is actively moving about inside the safety of the womb. The baby turns, kicks and even somersaults – some of which can now be felt by the mother. Bone marrow is now beginning to form and the unborn baby's heart is pumping 25 quarts of blood a day.
prolifeacrossamerica.org

CHRISTMAS AT ST. MARY'S IN SPENCER

Children processed in with Fr. Reiser and the baby Jesus at Mass on Christmas Eve....then joined him in placing Jesus in the manger.



Oh Holy
Night the
stars are
brightly
Shining



Pray for our February Seminarian of the month.

Hello! My name is Michael Figura and I have been happy to call Omaha my home my entire life. I am the third of four children and my home parish is St. Stephen the Martyr.

Growing up, I was grateful that the Lord provided me with experiences in which I could get to know Him better. Spending time with my parish youth group, attending retreats and Steubenville conferences, and volunteering at Camp Virtus et Veritas provided me with times of authentic prayer

in which I could more clearly hear God's voice.

As a high school student, I attended Skutt Catholic High School. While at Skutt, I was blessed with countless opportunities to grow in my faith. These came in both the simple things, like access to Skutt's chapel during the day, and the life-changing experiences, like making the March for Life pilgrimage and attending the FOCUS Student Leadership Summit conference in Chicago. It was in these moments of spiritual nourishment that I began to consider that Christ might be calling me to serve him in a particular way.

Entering college, I knew that I wanted my faith to continue to be a central part of my life. I spent my freshman year studying at the University of Nebraska at Omaha while living at the St. John Paul II Newman Center. At the Newman Center, I was immersed in an energetic community of young individuals who were striving for holiness. As the year went on, I began to recognize how God is at work in my life and in others' lives each and every day. Through frequent prayer and reception of the sacraments, I grew tremendously in relationship with Christ. Along with this spiritual deepening my desire to serve God and the Church became clear. I graduated from St. Thomas University in St. Paul, Minnesota, after four years at St. John Vianey Seminary in St. Paul.

I am now at the North American College in Rome and growing in community with the seminarians there! In my free time, I enjoy playing board games, making music, cooking, biking, playing video games, and spending time with friends and family. Some of my interests include music, graphic design, traveling, and the Saints.

If I were to offer advice to anyone discerning their vocation, I would remind them not to forget the universal call to holiness. In his inaugural homily, Pope Saint John Paul II proclaims: "Brothers and sisters, do not be afraid to welcome Christ and accept his power." Here, JP II boldly encourages us to cast off the fears of the world and to embrace the fullness of life that Christ offers us. In my experience, I was brought the most peace and joy once I had surrendered to God and recognized that His plan will bring me fulfillment.

KIDS' IDEAS ABOUT LOVE

Love and Marriage:

"If falling in love is anything like learning how to spell, I don't want to do it. It takes too long." -- Glenn, age 7

"Love is like an avalanche where you have to run for your life." -- John, age 9

"I think you're supposed to get shot with an arrow or something, but the rest of it isn't supposed to be so painful." -- Manuel, age 8

"No one is sure why it happens, but I heard it has something to do with how you smell. That's why perfume and deodorant are so popular." -- Mae, age 9

"Love is the most important thing in the world, but baseball is pretty good too." -- Greg, age 8

"Once I'm done with kindergarten, I'm going to find me a wife." -- Tom, age 5

"On the first date, they just tell each other lies, and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date." -- Mike, 10

"I'm in favor of love as long as it doesn't happen when Dinosaurs is on television." -- Jill, age 6

"One of the people has freckles, and so he finds somebody else who has freckles too." -- Andrew, age 6

"My mother says to look for a man who is kind. That's what I'll do. I'll find somebody who's kinda tall and handsome." -- Carolyn, age 8

"It gives me a headache to think about that stuff. I'm just a kid. I don't need that kind of trouble." -- Kenny, age 7

"One of you should know how to write a check. Because, even if you have tons of love, there is still going to be a lot of bills." -- Ava, age 8

"When somebody's been dating for a while, the boy might propose to the girl. He says to her, 'I'll take you for a whole life, or at least until we have kids and get divorced.'" -- Anita, 9

"I'm not rushing into being in love. I'm finding fourth grade hard enough." -- Regina, age 10

"A man and a woman promise to go through sickness and illness and diseases together." -- Marlon, age 10

"[Being] single is better . . . for the simple reason that I wouldn't want to change no diapers. Of course, if I did get married, I'd figure something out. I'd just phone my mother and have her come over for some coffee and diaper-changing." -- Kirsten, age 10

"Love is foolish...but I still might try it sometime." -- Floyd, age 9

"Love will find you, even if you are trying to hide from it. I been trying to hide from it since I was five, but the girls keep finding me." -- Dave, age 8

Kissing:

"When a person gets kissed for the first time, they fall down, and they don't get up for at least an hour." -- Wendy, age 8

"You should never kiss a girl unless you have enough bucks to buy her a big ring and her own VCR, 'cause she'll want to have videos of the wedding." -- Jim, age 10

"Never kiss in front of other people. It's a big embarrassing thing if anybody sees you. But if nobody sees you, I might be willing to try it with a handsome boy, but just for a few hours." -- Kally, age 9

"You learn [how to kiss] right on the spot when the gooshy feelings get the best of you." -- Doug, age 7

"If it's your mother, you can kiss her anytime. If it's a new person, you have to ask permission." -- Roger, age 6

"It's never okay to kiss a boy. They always slobber all over you. That's why I stopped doing it." -- Tammy, age 10

"I know one reason kissing was created. It makes you feel warm all over, and they didn't always have electric heat or fireplaces or even stoves in their houses." -- Gina, age 8

"The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that." -- Curt, age 7

"The rules goes like this: if you kiss someone, then you should marry her and have kids with her. It's the right thing to do." -- Howard, age 8

(on seeing a couple kissing) "He is trying to steal her chewing gum!" -- Boy, age 6

Beauty:

"If you want to be loved by somebody who isn't already in your family, it doesn't hurt to be beautiful." -- Anita, age 8

"Beauty is skin deep. But how rich you are can last a long time." -- Christine, age 9

"It isn't always how you look. Look at me. I'm handsome like anything, and I haven't got anybody to marry me yet." -- Brian, age 7

KIDS' IDEAS ABOUT LOVE continued . . .

How People In Love Act:

"Lovers will just be staring at each other and their food will get cold. Other people care more about the food." -- Brad, age 8

"They act mooshy. Like puppy dogs, except puppy dogs don't wag their tails nearly as much." -- Arnold, age 10

"All of a sudden, the people get movie fever so they can sit together in the dark." -- Sherm, age 8

"Romantic adults usually are all dressed up, so if they are just wearing jeans it might mean they used to go out or they just broke up." -- Sarah, age 9

"It's love if they order one of those desserts that are on fire. They like to order those because it's just like how their hearts are -- on fire." -- Christine, age 9

"See if the man picks up the check. That's how you can tell if he's in love." -- John, age 9

"Many daters just eat pork chops and French fries and talk about love." -- Craig, age 9

How To Tell If Two People Are Married:

"Married people usually look happy to talk to other people." -- Eddie, age 6

"You might have to guess based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids." -- Derrick, age 8

Deciding Who To Marry:

"You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming." -- Allan, age 10

"No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with." -- Kirsten, age 10

Strategies For Making People Fall In Love With You:

"Tell them that you own a whole bunch of candy stores." -- Del, age 6

"Shake your hips and hope for the best." -- Camille, age 9

"Yell out that you love them at the top of your lungs...and don't worry if their parents are right there." -- Manuel, age 8

"Don't do things like have smelly, green sneakers. You might get attention, but attention ain't the same thing as love." -- Alonzo, age 9

"One way is to take the girl out to eat. Make sure it's something she likes to eat. French fries usually works for me." -- Bart, age 9

The Best Age to Get Married:

"Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person forever by then." -- Cam, age 10

"No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married!" -- Freddie, age 6

Good Advice About Love:

"Spend most of your time loving instead of going to work." -- Dick, age 7

"Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough." -- Lynnette, age 8

"Tell your wife that she looks pretty even if she looks like a truck!" -- Ricky, age 7

"Don't forget your wife's name. That will mess up the love." -- Erin, age 8

"Be a good kisser. It might make your wife forget that you never take out the trash." -- Erin, age 8

"Don't say you love somebody and then change your mind. Love isn't like picking what movie you want to watch." -- Natalie, age 9

What To Do When a First Date Turns Sour:

"I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns." -- Craig, age 9

What Most People Are Thinking When They Say "I Love You":

"The person is thinking: 'Yeah, I really do love him. But I hope he showers at least once a day.'" -- Michelle, age 9

"Some lovers might be real nervous, so they are glad that they finally got it out and said it, and now they can go eat." -- Dick, age 7

Why People in Love Often Hold Hands:

"They want to make sure their rings don't fall off, because they paid good money for them." -- Gavin, age 8

"They are just practicing for when they might have to walk down the aisle someday and do the holy matrimony thing." -- John, age 9

Source: <http://www.rinkworks.com/said/kidlove.shtml>



ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 18, 2026

8:10 a.m. – Mass – St. Patrick – O'Neill
 8:15 a.m. – Mass – St. Joseph – Atkinson
 12:15 p.m. – Blessing & Distribution of Ashes – St. Patrick – O'Neill
 5:00 p.m. – Mass – St. Boniface – Stuart
 6:30 p.m. – Mass – Ss. Peter & Paul – Butte
 7:00 p.m. – Mass – St. Joseph – Amelia
 7:00 p.m. – Blessing & Distribution of Ashes – St. Patrick – O'Neill

FISH FRY FRIDAY

STUART

February 20
 March 6
 March 20

Location:

St. Boniface Church
 Basement

5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Dine-in or Carry-out

ATKINSON

February 27
 March 13
 March 27

Location:

KC Hall

5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Dine-in or Carry-out

Gluten-free Options!

O'NEILL

February 13
 February 20
 February 27
 March 6
 March 13
 March 20
 March 27

Location: KC Hall

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Dine-in – Drive-thru – Carry-out

Adults – \$14

Kids Under 16 – \$8

5 and under – Free

LENT STARTS

ASH WEDNESDAY

WHAT IS LENT?
 Ash Wednesday begins the 40 days before Easter. Catholics call Lent. We practice prayer, fasting, and sacrifice.

WHAT ARE FASTING & ABSTINENCE?

Fasting
 Catholics who are 18-59 years old are required to keep a limited fast: a single, normal meal & 2 snacks.
 Ash Wednesday & Good Friday

Abstinence
 Catholics 14 years & older are required to abstain from eating meat & fowl.
 Ash Wednesday & Fridays of Lent.

Do I have to give up something for Lent?
 No. Giving something up is a beneficial custom. You can give up something you enjoy, engage in physical or spiritual acts of mercy for others, pray, fast, abstain, go to confession, and other acts expressing repentance in general.

WHEN DOES HOLY WEEK BEGIN?

Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem on **Palm Sunday** begins Holy Week.

HOLY TRIDUUM STARTS with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on **Holy Thursday** when Jesus celebrated the first Mass, AND **LENT OFFICIALLY ENDS.**

Good Friday marks the anniversary of the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ on the cross.

HOLY SATURDAY
 Our Lord lay in the tomb **Holy Saturday** before his resurrection.

EASTER SUNDAY
 the Resurrection of Christ, is the greatest holy day of the Christian year!

CATHOLIC.COM

Archdiocese of Omaha

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL GOALS:

PARISH:	RECEIVED:	FUND GOAL:	PARTICIPATION GOAL:
Sacred Heart–Boyd County	\$11,902.00	\$13,436.00	54%
St. Boniface–Stuart	\$9,595.00	\$8,776.53	39%
St. Joseph–Amelia	\$4,453.94	\$3,672.66	54%
St. Joseph–Atkinson	\$12,258.94	\$12,327.00	29%
St. Patrick–O'Neill	\$37,360.00	\$47,963.00	30%
Total: As of 1/20/2026	\$75,569.88	\$86,175.19	41%

CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Bernard Starman ~ Pastor
bgstarman@archomaha.org

Fr. Ross Burkhalter ~ Senior Associate Pastor
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Dcn MJ Kersenbrock ~ Director of Operations
mjkersensbrock@gmail.com

Jan Kunz ~ Director of Evangelization & Catechesis
jmkunz@archomaha.org

Dcn Roger Filips
rfilips@archomaha.org

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

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

Phone: 402-336-1602

Fax: 402-336-1533

Hours: Monday—Friday—8 a.m.—4 p.m.

After hours emergency number: 402-340-0277

Parish Receptionist: Nancy Tomjack—nmtomjack@archomaha.org

Business Manager: Cheleigh Sholes—crsholes@archomaha.org

Director of Stewardship & Development: Jennifer Wallwey
jmwallwey@archomaha.org

Youth Director: Bridget Bulau—bbulau@smcards.org

Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Whitney Shaffer—whitney.shaffer7@gmail.com

Sacred Heart of Boyd County

PO Box 8, Butte, NE 68722

Phone: 402-775-0067

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

Secretary: Marge Nolan—mnolan@archomaha.org

Youth Minister/Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Charlotte Mitchell—charlottehuckmitchell@gmail.com

St. Joseph—Atkinson

PO Box 220, Atkinson, NE 68713

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

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

Secretary: Gayle Jungman—stjoechurchatkinson@gmail.com

Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Linda Wolf—stjohndr@gmail.com

Phone: 402-340-0741

St. Boniface—Stuart

PO Box 190 Stuart, NE 68780

Phone: 402-924-3262 or 402-924-3803

Hours: Monday - Wednesday - Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Director of Ministries/Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Jan Kunz—jmkunz@archomaha.org or jankunz9@gmail.com

Phone: 402-340-2303

SIGN UP FOR FLOCKNOTE NOTIFICATIONS:

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

St. Patrick—O'Neill 68763

St. Joseph—Amelia 68711

Sacred Heart of Boyd Co. 68722

St. Boniface—Stuart 68780

St. Joseph—Atkinson 68713

OR

HOLTBOYDCATHOLIC

(for information from

ALL parishes)

TO 84576

or connect online at:

holtboydcatholic.org

flocknote.com



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February

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

1st – KC Free Throw Contest – 1:00 p.m. – Atkinson
 1st – Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary – 3:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 1st – Safe Environment Training – 3:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 1st – OCIC Class – 4:30 p.m. – O'Neill
 1st – COR Men's Group – 7:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 2nd – KC Meeting – 7:30 p.m. – Stuart
 3rd – OCIC Class – 4:30 p.m. – O'Neill
 3rd – Catholic Daughters Mtg – 7:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 4th – Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet
 6th – Mass @ Parkside – 2:00 p.m. – Stuart
 8th – Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary – 3:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 8th – OCIA – 4:00 p.m. – Parish Office – O'Neill
 9th – 4th Degree KC Meeting – 7:30 p.m. – Stuart
 10th – Mass @ Good Sam – 10:00 a.m. – Atkinson
 10th – OCIC Class – 4:30 p.m. – O'Neill
 11th – Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet
 11th – KC Meeting – 7:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 15th – Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary – 3:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 15th – OCIA – 4:00 p.m. – Parish Office – O'Neill
 15th – COR Men's Group – 7:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 16th – KC Meeting – 8:00 p.m. – Spencer
 17th – OCIC Class – 4:30 p.m. – O'Neill
 18th – ASH WEDNESDAY (Check Mass times elsewhere in newsletter)
 18th – Mass @ Evergreen – 3:15 p.m. – O'Neill
 22nd – Coffee and Rolls following Mass – St. Mary – Spencer
 22nd – Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary – 3:00 p.m. – O'Neill
 24th – OCIC Class – 4:30 p.m. – O'Neill
 25th – Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet
 26th – Ladies Guild – 2:00 p.m. – Stuart

THE JOY OF THE LORD IS MY
strength

FOR I KNOW

THE
Plans
 I HAVE
 FOR *You*

declares the Lord, plans for
 peace and not for evil, to give
 you hope and a future.

JEREMIAH 29:11

Safe Environment Certification

Training Date: February 1st, 2026
 3:00 p.m.

Room 104 at St. Mary's High School
 Contact: Patricia Bauer @ 308.367.7443
 pbauer@smcards.org

Register online at:

omaha.cmgconnect.org

Anyone that would like to teach/help/volunteer in any
 Catholic school or Religious Ed program MUST take
 this training.

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

we all
LOVE
everywhere
you go
COLLOSSIANS 3:14

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

TUNE IN AND TURN IT UP



SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO

SS PETER AND PAUL - BUTTE

The CCD and CYO youth gathered back from Christmas break on January 7th.

The 7th and 8th graders headed over to church to help Pat Thiry put away all the Christmas decor while vacuuming, dusting and scrubbing the Sanctuary. The entry and both bathrooms were also cleaned.

After Church was all cleaned up, we decided to do a bit of a clean-up outside since the strong winds had blown so much in. Needless to say, they had fun! It was such a beautiful afternoon. They filled the entire dumpster

Thanks go out to Aaron, Emerson, Baleigh, Landon and Kenze.

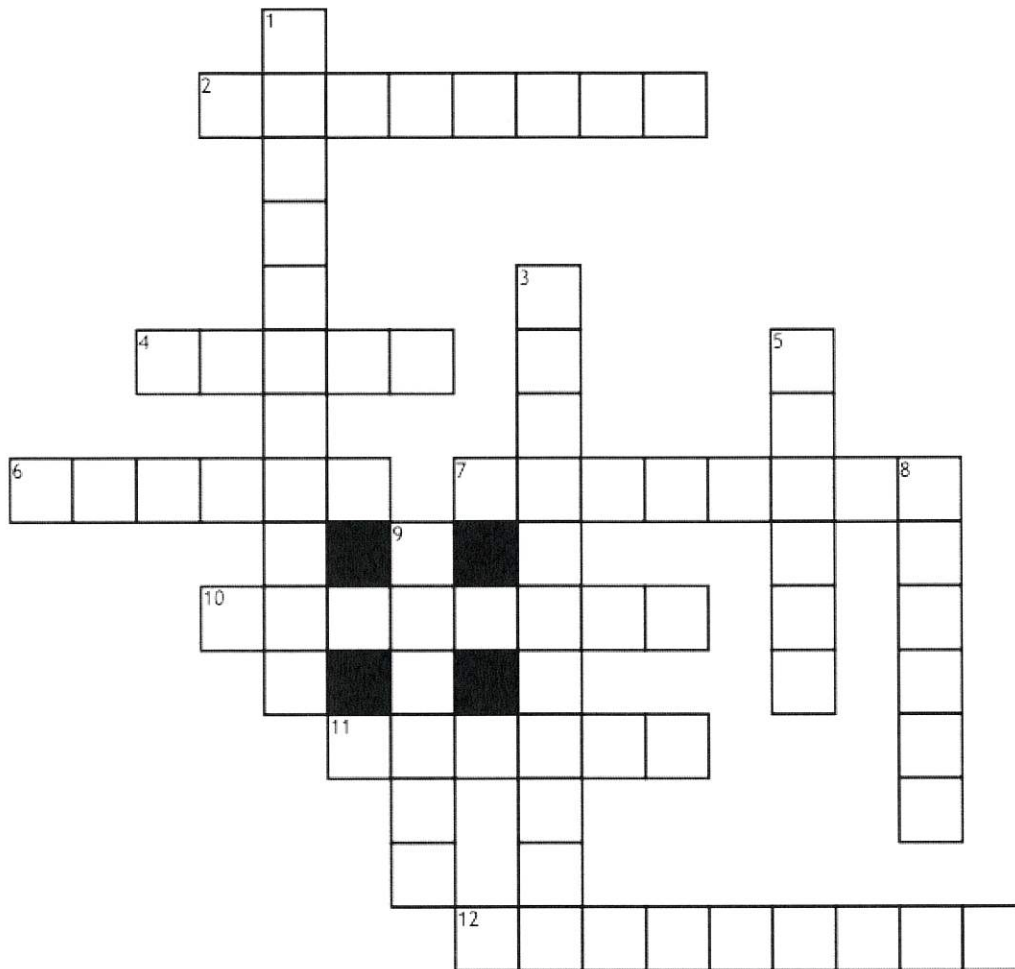


"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

1 Peter 4:10



February Saints



Across

2. this saint offered
jesus a cloth to wipe his
face

4. St. Josephine was
kidnapped and became a
slave in this country

6. served as secretary
to Pope Damsus

7. this saint was a
disciple of St. John the
Evangelist

10. the day we
commemorate the death
of St. Peter is in this
month

11. patron saint of sicily

12. the patron saint of
love

Down

1. this saint is
remembered on February
21st

3. the sister of St.
Benedict

5. the blessing of
throats is associated with
this saint

8. St. Cyril is known as
the ----- of faith

9. Born into slavery,
this saint is the patron
saint of dairymaids and
cattle