



# SHARING OUR NEWS

## OCTOBER 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

Ask  
AND IT WILL  
BE GIVEN TO YOU;

Seek  
AND YOU WILL FIND;

Knock  
AND THE DOOR  
WILL BE OPENED TO YOU.  
MATTHEW 7:7

"LORD GOD, THANK YOU  
THAT YOUR LOVE FOR US  
KNOWS NO LIMITS. AS WE  
CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE  
AUTUMN SEASON, WE BRING  
YOU OUR BURDENS AND ASK  
YOU TO GIVE REST TO OUR  
SOULS. HELP US TO TRUST  
YOU WITH THE PARTS OF  
OUR LIVES THAT DON'T  
CURRENTLY MAKE SENSE TO  
US AND HELP US TO FIND  
TRUE SOUL REST IN YOU  
EVERY DAY. AMEN."

PRAY FOR EVERYTHING







## MINISTRY OF PRAISE

### *A Word From Deacon Roger Filips*

Greetings Prayer Warriors,

The past month has been hard for anyone paying attention to our country. First, we had the Ukrainian refugee who was stabbed to death on a train by a career criminal, apparently because of her skin color. As she bled to death, sobbing, no one on the train moved to help her. Less than a week later we had the Catholic School shooting in Minneapolis which left 2 innocent children dead, and 21 others injured. The transgender shooter shot blindly through stained glass windows during a school Mass.

Then we had the assassination of Charlie Kirk by a shooter who was living with a transgender furry boyfriend. Perhaps surprisingly, this last killing will have more long-term consequences than the other two atrocities. It will take more time to understand what happened that day, but we need to know who Charlie was. News reports call him a "right wing political activist" but he was something much more powerful. He was the most effective Christian evangelist of our time, and all of his policies and politics all flowed from that. The only other religious figures of this importance to the faith in our country's history were Bishop Fulton Sheen and Billy Graham. All of his political positions came from his deep faith in Jesus and in the civilization built by His church, and he told everyone about it. Charlie was an Evangelical Christian, but he often went to Mass with his Catholic wife. He said Mary was the solution to toxic femininity, and he prayed the rosary, so I think we can say he was at least a friend of Catholics.

All three of these murderers had something in common, and it wasn't mental illness. It was likely demonic evil. Demonic influence is not always as obvious as the severe cases you see in movies, it goes through four stages.

Infestation: Strange phenomena that seek to create fear or vulnerability.

Oppression: Demon-caused anxiety, depression or irrational thoughts. The goal is to weaken the person's will and faith.

Obsession: A further loss of control, with intrusive, compulsive thoughts, often blasphemous or self-destructive.

Possession: The most severe stage, when the demon takes partial or full control of the person's body or behavior. Including such things as supernatural strength, speaking unknown languages, aversion to sacred objects or altered personality.

Although only God will truly judge these people, we can draw some lessons already. All three people who committed these crimes had opened themselves to demonic evil by living in serious habitual sin outside of any practice of the faith or sacraments. All three crimes were shocking, with unnecessary violence that did nothing to benefit the criminal. All of the victims were innocent and unsuspecting and their deaths shock us and cause anxiety or depression.

There were countless reports of people going back to church or checking it out for the first time after these incidents. Countless others are leaving Protestant Churches for the Catholic Church. These people usually could not express why they were finally taking this step, but I think I know: There is high-resolution video of all three crimes. We have all seen and experienced this evil as closely as possible without having been there. When people understand in their gut that evil/Satan really exist, it makes them take seriously the idea that there is also an ultimate good/God that also exists, and they realize they need more of this. Stay close to your faith.

There is no room for an excerpt from my catechism "Pearls of the Universal Church" but you can find it at [www.SpiritualWorksPress.com](http://www.SpiritualWorksPress.com)



Until next month . . . Deacon Filips

**IN LOVING MEMORY . . .**

**KATHLEEN PONGRATZ**

August 31, 1939—August 30, 2025  
St. Patick—O'Neill

**LARRY LEE PAXTON**

August 29, 1938—August 29, 2025  
St. Boniface—Stuart

**MAX LEROY KUNZ**

April 22, 1930—September 14, 2025  
St. Boniface—Stuart

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY MARRIED. . .**

**YASMIN BENDER & ISAIAH SHABRAM**

September 6, 2025  
St. Joseph—Atkinson (SPO Parishioner)

**KELSI JO WILLIAMS JEFFREY LEE JUDGE**

September 13, 2025  
St. Joseph—Atkinson

**JORDAN LYNN MESCHER & MICAH REID DEXTER**

September 20, 2025  
St. Joseph—Atkinson

**WELCOME TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED . . .**

**LANE ROBERT KRACL**

Son of Brec & Paige Kracl  
August 30, 2025  
St. Patrick—O'Neill

**SCOTTIE JO THOMPSON**

Daughter of Drew & Jaclynn Thompson  
August 30, 2025  
St. Patrick—O'Neill

**LIAM JOSHUA CUDDY**

Son of Jeremiah & Hannah Cuddy  
September 13, 2025  
St. Patrick—O'Neill

**INDY JANE HABURCHAK**

Daughter of Zachary & Jayde Haburchak  
September 13, 2025  
St. Patrick—O'Neill

**MILO MICHAEL DVORAK**

Son of Mitchell & Megan Dvorak  
September 14, 2025  
St. Joseph—Atkinson



**EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW, I LEARNED FROM NOAH'S ARK**

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float awhile.
10. Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.
11. No matter the storm when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

~Author Unknown







### 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.

### JUBILEE 2025: PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Pilgrimage Stop

Assumption BVM—Lynch

Assumption BVM Church in Lynch has been selected as one of the pilgrimage stops throughout this year for the Jubilee of Hope. To help receive a plenary indulgence, the following will take place in Lynch on the 1st and 5th (when applicable) Wednesdays of each month. This will continue through the entire year on the following dates: October 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.

WHBC  
EVANGELIZATION



## DISH CLOTH FUNDRAISER

Sponsored by:  
*The Rural Women's Conference Committee*

*A Division of the Catholic Parishes of Western Holt & Boyd Counties*

\$2.00 EACH



AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT:  
BUTTE, ATKINSON, AND O'NEILL PARISH OFFICES  
AND THE DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES OFFICE IN STUART

CONTACT ANN FILIPS - 805.829.4728  
JAN KUNZ - 402.320.2351  
KELLI TOMJACK - 402.316.1448  
WITH QUESTIONS OR FOR MORE INFORMATION





ST. JOSEPH—ATKINSON

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

# Parish Auction

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

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

 OCTOBER  
26TH

 COMMUNITY CENTER  
206 W 5TH STREET  
ATKINSON, NE

— RAFFLE —

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

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

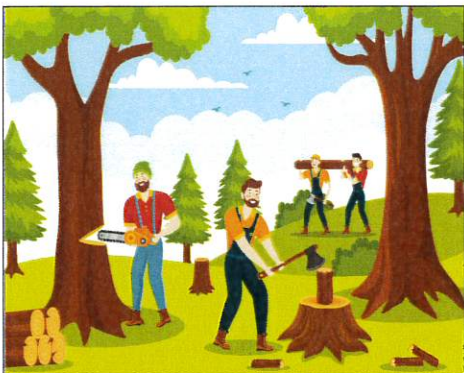
**NEBRASKA HUSKERS FOOTBALL TICKETS**  
6 Tickets to Nebraska vs Iowa 11/28/2025

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



SCAN THE QR CODE TO PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS

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



#### ST. JOSEPH PARISH WOODCUTTING FOR AUCTION

October 11 & 12

and

October 18 & 19

10:00 a.m.

South of St. Joseph Cemetery

Bring saws, trailers, and manpower!





## ST. PATRICK—O'NEILL

### ST. PATRICK'S ANNUAL FALL AUCTION

The annual Fall Auction will be held at the O'Neill Community Center on Sunday November 2nd, beginning at 12 pm and will run all afternoon. We will be providing a brisket sandwich lunch & homemade desserts, beginning at 11:00 am, and the KCs will have the bar open. There will be good food, raffles, family fun options including bounce houses, free child care for ages 4 and under, children's grab bags, and lots of time for socializing! These auctions have been one of our largest fundraisers each year since the early 1980s, bringing in anywhere from \$110,000 to \$159,000 in recent years, providing a major source of income for our operating budget.

We are asking for your help in several ways in the upcoming weeks. **All of these lists/details can be found at [www.stpatoneill.org/auction](http://www.stpatoneill.org/auction):**

1—We are asking for each family of the parish and school, last names A to M, to donate \$10 towards the cost of the supplies for the meal, and last names N to Z, to bring a 9 x 13 dessert or 2 pies for the lunch.

2—We have a wish list of items for the children's grab bags that you can purchase and have sent to us!

3—In mid-October, a sign up genius will be posted for you to volunteer your time!

4—A gift from you in the form of a new or gently used product, gift certificate, or cash gift would be greatly appreciated. In previous years, gifts have included: themed baskets, furniture, lawn care items, religious articles, homemade items, antiques, electronics, gift cards & certificates, a service you would provide, game tickets, food like home-canned items, baked goods, or fresh meat, vehicles, corn, hay, etc.

PLEASE NOTE: All items that are donated may be combined with other items to create baskets/packages. We appreciate all donations, but we do occasionally receive items that would be better suited for other purposes. All items will be reviewed and may be donated to more appropriate venues. **Please note that we will NOT be accepting older TVs or computer equipment. If you are unsure, please speak to a member of the auction committee.**

Pledge forms can be found on our website to either fill out online or print and bring in to the Parish Office at 313 E Hwy 20, O'Neill. If you would like your item on the Sale Bill, your commitment must be turned in by October 16th. We also like to list our donors on a program, but we must have all those names by October 29th in order to complete the program in time. Call Jennifer at 402-336-1602 or email [jmwallwey@archomaha.org](mailto:jmwallwey@archomaha.org) with any questions or concerns.

### ST. PATRICK'S RESTORATION

The work on St. Patrick Church continues and even looks to be on schedule! Please pray that we can remain on schedule to return to St. Patrick's on time.

Presently, our church has scaffolding from stem to stern, which limits our ability to appreciate the wonderful work being done there. All the plaster repair is finished. The broad painting of the walls is completed. The lion's share of the stenciling is complete also. Our columns now have a "Carrara Marble" look. The column capitals, and arches between the columns are done being painted with skillful detail. In the sanctuary, the stenciling of the walls and the mural of Christ's ascension is well underway. It looks amazing!

If you would like to see pictures, they can be found on our website at <https://www.stpatoneill.org/st-patrick-restoration-project>. Thank you to our photographer, Nola Sullivan!!

Deacon MJ Kersenbrock

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

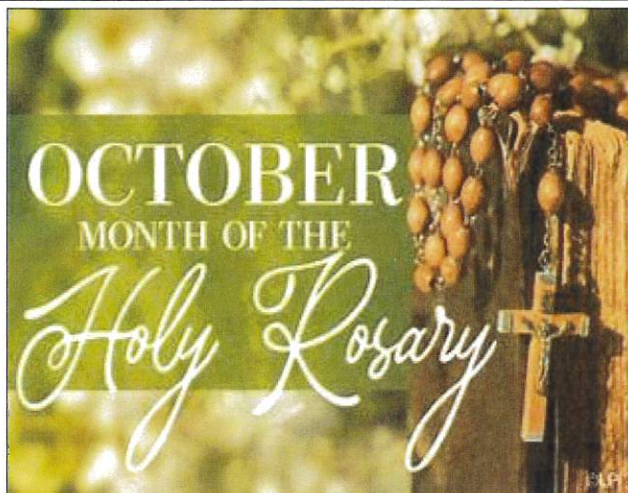
*St. Patrick Fall Auction*

*Raffle Items*

<p><b>HALF A BEEF, PROCESSING INCLUDED</b> Thank you to Mike &amp; Deb Kelly for donating this prize.</p>	<p><b>SAMSUNG 85" CLASS DU8000 CRYSTAL UHD LED 4K SMART TV</b> Thank you to Shad's Electric for donating this prize.</p>	<p><b>SHAMROCK BUCKS WIN \$1000, \$500, OR \$250</b> Thank you to Kersenbrock Dental &amp; Edward Jones (Randy Hupp, Julie Regan, &amp; Adam Cadwell) for donating this prize.</p>
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**Raffle Tickets are \$10 each or 6/\$50.  
Contact the Parish Office at  
336-1602, 313 E. Hwy 20.**





## OCTOBER—MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

The rosary is one of the most well known devotions of the Catholic faith, but do you know these facts about it?!

### 9 Incredible Facts About The Rosary

1. The rosary is also known as the "bible on a string" because the Mysteries of the Rosary share the Gospel.
2. Catholics are often buried with a rosary for protection.
3. In each rosary there are 59 beads, 3 feet of cord, 14 plastic spacers, a metal spacer, a crucifix, and a Miraculous or Saint medal.
4. The world's largest rosary is 1965 feet long and is in Beirut. It includes 59 large concrete beads and each one is the size of a car!
5. Catholics have been praying the rosary as we know it today since the 13th Century, but monks and hermits as early as the 3rd century used rocks and prayer beads in a similar way.
6. The Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum near Stevenson, Washington currently holds the record for the largest collection of rosaries with over 4,000 on display!
7. St. Thomas Aquinas gave the longest (known) homily on the rosary and it lasted FORTY days.
8. The Roman Catholic Rosary has 59 beads, but the Eastern Orthodox of Greece and Turkey rosary has 100 beads and the Russian Orthodox has 103 beads.
9. Catholics may obtain a plenary indulgence once per day by the recitation of the Rosary either in a church, with your family, or a gathering of the faithful (Enchiridion of Indulgences, Grant 17.1).

The **HARVEST** is plentiful,  
but the laborers are few.

Therefore pray earnestly  
to the *Lord*  
of the **HARVEST**  
to send out laborers into  
His **HARVEST**

Luke 10:2

### BOYD HOLT RIGHT TO LIFE BAKE SALE



Wild Turkey Craft Show  
SAT. OCT 11 10-3:00  
Spencer Community Hall

WHIP UP YOUR BEST RECIPES OR BRING  
PRODUCE. WE APPRECIATE BOTH DONORS  
& BUYERS AT OUR ANNUAL FUND RAISER.

Thank you all!!



### 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 get them signed up for classes. Classes will be starting September 30th from 4-5 p.m. at the Parish Office. Call Jan Kunz @ 402-340-2303 for information about the classes or to sign your child up.



## REBOOT

Get your tickets for the REBOOT event with Chris Stefanick in Yankton on October 22.

Leave the driving to us!

Bus will depart from O'Neill at 4 p.m. and pick up in Spencer & Lynch (locations TBD) and then travel to Yankton. There will be NO CHARGE for the bus.

Get your ticket and sign up for the bus by calling Jan Kunz @ 402.340.2303 by October 15th.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
Wednesday, October 22, 2025  
7:00 - 9:00 PM  
Mount Marty University, Cimpl Arena  
1005 West 31st Street, Yankton, SD 57678

# REBOOT

A LIFE-CHANGING EVENT

This high-energy, 2-hour event with internationally acclaimed speaker Chris Stefanick will inspire your faith, reinvigorate 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/real+lifecatholic/1663065>  
Scholarships available at: [rebootyankton2025@gmail.com](mailto:rebootyankton2025@gmail.com)

**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 MEAL!**  
Hot Dogs & Chips  
6:00 - 6:45 PM

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

## CLERGY APPRECIATION MONTH

"Dear Lord,

We thank You for our clergy, who guide us in faith and service. Bless them with strength, wisdom, and joy in their ministry. May they feel our appreciation and support as they lead us closer to You.

Amen."



## Celebration of Life Family Event

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 | 7-8:30 PM

O'Neill Community Center

Hosted by Boyd Holt Right to Life and Event Underwriters

For All Ages and All Christians!

### Evening Program

#### 7:00 PM - Family-Friendly Live Ultrasound Presentation

Have you ever seen a baby in the womb hiccup, suck her thumb, or kick her feet? Have you ever heard a tiny heartbeat? Come experience the wonder of life on the big screen! Together, we'll explore Scripture, fascinating fetal facts, and the miracle of life. Fun for all ages!



Maci Binder  
Sonographer

#### 7:30-8:00 PM

- K-3rd grade & families: Make Celebration of Life bags.
- 4th grade and older: Hear inspiring, age-appropriate adoption stories from Nikki Schaefer and Kris Harvey, then 4-6th grade go make Celebration of Life bags.

Nikki Schaefer, MSW  
Founder



Megan Meyers  
Speaker

8:00-8:30 PM - 7th grade and older: Hear from Megan Meyers, founder of Hebrews 12 Ministries. Megan's passion is helping others find healing and freedom from guilt and shame through the unconditional love of Jesus Christ. She will share her powerful testimony of living with the pain of abortion and finding redemption and restoration in Christ.

All are welcome at no charge.  
A free-will offering will be taken  
for Beginnings Pregnancy  
Resource Center in O'Neill.

### School Program

Three age appropriate presentations are scheduled during the school day for St. Mary's Students. Anyone wanting to attend them is asked to call Jeanie Miller at 402.340.5087 for schedule and details.

View  
presentation  
trailers here:



[heartofachildministries.org/presentations/](http://heartofachildministries.org/presentations/)

## LADIES DEANERY MEETING



St. Joseph—Amelia

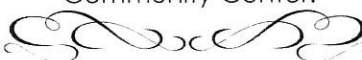
Tuesday, October 14

Hosted by St. Joseph, Amelia  
at the  
Chambers Community Center

Registration at 9:00 a.m.

Mass at 11:30 a.m.  
at St. Joseph, Amelia

Lunch and follow up program  
back at the  
Community Center.



## UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTION



World  
Mission Sunday

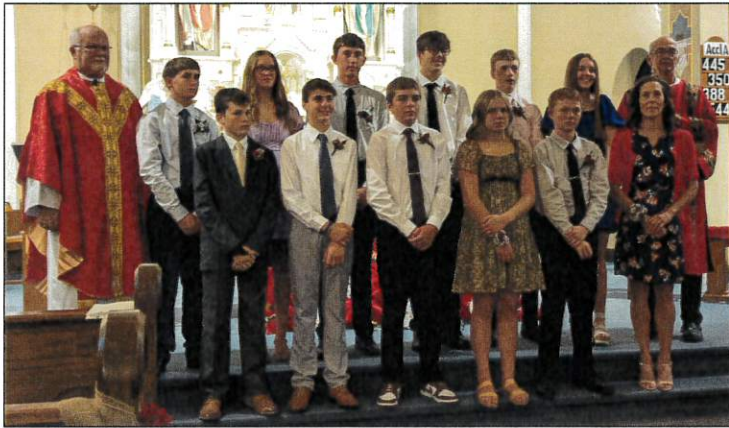
World Mission Sunday

October 18 & 19

World Mission Sunday calls Catholics worldwide to support the Church where it's young or challenged. Your prayers and donations provide essential resources for communities that cannot sustain themselves—funding church construction, pastoral care, education, and healthcare. When your parish participates, you join Catholics everywhere in making possible the work of missionaries who build churches, train seminarians, support catechists, and serve vulnerable communities. Together, we fulfill our baptismal call to share the Gospel and become one Church bringing hope to all peoples.



## CONFIRMATIONS CELEBRATED



### ST. BONIFACE—STUART—SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

Back Row (l to r): Fr. Starman, Mac Wallinger, Ali Wondercheck, Kyler Schaaf, Dru Otten, Collin Heiser, Kemberlyn Kohle, and Deacon Kersenbrock

Front Row (l to r): Alex Paxton, Truman Addison, Mason Kaup, Karlee Wolf, Kole Estill, and Tracy Ludwig (teacher).



### ST. JOSEPH—ATKINSON—SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

Back Row (l to r): Taylor Slaymaker, Paisley Mitchell, Jasiel Monasterio, Ryan Havranek, Grant Poessnecker, Alek Vrooman, Maddox Kerkman, Isabella Schaaf, and Jameson Dvorak.

Middle Row (l to r): Brody Borer, Barrett Poessnecker, Atziri Sanchez, Paislynn Myers, Bergan Keogh, Landri Nemetz, Kole Kreitel, Bentley Farewell, Brooks Brummer, and Noah Sholes.

Front Row (l to r): Kamryn Hilkemeier, Olive Flannery, Payton Skrdla, Easley Mlady, Abby Fritz, Lainey Skrdla, AnnaLeah Monasterio, and Aliyah Jackson.

***Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.***

### ST. JOSEPH—AMELIA—SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

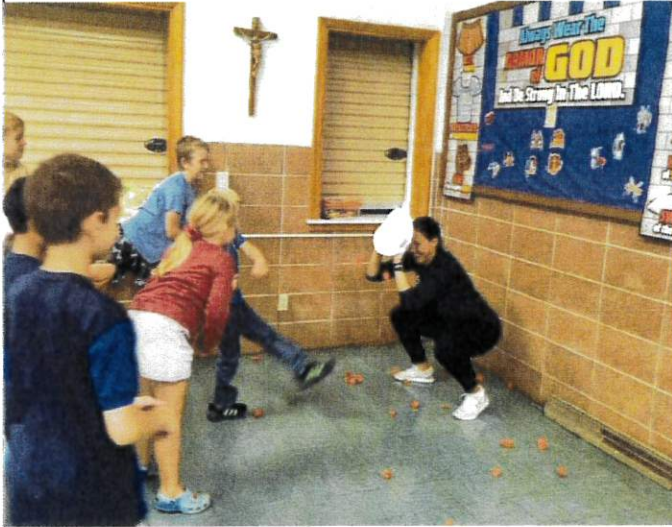
Back Row (l to r): Maggie Hanson, Kayden Isom, Father Starman, Bo Pospichal, and Deacon Kersenbrock

Front row (l to r): Aubrey Smith and Bentley Dexter.





Spencer St. Mary's CCD students and teachers started the year by putting on the armor of God, battling sin, and fighting off temptation with their shields of faith.



Fr. Burkhalter, Spiritual Advisor for the Omaha Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, presented Archbishop McGovern a check for vocations in the amount of \$12,000 at their recent convention at Hartington. These funds were collected by women of the council in their Penny and Prayer offerings this year. Cathy Jo Reiman, Pat Thiry, Annetta McAllister, Pauletta Riha, Pat Drueke, and Jeanie Miller attended from Sacred Heart Parish.



Sts. Peter and Paul Religious Ed invites all to join them for the annual Living Rosary they host for Boyd County Students. It's set for Oct 8 at 7:20 pm at the church.

### Spencer St. Mary's Fall Festival

Sun. Oct. 26

Country Store

Delicious Church Dinner 11-1:00

Prize drawing at 1:00



## THE EMPEROR'S SEED

An emperor in the Far East was growing old and knew it was time to choose his successor. Instead of choosing one of his assistants or his children, he decided something different.

He called young people in the kingdom together one day. He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next emperor. I have decided to choose one of you."

The kids were shocked! But the emperor continued. "I am going to give each one of you a seed today, one very special seed. I want you to plant the seed, water it and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from this one seed. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next emperor!"

One boy named Ling was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly told his mother the story. She helped him get a pot and planting soil, and he planted the seed and watered it carefully.

Every day he would water it and watch to see if it had grown. After about 3 weeks, some of the other youths began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow. Ling kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. 3 weeks, 4 weeks, 5 weeks went by. Still nothing.

By now, others were talking about their plants but Ling didn't have a plant, and he felt like a failure. 6 months went by; still nothing in Ling's pot. He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing.

Ling didn't say anything to his friends. He just kept waiting for his seed to grow. A year finally went by and all the youths of the kingdom brought their plants to the emperor for inspection.

Ling told his mother that he wasn't going to take an empty pot but his Mother said he must be honest about what happened. Ling felt sick to his stomach, but he knew his Mother was right.

He took his empty pot to the palace. When Ling arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other youths. They were beautiful, in all shapes and sizes. Ling put his empty pot on the floor and many of the other kinds laughed at him. A few felt sorry for him and just said, "Hey nice try."

When the emperor arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted the young people. Ling just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees and flowers you have grown," said the emperor. "Today, one of you will be appointed the next emperor!"

All of a sudden, the emperor spotted Ling at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered his guards to bring him to the front. Ling was terrified. "The emperor knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me killed!"

When Ling got to the front, the Emperor asked his name. "My name is Ling," he replied. All the kids were laughing and making fun of him. The emperor asked everyone to quiet down.

He looked at Ling, and then announced to the crowd, "Behold your new emperor! His name is Ling!" Ling couldn't believe it. Ling couldn't even grow his seed. How could he be the new emperor?

Then the emperor said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone here a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds, which would not grow. All of you, except Ling, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you.

Ling was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new emperor!"

~Author Unknown

\* If you plant honesty, you will reap trust.

\* If you plant goodness, you will reap friends.

\* If you plant humility, you will reap greatness.

\* If you plant perseverance, you will reap contentment.

\* If you plant consideration, you will reap perspective.

\* If you plant hard work, you will reap success.

\* If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation.

\* If you plant faith in God, you will reap a harvest.

So, be careful what you plant now; it will determine what you will reap later.

"Whatever You Give To Life, Life Gives You Back"



# RESPECT LIFE MONTH STATEMENT

October 2024

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge  
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities



We are living in an exciting time of revival. Our National Eucharistic Congress, and the Eucharistic processions that led to it, involved hundreds of thousands of Catholics who will never be the same. The revival continues, and is so needed, especially in our efforts to defend human life.

Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist, gives us the fullness of life. He calls each of us to respect that gift of life in every human person. While we live in a society that often rejects those who are weak, fragile, or vulnerable, they are the most in need of our care and protection. Pope Francis reminds us that “every child who, rather than being born, is condemned unjustly to being aborted, bears the face of Jesus Christ, bears the face of the Lord, who even before he was born, and then just after birth, experienced the world’s rejection.”<sup>1</sup>

The law and millions of our brothers and sisters have yet to recognize this reality. We thankfully no longer live under the regime of *Roe v. Wade*, and our elected officials are now empowered to reduce or end abortion. But what we now see is that fifty years of virtually unlimited abortion has tragically created a national mindset where many Americans have become comfortable with *some* amount of abortion. This allows the abortion industry to continue to provide *any* amount of abortion. Given this challenge, the U.S. bishops have affirmed that, while it is important to address all the ways in which human life is threatened, “abortion remains our pre-eminent priority as it directly attacks our most vulnerable brothers and sisters, destroying more than a million lives each year in our country alone.”<sup>2</sup>

**“We are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life...”**



In a tragic way, abortion has become the pre-eminent priority for others as well. We see many politicians celebrating the destruction of preborn children, and protecting access to abortion, even up until the moment of birth. Few leaders are standing up to limit the harm of chemical abortion (abortion pills) to mothers and children, which is now the most common form of abortion. And heading into the November elections, as many as ten states face gravely evil ballot initiatives that would enshrine abortion in their state constitutions.

Pope St. John Paul II’s words resonate today: “we are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the ‘culture of death’ and the ‘culture of life’ ... we are all involved and we all share in it, with the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally pro-life.”<sup>3</sup>

And so we need a revival of prayer and action:

- We must renew our commitment to work for the legal protection of every human life, from conception to natural death, and to vote for candidates who will defend the life and dignity of the human person.



- We must call for policies that assist women and their children in need, while also continuing to help mothers in our own communities through local pregnancy help centers and our nationwide, parish-based initiative, [\*Walking with Moms in Need\*](#).
- We must likewise continue to extend the hand of compassion to all who are suffering from participation in abortion, through the Church's abortion healing ministries like [\*Project Rachel Ministry\*](#).
- Most importantly, we must rededicate ourselves to fervent prayer on behalf of life.

I invite all Catholics to join me in a concerted effort of prayer between now and our national elections, by daily praying our Respect Life Month "Prayer for Life to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament":

*Jesus, you came that we might have life—and have it in abundance. Together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you form us in our mothers' wombs and call us to love you for all eternity. As your most precious gift of human life is attacked, draw us ever closer to your Real Presence in the Eucharist. Dispel the darkness of the culture of death, for you are the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. By the power of your Eucharistic Presence, help us to defend the life of every human person at every stage. Transform our hearts to protect and cherish all whose lives are most vulnerable. For you are God, forever and ever. Amen.*



Through the graces of this revival, may we witness, work, and vote so that all children in the womb will be protected in law and welcomed in love, and that all mothers and families will be strengthened by our support and accompaniment.

For information on October Respect Life Month, visit <https://www.respectlife.org/>.

1 Pope Francis, "Address of Holy Father Francis to Participants in the Meeting Organized by the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations," September 20, 2013 (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana).

2 *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States*, Introductory Letter, p. 8 (Washington, D.C.: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2024).

3 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae* (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1995), no. 28.

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

**THE PUMPKIN PRAYER**

Dear God,

As I carve my pumpkin help me say this prayer:

Open my mind so I can learn about You;  
(Cut the top of the pumpkin)

Take away all my sin and forgive me  
for the wrong things I do.  
(Clean out the inside)

Open my eyes so Your love I will see;  
(Cut the eyes out in heart shapes)

I'm so sorry for turning up my nose  
to all You've given me.  
(Cut a nose in the shape of a cross)

Open my ears so your word I will hear.  
(Cut the ears shaped like the Bible)

Open my mouth so I can tell others You're near.  
(cut the mouth in the shape of a fish)

Let Your light shine in all I say and do!  
(Place a candle inside and light it)

Amen



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Bernard Starman ~ Pastor  
[bgstarman@archomaha.org](mailto:bgstarman@archomaha.org)

Fr. Ross Burkhalter ~ Senior Associate Pastor  
[rcburkhalter@archomaha.org](mailto:rcburkhalter@archomaha.org)

Dcn MJ Kersenbrock ~ Director of Operations  
[mjkersensbrock@gmail.com](mailto:mjkersensbrock@gmail.com)

Jan Kunz ~ Director of Evangelization & Catechesis  
[jkunz@holtboydcatholic.org](mailto:jkunz@holtboydcatholic.org)

Dcn Roger Filips  
[rfilips@archomaha.org](mailto: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](mailto:nmtomjack@archomaha.org)  
Business Manager:

Cheleigh Sholes—[crsholes@archomaha.org](mailto:crsholes@archomaha.org)

Director of Stewardship & Development:

Jennifer Wallwey—[jmwallwey@archomaha.org](mailto:jmwallwey@archomaha.org)  
Youth Director:

Bridget Bulau—[bbulau@smcards.org](mailto:bbulau@smcards.org)

Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Whitney Shaffer—[whitney.shaffer7@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mnolan@archomaha.org)

Youth Minister/Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Charlotte Mitchell—[charlottehuckmittchell@gmail.com](mailto:charlottehuckmittchell@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](mailto:stjoechurchatkinson@gmail.com)

Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Linda Wolf—[stjohnndr@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnndr@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](mailto:stbonifacestuart@gmail.com)

Director of Ministries/Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Jan Kunz—[jankunz9@gmail.com](mailto:jankunz9@gmail.com)  
402-340-2303

## STUFF

Every fall I start sorting through my stuff. There is closet stuff and drawer stuff, attic stuff and basement stuff. I separate the good stuff from the bad stuff, then I stuff the bad stuff anywhere the stuff is not too crowded until I decide if I will need the bad stuff.

When the Lord calls me home, my children will want the good stuff, but the bad stuff, stuffed wherever there is room among the other stuff, will be stuffed in bags and taken to the dump where all the other people's stuff has been taken.

Whenever we have company, they always bring bags and bags of stuff. When I visit my daughter, she always moves her stuff so I will have room for my stuff. With their stuff and my stuff . . . it would be so much easier to use their stuff and leave my stuff at home with the rest of my stuff.

This fall, I had an extra closet built so I would have a place for all the stuff too good to throw away and too bad to keep with my good stuff. You may not have this problem, but I seem to spend a lot of time with stuff, food stuff, cleaning stuff, medicine stuff, clothes stuff, and outside stuff. Whatever would it be like if we didn't have all this stuff??

Now, there is all that stuff we used to make us smell better than we actually do. There is stuff to make our hair look good. Stuff to make us look younger. Stuff to make us look healthier. Stuff to hold us in and stuff to fill us out. There is stuff to read, stuff to play with, stuff to entertain us, and stuff to eat. We stuff ourselves with food stuff.

Well, our lives are filled with stuff. . . good stuff, bad stuff, little stuff, big stuff, useful stuff, junky stuff, and everyone's stuff. Now, when we leave all our stuff and go to heaven, whatever happens to our stuff won't matter. We will still have the good stuff God has prepared for us in heaven.

~Author Unknown



*This is the day the Lord  
has made. Let us rejoice  
and be glad.*



# October

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

1st—Heart of a Child Presentation—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 1st—Pilgrims of Hope Pilgrimage Stop—Lynch  
 1st—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet  
 2nd—Reach More Leaders Huddle—6:30 p.m.—O'Neill  
 2nd—Ss. P & P CCW Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Butte  
 3rd—Mass @ Parkside—2:00 p.m.—Stuart  
 5th—Life Chain—1:30 p.m.—O'Neill  
 5th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 5th—OCIA Class—4:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 6th—Reach More Training—6:30 p.m.—O'Neill  
 6th—KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Stuart  
 7th/8th—Fall Clergy Conference  
 7th—Mass @ Good Sam—10:00 a.m.—Atkinson  
 7th—Anniversary of PC Explosion & Fire  
 7th—ASA Hamburger Lunch—11:00 a.m.—N Parking Lot  
 7th—OCIC Class—4:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 7th—Catholic Daughters Mtg—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 8th—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet  
 8th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 9th—Altar Society Meeting—6:30 p.m.—O'Neill  
 11th—Boyd/Holt RTL Bake Sale & More—10:00 a.m.—Spencer  
 12th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 12th—OCIA Class—4:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 12th—COR Men's Group—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 13th—Reach More Training—6:30 p.m.—O'Neill  
 13th—4th Degree KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Stuart  
 14th—RNW Deanery Meeting—Ameila  
 14th—OCIC Class—4:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 15th—Mass @ Evergreen—3:15 p.m.—O'Neill  
 15th—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet  
 15th—Pastoral Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 18th/19th—World Mission Sunday—Special Collection  
 19th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 19th—OCIA Class—4:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 20th—Reach More Training—6:30 p.m.—O'Neill  
 20th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—Spencer  
 21st—OCIC Class—4:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 22nd—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet  
 22nd—REBOOT Event in Yankton  
 23rd—Ladies Guild—2:00 p.m.—Stuart  
 26th—St. Joseph Parish Auction—Atkinson  
 26th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 26th—OCIA Class—4:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 26th—COR Men's Group—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 27th—Reach More Training—6:30 p.m.—O'Neill  
 28th—OCIC Class—4:00 p.m.—O'Neill  
 29th—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Groups Meet



## Autumn Blessing

O God of Creation, you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever. Amen.



May the Lord  
bless and protect you

May the Lord shine  
His face upon you  
and be gracious to you

May the Lord turn  
his face toward you  
and give you Peace



Remember your leaders  
who spoke God's word to you.  
Imitate their faith  
as you consider the way  
their lives turned out.  
Jesus Christ is the same  
yesterday, today, and forever!

Hebrews 13:7-8 CEB