



# SHARING OUR NEWS

## FEBRUARY 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

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

#### MASS SCHEDULES

#### 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

#### Weekday Masses

#### Monday

5:30 pm—Stuart

#### Tuesday

5:15 pm—O'Neill  
5:30 pm—Stuart

#### Wednesday

\*School Masses subject to change

\*8:10 am—O'Neill  
\*8:15 am—Atkinson  
6:30 pm—SHBC Rotation

#### Thursday

7:00 am—O'Neill

#### Friday

7:00 am—O'Neill  
8:15 am—Atkinson

### Prayer For February

Heavenly Father,  
Thank You for Your love and guidance as we enter February. Please guide and protect my family, friends, and me throughout this month. Help us to reflect Your love in our actions and thoughts, and provide strength and comfort to those in need. May we remember Your greatest act of love through Jesus Christ and share that love with others.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Three things will last forever:  
Faith,  
hope <sup>1 Cor. 13:13</sup> - AND -  
love  
The greatest of these is love.



## MINISTRY OF PRAISE—A WORD FROM DEACON FILIPS

Greetings Fellow Prayer Warriors!

We are in the middle of the third, mission year of our National Eucharistic Revival, so I wanted to revisit my thoughts from the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis last summer.

Our little group was there, and it was awesome. It was life changing for all 60,000 of us. That first night when the pilgrims who had processed with the Eucharist, on foot from all 4 corners of the country, 2,200 miles for the California route, came into the football stadium there was a roar from the crowd, then the monstrance with Jesus came in, and the spotlight hit it, 60,000 people fell to their knees in that football stadium and you could hear a pin drop. Nobody told them to kneel. It was spontaneous. It is not easy to kneel in a crowded football stadium, but we did. I felt the earth shift a little on its axis that night. Maybe you felt it here too. Things are different now. Just like they were different after World Youth Day in Denver in '93 when so many young people found their faith and they went to seminaries, convents and started Catholic ministries. And many of them got married and raised large faithful Catholic families.

We had Mass and the rosary every morning and adoration with benediction every evening, and confession every day. I came across a line a block long in the convention center and I asked what was going on. They said it was the line for confession. There were dozens of priests on duty. Fr. Mike Schmitz spoke, he said that revival begins only after repentance. There was a lot of repentance, there were healings, physical, mental, and spiritual healings. There was praise and worship and adoration, and there were buckets of tears. The tears of joy that you get from Christ filling your heart.

What can we do to bring this revival home to our parishes? I suggest starting with focusing on who is in the Eucharist and focusing on being as reverent as we can be when receiving or being in the actual presence of Jesus. Pretend He is standing at the front of church in His robe and sandals. How would you respond then?

This month let's pray that Catholics and all others grow in their faith in the Eucharist. Following is the continuation of the chapter on Protestantism from my book "Pearls of the Universal Church" available from [www.spiritualworkspress.com](http://www.spiritualworkspress.com).

Belief in scripture alone (Sola Scriptura), without the magisterium of the Church does not work. Christianity is a family. If one of our descendants found a trunk full of letters, emails, and Facebook postings written by our family, it would tell them a lot about us, but there are thousands of little things that happen in your family that never get written down. What color was your hair when you were born? What did you have for lunch last Easter? These things we know about our family that are not written down but are passed on at the dinner table are oral tradition. This is what Catholics believe is necessary along with Sacred Scripture to accurately guide the Church as Jesus intended.

Jesus said to Peter, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:19). All of the other apostles looked up to Peter as their leader, and he made the final decision when there was disagreement. Acts 15:6-11 describes how Peter settled the issue of whether gentiles must be circumcised and become Jews before they could be Christian.



Until next month . . . Deacon Roger Filips

## In Loving Memory . . .

### SANDRA SHALD

July 14, 1939—January 4, 2025  
St. Boniface—Stuart

### HENRY MURPHY

July 1, 1934—January 7, 2025  
St. Boniface—Stuart

## Welcome to the Newly Baptized . . .

### MILES JOSEPH FETHERSTON

Son of Shawn & Danielle Fetherston  
January 11, 2025  
St. Joseph—Atkinson

### KHAI DYLAN LOBERG

Son of Drew & Brianna Loberg  
January 12, 2025  
St. Patrick—O'Neill

### KORA MAE PACHA

Daughter of Jacob & Tami Pacha  
January 18, 2025  
St. Joseph—Atkinson

### JETT MONROE DERBY

Daughter of Erik & Jessica Derby  
January 19, 2025  
St. Patrick—O'Neill



## ST VALENTINE

**Feast Day:** February 14th

**Patron Saint** of love, marriages, engagements, young people, greetings, travelers, bee keepers, people with epilepsy, and numerous churches.

### **Biography**

Saint Valentine was a Catholic priest who had also worked as a doctor. He lived in Italy during the third century AD and served as a priest in Rome.

Historians don't know much about Valentine's early life. They pick up Valentine's story after he began working as a priest. Valentine became famous for marrying couples who were in love but couldn't get legally married in Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius II, who outlawed weddings. Claudius wanted to recruit lots of men to be soldiers in his army and thought that marriage would be an obstacle to recruiting new soldiers. He also wanted to prevent his existing soldiers from getting married because he thought that marriage would distract them from their work.

When Emperor Claudius discovered that Valentine was performing weddings, he sent Valentine to jail. Valentine used his time in jail to continue to reach out to people with the love that he said Jesus Christ gave him for others.

He befriended his jailer, Asterius, who became so impressed with Valentine's wisdom that he asked Valentine to help his daughter, Julia, with her lessons. Julia was blind and needed someone to read material for her to learn it. Valentine became friends with Julia through his work with her when she came to visit him in jail.

Emperor Claudius also came to like Valentine. He offered to pardon Valentine and set him free if Valentine would renounce his Christian faith and agree to worship the Roman gods. Not only did Valentine refuse to leave his faith, he also encouraged Emperor Claudius to place his trust in Christ. Valentine's faithful choices cost him his life. Emperor Claudius was so enraged at Valentine's response that he sentenced Valentine to die.

### **The First Valentine**

Before he was killed, Valentine wrote a last note to encourage Julia to stay close to Jesus and to thank her for being his friend. He signed the note: "From your Valentine." That note inspired people to begin writing their own loving messages to people on Valentine's Feast Day, February 14th, which is celebrated on the same day on which Valentine was martyred.

Valentine was beaten, stoned, and beheaded on February 14, 270. People who remembered his loving service to many young couples began celebrating his life, and he came to be regarded as a saint through whom God had worked to help people in miraculous ways. By 496, Pope Gelasius designated February 14th as Valentine's official feast day.

### **Famous Miracles of Saint Valentine**

The most famous miracle attributed to Saint Valentine involved the farewell note that he sent to Julia. Believers say that God miraculously cured Julia of her blindness so that she could personally read Valentine's note, rather than just have someone else read it to her.

Throughout the years since Valentine died, people have prayed for him to intercede for them before God about their romantic lives. Numerous couples have reported experiencing miraculous improvements in their relationships with boyfriends, girlfriends, and spouses after praying for help from Saint Valentine.



CATHOLIC PARISHES OF WESTERN HOLT & BOYD COUNTIES

# LENTEN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

# EXPERIENCING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

## WHEN:

MARCH 29, 2025  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

## WHERE:

ST. MARY'S PARISH HALL  
SPENCER, NEBRASKA  
304 E South St.

## FEATURED SPEAKER • Linda DeTurk

*Spend a day discovering God's love and forgiveness,  
even when we find it hard to forgive ourselves.*

*(Day will include Adoration & Confession)*

**ALL  
WOMEN  
WELCOME!**

## REGISTRATION:

9:00—9:15 am  
Breakfast provided by  
St. Mary's Altar Society

## COST:

\$20/individual or  
\$100 for a Table of 6

## RSVP:

by March 20th  
or  
\$30/individual  
after March 20th 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Other Food Allergy \_\_\_\_\_

\$20 per person \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 for a table of 6 (list names on the back) \_\_\_\_\_

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

\$30 at the door. Limited spots available.

Make checks  
payable to:  
WHBC Evangelization

FORMED provides the very best Catholic content from more than 60 organizations to help parishes, families and individuals explore their faith anywhere. Supporting thousands of movies, children's programs, e-books, audio, parish programs and studies direct to your browser, mobile or connected device.

Sign up today at [formed.org](http://formed.org).

Sign up as a parishioner with the zip code 68763

**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.flocknote.com](http://holtboydcatholic.flocknote.com)

**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 will be starting soon. Contact Jan Kunz @ 402-340-2303 or MJ Kersenbrock with questions or for more information. Let us help you become the best disciple for Christ by living out your baptismal call to reach others and share the Good News. Watch the following video for more on Evangelical Catholic's Reach More training:

<https://www.ecreachmore.com/pages/faq-reach-more>

**2025 Nebraska WALK FOR LIFE**  
Hosted by Nebraska Right to Life  
February 1, 2025

**Save the Date**  
Nebraska Walk for Life  
2.1.2025  
& Gala  
1.31.2025

**PRO-LIFE MASS & NEBRASKA WALK FOR LIFE**  
Saturday, February 1, 2025  
9 AM | Pro-Life Mass | St. Mary's, Downtown  
10 AM | Nebraska Walk for Life | State Capitol

Boyd Holt Right to Life is fielding interest for these events. We'd love to have you join us at the Gala! Just let us know you have bought tickets so we can add you to our table(s), as seating will be assigned. If there is enough interest, we will try to coordinate a day trip to Lincoln for only the walk... roughly 6 am to 6 pm from O'Neill. Cost will be around \$20. Mass at St. Mary's before the Walk is always inspiring!!! Call 402-340-5087 asap as we need to make advance arrangements...or message us on Facebook.

Boyd Holt Right to Life will also host their booth at the annual KBRX Farm and Home Show. We hope you'll stop by and support us. If you are available to help at the booth, call Ann Pongratz at 402-336-3973, or Jeanie Miller at 402-340-5087.

Everyone interested in sponsoring ProLife Perspective at 8:55 am weekdays on KBRX, at a cost of \$7.00 per day or \$35 per week should call 402-340-5087.

*Our humble thanks to all who joined us to amend our state constitution to protect babies and their moms in the second and third trimesters. Now we need to work even harder to extend protections in the first trimester. Each of you were - and are - essential to changing hearts and minds. We look forward to collaborating with you in 2025!! Boyd Holt Right to Life*

**ST. PATRICK'S YOUTH GROUP**

**Meeting Dates:**

February 5  
February 12  
February 26

**Grades:**

9-12

**Meeting Place:**

Basement of St. Mary's Grade School

**Time:**

7:00 p.m.

**ST. PATRICK'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Grades:**

K-6

**Meeting Place:**

St. Mary's Grade School

**Time:**

6:30—7:30 p.m.

**Meeting Dates:**

February 5  
February 12  
February 19—NO CLASS  
February 26

**DYNAMIC CATHOLIC & MATTHEW KELLY BOOK STUDIES**

Are you a Matthew Kelly fan? Have you read any of his books or other books from Dynamic Catholic? For the past several years, each parish has been handing out free books at Christmas time. Many of these have been written by Matthew Kelly.

Did you know that many of these books have FREE downloadable study guides? If you would like to gather some friends together and do a book study, all the materials are easily available for you. If you would like to see a hard copy of the study guide and look over some book choices, please stop in the Parish Office in O'Neill and check them out. Books and studies are available in the Director of Evangelization & Catechesis's office. Books can be ordered and study copies can be made for you. Contact Jan Kunz @ 402-340-2303 for more information. Checkout the free studies at:

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/study-guides>

## JESUS'S SACRIFICE - THE GREATEST LOVE OF ALL

As the world adorns itself in hues of red and pink for Valentine's Day, preparing to celebrate the many expressions of love, let us turn our hearts to the profound and radical love that redefined humanity's history. This love, so pure and unfathomable, was demonstrated through Jesus Christ's selfless sacrifice on the cross, an act that continues to resonate through time.

In this season of affection and giving, may our hearts remember the love of Jesus that humbled itself to the point of death for the redemption of all. His unparalleled sacrifice exemplifies a love that is not self-seeking but is poured out generously for others.

Let this period be not only one of passing sentiments but also an opportunity for deep spiritual reflection. It is a time to contemplate what it truly means to love as Christ loved. By embracing the transforming power of this divine love, may we find ourselves moved to actions that reflect the depth and sincerity of our faith.

Let each day be an invitation to live out this calling of love, to embody the courage and passion that Jesus showed, and to illuminate the world with hope. As we interact with each other, may our actions and words be inspired by His example.

### His Love

Jesus left Heaven to take on human flesh, consciously limiting Himself for us. He endured scorn, ridicule, betrayal, brutal torture, and execution on a cross. Though innocent of sin or any wrongdoing, He chose to give His life as an atoning sacrifice for sinners, bridging the separation between a God and sinful humanity.

Christ's unconditional love for us still shines as a beacon of hope and salvation. This divine love, etched into the history of mankind on the cross at Calvary, defies human understanding. Jesus, the embodiment of purity and sinlessness, embraced excruciating suffering and death, not as a martyr lacking choice, but as a redeemer paving the path to reconciliation. His crucifixion is the ultimate demonstration of love – an inclusive, unwavering, and transformative love.

Romans 5:8 proclaims this truth with piercing clarity, stating, "But God demonstrates his love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." The essence of this passage is profound; while we are flawed and undeserving, Christ's sacrificial love envelopes us. The gravity of our transgressions did not deter Him; instead, at the moment of our utmost need, Christ intervened with unmerited grace. As it says in Romans 5:6: "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for us, the ungodly."

This profound and unbounded sacrificial love, illuminates the path toward personal and spiritual reconciliation. It is an invitation to each of us to undergo a transformation that mirrors Christ's unwavering love.

### True Meaning of Love

How often do we confuse love with earthly things?

Jesus didn't come to earth to conquer. It wasn't about an army, a throne, or glory. It was about removing the barrier of sin that was keeping us from the Father and giving us an example of how we ought to treat each other.

"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you," Jesus said in 1 John 15. "Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ... My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

We did not deserve or initiate Jesus's costly display of love. God chose to demonstrate his love toward us in this manner. Love drove him to pay the ultimate price for our redemption.

### The Ultimate Example

Jesus perfectly lived out the two greatest commandments: to wholeheartedly love God and to selflessly love others. After enjoying fellowship with our Heavenly Father, He stepped into this broken world on a rescue mission. Though rejected by the very ones He came to save – He forgave. Though facing injustice and cruelty – He endured. Though blameless – He took our sins upon Himself to reconcile us to God.

Christ set the ultimate example of love. As 1 John 3:16 states, "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters." This may not mean giving up our lives, but it does mean sacrificing for the good of others. It means extending grace when wronged. It means offering forgiveness when it seems impossible. It means initiating love rather than just responding in kind.

In practical terms, this implies living with boundless generosity, not just from our surplus but with a readiness to share even from our scarcity. In this way, we not only show our commitment to the gospel and the teachings of Christ, but we also create ripples of love that can heal a fractured world.

Remember that love doesn't come with a schedule or time frame. "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth." (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

## WHAT DOES LOVE MEAN?

A group of 4 to 8 year-olds were asked the question, "What does love mean?"

"When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love." Rebecca- age 8

"When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth." Billy – age 4

"Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other." Karl – age 5

"Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs." Chrissy – age 6

"Love is what makes you smile when you're tired." Terri – age 4

"Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK." Danny – age 7

"Love is when you kiss all the time. Then when you get tired of kissing, you still want to be together and you talk more. My Mommy and Daddy are like that. They look gross when they kiss" Emily – age 8

"Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen." Bobby – age 7 (Wow!)

"Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it everyday." Noelle – age 7

"Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well." Tommy – age 6

"Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken." Elaine-age 5

"Love is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford." Chris – age 7

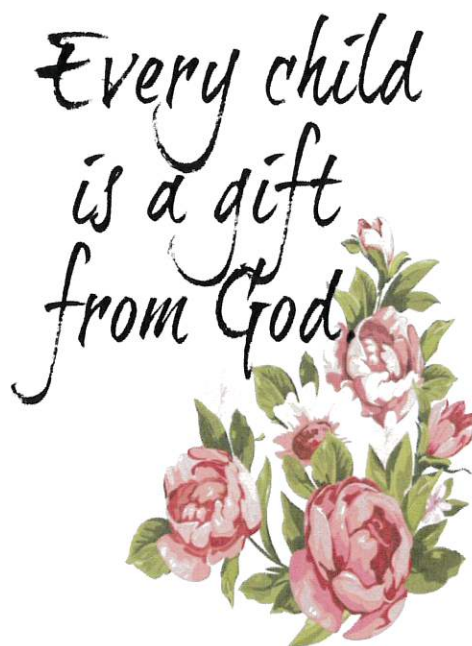
"Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day." Mary Ann – age 4

"When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you." (what an image) Karen – age 7

"You really shouldn't say 'I love you' unless you mean it. But if you mean it, you should say it a lot. People forget." Jessica – age 8

"If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate," Nikka – age 6  
(we need a few million more Nikka's on this planet).

And the final one — Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winner was a four year old child whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap, and just sat there. When his Mother asked what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing. I just helped him cry."



# February

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

January 26—February 1st—CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

1st—KC Free Throw Contest—9:00 a.m.—O'Neill

2nd—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill

2nd—COR Men's Group—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill

3rd—KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Stuart

4th—Catholic Daughters Meeting—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill

5th—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Group (Various Parishes)

6th—Ss Peter & Paul CCW Mtg—7:00 p.m.—Butte

7th—Mass @ Parkside Manor—2:00 p.m.—Stuart

9th—Ss Peter & Paul CCD/CYO Fundraiser—9:00 a.m.—Butte

9th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill

10th—4th Degree KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Stuart

11th—13th—Clergy Conference (Both priests gone)

12th—Rosary—2:25 p.m.—O'Neill

12th—Safe Environment Training—5:30 p.m.—O'Neill

12th—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Group (Various Parishes)

12th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—O'Neill

14th—HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

16th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill

16th—COR Men's Group—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill

17th—PRESIDENT'S DAY

19th—Rosary—2:25 p.m.—O'Neill

19th—Mass @ Butte Senior Living Center—3:15 p.m.—Butte

19th—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Group (Various Parishes)

19th—Pastoral Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill

19th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—Butte

23rd—St. Mary Altar Society—9:00 a.m.—Spencer

23rd—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill

26th—Rosary—2:25 p.m.—O'Neill

26th—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Group (Various Parishes)

27th—Ladies Guild—2:00 p.m.—Stuart

UPcoming  
EVENTS

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

[holtboydcatholic.org](http://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

SPiRiT  
CATHOLIC  
RADIO  
TUNE IN  
&  
TURN IT UP!



IT IS WRITTEN:

Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the Love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:39

Jesus

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The newsletter is available on the last 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).



## 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  
[rfillips@archomaha.org](mailto:rfillips@archomaha.org)

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

Office: 301 E Adams, 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—

[charlottehuckmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:charlottehuckmitchell@gmail.com)

402-336-7826

St. Joseph—Atkinson

Office: PO Box 220, Atkinson, NE 68713

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

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

Secretary:

Gayle Jungman—[stjoechurchatkinson@gmail.com](mailto:stjoechurchatkinson@gmail.com)

Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Brooke Farewell—[brookefarewell@gmail.com](mailto:brookefarewell@gmail.com)

402-340-2115

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

## PRESIDENT'S DAY—FEBRUARY 17, 2025

### DID YOU KNOW?

PRESIDENTS DAY STARTED IN 1885 TO  
CELEBRATE GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

IT IS STILL OFFICIALLY CALLED WASHINGTON'S  
BIRTHDAY BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

PRESIDENTS DAY NEVER ACTUALLY FALLS ON  
THE BIRTHDAY OF ANY PRESIDENT

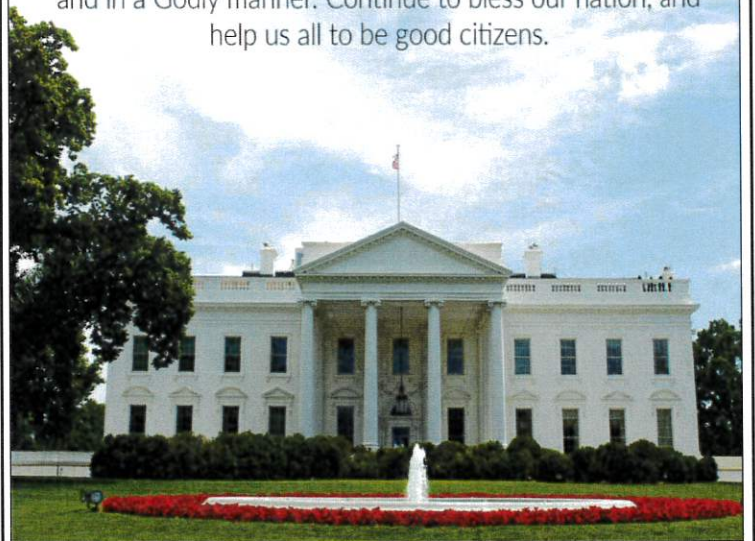
IN 1971, AN EXECUTIVE ORDER FROM PRESIDENT  
NIXON MADE IT SO THE HOLIDAY ALWAYS FALLS  
ON THE 3RD MONDAY IN FEBRUARY

BY EARLY 2000'S, HALF OF THE STATES HAD  
CHANGED THE NAME OF THE HOLIDAY TO  
PRESIDENTS DAY ON THEIR CALENDARS

TODAY, MANY USE THIS DAY TO CELEBRATE  
PATRIOTISM AND ALL OF AMERICA'S CHIEF  
EXECUTIVES

## Prayer for Our Leaders

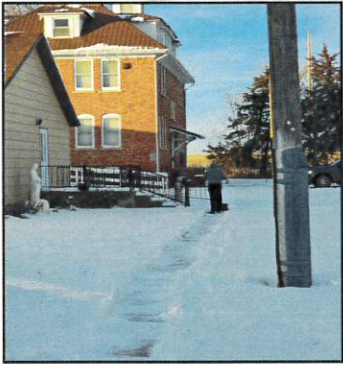
Dear God, You have appointed governments and leaders according to Your goodwill. You uphold societies through these leaders, and our nation is better for their service. We honor the presidents who served our country throughout the ages. Today, we ask you to give wisdom and confidence to those currently in office, so that they can govern justly and in a Godly manner. Continue to bless our nation, and help us all to be good citizens.



# Prayer Points For February

1. Gratitude for God's Love: Lord, thank You for Your unfailing love and the blessings You continually bestow upon me.
2. Strength in Faith: Heavenly Father, please strengthen my faith, especially in times of doubt and uncertainty.
3. Family and Friends: God, I pray for the well-being, health, and happiness of my family and friends.
4. Guidance in Decisions: Lord, guide me in making wise decisions that align with Your will for my life.
5. Provision and Security: Dear God, please provide for my needs and grant me a sense of security in Your provisions.
6. Healing and Comfort: Father, bring healing and comfort to those who are suffering or in pain.
7. Forgiveness: Lord, help me to forgive others as You have forgiven me, and guide me in seeking forgiveness where needed.
8. Wisdom and Discernment: Heavenly Father, grant me wisdom and discernment in all aspects of my life.
9. Spiritual Growth: God, nurture my spiritual growth and deepen my relationship with You.
10. Peace of Mind: Lord, grant me peace of mind and calm my anxious thoughts.
11. Serving Others: Father, show me how to serve others and be a light in their lives.
12. Love in Action: God, help me to show Your love in my actions and words.
13. Overcoming Temptations: Lord, give me the strength to resist temptations and stay true to Your path.
14. Unity and Harmony: Father, I pray for unity and harmony within my family, community, and church.
15. Patience and Perseverance: God, instill in me patience and the perseverance to face challenges.
16. Career and Work: Lord, bless my career and work, and help me to work as if I am serving You.
17. Mental Health: Heavenly Father, look after my mental health and provide me with the strength to overcome challenges.
18. Joy and Happiness: God, fill my life with true joy and happiness that comes from You.
19. Youth and Children: Lord, protect and guide the youth and children, leading them on the right path.
20. Community and Leaders: Father, bless our community leaders with wisdom and integrity.
21. Spiritual Leaders: God, strengthen and guide spiritual leaders and pastors, equipping them for Your work.
22. Global Issues: Lord, bring peace and resolution to conflicts and issues around the world.
23. Humility and Meekness: Father, help me to remain humble and meek, reflecting Your character.
24. Financial Stability: God, I pray for financial stability and responsible stewardship of my resources.
25. Marriages and Relationships: Lord, bless marriages and relationships, keeping them strong and centered in You.
26. Health and Safety: Heavenly Father, ensure the health and safety of myself and my loved ones.
27. The Needy and Oppressed: God, provide for the needy and oppressed, and use me as an instrument of Your love and provision.
28. Personal Goals: Lord, guide me towards achieving my personal goals in a way that honors You.

**SHBC—SS. PETER & PAUL—BUTTE**



The Confirmation youth at Ss. Peter and Paul started their year off with some service work around the church.



Butte CYO— In the month of December, the CYO class sang Christmas carols at the nursing home, and collected cold weather essentials for children in Boyd County. They placed a tree in the back of Ss. Peter and Paul's Church encouraging other to bring hats, gloves and other cold weather essentials. On December 11, they attended altar server training and ended the fall session on December 18. January has been spent learning about love and respect as they continue to work through positive relationships. The CYO class will be playing Bingo with the residents of the nursing home to end the month of January.

**ST. JOSEPH—ATKINSON**

**PARISH CARNIVAL**  
 Friday—January 31—2025  
 Atkinson Community Center

Meal—5:30—7:00 p.m.  
 Games—6:30—8:00 p.m.

**KC PANCAKE BREAKFAST**  
 Sunday—February 2—2025  
 KC Hall—Atkinson  
 8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

**CELEBRATE OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS**

St. Mary's Catholic School  
 O'Neill  
 .....  
 St. Joseph's Catholic School  
 Atkinson

**Catholic Schools Week 2025**  
 JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1, 2025



**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

**ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA JUBILEE 2025 INFO**

PLENARY INDULGENCE INFORMATION:

A plenary indulgence is a grace granted by the Catholic Church through the merits of Jesus Christ to remove the temporal punishment due to sin (i.e. Purgatory). The indulgence applies to sins already forgiven. A plenary indulgence completely cleanses the soul, as if the person had just been baptized. During the Jubilee Year two may be obtained per day. Only the first may be applied to oneself. If a second is obtained, it applies to souls in purgatory. Both may be applied to the deceased. For more information regarding conditions for the plenary indulgences go to: <https://archomaha.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Indulgence-information-Archdiocese-of-Omaha.pdf>

LOCAL PILGRIMAGE SITES:

There are eight locations designated as pilgrimage sites within the Archdiocese of Omaha. A pious visit to any is sufficient for the indulgence:

- Omaha (St. Cecilia Cathedral)
- Cedar Rapids (St. Anthony Church)
- Gretna (Holy Family Shrine)
- \*Lynch (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church)**
- Norfolk (Immaculata Monastery)
- St. Helena (Immaculate Conception Church)
- Schuyler (St. Benedict Center)
- Winnebago (St. Augustine Church)

More details about these pilgrimage sites and general information about the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025 please visit: <https://archomaha.org/2025-jubilee/>

**ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL**

"By supporting this year's Archbishop's Annual Appeal, you can further spread the Gospel in the mission fields of northeast Nebraska. Your gift will help foster priestly vocations and form deacons, equip leaders in our parishes and schools, place chaplains in nursing homes and hospitals, allow the incarcerated to encounter our Redeemer, serve the homeless and working poor and so much more. Please consider a generous gift to this year's Annual Appeal. Your support will allow more of our neighbors to encounter Jesus and experience His infinite love for them. Thank you for all you do for your parish and the Archdiocese of Omaha in northeast Nebraska."

Most Reverend George J. Lucas, Archbishop of Omaha

The following are the contributions & goals for each of our parishes—as of January 21st.

Parish:	Contributions:	Goal:	Remaining:
Sacred Heart – Boyd County:	\$11,651.50	\$13,172.50	\$1,521.00
St. Boniface – Stuart:	\$7,107.44	\$8,604.44	\$1,497.00
St. Joseph – Amelia:	\$3,891.65	\$3,600.65	<b>GOAL EXCEEDED!</b>
St. Joseph – Atkinson:	\$15,235.74	\$12,084.74	<b>GOAL EXCEEDED!</b>
St. Patrick – O'Neill:	\$39,320.72	\$47,022.39	\$7,701.67
<b>Cumulative goal for ALL PARISHES:</b>	<b>\$77,207.05</b>	<b>\$84,484.72</b>	<b>\$10,719.67</b>



**FEBRUARY 2,  
2025**

*The Presentation at the Temple*  
**WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE**

## WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

The World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life is Feb. 2, which is also the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Celebration of this day of prayer is Feb. 1-2, to allow parishes to highlight the gift of religious life and pray for those discerning a religious vocation.

### PRAYER FOR CONSECRATED PERSONS

*"God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as sisters, brothers, religious priests, consecrated virgins, and hermits, as well as members of Secular Institutes.*

*Renew their knowledge and love of you, and send your Holy Spirit to help them respond generously and courageously to your will. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen."*

About World Day for Consecrated Life:

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day for women and men in consecrated life. This global celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

## WORLD MARRIAGE DAY—FEBRUARY 9, 2025

World Marriage Day, the second Sunday of February, and National Marriage Week USA (February 7 – 14) are observed annually in dioceses and parishes throughout our country as an opportunity to focus on building a culture of life and love that begins with supporting and promoting marriage and the family. The theme for World Marriage Day and National Marriage Week 2025 is "Marriage: Source of Hope, Spring of Renewal, Pursue a Lasting Love."

### PRAYER FOR WORLD MARRIAGE DAY

*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.*

*World Marriage Day*



## THINGS THAT CATHOLICS NEED TO KNOW

"What really matters in life is that we return. In comparison to the love of without the love of Jesus, everything

The most extraordinary and profound anything that you can imagine. As a accept and understand this wonder-past or your sins. Jesus died to save loves you so very much that if you of salvation, He would lay down His than this, to lay down one's life for



are loved by Christ and that we love Him in Jesus, everything else is secondary. And, is useless." – Pope Saint John Paul II

truth is that God's love for you is beyond Catholic Christian, it is essential that you ful truth. God loves you regardless of your all of us from sin and spiritual death; He were the only person in need life just for you. "No one has greater love one's friends" (John 15:13).

Without accepting God's invitation to have a deep and loving relationship with Him, nothing else that you do will make much sense. First and foremost, you are loved, chosen, and called into communion with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. All that you become depends upon your willingness to accept God's grace, to enter into a love relationship with Him, and to be transformed into a more faith filled, knowledgeable, cherished, intimate, and loving member of the body of Christ, the Church.



### THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

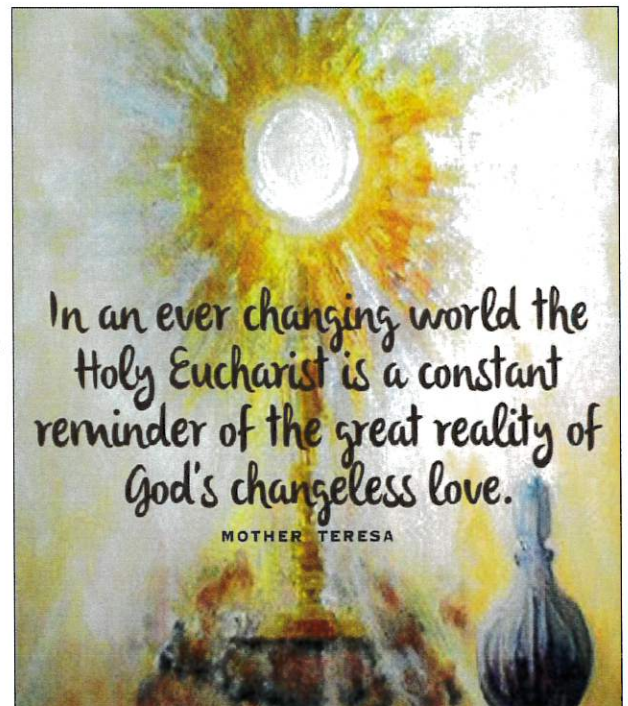
The Ten Commandments are fulfilled in Jesus' Great Commandment: "You shall love...God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength....You shall love your neighbor as yourself."  
(Mark 12:30-31)

### THE NEW COMMANDMENT

Before his death on the cross, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another."  
(John 13:34).

### THE HOLY EUCHARIST – (HOLY COMMUNION)

- 1) The bread and wine of the Eucharist becomes the true transubstantiated body and blood of Christ. It is not a mere symbol.
- 2) The Eucharist is the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ Jesus.
- 3) The reception of Holy Communion is the center of Catholic Faith.
- 4) Communion is by definition to be in union with God and with His Church, to be one in faith.
- 5) To receive Communion, a person must be a practicing Catholic in the state of grace.
- 6) Only an ordained Catholic priest, in the person of Jesus Christ, the High Priest, can transform bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ.



## First Women's Conference for our family of parishes is scheduled for Sat., Mar. 29 in Spencer

A new local, spiritual opportunity for women is being inaugurated in our family of parishes. The first annual **Spring Women's Conference**, a collaborative effort by Altar Societies in Western Holt and Boyd Catholic parishes, focuses on the theme of FORGIVENESS for others and for self. Featured speaker is Linda DeTurk of Omaha. Schedule includes time for Adoration and Reconciliation. Ann Filips came home from the Eucharistic Congress feeling called to bring an opportunity for women to grow in their faith without having to travel to the cities. She recruited Jan Kunz to help her head a committee with representation from each parish. Ideally, the conference will travel from parish to parish each year, hosted by the local Altar Society. Spencer St. Mary's is hosting this year. Each parish's Altar Society has contributed seed money for expenses, and will also donate a doorprize. Tickets for the conference are \$20 each, or a table of 6 for \$100 until Mar 20th. Cost after the 20th and at the door is \$30. Coffee and rolls will start the day at 9 am. Lunch is included, and activities will wind down by 3 pm.

Early registrations will really help the Spencer ladies know how many to plan for, so please submit yours as soon as possible. They are busy planning to make you welcome and glad you came.

**Spencer St. Mary's CYO researched, planned, and presented a prolife prayer vigil in response to the U.S. Bishops' call to remember Jan. 22nd as a day to pray for more legal protections of the unborn.**



### 66th Annual Spencer St. Mary's CYO Spaghetti Supper

Wind down at the end of your weekend with a delicious meal - let us do the cooking, serving, and cleaning!!

**Sunday, Feb 23 from 5-7 p.m.**

**St Mary's Hall in Spencer**

Free Will Offering ... We Appreciate your support!



### 3RD ANNUAL RED CARPET GALA

The highly anticipated 3rd Annual St. Mary's Red Carpet Gala will take place on March 22, 2025! Mark your calendars for an unforgettable evening, and stay tuned for more exquisite details. This elegant event welcomes all to join in a night of glamour and celebration!

### 2025 RELIGIOUS CALENDARS

We thank the O'Neill Knights of Columbus for their decision to purchase the religious calendars for all of our parishes for 2025. The order we had placed was destroyed in the explosion of the Parish Office last October. The KCs have graciously decided to order them again for all of our parishes. They should be available at all parishes to pick up.



### ST. MARY'S NEEDS PROM DECORATIONS



St. Mary's High School is asking for items for prom decorations after ours were unfortunately lost in the explosion of the Parish Center. We are looking for lights (curtain lights, string lights, fairy lights, etc.), table cloths, table runners, centerpieces, fabric/material, arches, and/or backdrops. Items used for decorating at weddings would be a great help to us! Please contact Christina Spader at [cspader@smcards.org](mailto:cspader@smcards.org) or call the high school office at 402-336-4455.

### SAFE ENVIRONMENT CERTIFICATION

February 12, 2025  
5:30 p.m.

Room 208 at St. Mary's High School

Anyone that would like to volunteer in a Catholic grade school, high school, or Religious Ed program in any capacity, MUST take this initial training.

Please sign up at:  
[omaha.cmgconnect.org](http://omaha.cmgconnect.org)

Call Jan Kunz @ 402-340-2303 if you have any questions or problems getting registered.



### LIVESTREAM OF MASSES

We are aware that the livestream for our masses is still not working. We are waiting on the Archdiocese to send out someone to look at the firewall, and hopefully we will be back up soon.