



SHARING OUR NEWS



DECEMBER 2024



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

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



Christmas Manger Prayer

*O God, whose mighty Son was born in Bethlehem
those days long ago,*

*Lead us to that same poor place,
where Mary laid her tiny Child.*

*And as we look on in wonder & praise,
make us welcome Him in all new life,
see Him in the poor,*

*and care for His handiwork the earth,
the sky and the sea.*

*O God, bless us again in your great love.
We pray for this through Christ our Lord.*

Amen.



MINISTRY OF PRAISE—A WORD FROM DEACON FILIPS

Greetings Fellow Prayer Warriors!

Ann and I recently returned from a riverboat cruise through the heart of Europe. The most beautiful and memorable things we saw were the 500–1000-year-old churches and cathedrals. I was constantly amazed at the faith of our ancestors who built such things. On a couple of occasions, other people on our tour would say something like; "It's a shame that those poor medieval peasants had to pay all that money to build this extravagant building. There was never enough time to explain the theology of beautiful churches to them and start an argument, but I want to explain it to you now.

First of all, those churches and cathedrals were not for the priests and bishops! Yes, they minister there, and they do enjoy them, but they do not own the buildings and do not pass them down in their family. Those churches belong to the people! Including me and everyone else who has their breath taken away by the beauty 1000 years later. Those dirt-poor medieval peasants who helped build those fantastic churches and cathedrals had ownership in them. They could go and have their faith built up by the most beautiful art and architecture in the world, anytime they wanted. Here was a little bit of heaven on earth that they could visit every Sunday and Holy Day.

There is a new book out called *Living in Wonder* by Rod Dreher. He talks about what he calls enchantment. Enchantment is simply having contact with the larger reality of God outside of our material world. "Reality is much more than we think it is." He also says "enchantment is not achieved by conveying information but by preparing yourself, so you are looking at the right corner of the sky when the comet comes blazing past." This comet is God, coming to meet us and raise us up to His level. Sometimes the beauty of classic churches, reverent music and liturgy, can do that. Do not become protestant and utilitarian in your worship. Don't be ashamed to be Catholic in all of the weird ways that we have. We should love our weird stained glass, and incense, vestments, rituals, rosaries, and beautiful churches and cathedrals. And always give God glory in your worship. Be weird in a Catholic way. It is what Jesus intended.

This month lets give thanks that the elections had a pro-life result. Following is the continuation of the chapter on Protestantism from my book "Pearls of the Universal Church" available from www.spiritualworkspress.com

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE PROTESTANT DOCTRINE OF SOLA SCRIPTURA

Not everything Christians believe can be detailed in the Bible. Here are some arguments against the doctrine of Sola Scriptura: The Bible says that we should not live with a person of the opposite sex without being married, but nowhere in the Bible does it say *how* to marry someone. There is no formula in the Bible; Christian marriage is a tradition handed down from the early Church. Luther and other Protestants did not reject this particular tradition. Why did they reject the Eucharistic tradition and not the marriage tradition? We don't know. The Catholic Church preserves all sacred traditions from Jesus and the Apostles.

Jesus both washed the feet of His disciples and celebrated the first Eucharist with them at the Last Supper. Why do we have the Eucharist every week and foot washing only on Holy Thursday? It is because of the tradition handed down from the Apostles who had the authority to decide the importance of weekly or daily Eucharist versus foot washing.

Why are there four gospels and not just one? Any one of them is true. Why were there twelve apostles? If God is all-powerful, he could have built His Church on one apostle or one gospel. The Christian faith is handed down as a symphony. It is not just one instrument (the Bible), but it is the symphony created by all of the writers of the Gospel, all of the traditions handed down by the Church, and the authority of the Magisterium. All of these parts create the whole of the faith, but no part can contradict any other. They all must agree. The Pope cannot wake up one day and declare that he will now ordain "women priests," or anything else that contradicts Sacred Tradition or the Bible.

Until next month . . . Deacon Roger Filips

In Loving Memory . . .

LORAIN KRUPSKI

September 15, 1930—October 28, 2024
St. Patrick—O'Neill

ROLLAND J. (ROLLIE) KUNZ

July 20, 1932—November 12, 2024
St. Boniface—Stuart

*Day by day we will let go of this loss,
but we will never let go of our love.*

**Congratulations
to the newly married . . .**

ANNE MAY & RYAN SCHNEIDER

November 26, 2024



JAYDEN STEWART & CONNOR WOOD

November 9, 2024
St. Patrick—O'Neill



Welcome to the Newly Baptized . . .

CALVIN CHRISTOPHER PODANY

Son of Ryan & Melinda Podany
October 26, 2024
St. Patrick—O'Neill

BENSON STEVE SLADEK

Son of Jonathan & Stefanie Sladek
Nov. 3, 2024
St. Joseph—Amelia

WELLS THOMAS STEPHERSON

Son of Wesley & Angela Stepherson
November 10, 2024
St. Patrick—O'Neill

HUGO FRANCIS MCVAY

Son of Nathaniel & Anastacia McVay
November 16, 2024
St. Boniface—Stuart

LEIGHTON KNOX ENDORF

Son of Spencer & Brittany Endorf
November 17, 2024
St. Patrick—O'Neill

KATIE JO MAHONY

Daughter of Mark & Jacque Mahony
November 18, 2024
St. Patrick—O'Neill



“Christmas is joy, religious joy,
and inner joy of
light and peace.”

~ Pope Francis

ST. JOSEPH—AMELIA

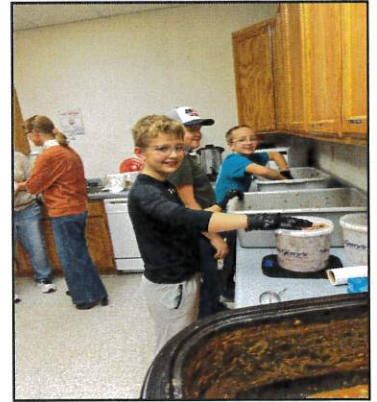
Annual Fall Dinner

November 24th

Many thanks to all those who came to support St. Joseph's at our annual Fall Dinner on November 24th. There was lots of great food, fellowship, and laughter shared throughout the day. Let's just say that no one walked away hungry!

A special thanks to The Casual Smokers for donating their time and talents and preparing the best pulled pork and cowboy beans in Central Nebraska for everyone to enjoy! We are very grateful for your support! God bless you throughout the upcoming holiday season!

THANK YOU!



PARISH OFFICE CLOSINGS

December 24—Closed

December 25—Closed

December 26—Closed

December 31—Closing at Noon

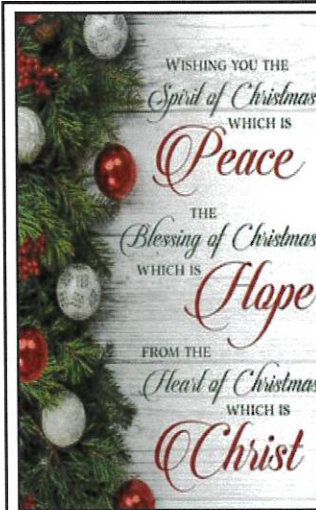
January 1—Closed

January 2—Closed

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from all the staff
at the Parish
Offices of Western
Holt & Boyd
Counties.

Blessings to
you and your
families!





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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. D
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

REMINDER

Just a reminder that end of the year donations should be postmarked or made by December 31st.



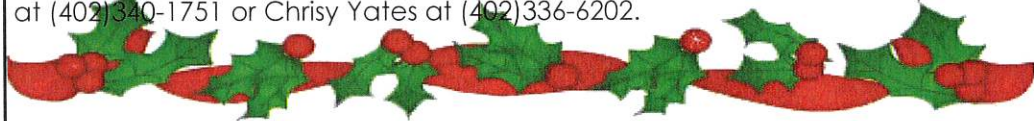
11th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CLOSET

O'Neill Community Center—Monday Dec. 16th.

Doors open at 5:30. St. Patrick's Church will offer a free soup supper, with serving to begin at 6:30. All are invited and welcome.

The Christmas Closet offers an opportunity for individuals to "shop" for a few extra Christmas gifts for others that they might not otherwise be able to give. A special area is set up where children can choose a gift for a loved one and have it beautifully wrapped. Once the youth have chosen their item, kids' activities will be available for them. Santa will also make an appearance.

For questions regarding donations or to volunteer, please contact Ranell Otte at (402)340-1751 or Chrisy Yates at (402)336-6202.



Meeting Dates:

- December 4
- December 11
- January 15
- January 22

ST. PATRICK'S YOUTH GROUP

Grades:
9-12

Meeting Place:
Basement of St. Mary's Grade School

Time:
7:00 p.m.

ST. PATRICK'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

December Schedule:

- 12/4—Regular Class
- 12/11—Regular Class—Christmas Party
- 12/18—NO CLASS
- 12/25—NO CLASS



Classes meet at St. Mary's Grade School. We are always in need of volunteers to bring snacks for our students. Reach out to Whitney if you're willing to help @ 402-340-9304.

*Festival of
Nine Lessons
& Carols*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND
6 PM
ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Presented by
O'Neill Ministerial
Association

ST. PATRICK'S CHRISTMAS DECORATION DONATIONS

Would you like to help decorate the church for Christmas? You can make a donation to purchase poinsettias or other Christmas decorations, and put them in your loved ones' honor/memory.

Envelopes are available at the church or Parish Office. Call the Parish Office for more details @ 336-1602.

Join in a weekend of faith & fellowship for young adults searching to take their relationship with Christ to the next level.

GOING
DEEPER
IN
faith

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT

DECEMBER 13-15, 2024
TINTERN RETREAT & RESOURCE CENTER
OAKDALE, NEBRASKA

Scan to Register!

Attendees must be a senior in college to 30 years of age.
All meals are provided.
\$60 fee requested.

FORMED®

Deepen Your Roots in Christ this Advent

This Advent, transform the way you prepare for Christmas by diving into *Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree*—a 25-episode series designed to help you journey through salvation history and deepen your connection to Christ. In just 7 minutes a day, explore Scripture, uncover the stories of Christ's ancestors, and experience meaningful Advent reflections that connect faith to your daily life.

Join Formed and Dr. Scott Hefelfinger as he leads us through the Jesse Tree tradition, a powerful way to reconnect with the roots of our faith! Whether you watch alone or with family, *Rooted* offers a simple and meaningful way to prepare your heart for Christ's coming at Christmas.

Celebrate Advent By Making Your Christmas Tree a Jesse Tree!

Bring the Jesse Tree tradition to life for your family with our Jesse Tree ornament coloring sheets. When you sign up to receive the *Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree* series, you'll get these coloring sheets as a special gift! Perfect for kids, these ornaments can be colored, cut out, and hung on your tree, turning each day of Advent into a special moment of reflection.

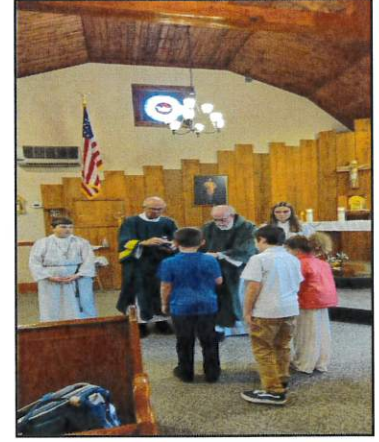
Start Your Journey

Episodes begin December 1, and daily reflections will guide you through Advent until Christmas Eve. Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your roots in Christ and rediscover the joy of Advent.

Reconnect with the Roots of Your Faith!

Visit <https://dailyformed.org/advent> or scan the QR code to sign up today!

ST. JOSEPH—AMELIA—CCD



Children's Mass on 11—10—24



On December 15th the CCD students will once again be putting together the Giving Bags that they have done the last several years. These bags are given to the elderly, people that have recently lost a spouse, or will be alone for the holiday. In previous years they have given out over 50 plus bags. These bags are filled with magazines, game books, tablets, lip balm and so much more. They are in need of homemade snacks or cookies packaged in smaller Ziplock bags. If you have anything that you would like to make, contact Maureen or Ellie Metschke to coordinate drop off or pick up, or bring them to the church the morning of the 15th.

Thank you!

Bless Your Child

One of the following short blessings may be said by the parent at various times, such as when a child is going to play or to school, but especially when the child is going to bed each night. The parent makes the sign of the cross on the child's forehead or heart and says one of the following blessings.

May God bless you.

May God keep you safe.

God be with you.

God be in your heart.

May God bless and protect you.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st—Advent 1st Sunday
- 1st—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 2nd—KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Stuart
- 4th—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Group (Various Parishes)
- 6th—Mass @ Parkside—2:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 8th—Advent 2nd Sunday
- 8th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 8th—Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass (See schedule elsewhere)
- 8th—COR Men’s Group—7:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 9th—Immaculate Conception Mass (See schedule elsewhere)
- 9th—4th Degree KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Atkinson
- 11th—Rosary—2:25 p.m.—O’Neill
- 11th—Advisory Board Meeting—5:30 p.m.—O’Neill
- 11th—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Group (Various Parishes)
- 11th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 15th—Advent 3rd Sunday
- 15th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 15th—RE Caroling & Supper—3:30 p.m.—St. Mary’s—Spencer
- 16th—Christmas Closet—6:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 18th—Rosary—2:25 p.m.—O’Neill
- 18th—Mass @ Butte Living Center—3:15 p.m.—Butte
- 18th—Religious Ed/Confirmation Classes Meet (Various Parishes)
- 18th—Pastoral Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 18th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—Spencer
- 19th—Staff Christmas Party—1:00 p.m.
- 22nd—Advent 4th Sunday
- 22nd—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 22nd—Festival of Lessons and Carols—6:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 22nd—COR Men’s Group—7:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 23rd—Altar Society Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Spencer
- 24th—26th—Parish Office Closed
- 24th—Christmas Eve Mass—See times elsewhere in newsletter
- 25th—Christmas Day Mass—See times elsewhere in newsletter
- 29th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O’Neill
- 31st—Parish Office Closes at 12:00 p.m.
- 31st—Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary—See times elsewhere in newsletter
- 31st—New Year’s Eve



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

**SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO
TUNE IN & TURN IT UP!**



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 @

jkunz@holtboydcatholic.org or
jan_kunz9@gmail.com.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Bernard Starman ~ Pastor
bgstarman@archomaha.org

Ft. Ross Burkhalter ~ Senior Associate Pastor
rcburkhalter@archomaha.org

Dcn MJ Kersenbrock ~ Director of Operations
mjkersensbrock@gmail.com

Jan Kunz ~ Director of Evangelization & Catechesis
jkunz@holtboydcatholic.org
Dcn Roger Filips
rfilips@archomaha.org

St. Patrick—O'Neill & St. Joseph—Amelia
Office: 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
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
Office: PO Box 8, Butte, NE 68722
Phone: 402-775-0067

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

Marge Nolan—mnolan@archomaha.org
Youth Minister/Religious Ed. Coordinator:
Charlotte Mitchell—
charlottehuckmitchell@gmail.com
402-336-7826

St. Joseph—Atkinson
Office: PO Box 220, Atkinson, NE 68713
Phone: 402-925-2122 Fax: 402-925-2104
Hours: Wednesday—Friday 8 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Secretary:

Gayle Jungman—stjoechurchatkinson@gmail.com
Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Brooke Farewell—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
Director of Ministries/Religious Ed. Coordinator:
Jan Kunz—jankunz9@gmail.com
402-340-2303

UPCOMING KC EVENTS

Dec. 9th
KC Blood Drive 12:00 p.m.-5:45 p.m.

Dec. 11th
Regular monthly meeting at 8 p.m.

Jan 26th
KC Stag Night at 5:00 p.m.

(ALL EVENTS HELD AT THE
KC HALL IN O'NEILL)

ST. PATRICK PARISH AUCTION THANK YOU

On behalf of St. Patrick and St. Mary's, we want to thank you for the incredible generosity that made our annual auction an incredible success this year! With the support of businesses, families, friends, we were able to raise just over . . .

\$160,000

(after expenses)

**breaking our record on how
much we have raised at the
auction!**

We thank those who spent the day with us and supported our ministries through your purchases. We say a very special thank you to our auctioneers: Ted Baum, Matt McKay, Chuck Everett; to the Auction Committee - Gert Slack, Andy Fehringer, Zach Sibbel, and Ben Doolittle; to all the solicitors & those who sold raffle tickets; to the many staff members, students, families, and parishioners for their time; to the many generous donors—friends, family, businesses; to all who attended and purchased items. We are truly blessed!

**THANK
you**



The Twelve Days of Christmas



1

A Partridge in a Pear Tree =
Jesus Christ, Son of God



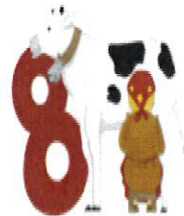
7

Swans A-Swimming =
Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- the Seven Sacraments



2

Turtle Doves =
Old and New Testaments



8

Maids A-Milking =
Eight Beatitudes



3

French Hens =
Faith, Hope and Charity
- the Theological Virtues



9

Ladies Dancing =
Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit



4

Calling Birds =
Four Gospels and Four Evangelists



10

Lords A-Leaping =
Ten Commandments



5

Golden Rings =
First Five Books of the
Old Testament - "Pentateuch"



11

Pipers Piping =
Eleven Faithful Apostles



6

Geese A-Laying =
Six Days of Creation



12

Drummers Drumming =
Twelve Articles
of the Apostle's Creed

SHBC—SS PETER & PAUL

The CCD and Confirmation youth gathered cake mixes, frosting and birthday cards on November 20th. They bundled the items up and will donate each of them to the local food banks.

They felt with people struggling with the cost of food, a birthday cake might get skipped. These bundles do not require eggs or oil, because using a can of Sprite or other soda is a great substitute!

We pray that whom ever chooses a bundle will have a very Happy and Blessed Birthday!!
~Submitted by Charlotte Mitchell



The Butte CYO has been busy this year. We decorated the sidewalks at the Boyd County Elementary School for Chalk it Up for More Tomorrows, picked pumpkins at Jim and Sandy Liewers, and sat down with Deacon Filips.

This fall we have been working through our emotions, those of God and those that are not. Deacon Filips helped us take a deeper look when he sat down with us in November. December will bring cold weather and Christmas cheer. The CYO students will be Christmas Caroling at the Butte Senior Living Center on December 4th at 7:00pm everyone is welcome to join. We will be collecting cold weather essentials at Ss. Peter and Paul's Church in Butte during the month of December. We will have a tree up to collect hats, gloves, coats, or cash donations that will be used here in Boyd County. ~Submitted by Britanie Brewster



ST. JOSEPH—ATKINSON

ALTAR SOCIETY SOUP SUPPER

Sunday
December 1, 2024
4:30—7:30 p.m.
KC Hall



SOUPER SUPPER

This is in conjunction with the Parade of Lights

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Wednesday
December 4, 2024
7:00 p.m.
St. Joseph Church



Christmas Program

Cookie reception following in the elementary school.

TACO SUPPER

Friday
December 6, 2024
4:30 p.m.
West Holt High School
BB game



Hosted by St. Joseph School Faculty

HOPE

Week 1
Candle Name: Prophet's Candle
Candle Symbolizes: Hope
Reminds Us: Jesus is coming

Verse: Romans 15:12-13

Prayer: O God, by whose word all things are sanctified, pour forth Thy blessing upon this wreath, and grant that we who use it may prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ and may receive from Thee abundant graces. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

FAITH

Week 2
Candle Name: Bethlehem Candle
Candle Symbolizes: Faith
Reminds Us: Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem

Verse: Luke 3:4-6

Prayer: O Lord, stir up our hearts that we may prepare for Thy only begotten Son, that through His coming we may be made worthy to serve Thee with pure minds. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

PEACE

Week 4
Candle Name: Angel's Candle
Candle Symbolizes: Peace
Reminds us: The message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

Verse: John 3:16-17

Prayer: O Lord, stir up Thy power, we pray Thee, and come; and with great might help us, that with the help of Thy grace, Thy merciful forgiveness may hasten what our sins impede. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.



Christ Candle
Light on Christmas Eve

Verse: John 1:29

Week 3
Candle Name: Shepherd's Candle
Candle Symbolizes: Joy
Reminds Us: The Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus

Verse: Luke 2:7-15

Prayer: O Lord, we beg Thee, incline Thy ear to our prayers and enlighten the darkness of our minds by the grace of Thy visitation. Who livest and reignest forever. Amen.

JOY

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 November 26.

Parish:	Contributions:	Goal:	Remaining:
Sacred Heart – Boyd County:	\$5,673.50	\$13,172.50	\$7,499.00
St. Boniface – Stuart:	\$5,940.44	\$8,604.44	\$2,664.00
St. Joseph – Amelia:	\$2,285.65	\$3,600.65	\$1,315.00
St. Joseph – Atkinson:	\$5,660.74	\$12,084.74	\$6,424.00
St. Patrick – O'Neill:	\$30,700.72	\$47,022.39	\$16,321.69
Cumulative goal for ALL PARISHES:	\$50,261.03	\$84,484.72	\$34,223.69

B—U—S—Y

Satan called a worldwide convention of demons. In his opening address he said, "We can't keep Christians from going to church."

"We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth."

"We can't even keep them from forming an intimate relationship with their savior."

"Once they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken."

"So let them go to their churches; let them have their covered dish dinners, but steal their time, so they don't have time to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ."

"This is what I want you to do," said the devil.

"Distract them from gaining hold of their Savior and maintaining that vital connection throughout their day."

"How shall we do this?" his demons shouted. "Keep them busy in the nonessentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy their minds," he answered. "Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, and borrow, borrow, borrow. Persuade the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work 6—7 days each week, 10—12 hours a day, so they can afford their empty lifestyles. Keep them from spending time with their children. As their families fragment, soon, their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of work! Over-stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still, small voice."

"Entice them to blare their music, call or text whenever they drive; keep the TV, gaming systems, computers and iPads going constantly in their home and see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays non-biblical music constantly. This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ. Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day and with senseless ads and inappropriate programming. Invade their driving moments with billboards. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, sweepstakes, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering free products, services and false hopes."

"Keep skinny, beautiful models on the magazines, computers, and TV so their husbands will believe that outward beauty is what's important, and they'll become dissatisfied with their wives. Keep the wives too tired to love their husbands at night. Give them headaches, too! If they don't give their husbands the love they need, they will begin to look elsewhere. That will fragment their families quickly! Give them Santa Claus to distract them from teaching their children the real meaning of Christmas. Give them an Easter bunny so they won't talk about his resurrection and power over sin and death."

"Even in their recreation, let them be excessive . . . have them return from their recreation exhausted. Keep them too busy to go out in nature and reflect on God's creation. Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, camping, and movies instead. Keep them busy, busy, busy! And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, leave with troubled consciences. Crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Jesus. Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family for the good of the cause."

"It will work!"

"It will work!"

It was quite a plan. The demons went eagerly to their assignments causing Christians everywhere to have no time to tell others about the power of Jesus to change lives. I guess the question is, has the devil been successful at his scheme? You be the judge...Does "busy" mean:

B-eing U-nder S-atan's Y-oke?

Catholics of Western Holt and Boyd Counties are Leaders in OACCW



Fr. Burkhalter, Spiritual Advisor for OACCW, installed Karen Marshall as vice president for the Rural Northwest Deanery of OACCW during their meeting in Stuart on Nov. 12.

Kim Estes of Stuart has passed the presidential gavel to Leonarda Arens. Rose Keller of Spencer is the new treasurer for the group.

Kelli Tomjack of O'Neill was a guest speaker at the November meeting.

OACCW supports, empowers, and educates Catholic women in the Archdiocese of Omaha, specifically in the areas of spirituality, service, and leadership.

OACCW awards scholarships to outstanding young women on the deanery and archdiocesan level. Wednesday, Jan. 15 is the Deadline for scholarship applications. Deanery selection of scholarship winners is in February, then all these winners are forwarded to the archdiocesan level and one overall winner is selected in March.

Prayer to Our Lady of Good Counsel

God of heavenly wisdom You have given us Mary, Mother of Jesus, to be our guide and counselor.

Grant that we may always seek her motherly help in this life and so enjoy her blessed presence in the life to come.

O Mother of Good Counsel, Patroness of the National Council of Catholic Women, intercede for us, that we may be wise, courageous and loving leaders of the Church.

Help us, dear mother, to know the mind of Jesus, your son.

May the Holy Spirit fill us with reverence for God's creation, and compassion for all God's Children.

May our labors of love on earth enhance the reign of God and may God's gifts of faith and living hope prepare us for the fullness of the world to come.

**"It is in prayer that we discover the glory of God.
And it is by living what we discover in prayer that
we become the glory of God."**

MATTHEW KELLY

2025 Nebraska

WALK FOR LIFE



Gala

January 31, 2025

GALA SPEAKER:

JIM CAVIEZEL



February 1, 2025

WALK SPEAKER:

ELIZABETH GILLETTE



Nebraska Right to Life kicks off new year with two events to celebrate and promote life

Join us the evening before the annual Nebraska Walk for Life with Guest Speaker Jim Caviezel, actor and pro-life advocate. Jim played Jesus in *The Passion of the Christ* and Tim Ballard in *Sound of Freedom*, among many other roles in his prolific acting career.

This event is a special opportunity to celebrate the preborn lives that are now protected in Nebraska's State Constitution. Our state is one of the first in the nation to defeat the abortion industry's attack on life and we are celebrating this historic victory in a huge way!

Seating is limited, so purchase tickets early! Details on Gala & Walk: (402) 438-4802 <https://nebraskarighttolife.org/.../2025-nebraska-walk.../> and on Facebook page.

Nebraska passes constitutional amendment to protect unborn babes in 2nd and 3rd trimester

Thanks to the strong values in our state, and the all-out colossal efforts of proliferators throughout the state, voters passed #434 in November's election. Of the 926,912 votes cast throughout the state, 54.94% voted to amend our state constitution to protect lives of unborn babies in 2nd and 3rd trimesters.

Closer to home, in Boyd County 1,043 total votes were cast on #434, with 83.41% for and 16.59% against. In Holt County 5,344 votes were cast, with 78.71% for and 21.29% against.

While #434 does not outlaw abortion in the 1st trimesters, it does allow current legislative restrictions to stand, and enables more to be passed by the Unicameral. According to the Nebraska Catholic Conference, "This is an incremental step toward protection for all innocent life, not a permanent solution or final compromise."

Nebraska bishops endorsed the amendment as a defensive move against the pro-abortion #439 amendment, cautioning that Catholics must still be committed to securing more protection for babies in the 1st trimester.

Amendment #439, which would have secured the right to abortion throughout pregnancy in the state constitution, did not pass statewide, or in Boyd and Holt Counties. Out of 1,044 votes cast in Boyd County, 16.86% were for and 83.14% against. Of the 5,339 votes cast in Holt County, 21.37% were for and 78.63% were against.

Voter turnout was 84.88% in Boyd County, and 78.17% in Holt County. Statewide turnout was 76.39%.

Boyd Holt Right to Life thanks the phenomenal number of volunteers who collected signatures and campaigned to protect lives during this election cycle. The magnitude of their help and sincerity of their voices were critical to stopping the effort to secure abortion as a fundamental right in Nebraska's Constitution. Continued support and effort are just as important now to expand protection to babies and moms in the first trimester.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION—Holy Day of Obligation

SUNDAY—DECEMBER 8TH

6:30 p.m. Mass at St. Mary - Spencer
7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Boniface - Stuart

*"May the feast of our Mother help us to make our whole life a "yes" to God, a "yes" made of adoration of him and of daily gestures of love and service."
~Pope Francis*



MONDAY—DECEMBER 9TH

8:10 a.m. All School Mass - O'Neill
8:15 a.m. All School Mass - Atkinson
7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Joseph - Amelia
7:00 p.m. Mass at St. Patrick - O'Neill

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

12/24—CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m.—SHBC—Ss Peter & Paul—Butte
4:00 p.m.—St. Joseph—Atkinson
6:00 p.m.—St. Boniface—Stuart
6:00 p.m.—St. Patrick—O'Neill

12/25—CHRISTMAS DAY

12:00—Midnight—St. Patrick—O'Neill
9:00 a.m.—St. Joseph—Atkinson
10:30 a.m.—St. Patrick—O'Neill
11:15 a.m.—St. Joseph—Amelia



*For unto us
a child is born
and his name
shall be called
Wonderful Counsellor
the Mighty God
the Everlasting Father
the Prince of Peace.
~ Isaiah 9:6*

SOLEMNITY OF MARY—Holy Day of Obligation

December 31—Vigil of Solemnity of Mary

5:00 p.m.—St. Boniface—Stuart
6:30 p.m.—Assumption BVM—Lynch

"By her motherhood, Mary shows us that humility and tenderness are not virtues of the weak but of the strong." ~ Pope Francis

January 1—Solemnity of Mary

9:00 a.m.—St. Joseph—Atkinson
9:00 a.m.—St. Patrick—O'Neill
11:15 a.m.—St. Joseph—Amelia



"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you . . . yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand." ~ St. Mother Teresa