



# SHARING OUR NEWS

## OCTOBER 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

THEN HE SAID TO THEM,  
"THE *harvest* TRULY IS  
GREAT, BUT THE LABORERS  
ARE *few*; THEREFORE PRAY  
THE LORD OF THE HARVEST  
TO SEND OUT LABORERS  
INTO HIS HARVEST."

LUKE 10:2







## MINISTRY OF PRAISE—A WORD FROM DEACON FILIPS

Greetings Fellow Prayer Warriors!

It is election season!

In November of 2023 out-of-state pro-abortion forces launched a constitutional “Right to Abortion” amendment that would create a fundamental right to abortions in Nebraska. It would remove any restrictions we currently have and prevent any new restrictions. Any minor girl could have an abortion without her parents’ consent up to the point the abortionist thinks the baby can live without “extraordinary medical intervention” (NICU). They say that is about 23-24 weeks, but the abortionist gets to decide if the baby can be aborted. Our bishops looked at our culture and our politics and realized that if they just told people to vote against this amendment, it would probably pass anyway, and we would lose, so they launched their own constitutional amendment called the Protect Women and Children Act which will also be on the ballot this fall.

It gets confusing because this is also a constitutional amendment, and it would still allow abortions in the first trimester or 12 weeks, and later in the case of rape or incest or medical emergencies. But it would not create a right to abortion, and most importantly it would allow the legislature to pass other laws in the future to protect women and children when we have the votes to do so. The laws we already have including informed consent, parental notification, license and inspection requirements for abortion facilities would all stay in place. The pro-abortion amendment would not allow any of this.

This is not ideal because we are still allowing some abortions, but it won't be any worse than what we have now, and it prevents doubling the cut-off from 12 to 24 weeks and allows further restrictions in the future. All 3 Nebraska bishops ask you to vote for our amendment as a good defensive move. If you are pro-life, you are now a minority, but we can put in solid protection for many babies and allow future gains.

The danger is that both amendments say they will allow abortions, and pro-life people will instinctively want to vote no on both. **Please** do not just vote no on both initiatives because the pro-abortion amendment will probably pass anyway; but if we can pass ours with more votes than theirs, our amendment will go into place and not theirs, even if it also passes. In the case of competing amendments, the bigger majority rules. I know that talking about power politics can make your head hurt but please follow Archbishop Lucas on this and vote for the Protect Women and Children Act and against the Right to Abortion act. Read them carefully and you can tell which is the bad one. The bad amendment is the one that calls abortion a fundamental right. Remember do not vote no on both or we will lose. Vote yes on the better amendment.

Think of this as what firefighters do when a grass fire or forest fire is too big to put out. They light a backfire to consume the fuel in front of the fire, so the fire burns itself out. They fight fire with fire, and it works. It will work here too. Because of the importance of explaining this critical vote, I used up all my space so there will be no catechism selection this month. As always you are invited to check out my catechism book at [www.spiritualworkspress.com](http://www.spiritualworkspress.com).

Until next month . . . Deacon Roger Filips



## In Loving Memory . . .

### BRENDA WEDIGE

July 19, 1940—September 1, 2024  
St. Joseph—Atkinson

### MAX DEAN ALBERTS

March 19, 1964—September 10, 2024  
SHBC—St. Mary's—Spencer

### GERALD "JERRY" SCHMADERER

July 11, 1936—September 13, 2024  
St. Patrick—O'Neill

### SALLY MANZER

June 2, 1950—September 14, 2024  
St. Joseph—Atkinson

### JOHN J. HURLEY

April 15, 1943—September 18, 2024  
St. Joseph—Atkinson

### ROBERT F. ZISKA

June 17, 1939—September 19, 2024  
St. Joseph—Atkinson

### MICHAEL E. MCKAY

October 18, 1942—September 19, 2024  
St. Joseph—Atkinson

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

## Welcome to the Newly Baptized...

### KEAGAN LEE BENDIG

Son of Kylie & Brianna Bendig  
September 14, 2024  
St. Joseph—Atkinson

### FRANKLIN JAMES SKOPEC

Son of Marcus & Bailey Skopec  
September 15, 2024  
St. Joseph—Atkinson

### HAYDEN LEE WALTER

Son of Bryan & Maggie Walter  
September 22, 2024  
St. Joseph—Amelia

*"You are a child of God.  
You are wonderfully made.  
Dearly loved and precious  
in His sight."*

*~ Psalm 139*



## A LOVING FAMILY

I ran into a stranger as he passed by,  
"Oh, excuse me please," was my reply.  
He said, "Please excuse me too;  
I just wasn't watching for you."  
We were very polite, this stranger and I.  
We went on our way, and we said good-bye.  
But at home, a different story is told,  
How we treat our loved ones, young and old.  
Later that day, cooking the evening meal,  
My son stood beside me, very still.  
When I turned, I nearly knocked him down.  
"Move out of the way," I said with a frown.  
He walked away, his little heart broken.  
I didn't realize how harshly I'd spoken.  
While I lay awake in bed,  
God's still small voice came to me and said,  
"While dealing with a stranger, common courtesy you use,  
But the family you love, you seem to abuse.  
Go and look on the kitchen floor;  
You'll find some flowers there by the door.  
Those are the flowers he brought for you.  
He picked them himself: pink, yellow and blue.  
He stood very quietly not to spoil the surprise;  
You never saw the tears that filled his little eyes."



By this time, I felt very small,  
And now my tears began to fall.  
I quietly went and knelt by his bed;  
"Wake up, little one, wake up," I said.  
"Are these the flowers you picked for me?"  
He smiled, "I found 'em, out by the tree.  
I picked 'em because they're pretty like you.  
I knew you'd like 'em, especially the blue."  
I said, "Son, I'm sorry for the way I acted today;  
I shouldn't have yelled at you that way."  
He said, "Mom, that's okay.  
I love you anyway."  
I said, "Son, I love you too,  
and I do like the flowers, especially the blue."  
FAMILY

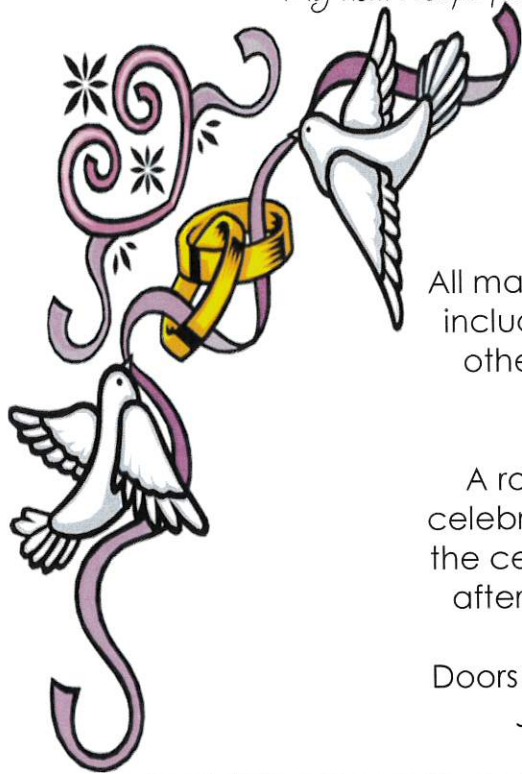
Are you aware that if we died tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of days or weeks? But the family we left behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives. And come to think of it, we pour ourselves more into work than into our own family, an unwise investment indeed, don't you think? So what is behind the story?

Do you know what the word FAMILY means?

**FAMILY = (F)ATHER (A)ND (M)OTHER (I) (L)OVE (Y)OU**



*"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me.  
My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him." ~ Psalm 28:7*



## ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL MARRIAGE CELEBRATION

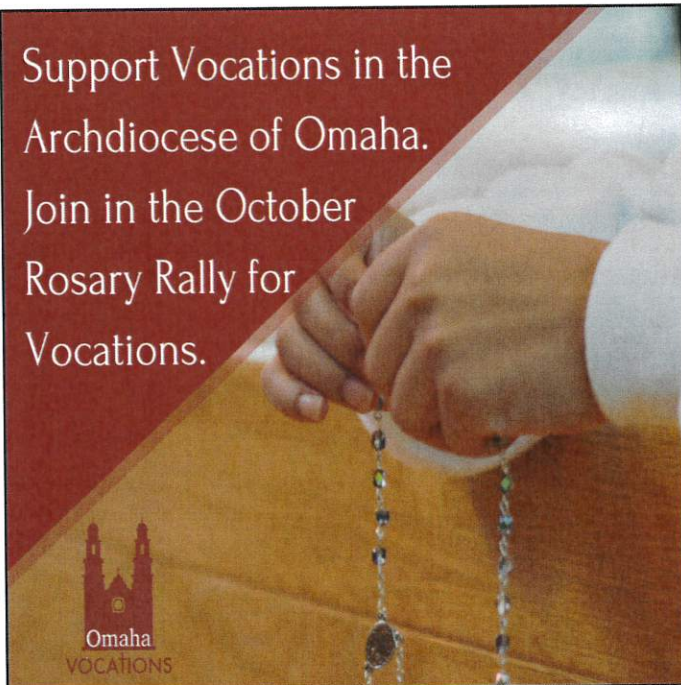
All married couples are invited to the annual marriage celebration, including the newly married, those celebrating milestone, and all other witnesses to holy matrimony. The celebration will be held **Sunday, October 20**, at St. Cecilia Cathedral.

A rosary will be offered at 2:00 p.m., and Archbishop Lucas will celebrate Mass at 2:30 p.m. There will NOT be a reception following the celebration, but Archbishop Lucas will remain in the Cathedral after Mass to take pictures with any couple who wishes to do so.

Doors to the Cathedral open at 1:45 pm. No RSVP is required. Email Jodi Phillips at [jmphillips@archomaha.org](mailto:jmphillips@archomaha.org) with questions.

### OCTOBER ROSARY RALLY FOR VOCATIONS

Support Vocations in the  
Archdiocese of Omaha.  
Join in the October  
Rosary Rally for  
Vocations.



*"There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot solve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary." ~ Sister Lucia of Fatima*

The second annual October Rosary Rally for Vocations invites Catholics to come together and pray 75,000 rosaries in support of young people discerning calls to the priesthood and consecrated life, and for an increase in vocations.

As part of the Rosary Rally, Catholics are invited to pray the rosary individually, with their families, in their small groups, at their parishes, at rosary events, or with each other via social media, asking the Blessed Mother's intercession for those discerning vocations.

Afterward they can log the number on the October Rosary Rally website at [Omahavocations.org](http://Omahavocations.org). A counter will update how many rosaries have been prayed during the rally. Rosaries can also be logged by email or by calling 402-513-8569.



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[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)

# BOYD HOLT RIGHT TO LIFE

## BAKE SALE



Wild Turkey Craft Show  
**SAT. OCT 12 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!!*

*"Take delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.." ~ Psalm 37:4*

### ST. PATRICK'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

#### October Schedule:

10/2— Regular Class

10/9— Regular Class

10/16—Regular Class

10/23—NO CLASS

10/30— Regular Class



All classes will take place at St. Mary's Elementary. 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.



## SPEEDING

Jack took a long look at his speedometer before slowing down: 73 in a 55 zone. Fourth time in as many months. How could a guy get caught so often?

When his car had slowed to 10 miles an hour, Jack pulled over, but only partially. Let the cop worry about the potential traffic hazard. Maybe some other car will tweak his backside with a mirror. The cop was stepping out of his car, the big pad in hand.

Bob? Bob from Church? Jack sunk farther into his trench coat. This was worse than the coming ticket. A cop catching a guy from his own church. A guy who happened to be a little eager to get home after a long day at the office. A guy he was about to play golf with tomorrow.

Jumping out of the car, he approached a man he saw every Sunday, a man he'd never seen in uniform.

"Hi, Bob. Fancy meeting you like this."

"Hello, Jack." No smile.

"Guess you caught me red-handed in a rush to see my wife and kids."

"Yeah, I guess." Bob seemed uncertain. Good.

"I've seen some long days at the office lately. I'm afraid I bent the rules a bit - just this once."

Jack toed at a pebble on the pavement. "Diane said something about roast beef and potatoes tonight. Know what I mean?"

"I know what you mean. I also know that you have a reputation in our precinct." Ouch. This was not going in the right direction. Time to change tactics.

"What'd you clock me at?"

"Seventy. Would you sit back in your car please?"

"Now wait a minute here, Bob. I checked as soon as I saw you. I was barely nudging 65." The lie seemed to come easier with every ticket.

"Please, Jack, in the car"

Flustered, Jack hunched himself through the still-open door. Slamming it shut, he stared at the dashboard. He was in no rush to open the window.

The minutes ticked by. Bob scribbled away on the pad.

Why hadn't he asked for a driver's license?

Whatever the reason, it would be a month of Sundays before Jack ever sat near this cop again. A tap on the door jerked his head to the left. There was Bob, a folded paper in hand. Jack rolled down the window a mere two inches, just enough room for Bob to pass him the slip.

"Thanks." Jack could not quite keep the sneer out of his voice.

Bob returned to his police car without a word. Jack watched his retreat in the mirror. Jack unfolded the sheet of paper. How much was this one going to cost?

Wait a minute. What was this? Some kind of joke?

Certainly not a ticket. Jack began to read:

"Dear Jack,

*Once upon a time, I had a daughter. She was six when killed by a car. You guessed it - a speeding driver. A fine and three months in jail, and the man was free. Free to hug his daughters, all three of them. I had only one, and I'm going to have to wait until Heaven before I can ever hug her again.*

*A thousand times I've tried to forgive that man. A thousand times I thought I had. Maybe I did, but I need to do it again. Even now. Pray for me. And be careful, Jack, my son is all I have left.*

-Bob"

Jack turned around in time to see Bob's car pull away and head down the road. Jack watched until it disappeared. A full 15 minutes later, he too, pulled away and drove slowly home, praying for forgiveness and hugging a surprised wife and kids when he arrived.



## MORE FACTS MOST CATHOLICS DON'T KNOW (BUT SHOULD)

**1. In Vitro Fertilization Is Morally Unacceptable** – Many Catholics suffering from infertility utilize this process in the hopes of conceiving children, while remaining unaware that the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) declares it “morally unacceptable”(CCC 2377). In the Vatican Instruction, *Donum Vitae*, the Church states “...in conformity with the traditional doctrine relating to the goods of marriage and the dignity of the person, the Church remains opposed from the moral point of view to homologous ‘in vitro’ fertilization. Such fertilization is in itself illicit and in opposition to the dignity of procreation and of the conjugal union, even when everything is done to avoid the death of the human embryo.”

**2. There Is No Salvation Outside Of The Catholic Church** – Originally stated by St. Cyprian, the Latin axiom “Extra Ecclesiam nulla salus” reminds us that there is no salvation outside of the Catholic Church. This dogma was declared at the Fourth Lateran Council and is a source of confusion for Catholics and non-Catholics alike. According to the Catechism, all salvation comes from Christ the Head through the Church which is His Body. It does not mean that non-Catholics cannot achieve salvation. Individuals who are unaware that the Catholic Church is the one, true Church may still achieve salvation through the merits of the Church, despite their lack of knowledge.

**3. In An Emergency, Anyone Can Baptize** – Although the ordinary ministers of Baptism are bishops, priests and deacons, anyone can baptize in an emergency, even a non-baptized person. This extraordinary decision can be attributed to the necessity of Baptism for salvation and the Church's desire to make it readily available to all.

**4. Hell And Purgatory Still Exist** – Contrary to the belief of many Catholics, the Church still teaches that “the souls of those who die in a state of mortal sin, descend into hell, where they suffer the punishments of hell, eternal fire” (CCC 1035) Furthermore, “all who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation, but after death they undergo purification, so to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.” (CCC 1030) This purification process, formally declared by the Church at the Councils of Florence and Trent, is known as Purgatory.

**5. Catholics Don't Worship Mary And The Saints** – Many Catholics are confused about the role of the Blessed Mother and the Saints. Should we pray to Mary and the Saints or should we go “right to the top” and pray to God? In a nutshell, the Catholic Faith teaches that we must worship God alone. Mary and the Saints are to be honored, not worshipped. However, their intercession can be extremely powerful and emulating their virtues can put us on the road to Heaven.



# OCTOBER

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 1st—Catholic Daughters Mtg—7:00 p.m.—Evergreen/O'Neill
- 2nd—Religious Ed/Confirmation Classes Meet (Various Parishes)
- 3rd—Ss Peter & Paul CCW Mtg—7:00 p.m.—Butte
- 4th—Mass @ Parkside—2:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 6th—Life Chain—1:30 p.m.—O'Neill
- 6th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
- 6th—COR Men's Group—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill
- 7th—Reach More Training Group—6:30 p.m.—O'Neill
- 7th—KC Mtg—7:30 p.m.—Stuart
- 8th—Mass @ Good Sam—10:00 a.m.—Atkinson
- 9th—Rosary—2:25 p.m.—O'Neill
- 9th—Advisory Board Mtg—5:30 p.m.—O'Neill
- 9th—Religious Ed/Confirmation Classes Meet (Various Parishes)
- 9th—Heart of a Child Ministries—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill
- 9th—KC Mtg—8:00 p.m.—O'Neill
- 10th—Altar Society Mtg—6:30 p.m.—O'Neill (SMC)
- 12th—KC Tootsie Roll Drive
- 13th—KC Tootsie Roll Drive
- 13th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
- 14th—Christian Mothers Mtg—6:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 14th—Reach More Training Group—6:30 p.m.—O'Neill
- 14th—4th Degree KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—O'Neill
- 16th—Rosary—2:25 p.m.—O'Neill
- 16th—Mass @ Butte Senior Living Center—3:15 p.m.—Butte
- 16th—Religious Ed/Confirmation Classes Meet (Various Parishes)
- 16th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—Spencer
- 20th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
- 20th—COR Men's Group—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill
- 21st—Reach More Training—6:30 p.m.—O'Neill
- 23rd—Rosary—2:25 p.m.—O'Neill
- 23rd—Religious Ed/Confirmation Classes Meet (Various Parishes)
- 24th—O'Neill Community Blood Drive—2:30 p.m.
- 24th—Ladies Guild—2:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 26th/27th—Holy Land Olive Art
- 27th—Fall Festival—11:00-2:00 p.m.—Spencer
- 27th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
- 28th—Reach More Training Group—6:30 p.m.—O'Neill
- 28th—Altar Society Meeting—7:30 p.m.—Spencer
- 30th—Rosary—2:25 p.m.—O'Neill
- 30th—Religious Ed/Confirmation Classes Meet (Various Parishes)

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

## Prayer For October

Heavenly Father, as October unfolds with its vibrant colors and crisp air, we're reminded of

Your ever-changing yet constant hand in creation. As the trees release their leaves, help us let go of burdens and trust in Your perfect timing.

Protect and guide our loved ones this month. In every challenge, draw us closer to You, strengthening our faith. As we celebrate the season of harvest, inspire in us a spirit of generosity and gratitude.

Lord, in the quiet of this month, speak to our hearts and remind us of Your unwavering love. With gratitude for Your many blessings, we trust in Your plans and promises for us.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The newsletter will be 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](mailto:jkunz@holtboydcatholic.org) or [jankunz9@gmail.com](mailto:jankunz9@gmail.com).

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**



## CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Bernard Starman ~ Pastor  
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Fr. Ross Burkhalter ~ Senior Associate Pastor  
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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 Scholes—[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:  
Linda Wolf—[stjohnsdr@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsdr@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

## OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH



## RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY— OCT. 6, 2024



Sunday,  
October 6th

You can help protect unborn children and their mothers so they don't have to resort to abortion.

Defend life and liberty with your prayer and witness.

Registration starts at 1:30 at the corner of 3rd and Douglas.

After registering, participants will pick up their signs then line both sides of Douglas Street to witness in silent prayer from 2:00 - 3:00.



Come pray for our nation, that life and liberty will be protected in our hearts, laws, court decisions, and presidential actions.

"Heavenly Father, your cosmic gaze focused on dust and you fashioned in your image and likeness every man and woman: give us, we beg you, a keen eye to recognize that image so that respect for all human life becomes our way of life. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



# 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/>.

<sup>1</sup> 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)

<sup>2</sup> *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)

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

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**UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS**  
Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities | [usccb.org/prolife](https://usccb.org/prolife)



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# WHY VOTE AGAINST 439?

EXTREME ABORTION INITIATIVE

**INITIATIVE 439**, pushed by pro-abortion activists, will cement unregulated late-pregnancy abortion in the Nebraska Constitution, funded by taxpayers.



## IT'S UNSAFE.

- ✗ Fifty years of common-sense protections against coerced abortions will be eliminated.
- ✗ Late-pregnancy abortion will be cemented in our constitution, exposing women and girls to significant health and safety risks.
- ✗ Widely supported laws requiring informed consent before abortions & basic safety inspections of clinics will be eliminated.

## IT'S UNREGULATED.

- ✗ Purposefully vague and abstract terms will drastically expand abortions in Nebraska.
- ✗ Abortion clinic employees will manipulate "viability," putting healthy babies in the second and third trimesters at risk.
- ✗ Babies who need time in the NICU will be labeled as non-viable by abortion clinic employees, and will be aborted.

## IT'S UN-NEBRASKAN.

- ✗ The abortion industry makes women feel afraid and alone, subtly coercing them into abortions, while family, friends, and fellow Nebraskans offer compassion and care throughout pregnancy and beyond.
- ✗ Out-of-state special interest groups and America's largest abortion corporation are funding Initiative 439. They stand to profit from increased abortions in Nebraska.
- ✗ Unregulated abortion will allow businesses to push abortions on employees instead of creating family-friendly workplace accommodations.

 **VOTE AGAINST 439**  
UNSAFE. UNREGULATED. UN-NEBRASKAN.



VOTEAGAINST439.COM



# CONVERSATION STARTER GUIDE

*Bringing Up the Pro-Abortion Ballot Initiative*



## 6-STEP METHOD CONVERSATION EXAMPLE

Starter, Current Law, Deceiving, Dangerous, Demeaning, Action

### Step 1: Conversation Starter

"I was at an event recently and they were telling us about this new abortion constitutional amendment they're trying to pass in Nebraska. Have you heard about this?"

### Step 3: Explain Amendment (Deceiving)

"A group is trying to pass an amendment that will legalize abortion late into pregnancy, even after a baby feels pain. They're saying it's until "viability" but it's written as "viability without medical intervention" like the NICU. So in other words, abortion would be legal into the second and even third trimester."

### Step 5: Explain Motive (Demeaning)

"The abortion clinics are trying to get this passed because they can make more money with no-regulations, but this will be really bad for women and girls if it does pass."

### Step 2: Explain Current Laws

"In our current Nebraska laws, abortion is legal in the first trimester, with exceptions for rape, incest and life of the mother later into pregnancy."

### Step 4: Explain Why It's Bad (Dangerous)

"Most abortions are in the first trimester, so all this amendment is really going to do is wipe out all the commonsense health and safety regulations on abortion clinics, like licensing, inspections and informed consent."

### Step 6: Call to Action

"If someone asks you to support the abortion constitutional amendment, I wouldn't. If you see it on the ballot, make sure you vote "against" it. And if you can, tell other people about it because I don't think enough people are talking about dangerous proposal."



*Learn more at*  
***NEcatholic.org***







# HEART OF A CHILD MINISTRIES

heartofachildministries.org

## Celebration of Life 2-Day Family Event

October 9-10, 2024

O'Neill St. Mary's School | 300 N. 4th St., O'Neill, NE 68763

Hosted by Boyd Holt Right to Life and Their Underwriters

For All Ages and All Christians!

### Wednesday, October 9th

7 PM - Family-friendly live ultrasound presentation in the gym where all ages see a real baby in the womb on the big screen, hear Scripture and fun fetal facts.

7:30-8 PM - Two different options:

- K-3rd grade and their families - make **Celebration of Life** bags in Parish Hall
- 4th grade and up - stay in the gym to hear beautiful adoption story by Heart of a Child Ministries founder Nikki Schaefer

8-8:30 PM - Middle school and up will witness the powerful story of Sarah Howarth. From being at a Planned Parenthood, homeless, pregnant, and ready to choose abortion to instead having the courage to walk out, find a maternity home, and choose life, Sarah shares about her amazing, life-changing choice and the gift that her son, Jude, has been in her life.



Maci Binder and Molly Fry, Sonographers



Nikki Schaefer,  
Founder



Sarah Howarth,  
Speaker

### Thursday, October 10th

St. Mary's School will offer four age-appropriate presentations. Contact Jeanie Miller at 402.340.5087 for the schedule and details.

- K-3rd
- 4-6th
- 7-8th
- 9-12th

Friends,  
parents and  
grandparents  
welcomed and  
encouraged to  
attend.

View  presentation trailers here:



heartofachildministries.org/presentations/



PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

# Parish Auction

## ST. JOSEPH CHURCH



10:00 AM  
LUNCH 11:00 AM  
FIREWOOD 2:00 PM



COMMUNITY CENTER  
206 W 5TH STREET  
ATKINSON, NE



### RAFFLE

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

Hiboy P6 Fat Tire Electric Bike | Half Beef  
Ninja SLUSHi™ Professional Frozen Drink Maker

Raffle tickets can be purchased at St Joseph Rectory or from  
Ben (402 336 6369) & Cheleigh (402 340.1929) Sholes  
Need not be present to win.



### ST. PATRICK MASS TIME CHANGES



Please note that there will be **NO MASS** at St. Patrick's on **Tuesday, October 1st** or **Wednesday October 2nd**. There will be a **communion service at 7 am on Thursday, October 3rd** and **all school Mass on Friday, October 4th at 8:10 am**. We apologize in advance for any confusion.



### ST. PATRICK AUCTION—NOVEMBER 3RD



St. Patrick's Fall Auction will be held at the O'Neill Community Center on Sunday November 3rd, 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, new 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

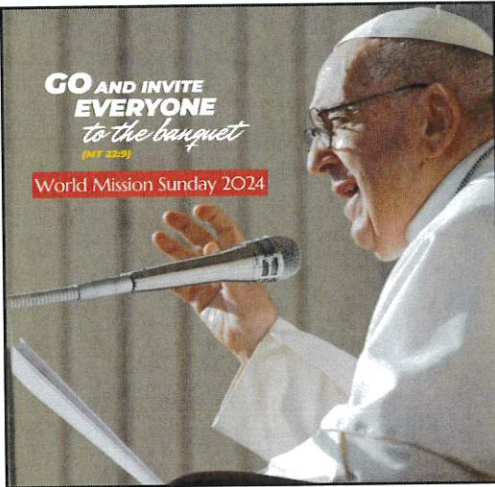
anywhere from \$110,000 to \$140,000 in recent years, providing a major source of income for our operating budget. It takes many people to make such a big event happen.

One of the NEW things this year is that we are creating some 'grab bag' options for children and we need your help! We are looking for new or VERY, VERY gently used children's items that would be fun for them to find in a grab bag. Anything from matchbox cars to colors and coloring books to games to playdoh — we will be mixing & matching them into bags of various sizes for the auction. We ask that you drop these by the Parish Office by October 21st. PLEASE call Jennifer with any ideas/suggestions in this area!

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, vehicles, corn, hay, etc. **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.**

There will be a pledge form in the bulletin in coming weeks. Please return it to the parish office or fill out ONLINE at [holtboydcatholic.org/SPAuctionDonation](http://holtboydcatholic.org/SPAuctionDonation). **If you would like your item on the Sale Bill, your commitment must be in by October 18th. We also like to list our donors on a program, but we must have all those names by October 31st in order to complete the program in time.**





## WORLD MISSION SUNDAY—OCTOBER 20, 2024

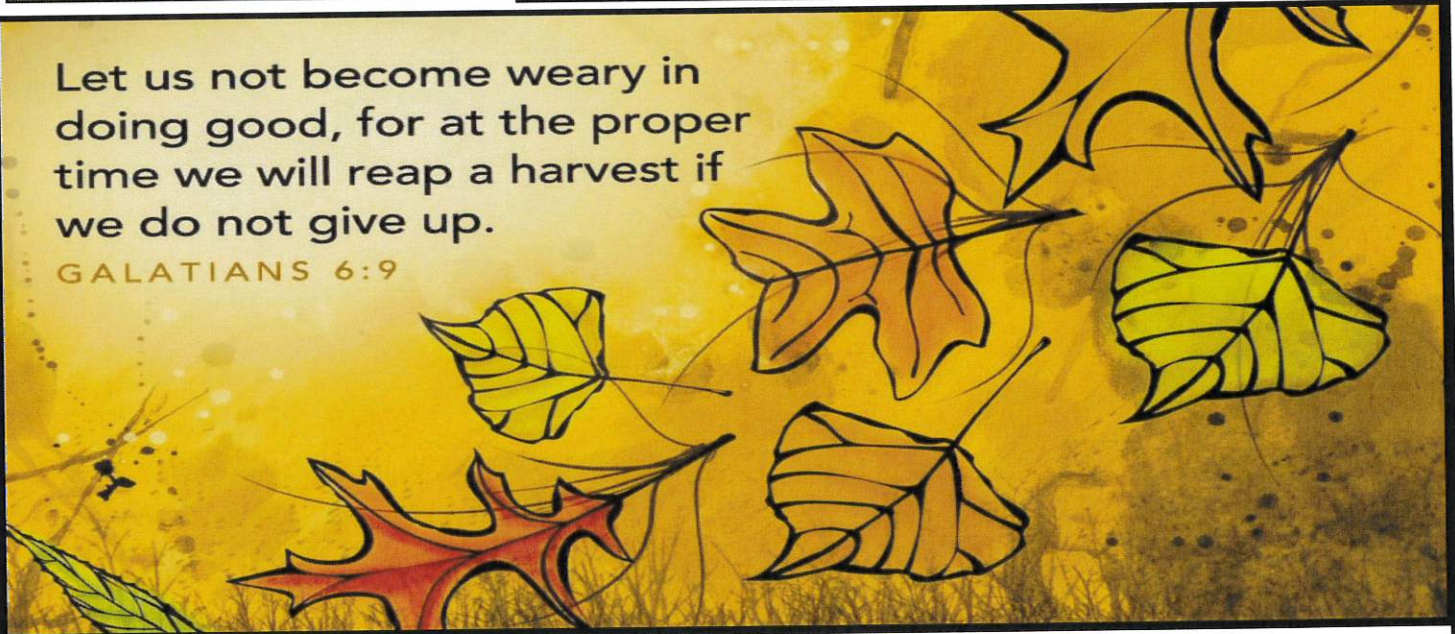
Always celebrated on the second to last Sunday of October, this year it will be marked on October 20th. World Mission Sunday is a special day that unites Catholics worldwide in prayer, solidarity, and support for the Church's mission efforts. This year's theme, chosen by Pope Francis, is rooted in the Gospel of Matthew:

**“Go and Invite Everyone to the Banquet,”**

reflecting the inclusive and urgent call to bring God's love to everyone. Join us in this universal mission to spread the Gospel and invite all to experience the joy of Christ's message!

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

GALATIANS 6:9



## 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 goals for each of our parishes.

Parish:	Participation Goal:	Goal:
Sacred Heart – Boyd County:	54%	\$13,172.50
St. Boniface – Stuart:	39%	\$8,604.44
St. Joseph – Amelia:	54%	\$3,600.65
St. Joseph – Atkinson:	29%	\$12,084.74
St. Patrick – O'Neill:	41%	\$47,022.39
<b>Cumulative goal for ALL PARISHES:</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>\$84,484.72</b>