



# SHARING OUR NEWS

## MARCH 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

#### MASS SCHEDULES

#### 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

#### 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 MARCH

Dear Lord,

As we welcome March, I come to You with hope and gratitude.

In this season of renewal, guide my steps and fill my heart with Your light.

Bless this month, Lord. Help me embrace its changes and find peace in Your wisdom.

Watch over my family and loved ones, providing for our needs and strengthening our bonds.

Give me strength to face challenges with courage, trusting in Your goodness.

Be with those who are struggling, offering them comfort and healing.

As nature awakens, fill me with joy and thankful spirit.

Let me appreciate daily blessings and find beauty in simplicity.

Guide me to be kind and supportive to those around me.

Draw me closer to You, Lord, renewing my spirit and deepening my understanding of Your word.

In Your name, I pray.

Amen.



## MINISTRY OF PRAISE—A WORD FROM DEACON FILIPS

Greetings Fellow Prayer Warriors!

Today let's talk about marriage. Wedding imagery helps us to understand another dimension of our relationship with God. Jesus is the bridegroom, and He wants to marry us so we can become one flesh with him. What does it mean to marry God? Is this just some crazy mystical Catholic theology that no one really understands?

Let's make it understandable by starting from the beginning; Marriage is a vocation. The definition of a vocation is the method God has in mind to make you holy and get you to heaven. A vocation of marriage means that God will teach you about His love by having you practice it with another person first. A religious vocation means God wants you to skip ahead and learn love to Him directly, without the intermediate step of learning love with a spouse first.

But we need to define love here: Married people are not called to just romantic love or erotic love. Romantic and erotic love is the frosting on the cake, but you cannot build a lasting marriage on this. It always fades with time or the stresses of marriage. A lasting marriage needs to be built on what the Greeks called agape love, or self-sacrificial love in English. Agape love is a really big thing. It is harder than romantic love, and we need a good role model to show us how to do it. Where can we look to see the perfect example of agape love? The cross. Christ crucified. Jesus willingly laid down his life for us, his friends. This is our model for true, self-sacrificial love for marriage, not popular romance.

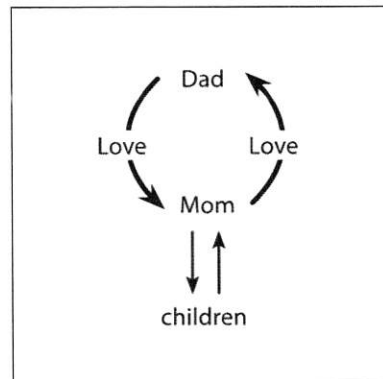
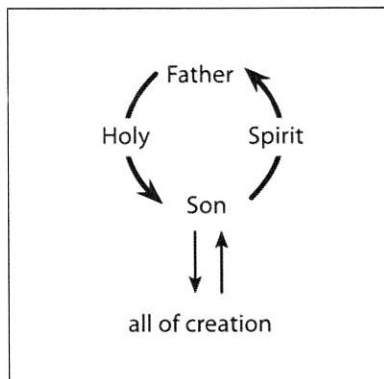
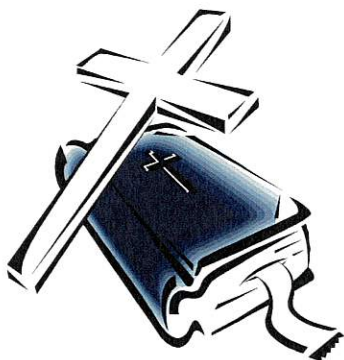
We know as humans that we are made in the image and likeness of God. We also know from St. Paul and St. John Paul II that Christian marriage is the image and likeness of the Trinity. So earthly marriage can teach us about heavenly marriage. Your family should be a model or reflection of the Holy Trinity, of God himself. Conversely, we can learn about what marriage is, by looking at the trinity. The model works both ways. That is why the church cannot change the definition of marriage, because that would change our understanding of God and reality itself.

It will be a party when we get to heaven, and we will all experience the love that we were built for. Infinite and perfect and everlasting, spousal love. When our bridegroom takes us home.

Following is an excerpt from my book "Pearls of the Universal Church" [www.spiritualworkspress.com](http://www.spiritualworkspress.com) showing how human marriage resembles the Holy Trinity. Let's all pray for the restoration of our country through the restoration of the family.

We can only discover our true selves by loving as Christ loved. Although love is spiritual, it is expressed through the body. Jesus had to give up his body to show how much he loved us, and the body of husband and wife are given in total self-donation to each other in marriage.

The purpose of life is to love as God loves, and this is what our body (as a man or woman) is meant for. The husband and wife's bodies are a gift to each other, and normally this love bond leads to the creation of new life, just as from the mutual love of the Father and Son proceeds the Holy Spirit and all of creation.



Until next month . . . Deacon Roger Filips

**In Loving Memory . . .**

**ALLEN R. TOOKER**

December 9, 1951—January 22, 2025  
St. Joseph—Atkinson

**DARRIN WEDIGE**

December 23, 1964—January 23, 2025  
St. Joseph—Atkinson

**TERRY TOMJACK**

March 21, 1946—January 24, 2025  
St. Patrick—O'Neill

**LAWRENCE "LEE" OBERMIRE**

October 23, 1957—January 25, 2025  
SHBC—Ss. Peter & Paul—Butte

**JOAN EL-KHATIB**

August 9, 1936—January 30, 2025  
St. Patrick—O'Neill

**MARY LOU CLARK**

February 12, 1930—February 4, 2025  
St. Patrick—O'Neill

**STEVEN LAWRENCE BINKERD**

January 4, 1984—February 12, 2025  
St. Patrick—O'Neill

**DEAN L. OBERMIRE**

January 21, 1939—February 14, 2025  
St. Joseph—Atkinson

**Welcome to the Newly Baptized . . .**

**CODY DEAN TOMJACK**

Son of Bradley & Heather Tomjack  
January 25, 2025  
St. Patrick—O'Neill

**KOLLYNS LEA ROSS**

Daughter of Caleb & Sidney Ross  
January 31, 2025  
St. Patrick—O'Neill

**COLETTE MEI PAYNE**

Daughter of Joshua & Kelci Payne  
January 31, 2025  
St. Patrick—O'Neill

**COLESON MICHAEL REIMAN**

Son of Trev & Gloria Reiman  
February 8, 2025  
SHBC—Ss. Peter & Paul—Butte

**MAGGIE ANN SHOOK**

Daughter of Jeff & Katie Shook  
February 15, 2025  
St. Patrick—O'Neill

**ARDEN DELORES AHLERS**

Daughter of Henry & Kelsey Ahlers  
February 15, 2025  
SHBC—Assumption BVM

**LANNON RIES STRACKE**

Daughter of Andrew & Chelsea Stracke  
February 16, 2025  
St. Patrick—O'Neill

***Be strong and courageous. ~ Joshua 1:9***

**I'VE LEARNED . . .**

That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

That money doesn't buy class.

That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

That love, not time, heals all wounds.

That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

That I wish I could have told those I cared about that I love them one more time before they passed away.

That one should keep his words both soft and tender because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

That I can't choose how I feel, but I can choose what I do about it.

That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

That the less time I have to work, the more things I get done.

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

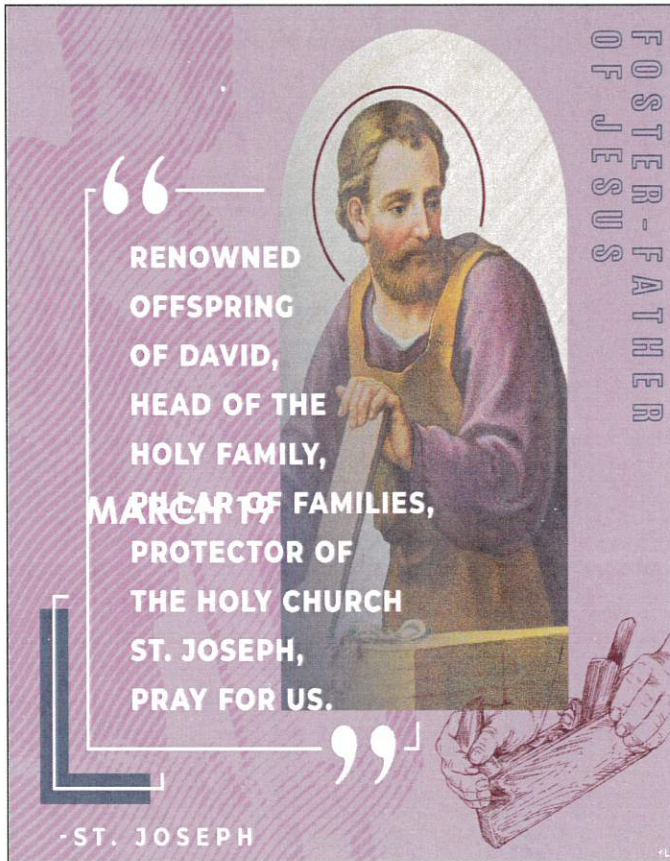
\$30 at the door. Limited spots available.

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



**OVER 1900 YEAR OLD PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH**

"Oh, St. Joseph whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interest and all my desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your Heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls, Pray for us."



**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)

**MOST POWERFUL PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH**

This most ancient prayer to our spiritual father, St. Joseph, was discovered in the year 50 A.D. The more specific promises that have come to be attached to this prayer are: a special protection from sudden death by drowning, burning or poison, and victory in battle (the battle of life). It may be used as a Novena Prayer for nine successive days for your own personal intentions. If you say this prayer for nine mornings, it has never been known to fail. So, be sure you really want what you ask for!

**ST. PATRICK'S YOUTH GROUP**

**Meeting Dates:**

March 19  
March 26

**Grades:**

9-12

**Meeting Place:**

Basement of St. Mary's Commons

**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:**

March 19

March 26

**KC PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

St. Mary's Parish Hall  
Spencer

**MARCH 23**

Following 8:00 a.m. Mass

JOIN US!



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE THIRD ANNUAL



Red Carpet  
**Gala**  
ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**Saturday, March 22, 2025**

5pm - Registration & cocktail hour

6pm - Dinner, program with auction, and dancing to follow

We are actively seeking underwriters, sponsors, and auction donations to ensure the continued success of this event. If you are interested in contributing, please reach out to a committee member listed below or visit our website for further information. Tickets are also on sale at the Parish Center. We sincerely appreciate your generosity!

Brittany Boyle	Deb Kelly	Molly Krotter	Chelsea McIntosh	Carol Sibbel
402-394-1079	402-340-6378	402-340-9367	402-740-1709	402-340-2408

For more information:

<https://events.handbid.com/lp/2025-red-carpet-gala>



# ST. PATRICK'S COIN & CURRENCY AUCTION

DONATED BY JOE, FRANK & MARY FIALA ESTATE

**SUNDAY  
MARCH 16, 2025**



**1:00 PM  
O'NEILL KC HALL**

#### CURRENCY:

\$1, \$5, \$10 SILVER CERTIFICATES (1928-1953)  
\$2, \$5, \$20, & \$50 BILLS (1928-1953)

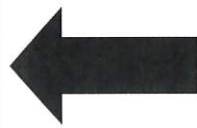
#### COINS:

SILVER DOLLARS, HALF DOLLARS, QUARTERS, DIMES (1828-1948)  
DIMES (1828-1948) NICKELS (1920-1947) PENNIES (1891-1906)

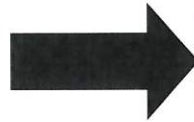


FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT WANSER AUCTION  
402-336-1153

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH, O'NEILL



MARK  
YOUR  
CALENDARS  
FOR  
THESE  
UPCOMING  
EVENTS



# COME TO ME HEALING RETREAT



Join us for this half-day healing retreat offered by the Archdiocese of Omaha for all who long for healing of past hurts and want to reclaim their identity as a son or daughter of the Father.

## COME TO ME 2025 HEALING RETREAT

Saturday, March 29, 2025

12:30 pm - 5:00 pm

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Center  
5419 N. 114 Street • Omaha, NE 68164

REGISTER BY  
MARCH 21, 2025

[bit.ly/3EmRbxj](https://bit.ly/3EmRbxj)



For more information, contact the Victim Outreach and Prevention Office: 402.827.3798

Fellowship will be offered after the retreat • Mass counts for Sunday obligation.

Archbishop George Lucas will offer the opening prayer.

Deacon Tim McNeil will provide formation on God's gift of restoration and mercy through a relationship with the Person of Jesus Christ. There will also be time for personal reflection and prayer.

Fr. Andy Sohm will offer Reconciliation, Sacrament of Healing, and Mass to embrace the graces of His merciful love for us!



Archdiocese  
of Omaha

## WHAT SHOULD I GIVE UP FOR LENT? MEAT? SWEETS? CHOCOLATE? ICE CREAM? BEVERAGES?

Many of us try to be more disciplined for Lent and give up something that we really like. That's great! Fasting has always been an important tradition of Lent. This year however, let us also consider other things that we can give up.

### \*Give up complaining\* – Focus on gratitude

Philippians 2:14-15 – Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure.  
1 Thessalonians 5:18 – Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ.

### \*Give up bitterness\* – Turn to forgiveness

Ephesians 4:31 – Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.  
Ephesians 4:32 – Be kind and compassionate to one another forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

### \*Give up worry\* – Trust in God

Matthew 6:25 – "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life... who by worrying can add a single hour to his life?"

Matthew 6:33 – But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

### \*Give up discouragement\* – Be full of hope

Deuteronomy 31:8 – The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you or forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Isaiah 40:31 – But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

### \*Give up hatred\* – Return good for evil

1 John 2:9 – Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.  
Luke 6:27 – "But I tell you who hear me; Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."

### \*Give up anger\* – Be more patient

Matthew 5:22 – But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment.  
Proverbs 15:18 – A hot tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel.

### \*Give up gossiping\* – Control your tongue

Psalms 34:13 – Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking lies.  
Proverbs 21:23 – He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity.

Source: <https://www.witandwisdomstories.com/lent/>



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- 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—ASH WEDNESDAY— (See Mass times elsewhere in newsletter)
- 6th—Ss Peter & Paul CCW Mtg—7:00 p.m.—Butte
- 7th—Mass @ Parkside Manor—2:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 7th—Area KC Fish Frys (See times and places elsewhere in newsletter)
- 8th/9th—Black & Indian Missions Special Collections
- 9th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
- 10th—4th Degree KC Meeting—7:30 p.m.—O'Neill
- 11th—Mass @ Good Sam—10:00 a.m.—Atkinson
- 11th—Parish Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Atkinson
- 12th—Stations of the Cross—2:25 p.m.—O'Neill
- 12th—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Group (Various Parishes)
- 12th—KC Meeting—8:00 p.m.—O'Neill
- 14th—Area KC Fish Frys (See times and places elsewhere in newsletter)
- 16th—Wanser Coin & Currency Sale—1:00 p.m.—O'Neill
- 16th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
- 16th—COR Men's Group—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill
- 18th—Parish Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 19th—Stations of the Cross—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—KC Meeting—Spencer
- 20th—Reach More Leader Huddle—6:30 p.m.—O'Neill
- 21st—Area KC Fish Frys (See times and places elsewhere in newsletter)
- 22nd—2025 Red Carpet Gala—O'Neill
- 23rd—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
- 26th—Stations of the Cross—2:25 p.m.—O'Neill
- 26th—Religious Ed/Confirmation/Youth Group (Various Parishes)
- 26th—Finance Council Meeting—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill
- 27th—Ladies Guild—2:00 p.m.—Stuart
- 28th—Area KC Fish Frys (See times and places elsewhere in newsletter)
- 29th—CPWHBC Women's Conference—9:00 a.m.—Spencer
- 30th—Divine Mercy Chaplet/Rosary—3:00 p.m.—O'Neill
- 30th—COR Men's Group—7:00 p.m.—O'Neill



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

Daylight Savings  
Time Begins

**MARCH 9**

Move your clocks  
ahead 1 hour!



**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 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  
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Dcn Roger Filips  
[rfilips@archomaha.org](mailto: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](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



"May the strength of God pilot us,  
may the wisdom of God instruct us,  
may the hand of God protect us,  
may the word of God direct us.  
Be always ours this day and for evermore."

~St. Patrick

MAY YOUR TROUBLES  
☘ BE LESS ☘  
and your  
Blessings  
be MORE.....

AND NOTHING BUT  
HAPPINESS  
come through your  
☘ >>> door

IRISH BLESSING



Spencer St. Mary's CYO continued their long standing tradition of making and delivering Valentines to parishioners who have lost their Sweetheart ... 2025 theme was *Have A Sweet and Chappy Valentine's Day*. Each Valentine included sweet treats and a chap stick, and was personally delivered by a member of CYO.



## *Nebraska Catholic Conference advocates in the Unicameral for the public policy priorities of the Catholic Church*

The Nebraska Catholic Conference has taken positions on around 50 legislative bills during the 2025 legislative session. Areas of Advocacy are listed below. To learn more about the 2025 bills, as well as the 'why' behind the NCC positions, go to [necatholic.org](http://necatholic.org), and click on the Legislative Bill Tracker. The Bill Tracker is kept current as bills move through the legislative process, so check back often.



119

### AREAS OF ADVOCACY

*The Nebraska Catholic Conference is helping shape Nebraska's future! Explore some of the key issues we champion on behalf of the Catholic Church. Together, let's make a lasting impact.*

#### LIFE & HUMAN DIGNITY

Advancing the right to life, support for pregnant women, religious freedom, and a true and person-centered bioethics.



#### MARRIAGE & FAMILY

Upholding the sanctity of marriage, family life, parents' and children's rights, and healthy human sexuality.



#### EDUCATION

Supporting Catholic schools, school choice, and just education policies that benefit both students and staff.



#### SOCIAL & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Promoting economic justice, restorative justice, welcoming immigrants and refugees, and combatting human trafficking.



#### CHURCH AS INSTITUTION

Strengthening the Church's role in society to evangelize the Gospel of our Lord and undertake works of charity.



## Legislative Bill Tracker

Check out the legislation that matters to us as Catholics

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)



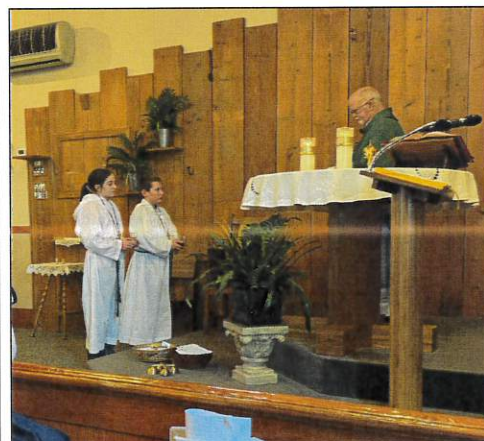
SHBC—SS. PETER & PAUL—BUTTE



February 9th found the CCD and CYO youth of Saints Peter and Paul serving a Super Breakfast! Everyone pitched in, moms made yummy food and all shared time in fellowship on a chilly morning after Mass.



ST. JOSEPH—AMELIA



The above pictures show St. Joseph—Amelia's CCD students that participated in the Children's Mass celebrated on February 9th.

Cleaning sidewalks before CCD class



PILGRIMS OF HOPE AND HOLY YEAR 2025 VIDEOS

<https://www.usccb.org/jubilee2025>

<https://youtu.be/HLdjgq99qLo>

**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.

In the Bible,  
 forty is the  
 number  
 used to  
 signify  
 enough or  
 ample time.

Bible stories that  
 involve forty days:

Noah's flood

Moses on Mt. Sinai  
 before the Ten  
 Commandments

Elijah's walk through  
 the desert to Mt. Horeb

Jonah's warning to the  
 people of Nineveh

St. Gregory the  
 Great considered  
 the six weeks of  
 lenten weekdays  
 (thirty-six days) as  
 a ten percent tithe  
 of the year.

The forty day fast  
 of Jesus in the  
 desert before he  
 started his public  
 ministry (Mt 4:2,  
 Mk 1:13 and Lk  
 4:2) is the most  
 likely inspiration  
 for the forty days  
 of Lent.

What is the significance of forty days?

**L E N T**

**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 February 18th.

Parish:	Contributions:	Goal:	Remaining:
Sacred Heart – Boyd County:	\$12,301.50	\$13,172.50	\$871.00
St. Boniface – Stuart:	\$7,172.44	\$8,604.44	\$1,432.00
St. Joseph – Amelia:	\$3,891.65	\$3,600.65	<b>GOAL EXCEEDED!</b>
St. Joseph – Atkinson:	\$15,265.74	\$12,084.74	<b>GOAL EXCEEDED!</b>
St. Patrick – O'Neill:	\$41,195.72	\$47,022.39	\$5,826.67
<b>Cumulative goal for ALL PARISHES:</b>	<b>\$79,827.05</b>	<b>\$84,484.72</b>	<b>\$8,129.67</b>



# LIVE *Lent* TOGETHER

**“It’s not possible to live and grow in the faith without the support of a group.” – JPH**

Have you ever had something important happen in your life and had no one to share it with? Did you know that the average American hasn’t made a friend in the last five years?

As Catholics, we know that community is integral to the faith, and yet, so many in the Body of Christ feel disconnected and alone.

We’d like to propose a solution: small groups.

Small groups give us the opportunity to enter into life with individuals and to form relationships. They allow us to live and grow in the faith in a way that is otherwise impossible when we do not have a consistent and intentional way of journeying together.

Live Lent Together is just that small group opportunity you’re looking for! Your neighbors are thirsting for good news. What if you invited them to a deeper encounter with Jesus? A small group study can help you witness the transforming power of the Gospel. Your small group could include friends, neighbors, co-workers, or even your children and their friends.

If you are interested in getting a group together or would like more information regarding small groups, contact Jan Kunz @ 402-340-2303 with questions or for study options. There are Live Lent Together packets, Matthew Kelly/Dynamic Catholic studies, or online studies available. Lent is a great time to slow down, sit down, and dig down into God’s word—and—it’s even better if you do it with friends! Start thinking about getting a group together today!

***“Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in His word, in the sacraments and in our neighbor.” ~ Pope Francis***

## LIVE LENT TOGETHER STUDY PACKETS TOPICS:

Nourish

Mercy

Mission

Encounter

Mystery

Sunday Gospels

## **MATTHEW KELLY AND DYNAMIC CATHOLIC STUDIES:**

33 Days to Eucharistic Glory

I Heard God Laugh

Rediscover Jesus

Rediscover the Saints

Why I Love Being Catholic

The Biggest Lie in the History of  
Christianity

Rediscover Catholicism

Perfectly Yourself

Resisting Happiness

The Four Signs of a Dynamic  
Catholic

Beautiful Hope

Ordinary Lives Extraordinary  
Mission

Walking With Purpose

Holy Moments

Life is Messy

All books/packets/study guides can be viewed in the Director of Evangelization & Catechesis Office in O’Neill or the Director of Ministries Office in Stuart or contact Jan Kunz for more information at 402-340-2303.

## THINGS THAT CATHOLICS NEED TO KNOW . . . Continued . . .

### THE SIX TRUTHS

To be known and believed by all.

- 1) There is one God, who created, who preserves and governs all things.
- 2) God is a just Judge, who rewards the good and punishes the wicked.
- 3) In God there are three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- 4) The Second Person, Jesus Christ, became man and died on the cross to save us.
- 5) The soul of man is immortal.
- 6) Grace is necessary for salvation.

### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF GOD

- 1) I am the Lord thy God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt not have strange gods before Me. Thou shalt not make to yourself a graven thing, not the likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or in the earth beneath, nor of those things that are in the waters under the earth. Thou shalt not adore them nor serve them.
- 2) Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
- 3) Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath – day.
- 4) Honor thy father and thy mother.
- 5) Thou shalt not kill.
- 6) Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- 7) Thou shalt not steal.
- 8) Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
- 9) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.
- 10) Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.

### THE EIGHT BEATITUDES

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
2. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.
3. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.
4. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice, for they shall be filled.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peace-makers, for they shall be called the children of God.
8. Blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

### THE SIX PRECEPTS OF THE CHURCH

- 1) To attend Mass on Sundays and Holy days of obligation.
- 2) To fast and abstain on the days appointed.
- 3) To confess at least once a year.
- 4) To receive the Most Blessed Sacrament during the Easter time.
- 5) To contribute to the support of our pastors.
- 6) Matrimony is a Sacrament between one Man and one Woman. It provides grace to the couple and the Church helps prepare couples for the Sacrament.

### THE SIX HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

- 1) \*January 1 – Mary, Mother of God.
  - 2) Ascension – 40 days after Easter
  - 3) \*August 15 – The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
  - 4) \*November 1 – The feast of All-Saints.
  - 5) December 8 – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin.
  - 6) December 25 – Christmas
- \*If on a Monday or Saturday – No Obligation in the USA

CATHOLIC WORD SEARCH FOR LENT

X	B	K	C	B	E	A	P	E	K	Q	A	E	O	X	K
Q	M	V	N	K	Q	P	C	G	Y	R	A	S	O	R	I
Z	K	B	K	O	S	L	N	P	N	Z	N	P	G	O	T
O	K	C	R	G	B	F	X	A	Z	N	V	U	J	M	P
E	J	W	Q	E	D	C	H	W	A	M	E	N	N	F	T
T	P	R	A	Y	Y	L	X	F	R	P	S	V	K	O	W
I	M	F	Y	U	S	A	F	U	H	H	Q	N	Y	X	O
C	L	L	Q	W	M	H	R	S	O	Y	M	T	X	W	M
U	B	Q	E	H	H	L	C	P	L	C	A	P	S	Z	H
Q	C	G	P	V	O	S	V	B	Y	Y	R	Z	B	W	E
T	E	Q	Z	S	P	A	E	G	F	E	Y	N	H	A	T
N	T	M	X	O	A	V	F	Y	R	Q	H	E	N	U	Q
O	P	C	Y	I	O	C	P	N	A	O	O	Y	F	N	W
O	H	Q	C	L	F	E	R	V	B	D	L	P	A	X	Z
I	X	H	G	O	K	I	G	A	Z	I	Y	X	A	K	M
R	G	R	O	N	F	C	C	T	M	M	F	T	X	L	C
N	F	J	Q	V	A	B	A	U	L	E	J	Y	R	L	M
S	D	R	X	D	I	A	H	T	R	Q	N	G	X	O	P
G	Z	L	G	V	R	J	L	G	H	C	Z	T	R	Q	F
E	T	Y	R	X	E	O	L	Y	I	O	S	G	S	G	A
J	A	R	R	L	H	R	L	W	X	S	L	H	N	E	C
Z	Y	A	T	D	F	E	Y	Z	T	S	E	I	R	P	W
X	E	G	X	M	H	T	P	N	B	M	T	O	C	P	C
B	J	S	O	K	N	S	I	H	F	S	Z	V	K	X	F
S	V	M	K	B	J	A	F	O	A	J	U	R	F	Q	C
T	I	V	J	W	S	E	P	F	A	E	N	I	O	M	K
E	P	O	L	S	U	G	S	V	N	S	O	I	T	Z	V
W	E	A	G	S	R	H	D	U	A	U	S	X	R	W	G
F	D	J	H	M	E	P	T	S	S	S	H	Q	D	N	U
A	Y	T	U	M	Q	W	W	V	O	W	J	W	D	B	G

Amen

Catholic

Crucifix

Holy

Jesus

Mary

Rosary

Sacraments

Saints

Jesus

Prayer

Priest

Pray

Lord

Holy

Easter

Fasting

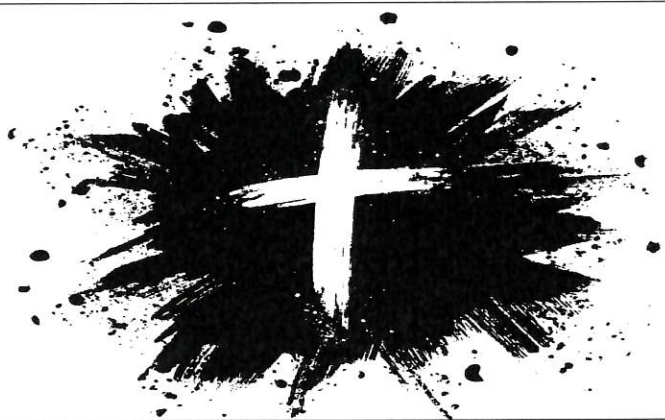
Palm

Love

Forty days

## ASH WEDNESDAY—MARCH 5th—2025

- 8:10 a.m.—Mass at St. Patrick—O’Neill  
 8:15 a.m.—Mass at St. Joseph—Atkinson  
 12:15 p.m.—Blessing & Distribution of Ashes  
 St. Patrick—O’Neill  
 5:00 p.m.—Mass at St. Boniface—Stuart  
 6:30 p.m.—Mass at ABVM—Lynch  
 7:00 p.m.—Mass at St. Joseph—Amelia  
 7:00 p.m.—Blessing & Distribution of Ashes  
 St. Patrick—O’Neill



# ASH WEDNESDAY

## LENT BEGINS

### WHAT IS LENT?

The 40-day period from Ash Wednesday and before Easter Sunday. It is marked by praying, fasting, abstinence, and other acts of penance.

PRAYING FASTING ABSTINENCE



### WHAT IS FASTING?



One meal a day, and two smaller meals which if added together would not exceed one full meal.

### WHAT IS ABSTINENCE?



Abstinence is refraining from eating meat. Meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl.

### DAYS OF FAST?

Ash Wednesday Good Friday

### DAYS OF ABSTINENCE?

Ash Wednesday All Fridays of Lent Good Friday

### WHO ARE REQUIRED?

Catholics from age < 18 to 59 >



The sick are excused from fasting

### WHO ARE REQUIRED?

Mandatory for everyone

older than 14 years old



## FISH FRY

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
FISH FRYS



## FRIDAY

### ATKINSON

March 7, March 21, April 4  
 KC Hall  
 5:00-7:30 p.m.  
 Dine-In or Carry-Out

### STUART

March 14, March 28, April 11  
 St. Boniface Church Basement  
 5:00-7:30 p.m.  
 Dine-In or Carry-Out



### O'NEILL

Feb 28<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, March 14<sup>th</sup>,  
 March 21<sup>st</sup>, March 28<sup>th</sup>, April 4<sup>th</sup>, April 11<sup>th</sup>.  
 KC Hall  
 5:00-7:00 p.m.  
 Dine-In ~ Drive-Thru ~ Carry-Out  
 Adults-\$13 ~ Kids-\$8 ~ 5 and Under—Free

### DYNAMIC CATHOLIC GUIDE TO FASTING

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/lent/catholic-fasting.html>

Find out about:

- Catholic Fasting Rules
- What About Vegetarians?
- Make It Intentional

