



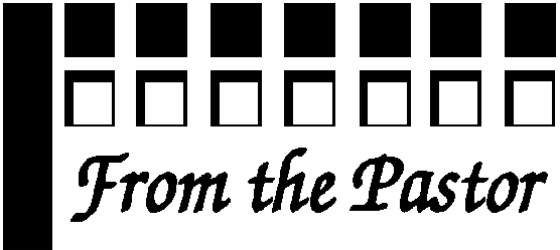
# St. Joseph Church

Rev. Bernard Starman, Pastor  
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## 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 09/08/19

Monday 10:30 AM + Fix Funeral  
 Tuesday 10:00 AM (Good Sam) + Nick & Lena Klein  
 5:30 PM at St. Boniface  
 Wednesday 8:15 AM + Robert Straka  
 Thursday 11:15 AM @ St. Boniface  
 Friday 8:15 AM + Joe Langan  
 Saturday 6:00 PM – Families of Western Boyd &  
 Holt County Parishes  
 Sunday 10:30 AM + Marilyn Gokie

	Sept 14/15	Saturday	Sunday
 Mass   Schedule	Atkinson, St Joseph	6:00pm	10:30am
	St. Boniface, Stuart	No Mass	8:30am
	St Patrick, O'Neill	5:00pm	9:00am
	St Joseph, Amelia	7:00pm	No Mass
	Ss. Peter & Paul, Butte	7:00pm	No Mass
	St Mary, Spencer	No Mass	9:30am
	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> for Ss. Joseph and Boniface: One half hour before each weekend Mass or by appointment		



Hyperbole and exaggeration can be effective rhetorical tools. They are used by almost everyone at some point. Even the fictitious news announcer Kent Brockman from the Simpsons said, “Ladies and gentlemen, I’ve been to Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and I can say without hyperbole that this is a million times worse than all of them put together.”

Of course, it’s easy to spot hyperbole and we don’t take it literally. But some-times it’s easy to miss this rhetorical tool when it’s on the lips of Jesus in the Scriptures. A good rule of thumb is to see how the early Christians understood a passage in question. For example, Jesus advises his listeners in another story that “if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out” (Matt 18:9; NABRE)! But early, as well as later Christians, did not take that literally. The passage is rhetorical hyperbole. Something similar is at work in today’s gospel passage when Jesus says that no one coming to him “without hating his father and mother, / wife and children, brothers and sisters, / and even his own life” can be a disciple. Rather than try to twist ourselves into knots over that quote, it’s best to recognize it for what it is: rhetorical hyperbole. Even one of the concluding thoughts about renouncing all possessions is hyperbolic. Part of the reason we know this is by reading other passages in Luke in which Jesus’ women followers provide for Jesus and the disciples from their means (Luke 8:1-3). So even Jesus did not expect his own followers to take this advice about renouncing all possessions literally. If they had, he would not have had such a widespread support network in Judea and Galilee.

Jesus is an effective preacher: he used the rhetorical tools of hyperbole and exaggeration to make his point. This can be a challenge for us if we want to take literally each and every saying of his in the New Testament. But gratefully we are part of a long line of believers, a large family of faith. And we can look to ancient Christians to see that they recognized this as hyperbole too.

In the end, what Jesus demands is a wholehearted, complete commitment, without distraction. And that’s no exaggeration.

Discipleship is a lifelong process, often called a journey. We learn things along the way, likely starting out resolutely as Jesus does on his own journey to Jerusalem. During this lifelong process we encounter different ways of looking at reality, new insights, challenging statements, and more. The metaphor of a journey is especially apt as we never stay still, nor does our environment or the people around us. We are all growing in knowledge, understanding, and experience with former ways of understanding giving way to the new.

Developmentally, human beings tend to grow from a place of literalism to understanding the broader picture. Children can be told not to touch the stove, but as they mature they internalize the lesson and take care around a hot stove. Discipleship follows a similar path. We tend to be more literal in the early stages of a relationship with Christ, but as we mature we see the fuller meaning of the relationship.

Ad Multos Annos!

*EMHCs...Good Sam. & Prairie Winds----Sept. 15---Phil & Linda Fritz*

*The Harvest is Great, Laborers Are Few!* Taking the vocation crucifix this week—Harold & Jeanne Krumwiede. The week of Sept. 15—Gary & Deb Pospichal.

*Someone Is Needed...*to fill the time slot of 10am—10:30 each Wednesday at adoration. Call parish office.

*We Pray With Special Love & Concern For The Ill...*Janice Ries, Emma Lou Gunther, Darrin Wedige, Gianna Slaymaker, Mary Straka, Lois Tunender, Michelle Bulau, Garrett Scholz, Marilyn Morrison, Blakely Bouska, Jim Vrooman.

*We Welcome...*Zelie Miriam, daughter of Brad & Heather Slaymaker, to the parish of St. Joseph’s. Zelie was cleansed in the waters of baptism Sept. 1, 2019.

