

St. Joseph Church

Rev. Bernard Starman, Pastor
 Rev. James Weeder & Rev. Joseph Sund, Associates
 Deacon M.J. Kersenbrock
 Atkinson, Nebraska
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www.stjosephatkinson.org
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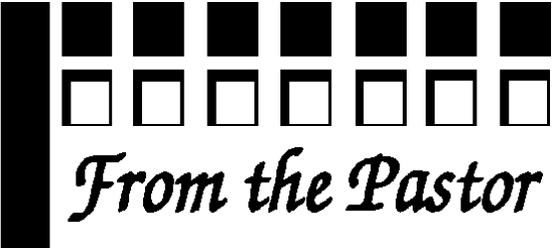
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time 09/22/19

Monday NO MASS
 Tuesday 10:00 AM (Good Sam) + Baum Family
 5:30 PM at St. Boniface
 Wednesday 8:15 AM + Bill & Sylvia Morgan Family
 Thursday 11:15 AM @ St. Boniface
 Friday 8:15 AM + Ray & Eleanor Slaymaker
 Saturday 6:00 PM + Mike Wenner
 Sunday 10:30 AM + Lawrence, Evelyn & Judy Skrdla

 Mass Schedule	Sept 28/29	Saturday	Sunday
	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	



Sacrament of Reconciliation
 for Ss. Joseph and Boniface:
 One half hour before each
 weekend Mass or by appointment

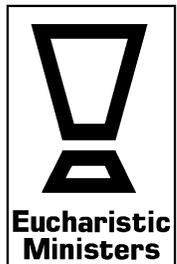


Have you ever heard a story and wondered what exactly was its point? It's almost like not quite understanding a joke, and then asking for an explanation. Sometimes our wondering about the point of a story can happen listening to children, but it can also happen in a boardroom! Few times will a brave soul step up and ask, "How does that apply?" or "And what does that mean?"

This weekend's gospel parable [Luke 15: 1-13] is a case in point. It has puzzled interpreters for centuries. Part of the problem is that Luke appends to the parable a number of other sayings that attempt to explain it, but which create more difficulties. At least as the New American Bible presents it, the parable ends with this phrase, "And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently." What follows is Jesus' commentary, which some misunderstand as somehow encouraging dishonest behavior! But there is more going on than a facile reading might indicate. In antiquity, a steward functioned as the agent of the master or lord of the estate with the power to hire, fire, enter into contracts, etc. The steward kept the books and received some payment for himself by charging interest. The loan note indicated the amount to be paid back, not the amount borrowed. In essence, the amount to be paid back included the interest, and that extra money was for the steward. So in the parable, when the steward writes down the note, he is effectively giving up his own share of the money owed, 25 percent in one case, 50 percent in the other. The rich man will still receive what is his due in full. So the parable is not about encouraging dishonesty, but rather, the right use of money and resources, which itself is a favorite Lukan theme. It is certainly true that the steward is dishonest, as we learn at the opening verse. And it is for this reason that he is being released. But his writing down of the debt is a crafty way for him to use his own resources (the money owed to him) to curry favor with others.

This chapter of the Gospel of Luke will have a number of stories reflecting this theme of money. We will read another next week. The right use of wealth was foreshadowed even in last week's story of the prodigal son. Luke is the only evangelist to tell this parable of the Dishonest Steward. It is rooted firmly in the ancient world; discerning the likely meaning is much like deciphering a puzzle. Rather than a quick, easy read it's important to understand something of the context of the ancient world so as to more appropriately apply its lesson.

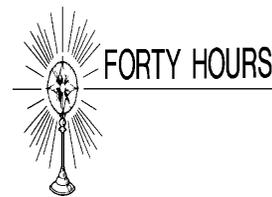
Jesus has more to say about money and how we use it than nearly any other ethical or moral matter in the gospels. And Luke the evangelist gives us more of these sayings, parables, and teachings than any other evangelist. Though the steward is being released from his position due to some dishonesty, he now acts in a shrewd way to leverage his remaining resources. He understands quickly that the money in the ledger due to him is better utilized currying favor than being handed over to the master. The master, upon realizing this, does not condemn him for stealing, for after all he was not stealing. Instead, the master admires him. We are advised to be as cunning and creative as this steward. It would be a misreading and a sure misunderstanding to imagine Jesus is encouraging dishonesty. Instead, with our own resources we are to be creative, using wealth for a greater good.



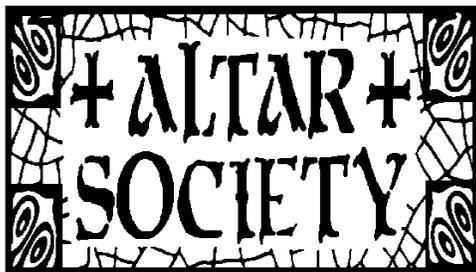
Good Sam. & Prairie Winds----Sept. 29---Diane Rentschler & Linda Wolf

The Harvest is Great, Laborers Are Few! Taking the vocation crucifix this week—Miguel Monasterio. The week of Sept. 29—Brendan Borer Family.

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

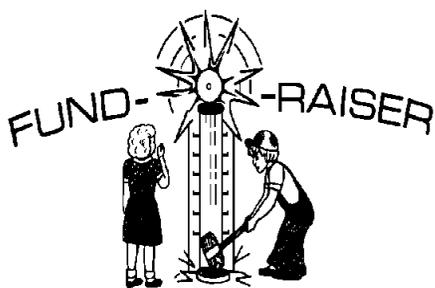


*We Pray With Special Love & Concern For The Ill...*Janice Ries, Emma Lou Gunther, Darrin Wedige, Gianna Slaymaker, Lois Tunender, Michelle Bulau, Garrett Scholz, Marilyn Morrison, Blakely Bouska, Miranda Ijames.



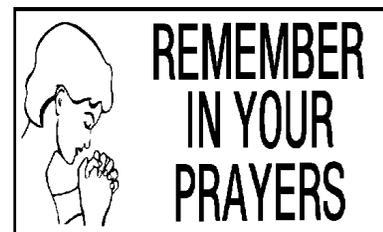
*Dues Of \$10.00...*are being accepted from all Altar Society members this weekend & again on Sept. 28/29. Remember ladies, this is in place of sponsoring the Fall Dinner as we previously did. If you plan to be out of town, please mail your dues to: Diane Rentschler, 47691 883rd Rd, Atkinson, NE 68713. THANK YOU!!!

*Our Parish Offers...*deepest sympathy to the families of Pete Schmaderer and Mary Straka—long time members of St. Joseph’s. Their funerals were held this week. Be assured that our prayers & thoughts are with you today and in the days ahead. May perpetual light shine on Pete and Mary and all whose life journey has ended.



*Have You Purchased Ingredients...*for your baking needs? Watkins sales run through Wed., Sept. 25. Help your parish school by purchasing these wonderful products & yes there are **NEW** items as well! If you aren’t contacted by a SJ School student, don’t hesitate to call the school office to place an order, 402.925.2104.

*Hey Parishioners---*have you chosen a senior yet? If you are interested in the Prayer Partner Program, the Catholic seniors of 2020 are: Lucus Ennen, Lily Fischer, Lindsey Jelinek, Nyah Kellner, Marissa Pacha, Joseph Seger. Remember the one you choose in prayer & thought on their special days/events in their lives during their senior year. Shhhhhhhh...the ‘revealing’ will take place in May. Contact Deb Liewer,



402.340.2288. **NOTE: THERE ARE TWO SENIORS LEFT TO BE CHOSEN!**

EVENTS

- **Now through Sept. 25**—Watkins fundraiser
- **Wed., Sept. 25**—Adoration
- **Wed., Sept. 25**—CCD classes
- **Oct. 12/13**—Woodcutting for Parish Auction...location to be announced
- **Sun., Oct. 27**—Parish Auction ...8:30am Mass @ St. Joseph’s

LITURGICAL MINISTERS...Sept 28/29

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHCs	LWolf, S&D Osborne	JSkrdla, ABorer, CSholes, C&L Nemetz
LECTORS	Harry Morgan	Patti Skrdla
GIFT BEARERS	Mlady Family	R&D Rentschler
ORGANIST	Jayne Fetherston	Volunteer
SERVERS	Madison Tunender Abigail Mathis Ryanna Mathis	Brinley Kerkman Marek Dvorak Berkleigh Dvorak
<u>OCT USHERS</u>	Lee Friedel Dennis Ryan Jon Gotschall Volunteer	Allen Tooker Phil Fritz Darrell Miksch Troy Schaaf

THE LORD’S PORTON...9.15.19

Adult envelopes (33)	1,518.00
Loose cash	122.47
Loose checks (4)	380.00
Midweek deposit	220.00
Online Giving (8)	<u>992.79</u>
TOTAL	3,233.26
Budget...Sunday...	3,561.58
	-328.32
Energy (1)	100.00

FYI: You will find parish auction coupons in church on the missalette stand