

St. Joseph Church

Rev. Bernard Starman, Pastor
 Rev. James Weeder & Rev. Joseph Sund, Associates
 Deacon M.J. Kersenbrock
 Atkinson, Nebraska
 402-925-2122, Emergency/After Hours---402.340.0277
 www.stjosephatkinson.org
 www.holtboydcatholic.org

2nd Sunday of Advent 12/08/19

Monday 8:15 AM + Pat Baker...Immaculate Conception
 Tuesday 10:00 AM (Good Sam) + Baum Family
 5:30 PM at St. Boniface
 Wednesday 8:15 AM + All Souls
 Thursday 11:15 AM at St. Boniface
 Friday 8:15 AM + Paul & Karen Seger
 Saturday 6:00 PM + Marilyn Gokie
 Sunday 10:30 AM - Western Holt & Boyd County Parishioners

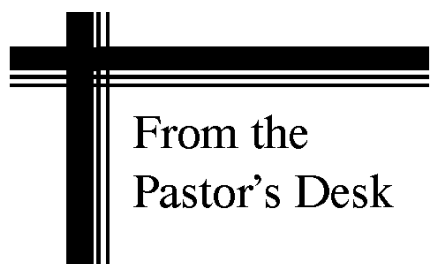


Mass Schedule

Dec 14/15	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	No Mass	11:00am
Ss. Peter & Paul, Butte	No Mass	8:30am
St Mary, Spencer	No Mass	10:30am
Assumption, Lynch	5:30pm	No Mass



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



From the Pastor's Desk

Typically, on December 8th we would expect to celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, this year since it (the 8th) happens to fall on a Sunday, the celebration of the Second Sunday of Advent takes precedence. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is still a Holy Day, but it is not a day of Obligation this year.

For this Advent weekend we hear the fiery preaching of John the Baptist, introduced for the first time in the Gospel of Matthew.

It almost goes without saying that John the Baptist is Jewish, and he is preaching to fellow Jews. But because he is considered a Christian saint, it's possible to overlook that he is a Jewish prophet calling the Jewish people to repentance, as prophets had done for centuries before. He directly confronts the Pharisees and Sadducees, calling them a "brood of vipers." They are not to become to certain of their being part of the chosen people of God, the children of Abraham. For God can raise up children of Abraham from the stones. This message is so stark it nearly needs to be recast to our own day for those of us who might feel secure in our Christian or Catholic identity. We can hear John telling us that God can make Christians from the stones. There is no inherent value or guarantee of salvation simply by being Christian. Such a statement is shocking. But John would say something more is demanded. We are to repent, for the kingdom is at hand.

The people confessed their sin and were baptized for repentance. Even this, however, is only a foreshadowing of the one who is to come, for he will baptize "with the Holy Spirit and fire." It can be easy to overlook the "fire" with which the one mightier than John will baptize. But the fire will consume the chaff. The baptism John imagines is apocalyptic and judgmental. We are familiar with the stories of John the Baptist and his preaching. But when we read them with careful attention to detail, new meaning jumps from the page. Let us not grow complacent in the face of such a baptism. John's baptism only prefigures that of Jesus, the mightier one. An interior renewal is called for. Resting in our identity as chosen by God, even as a Christian, is not enough.

As human beings we desire consistency, predictability, and stability. Though it's good to experience new things, not many of us thrive on doing new things all the time. Our lives may be punctuated by difference, but regularity reigns. Even the liturgical cycle of readings is regulated, and each Advent we read from John the Baptist's fiery preaching.

Even so, it's good for us to be shaken up a bit and jostled from our regular routine, as John the Baptist is doing today. We are reminded that we need to repent, turn away from selfish interests and turn toward God. This interior renewal is nothing less than a dying to self and rising with Christ, the paschal mystery. What regular routines do we need to abandon? From what in our lives do we need to turn away? What does turning toward God look like in our own time and place, in the midst of the relationships we have? Going to church, being Catholic, or knowing about God is not enough. An interior reorientation toward God and the values of his kingdom is demanded.

Come See Their Talent! The students of St. Joseph School will present their Christmas program Tue., Dec. 10 @ 6:30pm in church. You are also invited for refreshments at the school following.



The Altar Society... is once again planning to have the Advent Baby Shower. Baby items will be given to New Beginnings Pregnancy Resource Center. A bassinet will be in the vestibule of church the

weekends of Dec. 7/8 and Dec. 14/15. Baby products such as diapers (all sizes except newborn), sleepers, blankets & bottles are needed. Monetary donations will also be accepted to purchase car seats. Please make checks payable to Beginning Resources. Direct ??? to Cindy Kubik. 402.340.0049.

Family Members... can pick up the candle of their loved one in the south sacristy.



Good Sam. & Prairie Winds---Dec. 15---Scott & Diane Osborne

The HARVEST IS GREAT, LABORERS ARE FEW----Taking the vocation crucifix this week—Joe & Patti Skrdla. The week of December 15—Roger & Gayle Jungman.



Janice Ries, Emma Lou Gunther, Darrin Wedige, Gianna Slaymaker, Lois Tunender, Nathan Boyle, Garrett Scholz, Marilyn Morrison, Blakely Bouska, Miranda Ijames, John Gilg, Phil Fritz, John Mathis, Jerry Schaaf.



If For Some Reason......your child didn't receive a Mass Server Schedule, they can be found in the vestibule of the church.

Confession Schedule: Stuart-Tue. Dec. 10 & 17...6-7pm

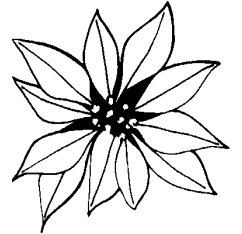
Atkinson: Atkinson-Thu. Dec. 12...6-7pm

A CCD Teacher......will be needed for the juniors & seniors to teach in Atkinson beginning second semester. Let's get this position filled **SOON**. Have you taken time to think & pray about this? PLEASE contact Deb Liewer, 402.340.2288.



The Yard Sign Fundraiser......will continue for awhile yet. You'll find order forms in the vestibule of the church. These would make perfect Christmas gifts!

Poinsettias......will once again be welcomed to adorn the altar @ Christmas in memory of your loved ones. Please do not deliver them to church until Dec. 21.



There Will Not Be ...Avanti until Jan. 28. Avanti is for anyone who has attended a Cursillo or CEC (Christians Encounter Christ) weekend. Direct ??? to Cathy Minchow, 402.482.5953.

EVENTS

- **Mon., Dec. 9**—Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- **Tue., Dec. 10**—SJ Christmas program, 6:30pm
- **Wed. Dec. 11**—Adoration, 9am—3pm
- **Wed., Dec. 11**—CCD classes
- **Tue., Dec. 17**—Taco supper hosted by SJ School Faculty @ West Holt High
- **Sun., Dec. 22**—Decorate church for Christmas after Mass. **PLEASE...won't you stay & help?**

LITURGICAL MINISTERS...Dec 14/15

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHCs	DMorgan GThurlow, JRamm	ABorer, C&L Nemetz, RFrickel, LSeeger
LECTORS	Kenny Tunender	Brian Mlady
GIFT BEARERS	M/M T. Rossman	M/M G. Schmit
ORGANIST	Terri Vrooman	Diane Osborne
SERVERS	L. Slaymaker Kruz Jelinek Ian Laetsch	Emersyn Mlady Makenna Schaaf Taylor Schaaf
DEC USHERS	Jim Vrooman Pat Kennedy Bernard Ziska Ethan Welborn	Tim Laible Jerry Laible Greg Dostal Richard Kilmurry

THE LORD'S PORTION---12.01.19

Adult envelopes	1,499.00
Loose cash	32.00
Loose checks	635.00
Midweek deposit	50.00
Online Giving	<u>120.00</u>
	2,336.00
Budget...Sunday...	3,561.58
	-1,225.58
Harvest	80.00
CCHD	20.00
Christmas	100.00
Immaculate Conception	50.00

Area Mass Schedule for Immaculate Conception, Monday, Dec. 9: Atkinson-8:15am; Stuart-6pm; O'Neill-8:10am; Amelia-7pm; Butte-7am; Lynch-5:30pm & Spencer-7pm

FYI: ALL REGISTERED PARISHIONERS WILL RECEIVE THEIR CHURCH SUPPORT ENVELOPES IN THE MAIL QUARTERLY BEGINNING IN JANUARY