

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

3rd Sunday of Advent 12/15/19

Monday NO MASS
 Tuesday 10:00 AM (Good Sam) + KCs
 5:30 PM at St. Boniface
 Wednesday 8:15 AM + Max & Agnes Hamik
 Thursday 11:15 AM at St. Boniface
 Friday 8:15 AM + Simon & Marge Timmermans
 Saturday 6:00 PM + Harold & Clara Vrooman
 Sunday 10:30 AM + Ray & Mary Catherine Estes

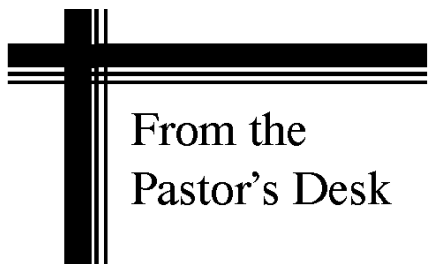


Mass Schedule

Dec 21/22	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



On this Third Sunday of Advent, John the Baptist's presence features prominently in the gospel. Though we are in the midst of Jesus' ministry and John is in prison, he has a question for the would-be Christ: "Are you the one who is to come or should we look for another?" Though it might be surprising to us, it seems as though Jesus did not quite fit the expectations even of John the Baptist. Two thousand years later, we see these figures through the eyes of faith and so it can be difficult to place ourselves in the context of their day.

John the Baptist had been preaching fiery judgment, imminent wrath. Last weekend's gospel stated this message quite plainly. In John's mind, the one to come would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The winnowing fan is in his hand. The chaff will be burned in an unquenchable fire. But then John is arrested and imprisoned, and Jesus begins preaching and doing mighty deeds. There is not the judgment that John expected. Thus, he sends his own disciples from his imprisonment with an astonishing question for Jesus. Had John gotten it wrong? Is Jesus the one? Or is there another?

For his part, Jesus does not respond with a simple "yes" or "no" answer. He responds by sending John's disciples back to him with a report of what they have seen and heard. Jesus reviews some of his deeds in alluding to the prophet Isaiah. He then concludes with an ominous beatitude that seems to be addressed to John directly: "Blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."

In the Gospel of Matthew, we do not have a story of John and Jesus as cousins, as Luke would have it. Instead, Matthew tells us something that might be closer to the historical picture. Perhaps John misunderstood Jesus and his mission. Perhaps John even took offense at what Jesus was preaching and what he was doing. Jesus' words and actions were not what John had expected. Jesus reminds the one who baptized him that among other things, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news preached to them. This is the mission of the Christ sent by God. Though John is greater than any person, the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he. Nowhere does it say how John responded to this beatitude addressed specifically to him. That silence speaks volumes. Jesus' mission is proclaiming this kingdom and creating it. Let us not take offense at his priorities, even if they are not our own. Instead, let us align ourselves with the Christ sent by God, assisting in proclaiming and creating the kingdom in our own day and time.

Expectations can be lofty things and it is disappointing when we see someone fall short or when we ourselves fall short. Then again, how often are we held to expectations beyond our ability or opposed to our own priorities? If and when we fail to meet the expectations of others, especially when we've had no say in those expectations, the fallout may be significant. Not many of us like to be told what we need to do or how we need to do it. So it is incumbent upon us not to lay unrealistic or uninformed expectations on others either.

Today we learn about John's expectations for Jesus, the one he baptized. John was likely offended at Jesus' behavior and preaching because it was not what he had foretold. The disconnect was so great that John wondered if there was someone else who was to come. This is a good reminder for us to temper our expectations of others. We are ultimately responsible for ourselves, not anyone else. We can let God raise up in others the special gifts, talents, and abilities given to them. We would do well to let die any desire to control others through the expectations we might place on them.



The Bassinet... in the vestibule of church is available (**through this weekend**) for you to place baby items which will in turn be given to New Beginnings Pregnancy Resource Center. Baby products such as diapers (all sizes except newborn), sleepers, blankets & bottles are needed.

Good Sam. & Prairie Winds---Dec. 22---Joe & Patti Skrdla

The HARVEST IS GREAT, LABORERS ARE FEW--- Taking the vocation crucifix this week—Roger & Gayle Jungman. The week of December 22—Mike & Brenda Dobias.



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.

Plan To Attend...the Taco Bar sponsored by SJ Faculty at West Holt on Tue., Dec. 17 @ 5pm. Then, enjoy some good basketball!!!

Worship SCHEDULE

Looking Ahead...Christmas Mass Schedule: Tuesday, Dec. 24-Christmas Eve...Atkinson-4pm; Stuart-6pm; O'Neill-6pm; Amelia-4pm; **Butte-5pm; Lynch-7:30pm; Spencer-NO MASS**

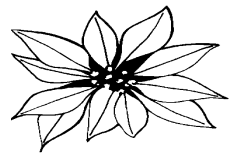
Wednesday, Dec. 25-Christmas Day...Atkinson-10am; Stuart-Midnight (12am); O'Neill-Midnight (12am), 8am & 10am; Amelia-No Mass; Butte-Midnight (12am), 8:30am; Lynch-No Mass; **Spencer-Midnight (12am), 8:30am.** (Corrected location & time in bold...inadvertently published in the newsletter).

We Are Grateful To...the Altar Society for providing St. Joseph's parishioners with calendars each year. You'll find them at all entrances of the church...one per family, please!



A 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? 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.



Our Parish...we welcome Chesney Violet Welsh into our faith community. Chesney, the daughter of Michael & Rebecca Welsh was cleansed in the waters of baptism December 7, 2019.

MEETINGS

Home & School: Mon., Dec. 16 @ 8pm. Carnival meeting will follow.

KCs: Thu., Dec. 19. Rosary will be prayed at church @ 7pm----all parishioners are invited! KC meeting will follow at the KC Hall. Menu-soup, ham sandwiches, & dessert. Drawings will be for \$100. & \$20.

EVENTS

- **Tue., Dec. 17**—Confessions in Stuart, 6—7pm
- **Tue., Dec. 17**—Taco bar @ West Holt, 5pm
- **Wed. Dec. 18**—Adoration, 9am—3pm
- **Wed., Dec. 18**—CCD classes
- **Sun., Dec. 22**—Decorate church for Christmas after Mass. **PLEASE...won't you stay & help?**

LITURGICAL MINISTERS...Dec 21/22

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHCs	KTunender, S&D Osborne	CSholes, BMLady, LWolf, SRossman, HKrumwiede
LECTORS	Madison Tunender	Jack Wolf
GIFT BEARERS	Vrooman Family	Leo Seger Family
ORGANIST	Jayne Fetherston	
SERVERS	Braydon Olson Trayton Olson Rylan Olson	Malya Bussinger Destini Bussinger Emersyn Mlady
DEC USHERS	Jim Vrooman Pat Kennedy Bernard Ziska Ethan Welborn	Tim Laible Jerry Laible Greg Dostal Richard Kilmurry

THE LORD'S PORTION---12.08.19

Adult envelopes	2,049.00
Loose cash	195.00
Loose checks	117.00
Midweek deposit	305.00
Online Giving	<u>435.85</u>
	3,101.85
Budget...Sunday...	3,561.58
	-459.73
Harvest	560.00
Immaculate Conception	375.00
Religious Retirement	526.00