

St. Joseph Church

Rev. Bernard Starman, Pastor
 Rev. James Weeder & Rev. Joseph Sund, Associates
 Deacon M.J. Kersenbrock
 Atkinson, Nebraska
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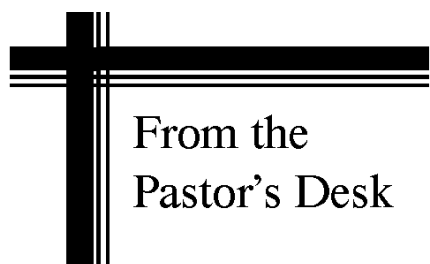
4th Sunday of Advent 12/22/19

Monday NO MASS
 Tuesday 4:00 PM + Robert & Mary Straka **Christmas Eve**
 Wednesday 10:00 AM + Lawrence, Evelyn & Judy Skrdla **Christmas**
 Thursday No Mass
 Friday 8:15 AM + Tom Welsh
 Saturday 6:00 PM + Art Laetsch
 Sunday 10:30 AM + Mike & Ines Schaaf Family

	Dec 28/29	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	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

On this Fourth and final Sunday of Advent we have a story about Joseph told by Matthew [Matthew 1:18-24]. There are so few stories where Joseph is even named in the New Testament that it is good to read this one carefully. Interestingly, we have no words from Joseph in this story or any other in the New Testament. He is a quiet but righteous man, doing what is right in the sight of God.

Thus, Joseph's desire to end the relationship with Mary quietly upon finding out that she is with child is in keeping with his character. Technically, Mary could be exposed to the law,

which would mean a death sentence. But Joseph is not that kind of person. He is content instead to handle this matter discreetly. Such was his intention before the appearance of an angel in a dream. As Luke tells the story, an angel by the name of Gabriel appeared to Mary. But in Matthew's story an unnamed angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The two stories are not necessarily contradictory and, in fact, many find them complementary. But each evangelist is relating his story on its own terms. Neither seems to have been aware of the other. That is, Luke had not read Matthew, and Matthew had not read Luke.

The appearance of an angel in Joseph's dream is enough to change his mind. He takes his wife into his home in Bethlehem (not Nazareth, as Luke has it). Later the child will be born there, at the home. Again, this is not Luke's story of the family in Nazareth going to Bethlehem for the census. Matthew's story has no census; Joseph and Mary live in their home in Bethlehem where Mary will soon give birth.

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent the stage is set for Christmas morning, the nativity of our Lord. A discreet, quiet man who does what is right in the sight of God has taken the pregnant Mary into his home as his wife. What was a scandal worthy of death under the law has been directed by an angel in a dream into safety and security for the woman and her unborn child. God is doing something new.

"Ready or not here we come" is a phrase repeated often in the game of hide and seek, and it is a phrase appropriate for this Fourth Sunday of Advent. Christmas will be here soon whether we are ready or not. And as Christmas is the celebration of the birth of a child, we see that this phrase is appropriate for that too. Many parents reach a sometimes-startling conclusion that the baby will be here whether they are ready or not. Our Advent has undoubtedly been spent in preparation. But no matter how much preparation we've done, there's likely more we could do. In the end, the day is going to come whether we are ready or not. Despite all of our planning or lack of thereof, soon the celebration will begin. In these remaining days, let us die to anything that takes our focus and attention away from the reason for the preparation. The Christ Child is about to be born. Life has profound meaning. Ready or not, Christmas is coming.

Christmas Blessings to all of our families! May the infant Christ bring Joy, Happiness and Peace to your homes and families.

The HARVEST IS GREAT, LABORERS ARE FEW---Taking the vocation crucifix this week—Mike & Brenda Dobias. The week of December 29—Jim & Rosemary Ketteler.



PRAY FOR ...

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.

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.

Wed., Dec. 25-Christmas Day...Atkinson-10am; Stuart-Midnight (12am); O'Neill-Midnight (12am), 8am & 10am; Amelia-No Mass; Butte- No Mass; Lynch-No Mass; Spencer-Midnight (12am), 8:30am.



Choir Practice For 4pm Christmas Eve----Mon., Dec. 23..10—10:30 for pre school through 12th grades.

Good Sam. & Prairie Winds----Dec. 29----Phil & Linda Fritz

EMHCs---Please be understanding while viewing the liturgical minister weekend schedule for January. You'll notice many are scheduled multiple times. There have been some changes....some have moved, sickness, etc. Your Mass preference is respected for the most part, but please know the best effort has been put forth to compile the schedule. Thank you!

Thanks Once Again...to all who continue to save aluminum cans to benefit our school. We recently received a check for \$300.00. Gratitude to Jimmy Corkle & Jozette Kozisek for donating their time and Joe Skrdla for the use of his pickup & horse trailer to transport cans to O'Neill. **One reminder**----**PLEASE tie the bags shut.**

A Teacher...will be needed for the juniors & seniors to teach in Atkinson **beginning in January.** Contact Deb Liewer, 402.340.2288.



All Students...ages 9 through 14 are welcome to take part in the KC Free Throw contest at West Holt on **January 5 @ 1pm.** Doors open @ 12:30. Direct ??? to Doug Kubik, 402.925.5438.

EVENTS

- **TODAY!** Decorate church for Christmas following **10:30am Mass**
- **Tue., Dec. 31**—Mass @ 5pm..**Atkinson**...(Vigil) Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
- **Wed., Jan. 1**—Mass @ 10am...**Stuart** “ “
- **Sun., Jan. 5**—Free Throw Contest @ WH
- **Wed., Jan. 8**—Adoration, 9am—3pm
- **Wed., Jan. 8**—CCD resumes
- **Wed., Jan. 15**—First Reconciliation & also **Penance Service for all parishioners, 7pm**
- **Jan. 26 through Feb. 1**—Catholic Schools Week
- **Fri., Jan. 31**—Parish Carnival

Liturgical Ministers-----Christmas Eve...4pm

EMHCs: JRamm, CSholes, GThurlow, RFrickel, DMorgan, HKrumwiede (Communion will also be distributed in choir loft)

LECTOR: Brian Mlady

OFFERTORY: Children

Christmas Day...10am

EMHCs: SOSborne, J&P Skrdla

LECTOR: Don Slaymaker

OFFERTORY: M/M Don Wedige

SERVERS: Daphne & Calla Mitchell, Arideth Weekley

LITURGICAL MINISTERS...Dec 28/29

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHCs	DMorgan KTunender SRossman	JSkrdla, DLiewer, C&L Nemetz, ABorer
LECTORS	Harry Morgan	Patti Skrdla
GIFT BEARERS	Jeff Laetsch Fam.	M/MDave Schaaf
ORGANIST	Jayne Fetherston	
SERVERS	Braydon Olson Trayton Olson Kearston Keogh	Malya Bussinger Destini Bussinger Jocelyn Monasterio
<u>JAN USHERS</u>	Phillip Hamik Mike Laible Jeff Hostert Volunteer	Dan Ziska George Schmit Todd Seger Roger Frickel

THE LORD'S PORTION---12.15.19

Adult envelopes	593.00
Loose cash	75.00
Loose checks	235.00
Midweek deposit	85.00
Online Giving	<u>201.94</u>
	1,189.94
Budget...Sunday...	3,561.58
	-2,371.64
Religious Retirement	35.00