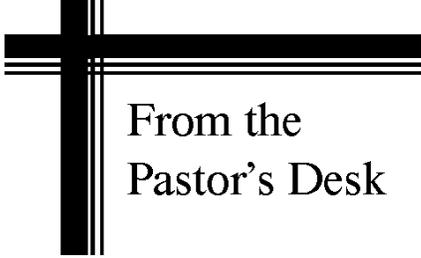
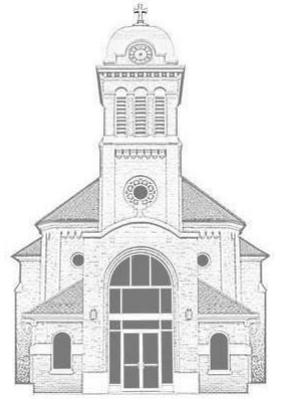


**St. Joseph & St. Boniface Church**  
 Rev. Bernard Starman, Pastor  
 Rev. James Weeder & Rev. Joseph Sund, Associates  
 Deacon M.J. Kersenbrock  
 Atkinson, Nebraska  
 402-925-2122, 402-924-3262 or Emergency/After  
 Hours---402.340.0277  
[www.stjosephatkinson.org](http://www.stjosephatkinson.org)  
[www.holtboydcatholic.org](http://www.holtboydcatholic.org)



From the  
 Pastor's Desk

MAY 3, 2020

## Updated Notice: Reopening Soon...Just not this week!

I'm sorry that this news will be disappointing to many of our parishioners and friends, but we will not be having public Mass in our 7 churches during the month of May. We will be working with our local health department officials and three pastors within the Rural Northwest Deanery and a couple of pastors from the Rural Central Deanery to approach our options in a realistic and prudent way.

### OUR SITUATION... WHAT BEING A UNIVERSAL CHURCH MEANS

I do not want to use a scandalous analogy, but I want to make a point. The Catholic Church is more like McDonald's with franchises than the Firehouse Bakery and Cafe or Corner Bar in Butte. If the Firehouse or Corner Bar are open or closed, it mostly impacts the Butte community. Many of our protestant brothers and sisters have more localized communities of believers. This means that they are more like a local eating establishment and can make decisions that only have implications for their local church. They have the flexibility to make decisions for a church in O'Neill that does not impact a church in Amelia, Atkinson, Butte, Lynch, Spencer, or Stuart. The Catholic Church is more like a franchise... If my McDonald's is closed (and I find myself craving McDonald's...), my GPS will find me another McDonald's down the road. It is just like you can find Catholic Mass in a church on vacation by looking up "Catholic Church" on your phone or in a phonebook.

One of the goals of having mass from a public health standpoint is to seek to prevent people from traveling outside of their towns... When we feel reasonably sure that we can have public mass in our new "corona conscious normal" and that Amelia parishioners will stay in Amelia, Atkinson in Atkinson, Butte in Butte, Lynch in Lynch, O'Neill in O'Neill, Spencer in Spencer, and Stuart in Stuart... we can have mass. If our having mass means that we are the only ones having public mass or "some" of the only ones having public mass, people will likely drive from Clearwater, Ewing, Fairfax, etc.... and beyond....

This is problematic and drastically increases the likelihood that a church could serve as a petri dish rather than a safe place to worship.

**This may be disappointing, but it is addressing our reality.  
 Please be patient with us... and please pray for us... as we do for you!!**

**We are planning. We are preparing. We are working. We are trying to share the faith and are trying to make Jesus as present in our communities as we can. Right now, this is the course of action that I and my brother priests am deeming prudent and am choosing for us.**

Please note that if you are thinking, "If you won't provide me with church, then I will drive myself to someone who will..." This is the very thinking that is requiring our own churches to stay closed at this time. Please be patient... please stay local... please stay home a few more weeks... and we will be able to gather. This is the right way to do it.

You may be upset about how this timeline has evolved, but I hope that you will understand that staying in our locality is a big part of what helps us stay safe. I am not claiming to know the perfect moment with exact precision, but I am claiming to be prudent. We will work with our local health departments, and we will make it through this. Stay home! Stay safe! Pray often! Wash your hands!

Ad Multos Annos!  
 Fr. Bernard Starman  
 Pastor

### April 26, 2020.....Collection-----St. Boniface

Envelopes (11)	\$1,270.00	Online Giving (3)	45.00
Easter (3)	185.00	Catholic Relief (2)	<u>20.00</u>
Insurance (3)	40.00	TOTAL	\$1,560.00

**St. Boniface Prayer List:** Kirstine Chvala, Lee Ann Maher, Margaret Smolik, Garrett Scholz, Kate Steinhauser, Blakely Bouska, John Hladky, Coralie Thomas, Isaac Schultie, Dick Steinbach & Kathryn Shald.

**Please Remember...** Msgr. Tom Furlong with a card! He served as Assistant Pastor here @ St. Joseph's from June 1967 – June 1970. Msgr. Furlong will be celebrating his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on Thu., May 7 and one week later on Thu., May 14, he'll be celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination. Due to the circumstances, no party! But, please take the time to remember him: Msgr. Tom Furlong, 7323 Shirley Street, Apt 116, Omaha, NE 68124.



**We Pray With Special Concern For All Who Are Ill:** Emma Lou Gunther, Darrin Wedige, Gianna Slaymaker, Lois Tunender, Nathan Boyle, Marilyn Morrison, Miranda iJames, Garrett Scholz, Blakely Bouska, John Gilg, Phil Fritz, John Mathis, Jerry Schaaf, Michelle Bulau, Phil Schmaderer, Rob Klinetobe.

**THE LORD'S PORTION---05.01.20-----St. Joseph's**

Adult Sunday Envelopes (9)	800.00	
Online Giving (5)	195.00	*****
Easter (3)	85.00	* SON SCREEN PREVENTS *
Catholic Relief (1)	25.00	* SIN BURN *
Insurance (6)	<u>120.00</u>	* *
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,225.00</b>	*****

**PEN PAL PROGRAM**

We'd like to start a Pen-Pal Program for the families & elderly/homebound adults in our communities to let those that may not have family near and/or may not be able to see family as normal to know that we are thinking about them & praying for them.

Here's how it would work:

- A family would sign-up for more info & a pen-pal match via the sign-up geniuslink (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A09DA9AA2DA5F49-catholic>) or contacting Steph ([smnemec@archomah.org](mailto:smnemec@archomah.org)) a letter to the assigned elderly/homebound adult.
- The family would receive the necessary info to send an initial letter to the assigned elderly/homebound adult, including such info as family members, pets, favorite activities, questions for the adult to respond to (what are your favorite foods, what was school like for you, etc.)
- The family would mail the letter to the adult or email/drop it off at St. Patrick's Parish Office and Steph will mail it.
- Hopefully then letters will continue to be sent to and from the matched up families through this difficult time and even after this time.

**\*\*Families are able to sign up for more than one pen-pal matchup. Ex: each child in the family wants to send a letter to a pen-pal. However, to follow Safe Environment guidelines, parents must be included in the letter writing and noted as the letter sender-have the kids be a part of the letter and writing process.**

Please feel free to share this with your students, families, and friends. Feel free to send any suggestions my way -Ex: if you have someone in mind that would benefit from this program, please let me know as I will add them to our list to be matched up with a family.

**Catholic Parishes of Western Holt & Boyd Counties: Catholic Parishes of Western Holt & Western Boyd Counties Pen Pals**  
[www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com)

Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Thank you!  
 The Catholic Parishes of Western Holt and Boyd Counties...Facebook

**THINGS OUR RISEN SAVIOR WON'T ASK ON THAT VERY PRECIOUS DAY**

- 1) God won't ask what kind of car we drove. Rather, He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
- 2) God won't ask the square footage of your house. He'll ask how many you welcomed into your home.
- 3) God won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet. He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.
- 4) God won't ask what your highest salary was. He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.
- 5) God won't ask what your job title was. He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
- 6) God won't ask how many friends you had. He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.
- 7) God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived. He'll ask how you treated your neighbors.
- 8) God won't ask the color of your skin. He will ask about the content of your character.
- 9) God won't ask why it took you so long to seek salvation. He'll lovingly take you to your mansion in Heaven.