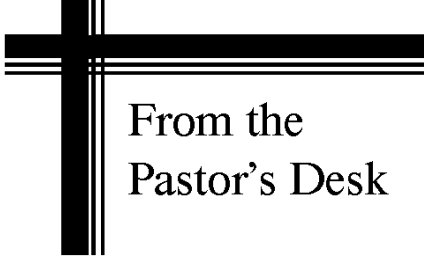
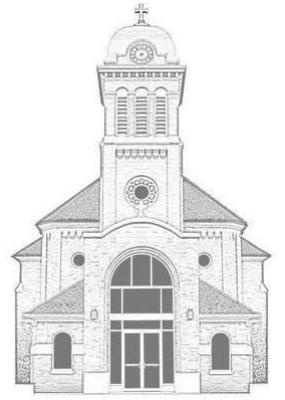


St. Joseph & St. Boniface Church

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
www.holtboydcatholic.org



From the Pastor's Desk

MAY 10, 2020

As we continue to celebrate the Easter season, we hear another “parabolic discourse” from the Gospel of John. As we saw last week, John does not use the term “parable” in his gospel. Instead, he uses several “I am . . .” statements and we have another today: “I am the way and the truth and the life.” This is similar to last weekend’s gospel where Jesus said, “I am the gate” through which the sheep enter the sheepfold. Today Jesus says he is

the way to the Father.

Embedded in this parabolic discourse are Jesus’ additional sayings about his relation to the Father. We may forgive the disciples for being slightly confused. This passage alone inspired countless generations of theologians in their trinitarian work. Several times Jesus says he is in the Father and the Father is in him. He also says whoever has seen him has seen the Father and that he is going to the Father. And there is no mention of the Spirit!

Such metaphorical or poetic language is often the bane of modern mathematicians and engineers. The relationship between Jesus and the Father cannot be reduced to a mathematical formula; it is not an engineering problem. In the first verse of John’s gospel he says, “In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God and the word was God.” The Greek term for “with” is not the static syn, but the more dynamic pros, meaning something akin to “the word was in a dynamic relationship with God.” This dynamic relationship is not static. It is not reducible to quantifiable precision, as we might expect in a chemistry lab. Ultimately, we are dealing with imagery, metaphor, and analogy for the divine, which cannot be boxed up, packaged, and distributed in discrete packets of knowledge.

The gospel reading invites us to enter into this dynamic relationship between the Father and the Son, God and the Word. Once engaged, this dynamic relationship never ends, but only continues, often deepens, and typically challenges. By reading this parabolic discourse, may we be open to all that God has in store for us, by embracing the divine and casting aside any preconceived limitations on God and his goodness.

The opening words of this weekend’s gospel [John 14: 1-12] are addressed to the disciples, and we can imagine they are addressed to us as well: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me.” These words were written to a community that did not have a history of trinitarian theology. Monotheism was in some ways challenged by Jesus’ identity with the Father. We recall that Jesus was crucified for, among other things, blasphemy. The early Christians believed in Jesus. They had faith in Jesus. They also believed God and had faith in God. Centuries later, and after many disagreements and councils, trinitarian theology developed to a point where a common creed was held. But in the early church that was still distant.

In our own lives, we might be patient with ourselves and others who have difficulty with grandiose trinitarian concepts and instead root our knowledge of Jesus in the Scriptures and personal experience, for that is akin to what the early Christians did. Ultimately, Christianity is about service in the name of Jesus rather than knowledge in the name of Jesus. Therefore, we have faith in Jesus, as we have faith in God. We strive to die to ourselves in our own limited understanding, so that we might live to serve in his name. Such is the paschal mystery!

Happy Mother’s Day to all the moms of our parishes! Enjoy your day, stay safe, wash your hands!

Ad Multos Annos!

Fr. Bernard Starman
Pastor

May 3, 2020....Collection....St. Boniface

Envelopes (7)	\$870.00	April ACH	1,975.00
Easter (1)	50.00	Insurance (2)	<u>50.00</u>
		TOTAL	\$2,955.00

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.



We Pray For Those With Special Concern For All Who Are Ill---From St. Joseph's Or Connections To SJ: 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, & Sandra Maybon.

TODAY'S NEWS

*We Wish To Remember...*all of our graduates, whether it be 8th grade, high school or college. We want to remember in a special way the **8th Grade Graduates of St.**

Joseph's...Brianna Anderson, Malya Bussinger, Nolan Hoffman & Braydon Olson. **West Holt Senior Graduates from SJ Parish:** Lucas Ennen, Lily Fischer, Lindsey Jelinek, Nyah Kellner, Marissa Pacha & Joseph Seger. May your graduation be a time of reflection and listening to that truth that is within and may you take your gifts & resources and go out and continue to transform our world. Congratulations to all of you from your parish!

➔ *Did You Know?* ➔ *Our pastor is celebrating a very special day*

on May 13? Please remember Fr. Starman as he will be celebrating his birthday! Ask God to continue to bless him as he shepherds the parishes of Western Holt & Boyd Counties. Thank you, Father, for all the sacrifices you make & for all the 'behind the scenes'. We wish you many more birthdays!---From all of your parishioners!

THE LORD'S PORTION---05.08.20-----St. Joseph's

Adult Sunday Envelopes (16)	2,188.00
Online Giving (13)	1,476.20
Easter (4)	550.00
Insurance (6)	400.00
TOTAL	4,614.20

 * MOM SPELLED UPSIDE DOWN *
 * IS WOW *
 * HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO *
 * ALL MOTHERS & LIKE-MOTHERS *

*John Wenner Memorial...*of \$500.00 to St. Joseph Church. Please continue to pray for John Wenner & his family.

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) 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

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