

St. Joseph Church

Rev. Bernard Starman, Pastor
Rev. James Weeder & Rev. Joseph Sund, Associates
Deacon M.J. Kersenbrock
Atkinson, Nebraska

402-925-2122 or Emergency/After Hours, 402-340-0277

www.stjosephatkinson.org

www.holtboydcatholic.org

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

07/12/20

Monday	NO MASS
Tuesday	NO MASS
Wednesday	8:15 AM + KCs
Thursday	NO MASS
Friday	8:15 AM + Walter & Cecelia Ries
Saturday	NO MASS
Sunday	8:30 AM + Ray & Eleanor Slaymaker

Sacrament of Reconciliation: One half hour prior to Sunday Morning Mass

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We Wish To Welcome...Kensington Grace Runyan to our faith community. Kensington, daughter of Jacob & Riley Runyan, was baptized July 5, 2020.

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Warmest Welcome---Duane Nieman & Jacob Runyan as they were received into the Catholic Church on July 5, 2020. We ask God's blessings on them as they continue their spiritual journey.

Through the High Priesthood of Jesus Christ, God has given final & lasting peace to Rev. Val J. Peter who died June 30, 2020. May perpetual light shine on Rev. Peter.

Dear Parishioners and Friends of the Catholic Parishes of Holt and Boyd Counties.

In these summer days, we continue our readings from the Gospel of Matthew. This weekend we begin chapter 13, sometimes referred to as the chapter on parables [Matt 13:1-23], since Matthew has Jesus teach seven parables in this chapter. The word "parable" reflects the Hebrew word *māshāl*, which in turn means wisdomsaying or proverb. This term could be used to mean anything from a saying to a lengthy allegorical tale. The latter is what we have today, with the parable of the sower, as Jesus himself calls it (Matt 13:18).

Matthew's story of the parable of the sower follows Mark's, which Matthew used as a source. In fact, there is little variation at all. Significantly, Matthew says that Jesus sat by the shore (Matt 13:1), but when the crowds grew too large, he moved to a boat where he sat as well (Matt 13:2). That particular verb ("sat") recalls the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5:1), where Jesus also sat to teach. The verb is used by Mark too, and it is an indication of a true teacher—one who sits to dispense wisdom. This is no wandering professor. Fortunately for us (and for the early disciples), Jesus explained this parable himself. There is no need to discern the intended meaning. Those who read the longer gospel have the advantage of that explanation.

The parable of the sower is rooted in antiquity with the image of scattering seed on the ground, which would have preceded plowing. Today even gardeners often sow seed by plowing first (tilling), planting the seed, then covering the seed with soil. But that is not the way those in the ancient world performed the task. It's for this reason that many seeds may be eaten by the birds or may fall on rocky soil. Not all the seed that is scattered takes root and bears fruit. Indeed, if those in the ancient world planted seeds the way a modern gardener does, it's highly unlikely that Jesus would have used this same parable! Instead, we might have a parable about the care with which the sower sows seed. But such is not the world of antiquity.

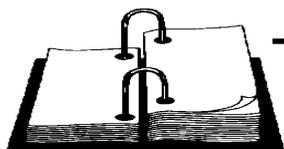
Jesus ends this simple allegorical tale with an injunction: "Whoever has ears ought to hear."

The parable in this weekend's gospel should cause us to stop and consider several questions: What kind of seed are we? Were we scattered on rocky soil or fertile? Will we bear fruit? If so, how much—thirty, sixty, a hundred-fold? Being viewed as seed scattered on the ground does not seem to leave much room for free will. The seed scattered on rocks can scarcely move itself to the fertile soil. Is it the fault of the seed for landing in an inhospitable environment? Then again, what about the seed that finds itself in fertile soil? Is there a responsibility to grow and produce fruit? That can hardly happen if it's eaten by a bird. Again, the question of free will seems to be outside the realm of this parable.

Today, we might pray for the grace to grow where we find ourselves and to produce as much fruit as possible. One day there will be a harvest and we shall experience new life. Such is the paschal mystery.

Ad multos annos! Fr. Bernard Starman, Pastor

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



The Week Ahead

- **Wed., July 15**—Adoration...9am–3pm
- **Thu., July 16**—KC meeting. Rosary prayed @ 7:15. Menu: liver & onions & cook's surprise, beans & dessert. Drawing-\$60.00. Insurance needs-Mike Scholz-308.991.6157. Hall Rent-Wayne Baker 402.340.0314
- **Sat., Aug. 1**—Conference "The Niagara Falls of the Father's Love for Us" in Columbus. See flyer in church
- **August 1 & 2**—Mass time changes for 6 months...**SJ**-Sat. 6pm & Sun.10:30am; **SB**-Sun. 8:30am

LITURGICAL MINISTERS...July 19

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHC		Joe Skrdla
LECTOR		Patti Skrdla
GIFT BEARERS		
ORGANIST		Diane Osborne
SERVERS		
<u>USHERS</u>	FOR TWO WEEKS	Doug Kubik

THE LORD'S PORTON...07.05.20

Adult envelopes (14)	956.00
Loose cash	5.00
Loose checks (3)	185.00
Peter's Pence (1)	15.00
Online Giving	<u>480.85</u>
TOTAL	1,641.85

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
NEVER GIVE THE DEVIL A RIDE---HE WILL ALWAYS WANT TO DRIVE