

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

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

07/19/20

Monday NO MASS
 Tuesday NO MASS
 Wednesday 8:15 AM + Leo & MaryEllen Monahan
 Thursday NO MASS
 Friday 8:15 AM + Mike & Ines Schaaf Family
 Saturday NO MASS
 Sunday 8:30 AM +Lawrence, Evelyn, Judy Skrdla

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

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*Many, many thanks to those
 who are remembering the
 church with financial support*

*Do you realize that Jesus is there
 in the tabernacle expressly for you
 ---for you alone? He burns with
 the desire to come into your heart!*
**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED
 SACRAMENT**
*is each Wednesday from 9am to
 3pm*
*Take some time to sit in quiet
 solitude ...just you and Jesus!*

Dear Parishioners and Friends of the Catholic Parishes of Western Holt and Boyd Counties:

This weekend we continue reading from Matthew 13[24-43], the chapter on parables. This is the primary chapter in the Gospel of Matthew where Jesus speaks in parables, and he speaks seven of them. That alone should tell us that we are dealing with Matthew’s evangelical hand in editing and placing these parables where he does in his story about Jesus.

The parable of the weeds and the wheat occurs only in Matthew. No other gospel includes this parable, causing scholars to wonder whether Matthew had access to a special source, or perhaps he composed it himself. Even if that is so, the passage is still scriptural, still inspired, and still authoritative. One reason scholars query whether Matthew composed it is that so many of the stories that are unique to him fit a pattern of judgment followed by a fiery end. And this story certainly falls into that category.

The good sower expects a harvest of wheat but is unaware that his enemy cast weeds into the field. The precise term for the weed is “darnel,” which is a plant that looks like wheat. Darnel is sometimes called “false wheat.”

Rather than uproot the darnel, a process that would harm the wheat, both are allowed to grow together. In the end there will be a sorting, and the darnel is destined for the fire. Such an apocalyptic image requires little imagination. This is hardly the sort of parable whose meaning is difficult to discern. Instead, we see clearly that the followers of Jesus, the “church” (Matthew is the only gospel to use that term), is a field of wheat and weeds, the good and the bad. The church does not (or should not) play God and determine who will be uprooted. Instead, uprooting is God’s role and he will perform it . . . in the end.

For anyone whose life is bound up in the church (or any institution composed of human beings), today’s gospel rings true. There are weeds in the church in every time and place. But it is not our role to uproot. At harvest time God will separate the weeds from the wheat. Our role is simply to produce for the harvest.

How many of us would like to be in charge, deciding what’s best for the group, what’s best for the church? When enemies get in the way, we would have the authority to uproot and be rid of them. Even if we are not the ones to be “in charge,” how many of us would like someone else to do the uprooting or weeding? But such is not the way it is

with God and the church. In today's gospel passage, we learn from Jesus that God is aware that there are weeds growing within the wheat. God is content to let them grow together, only to be separated later, at harvest time.

It is our task to simply let God be God while we grow into the harvest we are meant to be. Our lives are not to be filled with judgmentalism but with mercy. We are reminded of Pope Francis's words, "Who am I to judge," or Jesus' own words in the Gospel of John, "Let the one who is without sin cast the first stone." These are gentle reminders for us that as disciples, followers of the Son of God, we are content to allow God to act in his own time.

Ad multos annos!

Fr. Bernard Starman
Pastor

As A Parish... we congratulate Elizabeth Krumwiede & Duane Neiman as the two became one on July 11, 2020. May you allow Jesus to be the center of your marriage as you begin your journey together.



We Pray With Special Love & Concern For All Those Who Are Ill... Emma Lou Gunther, Blakely Bouska, John Gilg, Michelle Bulau, Garrett Scholz, John Mathis, Sandra Maybon.



**VISITING
PRIEST**

This Weekend... we warmly welcome Fr. Mike Eckley to St. Joseph's as he celebrates Mass with us while Fr. Weeder is speaking at an Engaged Encounter Weekend.

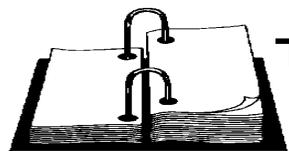


Will Once Again... be accepting a donation of \$10.00 from each woman in the parish.

This fundraiser takes the place of the fall dinner that we had several years ago. There are a few options that you are welcome to do in the next 3 weeks....mail a check to the parish office---PO Box 220, or to the treasurer...Diane Rentschler, 47691 883rd Rd, Atkinson, NE 68713 OR you can drop it in the wooden box at church but PLEASE mark your envelope

ALTAR SOCIETY. Thank you in advance!

Hey Golfers....Get Ready To Swing! The St. Joseph/St. Boniface Golf Tourney will be hosted by St. Joseph's this year. The date is set for Sun., August 9. For those who don't care to golf, a meal will be prepared for you! More details to follow.



**The
Week
Ahead**

- **Wed., July 22**—Adoration...9am-3pm
- **Sat., Aug. 1**—Conference "The Niagara Falls of the Father's Love for Us". See flyer in church
- **August 1 & 2**—Mass time changes for 6 months...**SJ**-Sat. 6pm & Sun.10:30am; **SB**-Sun. 8:30am
- **Sun., Aug. 9**— Golf Tournament

LITURGICAL MINISTERS...July 26

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHC		Andrea Borer
LECTOR		Tim Hamik
GIFT BEARERS		
ORGANIST		Terri Vrooman
SERVERS		
<u>USHERS</u>	FOR TWO WEEKS	Doug Kubik

THE LORD'S PORTION...07.12.20

Adult envelopes (17)	2,375.00
Loose cash	20.00
Loose checks (1)	25.00
Peter's Pence (1)	50.00
Online Giving (4)	<u>411.94</u>
TOTAL	2,881.94

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
IT'S BETTER TO GET THE
FACTS RATHER THAN FACE
THE FACTS