

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

21st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 08/23/20

Monday NO MASS
 Tuesday 10:00AM + Eleanor Jones @ Good Sam.
 Wednesday 8:15 AM + Rev. Val Peter
 Thursday NO MASS
 Friday 8:15 AM + Art Laetsch
 Saturday **6:00 PM** + Don Schaaf
 Sunday **10:30 AM** + Lawrence, Albena & Rollin Kramer

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

++++
EMHC/Lector Training & Mandation...will happen this fall. Due to limitations on large gatherings & the variety of local liturgical solutions, the process will differ from previous years. Those interested in being trained & mandated as an **EMHC** or **Lector** can call the parish office & submit their names to be registered **no later than Sept. 9**. You will be provided the necessary forms & links for the virtual meetings. Upon completion of the session, candidates' pastors will be notified & be responsible (or delegate responsibility) for the practical instruction in their current local procedures. The customary mandation Masses in Norfolk & Omaha **will not be held**, but resources for the mandation will be provided to pastors to facilitate local ceremonies during weekend Mass.

Virtual Meeting Dates & Times:
Sunday, 9/20: 3-4:30pm (English)
Monday, 9/21: 6-7:30pm (Spanish)

We Remember...those in need of special prayers:
 Emma Lou Gunther, Blakely Bouska, John Gilg,
 Michelle Bulau, Garrett Scholz & Andy Hoffman.

+++++

The Altar Society...is so grateful for all the ladies in the parish who are remembering to pay their dues of \$10.00. If you haven't paid yours, you are encouraged to mail a check to Diane Rentschler, 47691 883rd Road, Atkinson, NE 68713 or St. Joseph Church, PO Box 220. Lastly you are welcome to drop it in the wooden box in the middle aisle of church...labeled "Altar Society"

+++++

Do You Take Time...to notice? Karen Thompson does an awesome job on the bulletin board in the entrance of our church...it's so welcoming! Thanks, Karen, for offering your time & talent. It is much appreciated!

+++++



A man came to the Scripture class seeking not only answers but ammunition. His Protestant friends were telling him that Peter was not the first pope. They had Scripture passages to back up their claims. He was sure there was something in the Bible he could use to counteract their arguments. Now the man was asking the instructor for three other Scripture passages he could use that would trump theirs! He was a bit disappointed when the instructor said that's not the way Catholics read Scripture—how he had wanted the equivalent of three aces to play during the next go-around with his Protestant friends!

The story in this weekend's gospel reading from Matthew [16:13-20] is a favorite in Catholic-Protestant dialogue or even debates on the role of Peter and the development of the papacy. But the papacy is a long way from the setting of this particular story. Instead, if we read it on its terms, we see that Simon Bar-jonah confesses Jesus as the Christ. He recognizes Jesus for who he is, and Jesus responds by saying this insight was given to him by the heavenly Father. Jesus then names him "Peter," a Greek term meaning "Rock" (though in Aramaic the word is Kephias). Prior to this, no person in recorded history had been named "Rock." It's as though Jesus named someone "Window." For us today, who are so familiar with the name "Peter," it sounds

standard. But in antiquity, this nickname would have sounded odd. And for that reason, most scholars believe the name "Peter" goes back to the historical Jesus. Jesus then says that on this "rock" (whether "rock" in this instance refers to the person of Simon Bar-jonah or his confession of Jesus as Christ is debated) he will build his "church." The term "church" appears in the gospels only in Matthew, and only in today's reading and in Matthew 18:17. Historically, churches developed later, so it seems anachronistic for Matthew (or any evangelist) to use the term during the historical ministry of Jesus.

It's partially for that reason that the phrase is thought to be a Matthean addition. Even so, Matthew is

informing, or reminding, his audience that Peter was a spokesperson for the group, confessed Jesus as Christ, but even this was not due to his insight but from a gift of the Father. As Catholics, we read Scripture holistically, not cherry-picking verses from here and there, and then applying them in a context divorced from their own. A Catholic approach to Scripture seeks to understand the context in which the book, letter, or verse was written; the intent of the author, as much as possible; and how it corresponds to other Scripture. If we are looking for Scripture verses to use in theological debate with other Christians, we are playing the wrong game.

There is a saying about the Bible, “Familiarity with Scripture is familiarity with Christ.” Though Catholics have not had a long history of being familiar with Scripture, there are more and more Bible studies available today online and in parishes, from university level to adult faith formation.

Commentaries abound and even the New American Bible is available for free with its footnotes on the USCCB website. Since Vatican II, Catholics have been encouraged to become familiar with Scripture, “the soul of theology” (according to Vatican II itself).

Jesus himself knew Scripture and often cited it. We would do well to do the same. When we learn about the Bible, read footnotes, examine commentaries, and pray with the text, we likely put to death ignorance and instead raise to life knowledge and understanding. To live the paschal mystery is to become familiar with Scripture, not so we can cite passages in theological debates, but so that the wisdom of sacred word washes over us as waves on a beach. Over time, the waves shape the beach as the Scriptures shape us. Let us live the paschal mystery by embracing familiarity with Scripture, for in so doing, we will become familiar with Christ himself.

Ad multos annos!

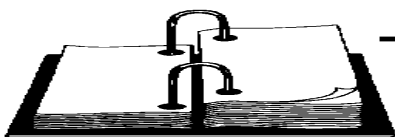
Fr. Bernard Starman



As A Parish... we offer our sincere sympathy to the family of John Mathis. Please be assured that our prayers & special thoughts are with you today and in the days ahead. John was called to his eternal home on August 15. May perpetual light shine on John and all whom the Lord has called to himself.

Following The Instructions... in the Book of Macabees in the Bible and the long standing tradition of prayer in our church, we are asked to remember in a special way those who we have loved and cared for in this life. While we cannot know “how long” Purgatory is for anyone, we do know that it is a reality that everyone will face, if they are destined for heaven. Pray for those in need who have died. If you would like a Mass offered for your loved ones, please contact the parish office.

Our Parish Welcomes... newly registered parishioners: Randy & Barb Leu, Pamela Bergstrom, Jacob & Riley Runyan and Jordan Moser. We are so happy you have joined us!



The Week Ahead

- **Wed., Aug. 26**—Adoration, 9am—3pm

LITURGICAL MINISTERS...Aug. 29/30

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHC	Linda Wolf	Joe Skrdla
LECTOR	Brian Mlady	Don Slaymaker
GIFT BEARERS		
ORGANIST	Jayne Fetherston	
SERVERS		
<u>USHERS</u>	Volunteer	Volunteer

THE LORD'S PORTON...08.16.20

Adult envelopes (12)	638.00
Loose cash	20.00
Loose checks (2)	325.00
Assumption (7)	180.00
Online Giving (3)	<u>531.94</u>
TOTAL	1,694.94

Thought For The Day
I USED TO ASK GOD
TO HELP ME...THEN
I ASKED IF I MIGHT
HELP HIM