

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

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

10/11/20

Monday	NO MASS
Tuesday	NO MASS @ Good Sam.
Wednesday	8:15 AM + James Mullen
Thursday	NO MASS
Friday	8:15 AM + Ray & Eleanor Slaymaker
Saturday	6:00 PM + Francis & Mildred Fritz
Sunday	10:30 AM + Janice Ries

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

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The Month of October...is Domestic Violence Awareness. The Altar Society will be collecting items for Bright Horizons. Needed are disinfectant supplies, paper products & cleaning items. There will be a box in church for donated items. Direct ? to Cindy Kubik, 402.340.0049.

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*We Remember...*those in need of special prayers:

Emma Lou Gunther, Blakely Bouska, John Gilg, Michelle Bulau, Garrett Scholz, Barb McTavish, & Andy Hoffman.



Thank you, thank you, thank you! The Altar Society

officers are most grateful to all the women who remembered to pay their annual dues of \$10.00. The donations are so appreciated as the Altar Society pays for the hosts and the church support envelopes.

*In Your Packet...*of envelopes you'll find an envelope for **World Mission Sunday**. Please offer prayers and your most generous sacrifice will be accepted in the collection box at church. The offerings that will be collected are destined for a common fund of solidarity distributed in the Pope's name, by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith among the missions and missionaries of the world.

CCD NEWS---We are **STILL** in need of a **FIFTH GRADE TEACHER**. Please contact Linda Wolf, CCD Coordinator (402.340.0741) if you would be willing to teach this grade. **PARENTS---**remember the fee of **\$20.00 per child to cover the cost of materials. Thanks!**

Adult Parishioners...have you considered being a part of the Senior Prayer Partner Program this year? Choose a senior from the Class of 2021: Jaxson Cadwallader, Reghan Kerkman, Nathaniel Ketteler, Javin Klabenes, Aaron Kraus, Jordyn Laible, Madison Tunender. **Submit the senior you choose to Linda Wolf, 402.340.0741.** Remember the senior throughout the school year with special notes of encouragement, a birthday, etc. You will remain anonymous to whom you choose until the first week of May when names will be revealed.

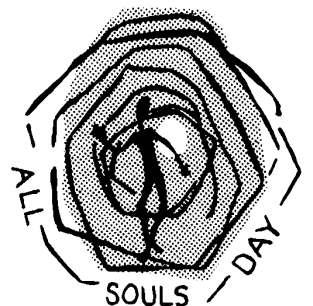


Our Parish...extends condolences to the family of Don Gokie. Don was called to his eternal home on 10.04.20. May perpetual light shine on Don and all the faithful departed.



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+ **We Are Currently** ...exploring alternative options for our +
+ parish auction. Nothing has yet been set in stone and we will +
+ keep you updated in terms of plans as we go along +
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You Will Find...All Souls envelopes in the vestibule of the church. If you'd like a Mass offered for your loved ones during the month of November—the month we especially remember those who have gone before us, please return the envelope to the parish office.



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

Fr. Weeder, Fr. Sund, Deacon Kersenbrock and I are grateful to all who remembered us with cards, kind words, good wishes, and prayers, on Clergy Appreciation Sunday (aka Priesthood Sunday). Your kindness and generosity to us is very much appreciated. Thank you!

This weekend we come to the third of three parables in three weeks. After learning about the two sons and the evil tenants, we now hear about the royal wedding feast. This parable, like the one from last week, is addressed to the chief priests and elders. Care should be taken to remember that Jesus is not talking about all Jews; he speaks to the leaders in a particular time and place. And the parable he speaks to them is harsh, especially the end. If we choose the shorter gospel reading, the last four verses will not be read—and it might be easier for the preacher if they were not! Many problematic issues are avoided by simply reading the shorter version of this gospel.

In the shorter reading, the parable is fairly straightforward. The king sets a banquet, but the guests do not come. The first servants (prophets) are ignored, as are the second set (the apostles). Indeed, the invitees kill the messengers! The king enacts his vengeance on these people, killing them and burning their city before extending the invitation to others. (The fact that the king burns a city between setting a table for guests and serving the dinner tells us clearly that we are in the realm of story.)

This parable, then, is read like last week's, in Christian-Jewish terms. The people whom God had chosen ignored his invitation both when the prophets announced it and when the apostles were sent. We recall that Matthew is writing at a time after the destruction of Jerusalem. So, the parable's mentioning of the people being killed, and the city burned quite literally happened when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in AD 70.

The original audience of Matthew's gospel did not need much imagination to get the point. The last four verses conclude on a troubling note. When the new guests arrive, the king sees someone not properly dressed. For that he is bound and thrown out. Again, we might wonder what kind of king this is! But the image of a king in Jesus' time certainly had the power of life and death over his subjects. It makes for an apt image of God, even if the behaviors of the king in this parable sound off-putting. We recall earlier Matthean parables like the weeds and wheat. Matthew knows the church is a collection of the good and bad. Some quite literally need to be tossed out.

Those invited to the feast, and those who attend, should not be smug. There is no guarantee. An invitation does not necessarily mean attendance, and attendance does not necessarily mean celebration. There are expectations that need to be met. "Many are invited but few are chosen" is a sober reminder for us all.

In a story filled with such violence as we have today, it might be easy to forget we are dealing with a merciful God! God calls a people to himself and desires that they come to him. The destruction of the city of Jerusalem with its temple was interpreted at the time by Christians as God's judgment on Judah. A violent world saw stories of violence. Though we may wish to minimize the violence, unfortunately it has been part of human history from the beginning and continues to this day.

It might be difficult to strip away the violent imagery and focus instead on the kernel underneath it all. Matthew's church has the wisdom and experience of decades since the death and resurrection of Jesus. It has learned that there are some in the church who do not belong, as indicated in several parables. Sadly, our modern experience reflects this too. Simply being in the church does not make one holy, God's chosen, or a paragon of virtue. There are weeds within the wheat. Only God has the authority to definitively and eternally expel such a person. The sobering reminder that "many are invited but few are chosen" should cause us to pause, reflect, and reexamine our lives.

Ad multos annos! Fr. Bernard Starman, Pastor



- **Wed., Oct. 14**—Adoration, 9am—3pm. CCD @ 6:30pm
- **Tue., Oct. 13**—Altar Society meeting, 6pm @ the KC Hall
- **Thu., Oct. 15**—KC meeting. Rosary will be prayed @ 7:15pm with meeting to follow. Lotto-\$90.00 as Mark Keogh was absent. Must be present to win. Menu-fish, fries & dessert. Insurance Needs--Mike Scholz, 308.991.6157; Hall Rental--Wayne Baker, 402.340.0314

LITURGICAL MINISTERS...Oct.18/19

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHC	Kenny Tunender	Joe Skrdla
LECTOR	Pam Bergstrom	Don Slaymaker
GIFT BEARERS		
ORGANIST	Terri Vrooman	Diane Osborne
SERVERS		
<u>USHERS</u>		

THE LORD'S PORTION...10.04.20

Adult envelopes (21)	1,605.00
Loose checks (2)	50.00
Insurance (12)	880.00
Peter's Pence (1)	100.00
Online Giving (3)	<u>226.15</u>
TOTAL	2,861.15

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK
In good times we enjoy faith, in troubled times we exercise faith