

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

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 11/08/20

Monday NO MASS
Tuesday NO MASS @ Good Sam.
Wednesday 8:15 AM + Joan Mlinar
Thursday NO MASS
Friday 8:15 AM + Rev. Clifford Stevens
Saturday 6:00 PM + Kenny Lane
Sunday 10:30 AM + Steve Schaaf

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

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LITURGY---is not an option nor merely an obligation, not a bonus, but a need---like food & drink, like sleep & work, like friends. We need to gather, listen, and give praise & thanks & share communion. Otherwise we forget who we are & whose we are; & we can have neither the strength nor the joy to be Christ's body---present in the world today.

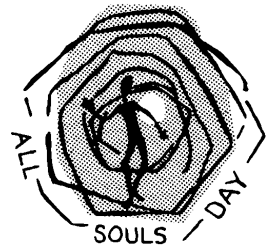
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We Remember......those in need of special prayers:
Emma Lou Gunther, Kenny Fessler, John Gilg, Michelle Bulau, Garrett Scholz, Barb McTavish, & Andy Hoffman



*Thank you for
your service to
our country!*

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.



Just to let you know

*The Reserved Parking Space...*in front of church will extend until the parish auction which hopefully will be in March as stated in last weekend's bulletin.

*As A Parish...*we offer our sincere condolences to Dan & Joan Greger with the passing of their grandson, Christian Miller. Please know that our prayers & thoughts are with you today & in the days ahead. May perpetual light shine on Christian & all who have been called home by the Father.



PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

God our Father, You made each of us to receive our gifts in the Body of Christ. We ask that You inspire young people whom You call to the priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will. Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the Sacraments.



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

Robert Baden Powell founded the Boy Scouts over one hundred years ago. The motto he chose for the organization was, "Be prepared." Once he was asked about the motto, "Be prepared for what?" "Anything!" was the answer. This motto has guided scouts in the organization for more than a century, and it is similar to the point of this weekend's gospel [Matt 25:1-13].

The parable Jesus tells us in this weekend's gospel may seem at first glance to be un-Christian. Why wouldn't the five who have oil share theirs with the five who do not have oil? But that's the wrong question. A better question would be, why weren't the five who have no extra oil prepared? They knew enough to bring their lamps, but they did not bring reserve flasks of oil. They had not anticipated that they would need more oil than what their lamp could hold. Rather than share, leading to a situation where nobody would have enough oil, the "wise" ones told the "foolish" to go get their own oil. And when they were gone, doing just that, the groom appeared, the guests entered, and the doors were locked. When the "foolish" ones returned, the master said he did not know them, and they were not allowed in. Their cry of "Lord, Lord" calls to mind other passages in this gospel where people cry "Lord, Lord," only to hear the master reply that he does not know them (7:21-23; 25:31-46).

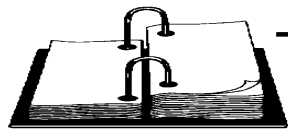
The motto "Be prepared" seems particularly apt here, and it reflects the attitude of many other parables in the Gospel of Matthew. Though Christians often imagine a forgiving God, that concept needs to be squared with the parables we read, such as the one we have today. Why didn't the master simply let the "foolish" ones in? Is it really that important that they forgot to bring extra oil? Does the punishment fit the crime, so to speak? Again, these questions come readily to mind, but they are not the focus of the story. Instead, the point of the parable is "preparedness" with respect to the coming of the "Lord." And this likely reflects the situation in the Matthean community. This is the same gospel that gives us the parable of the weeds and the wheat growing together. Matthew seems to be aware that the church is a mixed bag of the wise and the foolish, those prepared for the Lord's coming and those who are unprepared. It's not for one group to throw out the other. God will allow those to enter whom he will. The ill-prepared, hoping on that day for someone else to bail them out, will not be allowed to enter.

The meaning of Jesus' parables can sometimes be difficult to discern. One can read almost anything into them. This weekend's parable should be a clarion call to "be prepared" for the coming of Jesus at the end times. And even if we think the end times are far, far away, our own personal end (death) may come when we least expect it. So, it can be a fruitful exercise to read these parables in terms of our own death: Am I prepared for that? How would I live on this earth if today were my last? Or if this week were my last? Would my priorities shift? This kind of exercise can clarify our own priorities and behaviors. Jesus reminds us that the fools are the ones who were not prepared for the coming of the master. Let us be like the wise ones, attentive to the coming of the Lord, for we know not when that day might be.

Ad multos annos!

Fr. Bernard Starman
Pastor

*The best things in life
aren't things*



The Week Ahead

- **Wed., Nov. 11**—Adoration, 9am—3pm. CCD @ 6:30pm
- **Thu., Nov. 26**—Thanksgiving Day Mass, 9am

LITURGICAL MINISTERS...Nov 14/15

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHCs	Jim Ramm	Cheleigh Sholes
LECTORS	Harry Morgan	Jack Wolf
GIFT BEARERS		
ORGANIST	Terri Vrooman	
SERVERS		
<u>USHERS</u>		

THE LORD'S PORTION...11.01.20

Adult envelopes (20)	1,920.00
Loose checks (1)	25.00
Loose cash	30.00
All Saints (10)	165.00
World Mission Sunday (1)	50.00
CCHD (1)	50.00
Insurance (1)	50.00
Harvest (1)	50.00
Online Giving (2)	<u>35.00</u>
TOTAL	2,375.00

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Loved the wedding; invite me to the marriage!
Love,
God