

St. Joseph Church

Rev. Bernard Starman, Pastor
Rev. James Weeder & Rev. Joseph Sund, Associates
Deacon M.J. Kersenbrock
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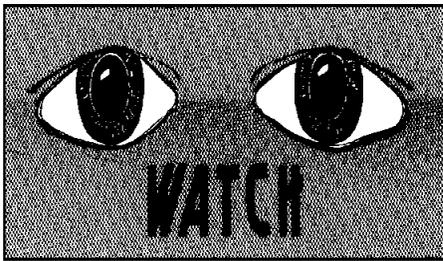
11/29/20

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday 10:30AM + Tunender Funeral
Tuesday NO MASS @ Good Sam.
Wednesday 10:30AM + Faler Funeral
Thursday NO MASS
Friday 8:15 AM + SJ Memorial Society
Saturday 6:00 PM + Tom, Sharon, Joseph & Jeff Welsh
Sunday 10:30 AM + Stanley Rzeszotarski Family

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

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



MATTHEW 24:42

*We Remember...*those in need of special prayers: Emma Lou Gunther, Kenny Fessler, John Gilg, Garrett Scholz, Barb McTavish, Andy Hoffman, David E. Leiding, Lois Tunender.



We Congratulate...
Sheena & Adam Skrdla on the baptism of their son, Theodore Joseph, on 11.25.20.

Lord Jesus, Master of both light & darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparation for Christmas.
We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.
We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.
We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.
We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.
We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

*Taking The...*cross this weekend—Don & Brenda Wedige. The week of Dec. 6—John & Marsha Thomassen.



*There Will Be A...*virtual St. Joseph School Christmas Program. We will keep you posted on this event.

- **1st Sunday of Advent** symbolizes HOPE with the "Prophets Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.
- **2nd Sunday of Advent** symbolizes FAITH with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary & Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.
- **3rd Sunday of Advent** symbolizes JOY with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.
- **4th Sunday of Advent** symbolizes PEACE with the "Angels Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

*You are Welcome...*to pick up the candle of your loved one from the south side altar following Mass today.



PASTORAL SHARINGS

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

“Be watchful! Be alert!” are the first words with which Mark greets us at the beginning of this new year of the church. They are also the last words spoken by Jesus in Mark’s gospel (Mark 13:37) before the vortex of violence begins to suck Jesus into the passion and death that he will conquer by his resurrection. So even as we begin Advent, we are reminded of the paschal mystery of Christ, the hub of the liturgical year.

This weekend’s gospel is part of Mark 13, the chapter that is known as his “little apocalypse.” Apocalypse is sometimes called the literature of the oppressed, as it usually arises from and is addressed to people in a time of uncertainty or suffering, present or imminent. Such was the situation of the Markan church, persecuted and unsure what the next day would bring in terms of fidelity to or betrayal of their faith.

In one sense, uncertainty is always the season of the church as we await the return of Jesus, the great Traveler, who has gone abroad from the home of his human presence with us, but will return at his Second Coming when human history has run its course. We are uncertain about the day or the hour of this, because it is known only to the Father; but we have the certainty of faith that there is an end for the world: a faith that Christ will come again to pour out upon the cosmos the extravagant love of God that will transform it into the new heaven and new earth. When the new invades on our lives to threaten the established order, we often express our reaction to this in terms of cosmic collapse: “I felt as though my whole world was collapsing!” In the verses immediately before today’s gospel, Jesus has spoken about the end of the old order in terms of the “passing away” of heaven and earth. The old order is the predictable, the ingrained habits, the mindless and often oppressive “business as usual.” Jesus’s words announce a new reality for which we must be awake and alert. Advent is our yearly reminder that, immersed in the present as we necessarily are, nonetheless we always stand on the edge of the future, secure in the words of Jesus which will not pass away but will help us journey into a new and hopeful transformation (cf. Mark 13:31-32).

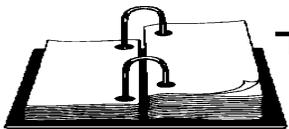
Mark describes the “Jesus journey” through the parable of a man who goes abroad and leaves his servants in charge of his household. Just as each one of the servants in the parable is given specific work to do during his master’s absence, so we, as members of God’s household, are to be daily committed to our baptismal calling in our own circumstances, “evening, morning, cockcrow, dawn.” Especially as “doorkeepers,” we are to watch out for and open our personal and communal lives to the advent of God. Modern science speaks of the cosmos in terms of millennia of millennia, yet we know that this is not the scale of our own lifetime. The natural process of aging, perhaps the diagnosis of our own or our loved one’s terminal illness, the sudden fatal accident, the ravages of natural disasters—all these are reminders of our much shorter time and our need to be prepared for that “personal parousia,” Christ’s advent in our death.

This weekend in our churches or homes we light the first candle on the Advent wreath: a small flame is struck on an evergreen circle, a simple ritual and symbol of the first flicker of hope in the One who is the Light of the World, who will lead us through every darkness to eternal life with God who is without beginning or end. “Maranatha,” “Come, Lord,” is our persistent Advent cry.

Ad multos annos! Fr. Bernard Starman, Pastor

THE LINE---Like soup kitchen hobos, we shuffle toward our grace. Eyes measure the wait, seek the fastest teller. Bodies close in to discourage lingerers, but faces stand apart. We exchange passwords—“Thebodyofchrist/amen.”—Trace our salute, then press on toward pews and home. Is it so light a thing, then, to take God in our hands???

Word Has Been Received...of the death of Leonard Troshynski of Guthrie Center, Iowa, formerly of Atkinson. Sympathy to the Schmit & Kilmurry families. Also, we offer condolences to the family of Robert Tunender. Robert passed away Wednesday of this week. May perpetual light shine on Leonard & Robert. We pray that their families would find comfort in God’s presence and peace in God’s promises.



The Week Ahead

- **Wed., Dec. 2**—Adoration, 9am—3pm, CCD AND **SCHOOL BOARD MEETING, 8pm**
- **Sun., Dec. 6**—**Wood auction**, 2pm @ Atkinson Community Center parking lot
- **Tue., Dec. 8**—Parish Council meeting, 7:30pm, north sacristy of church

LITURGICAL MINISTERS...DEC 5/6

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHC	Linda Wolf	A Borer
LECTOR	Pam Bergstrom	H Morgan
GIFT BEARERS		
ORGANIST	Jayne Fetherston	Diane Osborne
SERVERS		
<u>USHERS</u>		

THE LORD’S PORTON...11.22.20

Adult envelopes (16)	1,493.00
Loose cash	5.00
Insurance (1)	25.00
Harvest (3)	170.00
Catholic Charities (10)	235.00
Online Giving (3)	<u>360.00</u>
TOTAL	2,288.00

**What you give to
God you will never
miss!**