

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

12/06/20

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Mon **7:00 PM** + Robert & Mary Straka **Immaculate**
Tue **8:15 AM** + Vern Salyers **Conception**
Wed 8:15 AM + Bill & Mary Ryan
Thu NO MASS
Fri 8:15 AM + Rev. Theodore Richling
Sat 3:00 PM – Hoef/Peterson Wedding
6:00 PM + Jeanne Mathis
Sun 10:30 AM – To Heal Division

Sacrament of Reconciliation: One half hour prior to Sunday Morning Mass AND each Thursday from 7-8pm during Advent

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In Your Packet...of envelopes you will find an envelope for Religious Pensions dated Dec. 13, 2020. Please sacrifice what you're able for this annual appeal.
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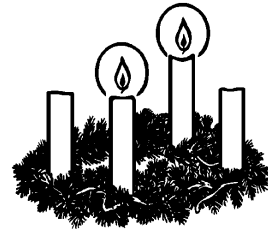
IF WE TRULY REMAIN LIKE SOFT CLAY IN THE MASTER POTTER'S HANDS, WE WILL NOT BE CRUSHED OR BROKEN WHEN THINGS DON'T GO OUR WAY. WE'LL ALLOW GOD IN HIS SOVEREIGNTY AND WISDOM TO MOLD US, RESHAPE US, AND REDIRECT US ACCORDING TO HIS PLAN

*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...
Ben & Jordan Borer
on the baptism of
their son, **Rohan Robert** on **11.28.20**

MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH A HOLY ADVENT. MAY YOU BE AWARE OF HIS COMING TODAY TO YOU, BE PREPARED FOR HIS FINAL COMING, AND CELEBRATE HIS FIRST COMING AS A BABE AT CHRISTMAS



REMINDER-----WHEN THERE IS A FUNERAL ON WEDNESDAY @ ST. JOSEPH'S, ADORATION WILL BEGIN AT NOON UNLESS YOU ARE NOTIFIED DIFFERENTLY. THANK YOU!

*Taking The...*vocation cross this weekend—John & Marsha Thomassen. The week of Dec. 13—Tim Laible Family.



- **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 sacristy.

Archbishops Annual Appeal...St. Joseph's financial goal is \$9,098.00. We've had \$7,560.00 committed, (83.1%) our participation goal this year is 27% currently 17.9%.





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

PASTORAL SHARINGS

The Liturgy of the Word puts the adult John the Baptist before us this weekend and next to block our view of “baby Jesus,” and so remind us that the Advent–Christmas mystery is less about the child and more about the adult Coming One and the mystery of his life, death, and resurrection that he offers to us as our own mystery. We are called to make our way down to the Jordan with the hopeful and curious crowds to see this wilderness man. John had accepted the hospitality that the desert had offered him. Dining on the desert food of bitter locusts sweetened with wild honey, he is satisfied with the food of the poor; clad in rough camel hair, he is dressed like a new Elijah (2 Kgs 1:5-8); tempered in his spirit by solitude, John, in his turn, welcomes the crowds with a bittersweet message in sparse words that are honed to a fine cutting edge for slicing through consciences and exposing them to the truth.

Son of a priest though he may be, John does not deliver his message in the temple or anywhere else in Jerusalem, but on the banks of the Jordan River. At this busy crossing place, so significant in the history of Israel’s journey into the Promised Land (cf. Josh 3), John urges the people to cross over into God’s forgiveness through the waters of a ritual baptism of repentance. The Baptist invites us, too, to honest mindfulness of the water—not of the Jordan, but of our baptism—and to examination of our consciousness about our fidelity to the Christ into whom we are baptized. Despite the crowds he draws, John’s self-evaluation has nothing of self-exaltation. At this high point of his popularity he speaks directly to the people to point them away from himself to the stronger One who is coming, and declares that he is unworthy even to be a slave who would bend down and untie the sandals on the smelling and sweating feet of this Coming One. John resists the temptation of successful ministers: to allow our own popularity to become the main concern of our ministry. When we do this, we are proclaiming what we consider the good news of ourselves, not of Jesus.

In the Puerto Rican city of San Juan, named for John, there stands a huge stone sculpture of the precursor. It is located between the ocean and a main highway of this busy modern city. With the relentlessness of the stone from which he is carved, the Baptist stands with head bent and eyes looking down the highway. But one arm is raised high with a determined finger pointing to heaven. The statue expresses the gospel paradox of John the Baptist, the earthy man of both the wilderness and the Jordan crowds, and the heaven-directed prophet; the paradox of disengagement and engagement—and so the embodiment of the paradox of the Advent season. Day after day, as surely as the waves break on the shore, our lives must be directed to heaven, and yet we must also be involved in the rush and business of daily life. The former is almost certainly the more difficult during these weeks. But it can be done if we opt to deliberately turn off the TV, to unplug our ears from iPods or mobile phones and turn to a few moments of silent reflection about the hopes and promises of Advent. If we plug our listening into some quiet reading of Scripture (lectio divina), perhaps a reread of some of the Sunday texts; if we seize a few moments of prayerful repentance or awareness of the presence of God in our traveling companions along our highways or on public transport or while shopping—these are ways in which we can respond to Psalm 85 and “hear what God proclaims.”

Have a blessed and safe Advent season!
Ad multos annos!
Fr. Bernard Starman

**WE AS A PARISH OFFER OUR SYMPATHY TO THE
THE FAMILY OF JOHANNA FALER WHOSE FUNERAL
WAS WED. OF THIS WEEK. MAY PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE ON HER**



- **TODAY (Sunday)**—Wood auction, 2 pm @ Atkinson Community Center parking lot
- **Tue., Dec. 8**—Immaculate Conception...please see Mass schedule
- **Wed., Dec. 9**—Adoration, 9am—3pm and CCD classes
- **Wed., Dec. 9**—School Board meeting, 8pm
- **Sun., Dec. 20**—Decorate church for Christmas following 10:30am Mass

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION...Dec. 7 @ 7pm---LECTOR---Brian Mlady
EMHC---Linda Wolf**

LITURGICAL MINISTERS...DEC 12/13

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHC	Brian Mlady	Harold Krumwiede
LECTOR	Harry Morgan	Don Slaymaker
GIFT BEARERS		
ORGANIST	Terri Vrooman	
SERVERS		
<u>USHERS</u>		

THE LORD'S PORTON...11.29.20

Adult envelopes (14)	1,280.00
Loose checks (5)	315.00
Loose cash	5.00
Religious Retire. (1)	50.00
Harvest (6)	340.00
Imm. Conception (1)	50.00
Online Giving (3)	314.70
TOTAL	2,354.70