

St. Joseph Church

Rev. Bernard Starman, Pastor
Rev. James Weeder & Rev. Joseph Sund, Associates
Deacon M.J. Kersenbrock
Atkinson, Nebraska
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12/20/20

4th Sunday of Advent

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Mon NO MASS
Tue NO MASS
Wed 8:15 AM + Dona & George Verzal
Thu 4:00 PM + John & Marilyn Wenner
Fri 10:00AM + Harold & Evelyn Ohde
Sat 6:00 PM + Gordon Dvorak
Sun 10:30 AM + All Souls

Sacrament of Reconciliation: One half hour prior to Weekend Mass

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ST. BONIFACE CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE
CHRISTMAS EVE: 6PM & 10PM

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I Have Called You By Name: Born to a new life in Christ, we welcome Hayvn Marie Dvorak to the family of St. Joseph's as she was cleansed in the waters of baptism 12.12.20.

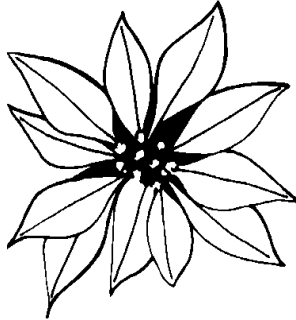
Congratulations to the parents of Hayvn—Tannon & Jenna Dvorak.

Also, receiving the Sacrament of Initiation was Maleek Michael Jeffrey, son of Makala Jeffrey. Maleek was reborn in the waters of new life 12.13.2020—congratulations!

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We extend blessings to newly weds Jamie Peterson & Katherine Hoeft as they began their marriage journey on 12.12.2020 here at St. Joseph's Church. May you allow Christ to be the center of your marriage!

*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 & Mary Jo Closson.



*You Are Most Welcome...*to place a poinsettia to adorn the altar in memory of a loved one during this Holy Season. Thank you!

THE ESSENTIAL MEANING OF THE WORD ADVENTUS WAS: GOD IS HERE, HE HAS NOT WITHDRAWN FROM THE WORLD, HE HAS NOT DESERTED US. EVEN IF WE CANNOT SEE AND TOUCH HIM AS WE CAN TANGIBLE REALITIES, HE IS HERE AND COMES TO VISIT US IN MANY WAYS.



The 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."

*Taking The...*vocation cross this weekend—Joe & Patti Skrdla. The week of Dec. 27—Mike & Brenda Dobias.

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 & 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. Amen





Archbishops Annual Appeal...St. Joseph's financial goal is \$9,098.00 with \$9,715.00 committed, (106.8%) our participation goal this year is 27% currently 22.2%. CONGRATULATIONS, SJ PARISHIONERS!!!

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

The heavens have been torn open; God has come down, not with mountain quaking and fire burning, but in the gentle descent of the Spirit who broods over the womb of Mary of Nazareth. And as at the first creation life was called forth, so now the first cell of the new creation is conceived. The Shekinah, the cloud of the presence of the Most High, overshadows Mary (cf. Exod 40:35), and the Son of God is at home among us. During Advent the Liturgy of the Word tells us that we bump into God in strange places: in the poor, in crowds, and, strangest of all, in the obscure village of Nazareth and one of its backwater young women. Mary is a powerless female in a world ruled by males; poor, in a highly stratified society; found to be pregnant before she cohabits with her husband, and so obviously not carrying his child to validate her existence. That she would have “found favor with God” is hugely surprising, especially to Mary!

The Lukan biblical imagination has captured the imagination of artists down through the centuries. With their own prophetic insight, they have set the extraordinary faith of Mary among familiar things: a half-read book, a meal in preparation, a door opened on children and animals at play, people passing by. One of the more unusual depictions is that by Henry Ossawa Tanner, an African American painter (1859–1937). In a Middle Eastern-style bedroom, Mary sits enfolded in the heavy drapes of bedclothes and her own robe, her gaze attentive. All is simplicity, not luxury, and there is no winged angel. What Mary’s gaze is fixed on is a tall, thin pillar of white cloud at the end of her bed. Perhaps Tanner is remembering the presence of God, the “angel” of Exodus 14:19, described as a cloud, that led the Israelites into their future, would lead Mary into hers, and will lead us through the ordinary and familiar events and places where God is present—if we will only recognize him and respond with our own, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.”

Every Advent we are challenged to have the attentiveness of Mary to the flutter of Christ-life that stirs in the womb of our complacency. So often our world seems starved of stars; and so often we watch or participate in rituals of mourning for acts of terrorism, natural disaster, the local tragedies of road deaths, effects of a global pandemic, or other dark events. Usually in these rituals there are candles: small pieces of self-consuming wax and flame that say light has more right to exist in our world than darkness. This is the message, too, of our Advent wreath as we light the last of its four candles. But those candles, like all ritual candles, will burn out. It is up to us, disciples of the Light of the World, to catch fire from Christ’s mystery and bring something of this fire and light into our own lives and, especially, into the lives of those for whom Christmas may not be a feast of joy but a time of darkness that stirs painful memories of those with whom they can no longer celebrate because of death, separation, divorce, family quarrels. For the friendless, the homeless, the abused, Christmas may arouse bitter comparisons and regrets. The fire we catch from Christ, our readiness to be consumed like him in the flame of loving service of our sisters and brothers, may be as simple a gift as a visit, a letter, a phone call, an invitation to a meal, a present on the “Advent Angel Tree.” But it will mean that, together, we will truly celebrate something of a “Happy Christmas.”

I hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

Ad multos annos! Fr. Bernard Starman, Pastor



**FR. LUKE WILL BE CELEBRATING
25 YEARS AS A PRIEST ON
DEC. 28. CONGRATULATIONS!!!**



- **TODAY!** We will decorate church for Christmas after Mass
- **Tue., Dec. 22**—Sacrament of Reconciliation @ Stuart, St. Boniface...6-7pm
- **Wed., Dec. 23**—Adoration, 9am—3pm. **No CCD**

Christmas Eve...4pm Mass

**LECTOR: Tim Hamik
EMHC: Andrea Borer**

Christmas Day...10am Mass

**Jack Wolf
Linda Wolf**

LITURGICAL MINISTERS...DEC 26/27

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHC	Harold Krumwiede	Chris.Nemetz
LECTOR	Erin Jelinek	Don Slaymaker
GIFT BEARERS		
ORGANIST		
SERVERS		
USHERS		

THE LORD'S PORTION...12.13.20

Adult envelopes (19)	1,910.00
Loose checks (4)	5,350.00
Loose cash	8.00
Religious Retire. (15)	486.00
Harvest (1)	100.00
Imm. Conception (4)	95.00
Insurance (1)	100.00
Christmas (3)	750.00
Online Giving (2)	<u>111.94</u>
TOTAL	8,910.94