



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

12/27/20

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

MASS INTENTIONS
FOR THE WEEK

- Mon NO MASS
- Tue NO MASS
- Wed 8:15 AM + Don Gokie
- Thu 5:00 PM + Elmer Borer**
- Fri Mass in Stuart @ 10:00 AM**
- Sat 6:00 PM + William & Rose Monahan
- Sun 10:30 AM + Clara Straka

Sacrament of Reconciliation: One half hour prior to Weekend Mass

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We Extend our sincere sympathy to Dean & Carol Obermire & Byron & Judy Obermire with the death of their brother, Don Obermire, who passed away recently. Please be assured of our special prayers & thoughts at this time. May perpetual light shine on Don & all whom the Lord has called to eternal life.

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*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.

I said a 'Christmas Prayer' for you because the season is here. I didn't ask for riches, but for gifts so much more dear. I asked for joyful gatherings with your family all around, (yet 6' apart) and for carols to inspire you with their old familiar sounds. I asked for quiet moments in your heart on Christmas morn, for a special time to celebrate the Savior who was born. I asked for friends to send their best that you might know they care...I asked for peace, love & hope; and I know God heard my prayer...

Looking Ahead...The Annual Seminary Collection...will be held the weekend of Jan. 10. The Archdiocese of Omaha is currently blessed with 22 men studying for the Priesthood. We ask for your continued prayers, sacrifices, and generous financial support. The seminary bill for our 22 seminarians during this academic year will be \$1,242,814.00. A successful seminary collection is critical to our effort to form future priests for our Archdiocese. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

*Taking The...*vocation cross this weekend—Mike & Brenda Dobias. The week of Jan. 3—Jim & Rosemary Ketteler.



Archbishops Annual Appeal...St. Joseph's financial goal is \$9,098.00 with \$9,745.00 committed, (107.1%) our participation goal this year is 27% currently 22.2%. CONGRATULATIONS, SJ PARISHIONERS!!!

*We Warmly Congratulate...*Fr. Luke Steffes as he will celebrate **25** years as a priest on Mon., Dec. 28. Thank you, Father, for sharing your life as you graciously serve God's people. We appreciate all the sacrifices you have made over the years. May God bless you!



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

Merry Christmas! Let the celebration continue!

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him.” (Luke 2:33)

The truth of the supposedly clichéd phrase “every child is a miracle” hits home for most people when a child is born to them or an adopted child is welcomed into the family. The instantaneous recognition of the child never before seen is a spiritual experience made tactile as a mother takes the newborn in her arms and a father gazes at an infant who evokes on sight the deepest of loves.

We tend to think of childbirth, especially today, as something that is simple and straightforward. It is certainly natural; and for many people, both in conception and at delivery, it poses no problems. Yet, there are many others for whom having a child is a struggle. We have no idea why some couples have no children and other families have one, why some women have miscarried numerous times or had ectopic pregnancies that threaten the lives of mother and child. We should never judge the size of a family, for we have no knowledge of the hidden burdens that many women and men carry. Many of the model families throughout the Bible were overjoyed that God blessed them with one child, a child they had long desired.

The miraculous nature of conception and childbirth is a theme that runs through the Old Testament and is often seen in families that have only one child. Numerous women who were considered “barren” give birth to a child of hope, often when it seemed such hope was out of reach. In this number we count Rebekah, Hannah, and the mother of Samson, all blessed with children when it seemed it could never happen. But the preeminent example is the first one we see in Genesis: Sarah. Sarah was too old, as was Abram, to have and raise a child. But God gave them Isaac, a child of promise and hope for Abram, now called Abraham, and Sarah and for the future of a promised nation. The promised Messiah would come from this lineage and be given miraculously to Mary, which reveals another part of the equation: never having engaged in sexual intercourse, she was given a child by God—a child given to this new mother and her husband-to-be, but a child of hope for the whole world.

Yet the stories of the matriarchs, Mary, and their unique children indicate to us the miraculous nature of every birth. True, our children will probably not be patriarchs of a nation, as Isaac was for Israel; and certainly, none can be Jesus, the Messiah, the Savior, both God and man. But the mothers were real mothers, just like women today, who raise many children or one child, or yearn for a child. And their children were real children, who had to be loved and raised. God chose to work his miracles not in opposition to nature but through the most natural of ways: childbirth.

But every family, whether gifted with many children or none or one, has a role to play in God’s dramatic story of salvation and shares in the miraculous gift of hope children represent. Each child has been willed by God to serve a unique purpose.

And it was through the birth of one child that all of us share in the hope of salvation. As Simeon says in Luke’s gospel of the newborn baby boy Jesus, “my eyes have seen your salvation, / which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, / a light for revelation to the Gentiles, / and glory for your people Israel.”

Mary and Joseph were “amazed at what was said about him,” for he was the fulfillment of all hopes. But in the reality of the Holy Family, we see the miraculous nature of every child and every family reflected.

Wishing all of our families and friends a Health, Happy, Safe and Blessed New Year!

Ad multos annos!

Fr. Bernard Starman

Pastor



- **Wed., Dec. 30**—Adoration, 9am—3pm. **CCD classes will resume on Wed., Jan. 6**
- **Weekend of Jan. 9/10**—Seminary collection

Thu., Dec. 31... 5pm Mass
LECTOR: Don Slaymaker

EMHC: Cheleigh Sholes

LITURGICAL MINISTERS...JAN. 2/3

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHC	Jim Ramm	Lindsey Nemetz
LECTOR	Harold Morgan	Brian Mlady
GIFT BEARERS		
ORGANIST		
SERVERS		
USHERS		

THE LORD'S PORTION...12.20.20

Adult envelopes (21)	1,635.00
Loose checks (4)	420.00
Loose cash	25.00
Religious Retire. (1)	20.00
Christmas (3)	225.00
Online Giving (4)	760.00
TOTAL	3,085.00