

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

1/10/21

The Baptism of the Lord

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Mon NO MASS
- Tue NO MASS
- Wed 8:15 AM + Margaret Fries
- Thu NO MASS
- Fri 8:15 AM + All Souls
- Sat 6:00 PM + Pete Schmaderer
- Sun 10:30 AM + Elmer & Doris Vogel, Rosemary LeMunyan

Sacrament of Reconciliation: One half hour prior to Weekend Mass

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YOU ARE MY BELOVED SON; WITH YOU I AM WELL PLEASED
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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, (mother of Cheleigh Sholes), Tracy Nelson, (husband of Ayse) & Reese Keating (daughter of Gerard & Janet).



May her children rise up and call her blessed
Proverbs 31:28

Our parish offers sincere condolences to the Liewer family with the passing of Merle. Please be assured of our special thoughts & prayers today and in the days ahead. May perpetual light shine on Merle and all whom the Lord has called to eternal life.

Taking The Vocation Cross... this weekend—Roger & Pam Frickel.
 The week of Jan. 17—Randy & Diane Rentschler.

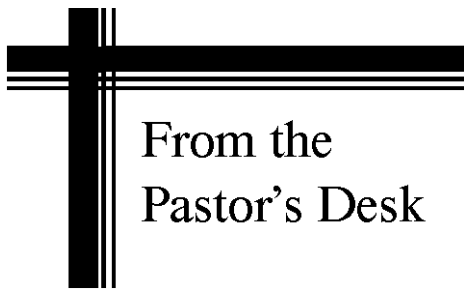


Worship SCHEDULE

Looking Ahead---The two parishes of St. Joseph and St. Boniface will soon begin their rotation Mass schedule. St. Boniface: Saturday @ 6 pm; Sunday @ 10:30am. St. Joseph: Sunday @ 8:30am. This will begin the weekend of **February 6/7**.

*You Will Find...*2021 calendars in the vestibule of church near the bulletins. If you haven't yet, please pick up a book "Do Something Beautiful for God"---the Essential Teachings of Mother Teresa....promises to be a good read.....also in the vestibule.





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

John the Baptist is part of the stirring excitement of a new beginning of the Good News that Mark announces in the first verse of his gospel. He is the precursor, the one going before Jesus to prepare his way.

Mark describes Jesus's arrival from the humble and unimportant village of Nazareth, in Galilee, in case anyone does not know it. Although he is without sin (cf. 2 Cor 5:21), Jesus puts himself in solidarity with the crowd and with sinful humanity. He bares his human body and at this, his first public appearance, chooses to go down into the waters of the Jordan to be baptized by John as a representative of our collective guilt. As he rises up, the heavens are torn open, and the action of God is manifested in the descent of the Spirit "like a dove" and the voice addresses Jesus as "my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." In the person of Jesus, this is the beginning of a new age, a new relationship of earth and heaven, of the whole of creation and our human condition. As Joel Marcus comments: "God has ripped the heavens apart irrevocably at Jesus' baptism, never to shut them again. Through this gracious gash in the universe, he has poured forth his Spirit into the earthly realm" (Mark 1-8, The Anchor Bible 27). Here is the answer to the cry of the exiles to God: "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down" (Isa 64:1)! But there is no mountain quaking, no violent cosmic disturbances in this rending; it is a "gracious gash." The symbolism of "like a dove" is perhaps a memory of the spirit of God that brooded birdlike over the face of the primeval waters at the first creation (Gen 1:2). It is also a witness to the gentle action of God that descends upon Jesus to empower him, like the prophets, with gentle service of the poor (e.g., Isa 42:1-5; 61:1) and our humanity that is impoverished by our sinfulness.

The word spoken by the Father at the baptism of Jesus is addressed to Jesus, not the Baptist or the crowd. The voice of God affirms Jesus as "my Son," with memories of Psalm 2:7, a royal coronation psalm, and then as "the Beloved" upon whom God's favor rests. In the humble setting of the Jordan River, a humble man from a humble Galilean village is baptized by the humble precursor and proclaimed by God as one with royal dignity. Three times in the testing of faith at Mount Moriah, Abraham refers to Isaac as his "beloved son" as Isaac and he face the sacrificial knife out of obedience to God (Gen 22:2, 12, 16). The cost of Jesus's allegiance to his Father as yet hovers only as gently as a dove; in the not-too-distant future it is the carrion crow of death that will descend upon Jesus before he is unbound in the resurrection because of his obedient love of his Father.

This gospel [Mark 1:7-11] is a declaration of who Jesus is to Mark's church, a statement of their self-understanding as disciples of the new messianic times who are sons and daughters of the Father because they are baptized into the Spirit-filled and Beloved Son and commissioned to serve in his name. Throughout Mark's gospel, those who follow Jesus will struggle to understand and accept the implications of accepting one who is Son and Beloved, to understand what is revealed to Jesus as he rises from the waters: that humanity, despite its sinfulness, is loved with the prodigal love of God. The first human being in this gospel who professes faith in Jesus as the Son of God and recognizes the heavens torn open in the torn body of the crucified One is the Gentile centurion. We are caught up in this same struggle of faith. Baptism demanded everything of Jesus—as it does of us.

Happy and Blessed New Year to all!

Ad multos annos!

Fr. Bernard Starman
Pastor

Many thanks to all who are remembering to drop off or mail their church support envelope.

The Christmas collection to date: \$7,945.00



- **TODAY...**after Mass the Christmas decorations will be removed. Everyone's help will be appreciated!
- **Wed., Jan. 13**—Adoration, 9am—3pm. CCD classes

THE LORD'S PORTION...12.27.20

Adult envelopes (6)	1,125.00
Christmas (10)	2,050.00
Online Giving (1)	500.00
Solemnity of Mary (1)	<u>50.00</u>
TOTAL	3,725.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS...JAN. 16/17

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHCs	Jim Ramm	C. Nemetz
LECTORS	M. Tunender	Erin Jelinek
GIFT BEARERS		
ORGANISTS	Jayne Fetherston	Diane Osborne
SERVERS		
USHERS		

01.3.21

Adult envelopes (18)	1304.00
Loose checks (1)	10.00
Solemnity of Mary (10)	225.00
Initial Offering (8)	48.00
Religious Pensions (1)	10.00
Online Giving (3)	<u>35.00</u>
TOTAL	1,632.00

