

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

1/31/21

**Fourth Sunday in
Ordinary Time
MASS INTENTIONS
FOR THE WEEK**

- Mon NO MASS
- Tue NO MASS
- Wed 8:15 AM + Helen, Natch & Tom Rzeszotarski
- Thu NO MASS
- Fri 8:15 AM + SJ Memorial Society
- Sat NO MASS
- Sun **8:30 AM** + Bill & Sylvia Morgan Family

Sacrament of Reconciliation: One half hour prior to Weekend Mass

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Stuart KCs...are sponsoring a Drive-Thru Fish Fry this evening from 5-7pm. Call

Jeff Dvorak, 402.340.2185 or the church basement, 402.924.3494 to order & set up a pickup time. Pick up orders on the west side of church.

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Taking the vocation cross this week-- Dennis & Roxanne Ryan. The week of Feb. 7--Karen Thompson.

LET US ALL PRAY FOR VOCATIONS!

*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, Tracy Nelson, Reese Keating & Judy (Kaup) Steimle.



KC Free Throw Contest...is TODAY @ West Holt. The doors will open @ 12:30 with the contest beginning @ 1:00. ALL students ages nine through fourteen are welcome to participate. Direct ??? to Doug Kubik, 402.925.5438.



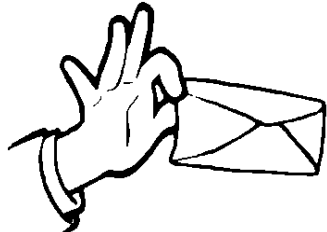
Everyone is invited to browse the Book Fair. The event will be held on Sat., Jan. 30 after 6pm Mass, after each Sunday Mass, and during the week after school.

Catholic Schools Week



ROOTED----An opportunity for men to gather with each other to dive deeper spiritually at the Nebraska Catholic Men's Conference will be held at 'Barn in God's Country' in Center, NE on Saturday, February 6 or 'The Barn' in Clarkson, NE on Saturday, February 13. Register at <https://rootednebraska.webflow.io/>

The Annual 4-IN-1...collection will take place next weekend. There will be a basket available in the vestibule for your donation. Many thanks!



The Annual Parish Auction that we were planning for in March has been canceled. Thank you for your understanding in this most difficult decision. We are hoping to have an event later to celebrate St. Joseph's Feast Day....as Pope Francis has declared the year 2021 the Year of St. Joseph.



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

From the Pastor

We are all formally students for some time in our lives, and it is best to remain informal students throughout our lives, for there is no point at which there is not something we can learn. At the same time, most of us function as teachers at many points in our lives, some of us professionally but most of us casually, guiding and directing people in ways that might even escape us. We teach by how we live, how we treat people, how we respond under stress, how we reprimand a child, how we help a neighbor, as well as by more concrete and direct ways of teaching.

Some of us, by training and vocation, teach religion and theology, and it is those of us engaged in this vocation who must always remain students in our area of expertise, for Jesus says, “You are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father—the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah” (Matt 23:8-10; NRSV). This teaching is directed at all Christians, but it is a difficult teaching for those called upon to be teachers and instructors, for it is easy to forget that in the things of God we are always students.

It is telling, and especially humbling for biblical scholars, to remember that Jesus did not choose his apostles from among the biblical interpreters or experts in Jewish Scholars of the Law but from among the fishermen. How could fishermen be teachers in the Bible and Jewish law when they had not been formally trained?

What did they know that the experts did not? What the fishermen knew, or were willing to encounter, was the only true subject: God. The unschooled fishermen knew Jesus, spent time with Jesus, and were willing to learn from Jesus what they did not know. It was not technical expertise that Jesus sought in his apostles but the willingness to encounter the word of God as life-changing and life-giving.

It was the *encounter* with truth that led the students, the crowds of ordinary people in Galilee, Judea, and elsewhere, to throng around the teacher Jesus; they responded as people hungry to learn the deepest reality about God and themselves. So, “on the sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.” The religious experts, the scribes, are mentioned, though it seems they are not present, as a contrast to Jesus’s authority. Perhaps the experts hung back, wary of how Jesus’s teaching might affect their livelihood or authority, or because they disagreed that Jesus’s authority was grounded in the Scriptures or God.

Yet, Jesus’s final act in the Capernaum synagogue is the demonstration of the divine ground of his teaching authority, for “in their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, ‘What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!’” Jesus healed the man of the unclean spirit, and the people were again “amazed,” referring to this action of Jesus as a “teaching”: “[They] asked one another, ‘What is this? A new teaching with authority.’” It is God’s presence and power that is the lesson not only to learn but to *encounter*.

It is necessary to have teachers in all areas of knowledge, and this includes theology and biblical studies. Expertise and properly ordered authority are essential for all fields. But ultimately, we are all students of the one teacher, whose authority is ordered to our salvation and joy. From this school we never graduate; this teacher is always guiding us. This education is perfected for our final purpose: to know God.

In just over two weeks we will again transition from the season of Ordinary Time to the season of Lent. Perhaps we can all take some time to decide the ways that we might deepen our *encounter* with Jesus during Lent. One suggestion would be to participate in Fr. Michael Schmitz’s “Bible in a Year” podcast. You can find it here: <https://bibleinayear.fireside.fm/>

Ad multos annos

Fr. Bernard Starman, Pastor

Sincere Sympathy...to the family of Ray Keogh. Ray was called to eternal life this week. May perpetual light shine on Ray.



- **Jan. 31 through Feb. 7**—Celebration of Catholic Schools Week
- **TODAY**—Free Throw Contest
- **THIS EVENING..(Sunday)**—Drive-Thru Fish Fry (Stuart-KCs)
- **Wed., Feb. 3**—Adoration, 9am—3pm **AND** School Board meeting, 8pm
- **Feb. 6/7**—Mass Time Rotation Begins For Six Months...**Stuart:** Sat. 6pm & 10:30am. **Atkinson:** Sun. 8:30am
- **Feb. 17**—Ash Wednesday
- **Feb. 19**—Lenten Fish Fry @ KC Hall-Atkinson

LITURGICAL MINISTERS...FEB. 7

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHC		Brian Mlady
LECTOR		Chris Jelinek
GIFT BEARERS		
ORGANIST		
SERVERS		
USHERS		

THE LORD'S PORTION...01.24.21

Adult envelopes (22)	1,130.00
Loose checks (5)	400.00
Loose cash	1.00
Online Giving (3)	<u>360.00</u>
TOTAL	1,891.00

