



# St. Joseph Church

Rev. Bernard Starman, Pastor  
Rev. James Weeder & Rev. Joseph Sund, Associates  
Deacon M.J. Kersenbrock  
Atkinson, Nebraska  
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[www.holtboydcatholic.org](http://www.holtboydcatholic.org)

2/21/21

### First Sunday of Lent MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Mon NO MASS  
Tue NO MASS  
Wed 8:15 AM + All Souls  
Thu NO MASS  
Fri 8:15 AM + Keating/Schaaf Families  
Sat NO MASS  
Sun 8:30 AM + Paul & Karen Seger

*Sacrament of Reconciliation: One half hour prior to Weekend Mass*

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Taking the vocation cross this week— Harold & Jeanne Krumwiede. The week of Feb. 28—Gary & Deb Pospichal.

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*Parishioners...are you remembering your 'Prayer Partner' during the important events of their senior year?*

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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, Tracy Nelson, Reese Keating, Judy Steimle, Carolyn Anderson & Harold Krumwiede.

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LENT IS...a spiritual springtime meant to renew us in love---PRAY to God, pray for others; DO GOOD to those who can't return it or don't deserve it; DENY YOURSELF some extras so that others can have the basics.

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Brrrrr...it has been blustery, but we are blessed to worship in a warm building. Thanks to all who have donated to the ENERGY collection in the past & it's that time again! You're invited to place your envelope in the basket in the vestibule of the church next weekend.

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Your donations to One Rose, One Life brought \$309.00 to help support pro-life activities. God bless you!!!

## FISH FRY SCHEDULE

## **CLIP AND SAVE**

ATKINSON: March 5  
March 19

Dine in or carry out. Hours: 5—8pm  
For carry out orders, call 402.340.1964

STUART: February 26  
March 12  
March 26

Drive thru ONLY  
Hours: 5—7pm



### The Week Ahead

- Wed., Feb. 24—Adoration, 9am—3pm. CCD classes

**ALTAR BOYS & GIRLS**---You are invited to serve @ 8:30am Sunday Mass. There will not be a schedule made up yet, but please know that you are more than welcome to serve at the Table of our Lord.

*Parishioners* ...are welcome to join the school children for Stations of the Cross each Friday @ 12:30 in church, excluding March 12.

*When You're Unable*...to attend the parish offerings of The Stations of the Cross, try THE MAGDALENE XIV STATIONS podcast...go to <https://xivministriespodcast.podbean.com/>

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

Every year on the First Sunday of Lent, the gospel proclaimed is the wilderness temptation of Jesus. Mark’s account [Mk 1:12-15] is honed to three short verses following immediately and urgently after the baptism of Jesus. The Spirit “drove” Jesus into the wilderness, says Mark. We often describe people as “driven”—by ambition, lust, desperation—but what drives Jesus is the Holy Spirit. He is tossed into the physical and spiritual space where, before he begins his public ministry, before he proclaims one word of the Good News, he must struggle with two consequences of his baptism: his naming as Son of the Father and his solidarity with sinful humanity represented by the crowds on the Jordan’s banks who were called by John to a baptism of repentance. Now there are no crowds; Jesus is alone with the Spirit of God and the spirit of evil, with the wild beasts and the angels, with communion and conflict, with the struggle—that will persist throughout his life and death—to be the faithful Son. He is alone with the memory of his ancestors and their wilderness wandering in what for them was not only a place of God’s revelation and promises, but also a place of their temptations and failures. Jesus will show himself to be the most faithful Israelite. The opposition between human sin and divine presence, between the “angelic” and the “beastly,” was starkly exposed in Jesus’s own psyche. And if we are honest and mindful, we know them in ourselves and in our own struggles to be faithful sons and daughters of our same Father.

The English artist Stanley Spencer (1891–1959) painted a “wilderness series” about the life of Christ. In one of these paintings, he depicts Jesus sitting on the desert sands with a “wild beast.” But the beast is not a roaring lion or a skulking tiger. In his cupped hands he holds a small but deadly scorpion. Jesus is no wraith-like ascetic, but very much a plump “flesh of our flesh” man. Spencer may be suggesting that the really dangerous beasts are those small ones that can slither insidiously into our lives; the persistent sins and small infidelities that, almost unnoticed, can inject a paralyzing venom into our discipleship. Alternatively, we might read Spencer’s painting, and Mark’s account, positively: as a vision of peace and harmony in a restored creation in the hands of the New Adam on whom angels wait in service.

Jesus comes out from his wilderness experience strengthened for praise and pain and mission. The arrest of John the Baptist is the first storm that breaks over Mark’s gospel, but over it rises a Galilean rainbow of hope as Jesus proclaims his first words: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” On Ash Wednesday, the last words of that proclamation were an alternative that was pronounced as we were signed as baptized disciples of the tempted One and called to Lenten mindfulness of the struggle between sin and grace, success and failure, into which we too are tossed.

The desert sand is not under our feet but in our hearts. Its grit is the daily irritations and indefinable loneliness we often feel. We need these Lenten weeks of heightened awareness of the importance of uncluttered spiritual and physical space where we can come to grips with our pain, where we can discover the beauty of God and our sisters and brothers under the surface sands of our busy lives, and where we can allow our ears to be “dug out” by closer listening to the word of God in our Sunday liturgy. We may then become much wiser about the spiritual baggage that we, as wilderness travelers, need to keep or discard in the trek toward Easter.

Ad multos annos! Fr. Bernard Starman, Pastor



MAY LIGHT ETERNAL  
SHINE UPON THEM,  
O LORD,  
FOR YOU ARE MERCIFUL

*Sincere Sympathy*...is offered to the Jack Wolf family with the death of Jack’s brother, Jesse Wolf of Hartington. Jesse was a 1969 graduate of St. Joseph’s High School. May perpetual light shine on Jesse & all whom the Lord has called to Himself.

*Fr. Weeder*...will be offering a teaching on prayer along with Adoration and confession on Sundays from 7:00-8:00 pm during Lent in church. The teachings will be different at the two locations in each region, but it won’t be necessary to attend both in order to understand each teaching.

**Feb. 21 – Sts Peter and Paul, Butte**

**Feb. 28 – St Boniface, Stuart**

**March 7 – St Mary, Spencer**

**March 14 – St Joseph, Atkinson**



**LITURGICAL MINISTERS...FEB. 28**

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHC		Andrea Borer
LECTOR		Pam Bergstrom
GIFT BEARERS		
ORGANIST		Terri Vrooman
SERVERS		Volunteers
USHERS		

**THE LORD’S PORTION...02.14.21**

Adult envelopes (18)	1,060.00
Loose cash	5.00
Loose checks (1)	25.00
Energy (2)	150.00
4-IN-1 (5)	400.00
Home Missions (3)	105.00
Online Giving (4)	576.94
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,321.94</b>