

St. Joseph Church

Rev. Bernard Starman, Pastor

Rev James Weeder & Rev. Joseph Sund, Associates

Deacon MJ Kersenbrock

Atkinson NE

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March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Mass Intentions for the Week

Mon NO MASS
 Tue NO MASS
 Wed 8:15 AM + KCs
 Thu No Mass
 Fri 8:15 AM + John & Marilyn Wenner
 Sat **5:00 PM** + Pat Baker
 Sun 8:30 AM + Steve Schaaf

Confession 1/2 hr before weekend Masses



The Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is Friday, March 19.

To celebrate this Solemnity, Fr Weeder will be in the church at 7:00pm to teach about our stained glass windows, lead the Seven Joys and Sorrows of St Joseph devotion, then hear confessions. Being the Solemnity of St Joseph, our patron, a plenary indulgence is granted to those who on that day visit the church, devoutly recite an Our Father and the Creed, and pray an Our Father and Hail Mary for the intentions of Pope Francis. They must also go to confession and receive Communion within several days.



Taking The Vocation Cross This Week—Brian & Marie Welborn. The week of Mar. 21—Ben Sholes Family

WE REMEMBER...those in need of special prayers:
Emma Lou Gunther, John Gilg, Garrett Scholz, Barb McTavish, David Leiding, Mary Jo Closson, Judy Steimle & Carolyn Anderson

Our Congratulations...to

the following children who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation on March 10:
Alaina Dvorak, Camden Kreitel, Liam Langan, Giovanni Monasterio, Brooke Nemetz, Giovanna Villegas Salas, Diego Sanchez, Alexandria Schaaf, Brantley Schaaf, Jeff Schaaf, Bree Slaymaker, Kinsley Troidl & Annelise Vrooman.



PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Fr. Weeder...will be offering a teaching on prayer along with adoration & confession on Sunday, March 14 @ Atkinson, SJ from 7—8pm in church.



Calendar

Wed., Mar. 17—Adoration, 9am—3pm, CCD
Thu., Mar. 18—KC meeting
Fri., Mar. 19—Stations of the Cross with school children, 12:30. 7pm in Church—The Seven Joys & Sorrows of St. Joseph. Fish fry in Atkinson
Sat., Mar. 20—NO Saturday evening Mass in Stuart
Sun., Mar. 21—Poultry Party @ KC Hall
Sat., Apr. 24—Stuart's Prom...Mass in Stuart, 5pm

Confession Schedule

St Joseph—Atkinson

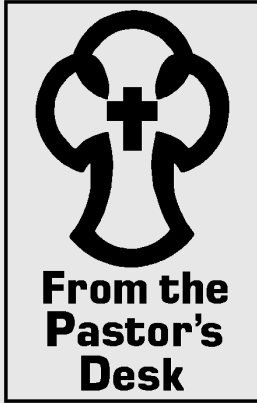
Thu., Mar. 18 & 25 from 7 —8pm

St Boniface—Stuart

Tue., Mar. 23 & 30 from 6 —7pm

KC Meeting...on Thu., Mar. 18. Rosary will be prayed @ 7:15pm. Lotto will go to \$40.00 as Laurence Slaymaker was not present. Lunch will include chili soup & dessert. The members will be discussing the March 19 fish fry & the annual poultry party.

Poultry Party...is planned for Sun., Mar. 21. Come try your luck at winning a ham or turkey for your Easter meal. Card playing & lunch of sandwiches, soup & pie will be served @ 11:00am. At 6pm, evening games will begin. **ALL KNIGHTS—please remember to bring a pie!!!**



**From the
Pastor's
Desk**

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

This weekend we hear one of the most well-known and best-loved verses in the whole of John's gospel, a verse that proclaims, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." These words are spoken in the context of the night visit of Nicodemus to Jesus. Nicodemus, a Pharisee and Jewish leader and teacher, avoids the daylight that might reveal him as associating with a man who is unpopular with the religious institution, and so arouse suspicion of Nicodemus's own motives and stance. To be unafraid or unashamed of professing our friendship with Jesus by the way we live every day always brings hard demands. The German theologian Eugen Drewermann gives us a memorable image of ourselves when, in the words of the gospel, we have "preferred darkness to light," to that light which is the only Son of God, given for its salvation to the world that God loves so much: "It can happen that we become like bats, like night-flying creatures who are so accustomed to the dark that our whole biorhythm is attuned to these shadowy periods, as if our eyes would be hurt and our whole lives would be turned inside out if we were dragged out of

our caves and the hidden and fearful forms of our existence were exposed to the quiet regions of light and the brightness of day" (Dying We Live: Meditations for Lent and Easter).

But we often prefer the false safety of darkness to the light of Christ that exposes, for example, our selfish, racist, sexist, or violent selves. We all have our own caves that we need to name. Lent is designed to drag us out of their darkness into the Easter light of Christ through prayer, fasting, and the "almsgiving" of the gift of ourselves as well as the offer of material assistance to our sisters and brothers in many kinds of need.

To help the night visitor, Nicodemus, to come into the light of understanding something of his mystery and mission, Jesus uses a good catechetical approach: he talks the language of his listener. He reminds this "teacher of Israel" (John 3:10; NABRE), who is very much in the dark, of a story from their own Hebrew Scriptures (Num 21:4-9). In the wilderness, the people grumble against God and are struck with a plague of serpents whose bite could cause death. The people come to Moses, admit their sinfulness, and ask him to intercede for them with God. When he does so, God tells Moses to forge a bronze serpent, fix it and raise it up before those who are stricken. If they gaze on it, they will be saved. This seems a great paradox: healing and life from gazing on a creature of death! But they obey and are healed.

In our humanity, we are all bitten by death; yet, Jesus tells Nicodemus, the God who is love wants to give us life that never ends. And so, the flesh of the Son of Man will be brutally, senselessly twisted around the wood of the cross, forged by the fire of his passion and death, and raised up for our salvation. In John's gospel, "raising" or "lifting up" always has the double sense of crucifixion and exaltation, death and resurrection, for the two movements are inseparable. To gaze with the eyes of faith on this mystery and commit ourselves to it will mean eternal life. Jesus does not come to judge, but just as turning on a light exposes what is hidden in darkness, so it is when the light of Christ shines upon us to expose both good and evil. The cross that will be raised up and venerated on Good Friday will give way at the Easter Vigil to the raised Easter candle, marked with the cross of fragrant "nails" of incense, from which we catch fire and rekindle our baptismal commitment to the saving and universal love of Jesus Christ.

Ad multos annos!

Fr. Bernard Starman
Pastor

THE LORD'S PORTION—03.07.21

Adult Envelopes (27)	1,823.00
Loose Checks (8)	1,000.00
Loose Cash	2.00
Energy (3)	160.00
Catholic Relief (1)	200.00
Home Missions (1)	20.00
Online Giving	0.00
TOTAL	3,205.00

LITURGICAL MINISTERS —MAR 20/21

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHC	Landyn Mlady	Joe Skrdla
LECTOR	Madison Tunender	Heather Slaymaker
GIFTS		
ORGANIST	Jayne Fetherston	Terri Vrooman
SERVERS	VOLUNTEERS	VOLUNTEERS
USHERS		

LOOKING AHEAD—Holy Thursday...St Boniface, Stuart @ 7pm

Good Friday...St. Boniface, Stuart, Stations of the Cross @ 3pm

St. Joseph, Atkinson, Passion of the Lord @ 7pm

Holy Saturday...St. Boniface, Stuart @ 8:30pm

Easter Sunday...St. Joseph, Atkinson @ 7am and 8:30am

St. Boniface, Stuart @ 10:30am