

# St. Joseph Church

Rev. Bernard Starman, Pastor  
Rev James Weeder & Rev. Joseph Sund, Associates  
Deacon MJ Kersenbrock  
Atkinson NE  
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stjosephatknson.org holtboydcatholic.org

April 4, 2021  
**Easter Blessings**

Mass Intentions for the Week  
Mon NO MASS  
Tue NO MASS  
Wed 8:15 AM + All Souls  
Thursday NO MASS  
Friday 8:15 AM + SJ Memorial Society  
Saturday NO MASS  
Sunday 8:30 AM + John J. Dvorak  
*Confession 1/2 hour before weekend Mass*

*Marilyn Breiner Memorial...*to St. Joseph School—\$1,005.00. May perpetual light shine on Marilyn.

*The Harvest Is Great, Laborers Are Few...* Taking the vocation crucifix this week—Kelly Jelinek Family. The week of April 11—Jozette Koisek.

If you die in an elevator, be sure to push the UP button

**\*CHURCH SIGN\***  
**DECEASED MAN**  
**RISEN...DETAILS INSIDE**

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

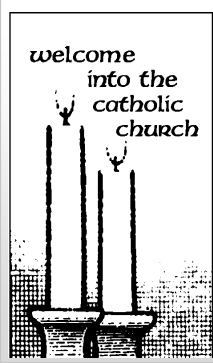
*Waiting For Your Call..*EMHCs & Lectors—If you would like to share your time once again @ Sunday Mass, please contact the parish office.



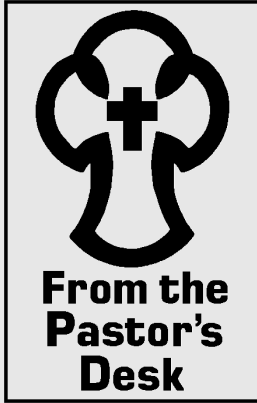
Wed., April 7—Adoration, 9am—3pm, CCD  
Wed., April 7—School Board meeting, 8pm  
Sat., Apr. 24—Stuart's Prom...Mass in Stuart, 5pm

If by chance you forgot your donation to the Holy Land on Good Friday, you're welcome to drop it in the collection box any time. Thank you!

*Irene McHale Memorial...*of \$250.00 to SJ Church. May Irene rejoice with our Risen Lord.



*We Warmly Welcome...*Amy Langan and Kylie Bendig who became members of the Church at the Easter Vigil at St. Boniface Church. We ask God's blessings on them as they continue their spiritual journey.



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

Jesus Christ is risen, He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Happy Easter to all of you and your families.

All the gospels recall that on the second morning after Jesus was laid in the tomb, Mary Magdalene and other women were the first to arrive at the tomb to care for Jesus's body, but his body was not in the tomb. It would be a strange account to concoct. Why? Scripture scholar James Dunn says, "As is well known, in Middle Eastern society of the time women were not regarded as reliable witnesses: a woman's testimony in court was heavily discounted. And any report that Mary had formerly been demon-possessed (Luke 8:2) would hardly add credibility to any story attributed to her in particular. Why then attribute such testimony to women—unless that was what was remembered as being the case?" (*Jesus Remembered*).

The account of Mary Magdalene as the first witness of the empty tomb was born of a powerful, consistent oral tradition among the earliest disciples. This is not the oral tradition of rote memorization, the sort that memorizes parables, prayers, teachings, and laws, which was also part of first-century Judaism. This is autobiographical memory, in which stories of personal experience are passed on, often colored by the emotional interpretation of those who experienced the events, which shapes the details recalled in the passing on of the accounts. All of those present remember and recount that Mary was there first.

The absence of the body does not necessarily mean that Jesus was raised. There are more ordinary explanations that come to mind: the disciples went to the wrong tomb and the body was somewhere else; they lied about the missing body; or someone stole the body and hid it.

Yet if Jesus's body had been available, it makes sense that those who opposed the teaching of Jesus's resurrection would have found it, or produced it had they stolen it, to the derision and embarrassment of the disciples. If the body had indeed been taken by Jesus's disciples or they had gone to the wrong tomb, the reality of Jesus's body itself would have come to light and the location of his dead body would have put an end to the claims of resurrection. Indeed, his tomb might have become a pilgrimage site, a place of veneration of a great teacher and prophet killed by the Roman authorities.

In John's gospel, Mary Magdalene reports the empty tomb to Peter and the other disciple. The two of them run to the tomb. "Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead." The juxtaposition here captures the initial confusion of the empty tomb. The other disciple, also known as the Beloved Disciple, "saw and believed," while Peter and Mary "did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead."

The Beloved Disciple alone initially recognizes the spiritual meaning of the empty tomb, but his understanding will soon be the foundation of the whole church, spurred by later encounters with the risen Lord. The resurrection of Jesus became the central message of the new community of disciples.

The early Christians knew that "they put him to death by hanging him on a tree" and they knew where Jesus's dead body was laid. When Mary Magdalene and the other disciples encountered the empty tomb, it became the first piece of evidence that "this man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance." Later, these witnesses would eat and drink "with him after he rose from the dead." Only one last task remained: to bear witness that the empty tomb, the end of Jesus's story, was just the beginning.

Once again, Happy Easter!

Ad multos annos!

Fr. Bernard Starman, Pastor

**THE LORD'S PORTION—03.28.21**

Adult Env. (22)	950.00
Loose Checks (3)	150.00
Loose Cash	80.00
Energy (3)	345.00
Online Giving (3)	339.70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,864.70</b>

*LITURGICAL MINISTERS — April 11*

<b>MASS TIMES</b>	<b>Sat. @ Stuart</b>	<b>SUNDAY 8:30</b>
EMHC		Linda Wolf
LECTOR		Chris Jelinek
GIFTS		
ORGANIST		Diane Osborne
SERVERS		VOLUNTEERS
USHERS		

**THERE IS NO BETTER GOAL WE CAN REACH  
THAN THE TESTIMONY OF ANOTHER WHO REC-  
OGNIZES CHRIST WITHIN US THROUGH OUR  
WORDS AND ACTIONS**