

St. Joseph Church

Rev. Bernard Starman, Pastor
Rev James Weeder & Rev. Joseph Sund, Associates
Deacon MJ Kersenbrock
Atkinson NE
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May 2, 2021
5th Sunday of Easter

Mass Intentions for the Week
Mon NO MASS
Tue 10:00 AM + Pete Schmaderer @ Good Sam
Wed 8:15 AM + SJ Memorial Society
Thursday NO MASS
Friday 8:15 AM + Natch, Helen & Tom Rzeszotarski
Saturday **5:00 PM** + Lawrence, Albena & Rollin Kramer **SJ Graduation**
Sunday **8:30 AM** + Joseph & Arvilla Viterna
Senior Class Honored
Confession 1/2 hour before weekend Mass

*Names Are Being Accepted...*for school board election. Please call the school office, 402.925.2104, if you'd like to be a candidate.

*The Harvest Is Great,
Laborers Are
Few...Taking the vocation
crucifix this week—John &
Marsha Thomassen. The week
of May 9—Tim Laible Family*

Each 3rd Tuesday (except holidays) the Rosary Guild will pray the rosary for world peace & parishioners' intentions. Please join us @ 1:30 pm in church.

WE REMEMBER...those in need of special prayers:
Emma Lou Gunther, John Gilg, Garrett Scholz, Barb McTavish, Judy Steimle, Carolyn Anderson, Ron Schaaf, Adalynn Bouska, Leo Seger, Carleigh Jackson



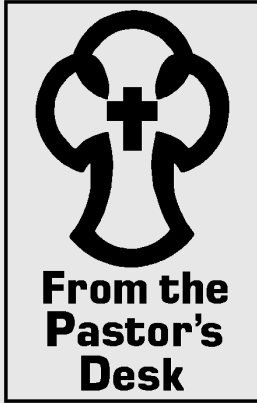
Wed., May 5—Adoration, 9am—3pm
Wed., May 5—Last class for CCD
Sat., May 8—St. Joseph K & 8th graduation, 5pm
Sun., May 9—Senior Prayer Partners Revealed – 8:15am. Seniors honored, 8:30 am Mass.
Tue., May 11—Altar Society Meeting, 6pm, KC Hall
Thu., May 13—Ascension of the Lord...Happy Birthday, Fr Starman!
Sat., May 29—Alumni Mass, **5pm**

*Our Parish...*offers sympathy to the Krieger/Morgan Families with the death of Verny Krieger who was called to eternal life this week. Condolences to the Krysl Family with the passing of Theresa Krysl. May perpetual light shine on Verny & Theresa and all whom the Lord the Lord has chosen for His own.

Looking Ahead....Pillow cleaning on June 1

Prayer Partner Reveal
Sun., May 9, 8:15am, SJ Elem. School **PRIOR TO** 8:30 am Mass

CONGRATULATIONS...to our children who received Jesus for the first time in the sacrament of Holy Communion: Alaina Dvorak, Camden Kreitel, Liam Langan, Giovanni Monasterio, Jasiel Monasterio, Brooke Nemetz, Giovanna Villegas, Diego Sanchez, Alexandria Schaaf, Brantley Schaaf, Jett Schaaf, Bree Slaymaker, Kinsley Troidl & Annelise Vrooman. Thank you to the teachers, Andrea Borer & Pam Bergstrom for sharing their time & talent & also to the parents who were their first teachers of the faith.



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

This weekend and next the gospel readings are from the Last Supper discourse of John. Chronologically, the Last Supper took place before Jesus's death and resurrection, yet we hear them after Easter. This is a reminder that we are not remembering and celebrating events in their strict historical sequence, but that we are immersed in a liturgical mix of time and timelessness; we are celebrating the mystery that is always and everywhere the reality of the resurrection of Jesus. As we listen to the Johannine account of the last meal of Jesus with his disciples, we are, here and now, at the table with Jesus and the community of disciples, tangling our lives with him, the true vine, and with the branches of all the baptized. We hear much shouting of would be people of power: fanatical tyrants, political agitators, self-righteous politicians. We may even add to this chorus our own small voices on matters personal, ecclesial, or social. But what Jesus speaks about at table is the power of love and of gentle growth. He gives us another image of

the great intimacy and interdependence that exists between himself, his Father, and his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower"—and we are the branches.

The vine and vineyard were familiar images to the people of God in the Old Testament. Israel was the vine brought out of Egypt and planted by God the vine grower in its own soil (Ps 80:8-13). So significant was the image of the vine that on one facade of the Jerusalem temple sanctuary was carved an ornamental vine with golden clusters of grapes as big as a human hand. And the early Christian community painted the vine on the walls of the catacombs in memory of Christ, the true vine.

The image of the vine is a radically nonhierarchical image of the people of God, for all the branches are so intertwined that when looking at a vine it is almost impossible to tell where one branch begins and another ends. All tangle together as they grow from the central stock, undifferentiated by anything but their fruitfulness. Such is the relationship of Jesus to the new community that grows from his death and resurrection. Such communities are also to be branching out, hospitable communities that live by and bear fruit through the surging sap of Christ's risen life.

To remain healthy and productive the vine must be pruned by our vine grower God. Those in whom the baptismal sap rises have already been pruned by the words Jesus speaks, but we must continue to accept not only the short, sharp pain of God's snipping from our lives the small and withering infidelities, but also be willing to endure the longer agony of more drastic pruning that is sometimes necessary. This is not to make of the Vine Grower a ruthless tyrant, because what is done is done out of love for the vine. In his passion and death, the Christ who knew no sin was made sin for us (cf. 2 Cor 5:21) and suffered in faithful hope that most drastic pruning of his passion and death so that the branches of the vine, his community, might thrive through his resurrected life.

Sometimes what needs to be pruned in our lives is the parasite runner of individualism that wants to go its own way, or the sucker that feeds on self-interest, both draw life away from the vine. At other times, our vine-dressing God recognizes our potential for greater fruit-bearing, and with this the need for heavy pruning. After such pruning, a vine may bear no fruit for several years, but it remains rooted and waiting, confident in the tending of the Vine Grower, until both are rewarded with a tremendous, bursting yield. When we yield such a harvest of good works, says Jesus, we give glory to the Father and are confirmed in our discipleship.

Ad multos annos!

Fr. Starman, Pastor

THE LORD'S PORTION—04.25.21

Adult Env. (24)	1,247.00
Loose Checks (2)	125.00
Loose Cash	12.00
JP II Newman Center	35.00
Easter (2)	155.00
Insurance (17)	955.00
Online Giving (3)	189.70
TOTAL	2,718.70

LITURGICAL MINISTERS — MAY 8/9

MASS TIMES	Sat. @ 5pm	SUNDAY 8:30
EMHC	Lindsey Nemetz	Brian Mlady
LECTOR	Erin Jelinek	Landyn Mlady
GIFTS		
ORGANIST	Terri Vrooman	
SERVERS	Avery, Mason & Marek	VOLUNTEERS

No Saturday Mass in Stuart on Sat., May 8 due to SJ Graduation.

Mass @ Stuart SB on Sun., May 9 will be celebrated @ 10:30am

We offer sympathy to Karen & Tony Hoffman with the death of Karen's father, Gerald Burkinshaw. May perpetual light shine on Gerald.