

# St. Joseph Church

Rev. Bernard Starman, Pastor  
Rev James Weeder & Rev. Joseph Sund, Associates  
Deacon MJ Kersenbrock  
Atkinson NE  
402-925 2122 or Emergency 402-340-0277  
stjosephatknson.org holtboydcatholic.org

May 9, 2021  
**6th Sunday of Easter**

### Mass Intentions for the Week

- Mon NO MASS
- Tue 10:00 AM + Max & Agnes Hamik @ G Sam
- Wed 8:15 AM + Mary Ryan
- Thu 8:15 AM + Ed & Marianne Jansen
- Fri 8:15 AM + All Souls
- Sat Mass in Stuart @ 6pm
- Sun 8:30 AM + Janice Ries

### ASCENSION

10:30AM in Stuart  
*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—Tim Lai-  
ble Family. The week of May  
16—Joe & Patti Skrdla.*

IS IT YOURS???  
Found @ church...a pair of sunglasses  
& a John Deere cap. Please claim at  
the parish office.

**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, Dan & Nancy Krysl, Phil Keating.

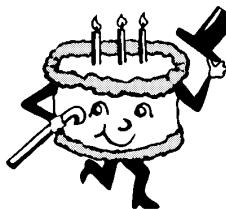
**This summer, find comfort & strength  
by meditating on the Passion of Jesus  
Christ with a visit to the beautiful &  
touching statues at the Cloisters on the  
Platte located near Gretna, NE. For  
more info., please visit cloisters on the  
platte.com**



### Calendar

- Tue., May 11—Altar Society Meeting, 6pm,  
KC Hall
- Wed., May 12—Adoration, 9am—3pm
- Thu., May 13—Ascension of the Lord
- Sat., May 29—Alumni Mass, **5pm.** There  
WILL NOT BE Mass that evening in Stuart.

Pillow cleaning on Tue., June 1 from 9—3:30  
@ the KC Hall.



*Happy Day!*  
*Fr Starman on  
Thu., May 13. Wishing  
you a great birthday.*

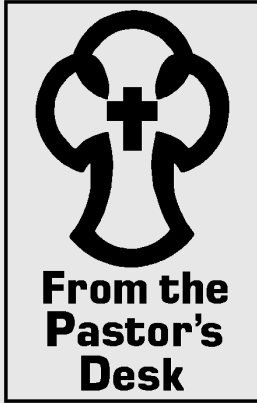
### CONGRATULATIONS...to our 2021 SJ Graduates! Eighth Grade-Drake Nemetz.



**Kindergarten: Lindsey Anderson, Anistyn Borer,  
Ryenne Dvorak, Avery Gall, Jake Holt, Breck Ol-  
berding & Madelyn Troidl.**

**Catholic Seniors of West Holt: Jaxson Cadwallader,  
Reghan Kerkman, Nathaniel Ketteler, Javin Klabenes,**

**Aaron Kraus, Jordyn Laible, Danielle McDermott, Grant Mlinar, Cassie Neibauer, Kalie Reiman,  
Alexa Spangler & Madison Tunender. May God continue to bless you on your journey!**



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

The heartbeat of this weekend's gospel [John 15:9-17] and of the second reading from 1 John is "love." As disciples, we are called to feel this pulse and make our lives beat in rhythm with it. The love commandment that Jesus gives to his disciples depends on God's limitless love for the world (John 3:16). This love is made incarnate and dwells among us in Jesus, the one who is "close to the Father's heart" (John 1:18; NRSV), and so Jesus's own relationship with his Father, his own life and death, become the norm of the costly love he asks of his disciples. This must not be a cramped or grudging love, but joyful and expansive, encompassing the world for which Jesus was sent.

One of the most priceless human gifts is friendship. It allows us to disclose ourselves to and receive from another in complete openness and trust. With a friend we can think aloud; participate in one another's joys and sorrows, hopes and fears; survive loneliness, indifference, hostility. Small wonder, then, that in this weekend's gospel Jesus calls his disciples by this most precious of names: "my friends." Drawn into and abiding in the mutual love of the Father and the Son, disciples are no longer called servants but friends.

The Johannine community was to live as friends and so, throughout his gospel, John introduces us to various occasions of friendship: John the Baptist, the precursor and "the friend of the bridegroom" (John 3:29; NRSV) who, like a best man, hands over the bride Israel to Jesus; the family at Bethany, especially Lazarus, the friend for whom he wept at his grave and for whom Jesus was the tomb breaker (John 11:35-44); Pilate, who at a critical moment preferred to be a friend of Caesar rather than Jesus (John 19:12); the disciple beloved of Jesus (John 13:23; 19:26; 21:7); and Peter, the forgiven friend who will lead and shepherd the community of the forgiven (John 21:44ff.). As we gather around the table of our eucharistic supper, we hear that we have been chosen by Jesus as his friends and commissioned to befriend the world in and with the love he has shown us.

The most startling, profound, yet simple naming of God is proclaimed in the reading from the First Letter of John: "God is love." The letter is addressed to the "beloved," those with whom God has taken the initiative, who are parented by God's love, and this self-giving love is the source of human love. Like this weekend's gospel whose heartbeat is love, so love beats strongly in this reading—named nine times in its four verses. It is love that is expansive and global, yet also intimate and personal, revealed most fully in Jesus, the Son of God, and our brother.

In a remarkable photographic event, at the turn of the millennium invitations were sent to 192 countries inviting photographers to submit entries that captured and celebrated the essence of humanity's "Moments of Intimacy, Laughter and Kinship." Ultimately, seventeen thousand photographers from 164 countries entered with over forty thousand photographs. As well as becoming an international traveling exhibition, the winning photographs are published as three incredible books entitled Family, Friendship, and Love. As love always does, the images reach across all continents and races, youth and age, poverty, and affluence, to reveal the heart of humanity and, surely, the heart of God.

The viewer has no idea if the God of Jesus Christ is known or unknown to the 6-year-old "policeman" in the slums of Calcutta who is holding up his hand to stop the traffic so that three blind men, their hands on one another's shoulders, can safely cross the road; whether any prayers are being murmured by the 84-year-old woman saying goodbye to her dying 92-year-old friend; or what is the faith of the parents welcoming their womb-wet, wailing newborn. But the Christian gazing on these photographs, or on such realities in our everyday lives, can surely say: "God is love."

On Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup> we celebrate The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord, a Holy Day, see the Mass schedules for our parishes elsewhere in this bulletin.

Ad multos annos!

Fr. Bernard Starman

**THE LORD'S PORTION—05.02.21**

Adult Env. (26)	1,842.00
Loose Checks (2)	125.00
Loose Cash	15.00
Insurance (2)	125.00
Online Giving (3)	125.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,232.00</b>

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS — MAY 16**

MASS TIMES	Sat.	SUNDAY
EMHC		Shirley Rossman
LECTOR		Heather Slaymaker
GIFTS		
ORGANIST		Jayne Fetherston
SERVERS		VOLUNTEERS

\*\*\*\*ASCENSION MASSES\*\*\*\*

**STUART**

**WED., MAY 12....7PM**

**THU., MAY 13...11:15AM**

**ATKINSON**

**THU., MAY 13...8:15AM**

Blessed is the MOTHER who can hold onto her children while letting them go;

Who puts a tranquil home ahead of an immaculate house;

Who knows a kind act will be remembered longer than an easy work;

Who really believes that prayer changes things;  
Whose faith in the future sweetens the present;  
whose bible never needs dusting; whose sense of humor is alive and well