

St. Joseph Church

Rev. Bernard Starman, Pastor

Rev. Ross Burkhalter, Senior Associate Pastor

Rev. Joseph Sund, Associate

Deacon MJ Kersenbrock

Atkinson NE

402-925 2122 or Emergency 402-340-0277

stjosephatkinson.org holtboydcatholic.org

October 3, 2021

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions for the Week

Mon NO MASS

Tue 10:00 AM + Phil Keating @ Good Sam

Wed 8:15 AM + Elmer, Kay & Bernard Schaaf

Thu NO MASS

Fri 8:15 AM + James Keating

Sat 6:00 PM + John Mathis

Sun 8:30 AM **In Stuart**

10:30 AM + All Souls

*Confessions 1/2 hour before weekend
Mass*



Calendar

TODAY! Life Chain in O'Neill

Wed., Oct. 6—Adoration, 9am—3pm & CCD Classes

Sat., Oct. 9—APC Meeting for St. Joseph's Parish Council @

Stuart, SB Church basement from 9—noon

Sun., Oct. 17—Confirmation @ St. Joseph's, 10:30am Mass

Sun., Oct. 24—Confirmation @ St. Boniface...Mass Time

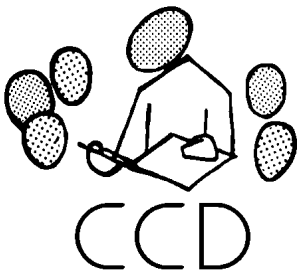
Change...Atkinson SJ @ 8:30am; Stuart SB @ 10:30am

Oct. 23/24—World Mission Sunday

Tue., Oct. 26—Birthday Blessings, Fr. Ross!

November 7—Clocks *fall* back one hour

November 14—Parish Auction



We Are Grateful...to

those who have stepped forth to share their faith with our young people:

Diane Alden, Paul & Corinne Pistulka, Brooke Farewell, Nicky Cadwal-

ader, Nicole Kreitel, Erin Jelinek, Jordan Moser, Linda Wolf. Needed yet are volunteers to co-teach with another teacher. No need to be in attendance every week, but every other week or as needed (call Linda, 402.340.0741).

Many thanks to Linda Wolf for sharing of her time & talent to get the program off to a great start this past Wednesday.



Members...If you haven't paid your dues of \$10.00, please do so by mailing a check to Diane Rentschler, 47691 883rd Rd., Atkinson, NE 68713. THANKS!

DID YOU KNOW...If you're registered @ St. Joseph's, you're automatically a member of SJ Altar Society? Group lists are available in the vestibule.

The Harvest Is Great; Laborers Are Few

Vocation crucifix this week—Tim & Joan Laible. The week of Oct. 10—Joe & Patti Skrdla.

Auction Coupons...are available in the church vestibule for you to make your annual auction donation. Obviously due to covid, we weren't able to have the auction last fall OR in March as planned. Those who made any type of donation will not be asked to donate again. There are some items being stored in the rectory basement that our 'callers' picked up last year. **WE ARE HOPING FOR A SUCCESSFUL EVENT!!!**

Leone Slaymaker Memorial to St. Joseph School in the amount of

\$500.00. May perpetual light shine on Leone

In Memoriam

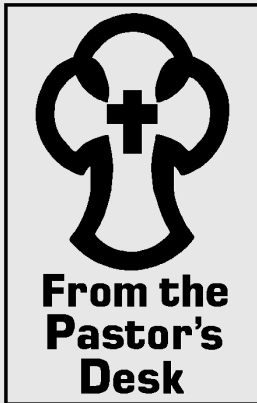
WE PRAY FOR...those in need of special prayers: Emma Lou Gunther, John Gilg, Garrett Scholz, Barb McTavish, Judy Steimle, Adalynn Bouska, Nancy Krysl, Sally Manzer.

Help Wanted

St. Joseph Catholic School is looking to

hire a full-time para-professional. This position provides support to the teacher to ensure a safe & stimulating educational environment. Submit resume to Andrea Borer, PO Box 69, Atkinson, NE 68713 OR email aborer@stjosephatkinson.org. EOE

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



Some Pharisees come to Jesus to confront him over his interpretation of Scripture and, specifically, how he understood the matter of divorce. Jesus throws the question back to them by asking what the Mosaic Law commanded. The Pharisees reply that a man is permitted to give his wife a bill of divorce and send her away. Jesus shifts the discussion away from this law (Deut 24:1-4), the interpretations of which could range from the permissive to the stringent. He goes beyond the question “Is it lawful?” and beyond legalistic arguments to the plan of God for relationships between men and women. The focus then becomes marriage, not divorce.

The prophet Malachi had denounced divorce, appealing to the creation story that we have heard in the first reading (Mal 2:13-17). Jesus also takes a prophetic, countercultural stance, and refers to this same Torah text. This encounter with the Pharisees comes in the section of Mark’s gospel where the focus is on the cost of discipleship, as proclaimed the last three Sundays, and fidelity in marriage is never a cheap grace. Jesus refers to Moses’s concession about divorce as something that was allowed because of a sickness of the heart or cardiosclerosis, to give a literal translation of “hardness of . . . heart.” The same words are used to describe their ancestors’ wilderness rebellion in Psalm 95:8-9. In the divine plan for whole and healthy human relations in marriage, God did not intend divorce, says Jesus.

“In the house” with his disciples, Jesus expands his teaching, probably reflecting the Markan concern to strengthen the marriage commitment in the Christian communities in the Greco-Roman world where divorce was common, and women could also divorce their husbands. Jesus’s message is not only uncompromising, it is also countercultural, passing a subtle judgment on the double standard that allows one course of action for men but denies the same for women. Not only does a woman who has been divorced by her husband and marries another man commit adultery; it also works the other way, says Jesus. That he should accuse of adultery a man who divorced his wife and marries another woman, offended patriarchal honor! But both the man and the woman have equal rights and responsibilities to God’s plan for their unity in “one flesh.”

Jesus’s teaching on marriage and divorce flows directly into the description of his blessing of the young children, and once again we see the obtuseness of the disciples. Their selective memory has forgotten the words and action of Jesus when he placed and embraced a little child in their midst as a sign of their responsibility to and love of the insignificant and unimportant ones (Mark 9:36-37). They “rebuke” the people, presumably the children’s parents, and most likely their mothers, just as Peter had “rebuked” Jesus, had tried to exorcise him of his ideas about suffering and death (Mark 8:32; NABRE). Once again Jesus turns the rebuke back on the disciples in an attempt to rid them of their spirit of preoccupation with power and status. The disciples’ stern, dismissive words to the people bringing the children to Jesus contrast with Jesus’s words of gentle encouragement to those who want him to touch their children, to have contact with Jesus’s own holy person and have him call down on them the blessing of God. Jesus again embraces the children, hugging to himself those who are helpless and dependent.

We should not hear this gospel as a sentimental romanticizing or idealizing of children, but as an embrace of Jesus for all those who have no status, no claims to make, no power to wield, and so are receptive to the great gift that is offered—the kingdom of God. With what have we been touched: with the distorted hope of the disciples for power, or with willingness to be “little ones” who are open to and receptive of the reigning presence of God?

Ad multos annos!

Fr. Bernard Starman
Pastor

THE LORD’S PORTION—09.26.21

Adult Envelopes	892.00
Loose Checks (2)	65.00
Loose Cash	202.00
Energy (4)	425.00
Midweek Donation	160.00
Misc. Donation (3)	443.68
Online Giving (3)	80.00
TOTAL	2,267.68

LITURGICAL MINISTERS – OCT 9/10

MASS TIMES	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
EMHC	Kenny Tunender	Cheleigh Sholes
LECTOR	Pam Bergstrom	Erin Jelinek
GIFTS	Keith Kerkman Fam.	Dennis Hytrek
ORGANIST	Terri Vrooman	
SERVERS	Madalyn Pistulka	Marek Dvorak
	Leah Pistulka	Berkleigh Dvorak
	Payton Skrdla	Brooks Brummer
USHERS (OCT)	Lee Friedel	Allen Tooker
	Dennis Ryan	Phil Fritz
	Volunteer	Darrell Miksch
	Jeff Mathis	Troy Schaaf

COME PRAY FOR OUR NATION, THAT ALL LIFE WILL BE PROTECTED IN OUR HEARTS, AND IN OUR LAWS, COURT DECISIONS, AND PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS. LIFE CHAIN IN O’NEILL...SUNDAY, OCT. 3. REGISTRATION STARTS at 1:30 @ THE CORNER OF 3RD & DOUGLAS. AFTER REGISTERING, PARTICIPANTS WILL PICK UP THEIR SIGNS & PRAYERS, THEN LINE BOTH SIDES OF DOUGLAS STREET TO WITNESS IN SILENT PRAYER FROM 2-3:00 PM