

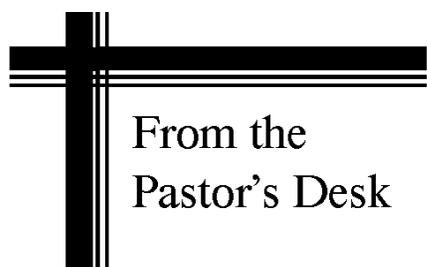
# St. Joseph Church

Rev. Bernard Starman, Pastor  
 Rev. James Weeder & Rev. Joseph Sund, Associates  
 Deacon M.J. Kersenbrock  
 Atkinson, Nebraska  
 402-925-2122, Emergency/After Hours---402.340.0277  
 www.stjosephatkinson.org  
 www.holtboydcatholic.org

## 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 01/19/20

Monday NO MASS  
 Tuesday 10:00 AM + Ries Family @ Good Sam  
 5:30 PM @ St. Boniface  
 Wednesday 8:15 AM + Ed & Marianne Jansen  
 Thursday 11:15 AM @ St. Boniface  
 Friday 8:15 AM + Kenny Lane  
 Saturday 6:00 PM + Bill & Sylvia Morgan Family  
 Sunday 10:30 AM + Joe Langan

	Jan 25/26	Saturday	Sunday
 Mass Schedule	Atkinson, St Joseph	6:00pm	10:30am
	St. Boniface, Stuart	No Mass	8:30am
	St Patrick, O'Neill	5:00pm	9:00am
	St Joseph, Amelia	No Mass	11:00am
	Ss. Peter & Paul, Butte	No Mass	10:30am
	St Mary, Spencer	5:30pm	No Mass
	Assumption, Lynch	No Mass	8:30am
	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> for Ss. Joseph and Boniface: One half hour before each weekend Mass or by appointment		



### From the Pastor's Desk

As we make the leap from the Christmas Season back into Ordinary Time for a few weeks, Fr. Weeder, Fr. Sund and I want to express our gratitude to all those who made our Christmas celebrations wonderful experiences. Thank you.

Most children love magicians; they love to see them perform at birthday parties, events, and special shows. Magicians sometimes say they are more properly called "illusionists," because that title more closely reflects what they actually do. They perform illusions rather than magic. We might say they are creating the illusion of magic. We think we see something,

maybe a rabbit pulled from a hat or a card that disappears, but it is only an illusion.

In reading weekend's gospel from John 1:29-34, we may think Jesus is baptized. But when we look at the story more carefully, we see that there's no baptism at all. The story is about John the Baptist, but his role is not to baptize Jesus. Instead, it is to testify to Jesus—a testament that, namely, Jesus is the Son of God. This title is significant for the Gospel of John, and it appears in the closing verse of the gospel): "These things are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name" (20:31; NABRE).

So, what John the Baptist testifies to in the beginning, that Jesus is the Son of God, is the entire purpose of the gospel. And all of this is done without Jesus being baptized. We would need the other gospels to learn that Jesus was indeed baptized by John. This gospel gracefully omits that detail.

In addition to this narrative sleight of hand, the Gospel of John also claims that Jesus "existed before" John the Baptist. The prologue makes this clear in identifying the word of God in the beginning, and that the Word was made flesh. But here we have pre-existence on the lips of the Baptist himself. No other gospel is quite so explicit about this theological point. And the Baptist continues by saying the only reason he was baptizing at all was to give testimony to this one who "might be made known to Israel."

When we read the Gospel of John, let's pay special attention to the words he uses and the theological claims he makes. Otherwise, we might miss the essential truth and mistake it with a glance of an illusion. We are so familiar with these stories and the gospels, we can see what we already "know" and miss a deeper insight.

St. Paul tells us that we have been baptized into Christ's death (Rom 6:3). Mark speaks of John's baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, which Jesus also underwent (Mark 1:4, 9). But John the Baptist appears in the Fourth Gospel not to baptize Jesus, but to testify to him. Baptism, this foundational sacrament of water, has a multiplicity of meanings and interpretations in the New Testament and also for us today. When we dip our fingers into the holy water at church, we are reminded that we have been baptized into Christ's death, with the forgiveness of sins. Then we, as his followers, are to testify to him in the world. Our belief in Jesus as the Son of God gives life in his name. We live this life having undergone the paschal mystery in our own baptism from death to new life.

Ad Multos Annos!

Fr. Bernard Starman

**The HARVEST IS GREAT, LABORERS ARE FEW** --- Taking the vocation crucifix this week—George & Udonna Schmit. The week of Jan. 26—Dennis & Roxanne Ryan.



Emma Lou Gunther, Darrin Wedige, Gianna Slaymaker, Lois Tunender, Nathan Boyle, Garrett Scholz, Marilyn Morrison, Blakely Bouska, Miranda Ijames, John Gilg, Phil Fritz, John Mathis, Jerry Schaaf, Michelle Bulau.



**SJ Altar Society is in charge of the lunch stand for the carnival on Fri., Jan. 31. Items can be delivered to the Community Center after 2pm. This list will also be on google docs or contact Patti Skrdla, 402.340.1964 with donations:**

**40 lbs browned ground beef (can be donated & browned by multiple individuals)**

**10 pkgs hamburger buns, 8 count**

**2 bags brown sugar**

**4 lg pkgs hot dogs**

**7 pkgs hot dog buns**

**2-64oz ketchup**

**1 lg mustard**

**4 bags small assorted chips, 22 count**

**1-12 pack Pepsi**

**1-12 pack Mt. Dew**

**2-12 pack Dr. Pepper**

**1-12 pack Sprite**

**1-12 pack Diet Pepsi**

**1-12 pack Coke**

**1-12 pack Diet Coke**

**2 cases bottled water**

**8 bags shredded cheese**

**5 bags shredded lettuce**

**12 pkgs taco seasoning**

**1 lg container cool whip**

**6 jars or 1-1/2 gal jug salsa**

**6 squeeze bottles or tubs sour cream**

**1 jar instant tea**

**15 lg bags tortilla chips**

**4 lg cans nacho cheese**

**150 small dessert plates**

**250 lg Styrofoam plates**

**250 plastic forks**

**400 napkins**

**100 Styrofoam coffee cups**