

St. Joseph & St. Boniface Church

Rev. Bernard Starman, Pastor

Rev. James Weeder & Rev. Joseph Sund, Associates

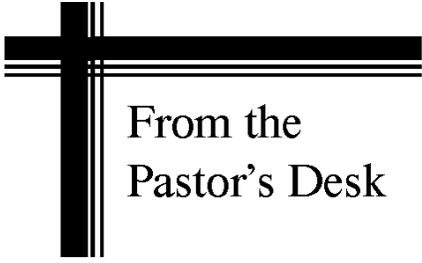
Deacon M.J. Kersenbrock

Atkinson, Nebraska

402-925-2122, 402-924-3262 or Emergency/After Hours---402.340.0277

www.stjosephatkinson.org

www.holtboydcatholic.org



From the Pastor's Desk

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

I hope everyone is hanging in there and staying mentally and physically healthy. Even as an introvert I at times find all the social-distancing and other restrictions burdensome, even though I know it's the right thing to do so that we can flatten the curve and avoid a surge situation that would overwhelm our hospitals and put our medical personnel at greater risk. Go for a drive, just don't stop anywhere that you don't have too. Maybe as a family go and pick up the litter along a stretch of highway, get out in the sun and soak up some Vitamin D, call a friend, neighbor,

acquaintance you haven't talked to in a while and make sure they're doing okay. Call someone who's homebound and see if they need anything. Keep to a routine to make the time pass a little quicker. These are just a few things we can do and still be in compliance with the directed health measure. I've been saying all along that, "If we overreact to this pandemic we will never know, but if we don't do enough the consequences will be immediately very clear."

As we celebrate the Third Sunday of Easter, the gospel story from Luke [24:13-35] this weekend has as its setting Easter Sunday. Emmaus was a small village not far from Jerusalem. Two disciples, one named Cleopas, were walking to Emmaus from Jerusalem when the risen Christ himself appears to them and accompanies them on their way. There is speculation that the unnamed disciple may have been a woman. When we are reminded that Luke has a special concern for women, often narrating a story about a woman before or after telling a story about a man, it seems likely that this unnamed disciple could have been a woman. Indeed, Conception Seminary in Missouri has an icon of this scene in which Jesus speaks with Cleopas and a female disciple. In any case, as Luke is not explicit about the identity of the other disciple, we should be open to possibilities.

As the two speak to Jesus and relate to him what happened, he in turn explains the Scriptures to them, causing their hearts to burn within them. Then, instead of continuing on his way, Jesus joins them and in explicit eucharistic language the gospel says, "He took bread said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them." With that, in stunning Lucan language, Jesus vanished! So, the disciples came to know him in the "breaking of the bread," illustrating vividly how subsequent Christians would come to know the risen Lord. So, when we break bread in the Eucharist, we come to know the risen Christ.

With this experience, the two disciples race back to Jerusalem to report their encounter to the others who are in hiding. The two are told that Jesus has also appeared to Simon, which according to Luke's gospel was the first appearance. The experience of coming to know him in the breaking of the bread is additional confirmation that Jesus lives eternally, building on the appearance of the risen Christ to Simon. Up to this point, for the assembled disciples, much like for us, they have only the testimony of Peter, Cleopas, and the other disciple. They also have reports of the empty tomb and of angels announcing that Jesus is alive. At this point in the story, the other disciples are relying on the testimony of others, and such is the Christian story. Disciples share the "good news" of Jesus being alive with one another. For those who have faith, the resurrection is a confirmation of God's activity on behalf of Jesus.

After Easter, the disciples come to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread. He is present among his followers as he was prior to his death and resurrection, but now, he is present in a new way. Of course, as Catholics, we see this clearly in the Eucharist, when we take bread, bless it, break it, and give it. The bread broken is Christ himself. He is our nourishment both spiritually and physically, metaphorically and actually. When we participate in the Eucharist, we call to mind his passion, death, and resurrection. We consume him who is the Bread of Life. When we want to know Jesus, we experience the Eucharist not merely by gazing at it, but by consuming it—for it is real food. In this way, we not only live but share in and become the paschal mystery.

Thank you to all who continue to mail in, drop-off or make use of the online giving programs. Faculty and Staff still need to be paid as do our everyday operating expenses. Thank you!

Stay safe, stay well, stay socially distanced, keep praying, and WASH YOUR HANDS!

Ad Multos Annos!

Fr. Bernard Starman
Pastor

St. Boniface Prayer List: Kirstine Chvala, Lee Ann Maher, Margaret Smolik, Garrett Scholz, Kate Steinhauser, Blakely Bouska, John Hladky, Coralie Thomas, Isaac Schultie, Dick Steinbach & Kathryn Shald.

GOD HASN'T CALLED US TO BE SUCCESSFUL. HE HAS CALLED US TO BE FAITHFUL!

April 19, 2020.....Collection-----St. Boniface

Envelopes	\$905.00	Online Giving	\$115.00
Easter	420.00	TOTAL	1,440.00



We Pray With Special Concern For All Who Are Ill: Emma Lou Gunther, Darrin Wedige, Gianna Slaymaker, Lois Tunender, Nathan Boyle, Marilyn Morrison, Miranda iJames, Garrett Scholz, Blakely Bouska, John Gilg, Phil Fritz, John Mathis, Jerry Schaaf, Michelle Bulau, & Phil Schmaderer, Rob Klinetobe.



Sat., April 25—*Birthday Blessings* to Father James Weeder
 “Twenty-nine & holding,” he said,
 I’ll bet it’s a higher number instead!



We Wish To Congratulate..Fr. Luke Steffes on 25 years of priestly ordination this year. Did you read last week’s edition of The Catholic Voice? Father’s anniversary is actually December 28. Thank you, Fr. Luke for shepherding us & sharing your life with St. Boniface & St. Joseph’s!

THE LORD’S PORTION---04.24.20-----St. Joseph’s

Adult Sunday Envelopes (7)	1,496.00
Online Giving (4)	1,090.90
Easter (3)	710.00
Insurance (3)	450.00
TOTAL	3,746.90

 We offer sincere condolences to the Wenner family with the passing of John. He was called to eternal life April 20. May his soul & all the faithful departed find peace & joy with the Risen Lord.

PEN PAL PROGRAM

We’d like to start a Pen-Pal Program for the families & elderly/homebound adults in our communities to let those that may not have family near and/or may not be able to see family as normal to know that we are thinking about them & praying for them.

Here’s how it would work:

- A family would sign-up for more info & a pen-pal match via the sign-up geniuslink (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A09DA9AA2DA5F49-catholic>) or contacting Steph (smnemecc@archomah.org) a letter to the assigned elderly/homebound adult.
- The family would receive the necessary info to send an initial letter to the assigned elderly/homebound adult, including such info as family members, pets, favorite activities, questions for the adult to respond to (what are your favorite foods, what was school like for you, etc.)
- The family would mail the letter to the adult or email/drop it off at St. Patrick’s Parish Office and Steph will mail it.
- Hopefully then letters will continue to be sent to and from the matched up families through this difficult time and even after this time.

**Families are able to sign up for more than one pen-pal matchup. Ex: each child in the family wants to send a letter to a pen-pal. However, to follow Safe Environment guidelines, parents must be included in the letter writing and noted as the letter sender-have the kids be a part of the letter and writing process.

Please feel free to share this with your students, families, and friends. Feel free to send any suggestions my way -Ex: if you have someone in mind that would benefit from this program, please let me know as I will add them to our list to be matched up with a family.

Catholic Parishes of Western Holt & Boyd Counties: Catholic Parishes of Western Holt & Western Boyd Counties Pen Pals

www.signupgenius.com

Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. Thank you!
 The Catholic Parishes of Western Holt and Boyd Counties...Facebook

