

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

April 25, 2021
4th Sunday of Easter

Mass Intentions for the Week
Mon NO MASS
Tue NO MASS
Wed 8:15 AM + Ray & Eleanor Slaymaker
Thursday NO MASS
Friday 8:15 AM + Harvey & Loretta Grof
Saturday NO MASS
Sunday **10:30 AM** – Pro Populo **First Communion**
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—Don &
Brenda Wedige. The week of
May 2—John & Marsha
Thomassen*

Sympathy to the Todd & Bev Cone Family with the passing of Todd's mother, Barb Cone. May she rest in peace.

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 (granddaughter of Gerry & Shirley Bouska & great granddaughter of Sharon Babi)

*We will Be Having...*a special blessing for all of our graduating seniors on Sun., May 9 @ 8:30am Mass. We will recognize the seniors & send them off with our parish's blessing.



TODAY! Birthday Blessings, Fr. Weeder!!
Wed., Apr. 28—Adoration, 9am—3pm, **CCD class**
Sat., May 8—SJ Graduation, **5pm Mass**
Sun., May 9—Catholic Seniors honored @ **8:30am Mass**
Thu., May 13—The Ascension of the Lord
Sat., May 29—Alumni Mass, **5pm**

*Some have asked us to put **St. Boniface** Weekend Mass Schedule in SJ bulletin:
Saturday...6pm
Sunday...8:30am
(May 1/2)*

Looking Ahead....Pillow cleaning on June 1. It wasn't held last year, so time to think about it getting those pillows refreshed.

**I TURN COAL INTO DIAMONDS, SAND INTO PEARLS, AND
A WORM INTO A BUTTERFLY.
I CAN TURN YOUR LIFE AROUND, TOO!
—GOD**



**From the
Pastor's
Desk**

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

This weekend's gospel [John 10: 11-18] presents us with one of the most loved images of Jesus when he says of himself, "I am the good shepherd." We are sometimes seduced by images of a smiling Middle Eastern shepherd with a cuddly, clean, and fluffy lamb tucked under his arm. Much less romantic and more accurate and robust is the earliest known statue (ca. 60 CE) of the Good Shepherd at Caesarea Maritima in Israel. The legless remnant has a huge, heavy sheep draped around the shepherd's shoulders. To carry such a load would be no easy task! In 1 Samuel, we have another vigorous Old Testament description of a shepherd in the context of King Saul's attempt to dissuade the young David from fighting against the mighty Philistine warrior, Goliath. David argues his case for the fight with a graphic description of how he kept sheep for his father: "Whenever a lion or bear came to carry off a sheep from the flock, I would chase after it, attack it, and snatch the prey from its mouth. If it attacked me, I would seize it by the throat, strike it, and kill it. . . . The same Lord who delivered me from the claws of the lion and the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine" (17:34-35, 37; NABRE).

As our Good Shepherd, Jesus fights for us, saves us from the gaping jaws of whatever or whoever seeks to grab and destroy our discipleship and wound the little "flock" of the Christian community. He shepherds us with his loving care so that we may "have life and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10; NABRE).

In contrast to the Good Shepherd is the hireling who is concerned primarily with his own self-interest: his reputation, remuneration, and safety. Through the prophets, God had denounced the shepherd leaders of Israel who had prostituted their pastoral ministry. "I myself will pasture my sheep," God promises his people (Ezek 34:15; NABRE; cf. Isa 40:11; Jer 31:10). There are still some political, social, and ecclesial "hired men" with us, but there are also the magnificent shepherds who are willing to lay down their life for their sheep. In Oscar Romero: Memories in Mosaic, Maria López collects the memories of two hundred people who had lived, prayed, and worked with such a shepherd— Archbishop Oscar Romero. Here is one:

One morning in rainy season when the skies were heavy with the day's rain, a man in rags, with a shirt full of holes and hair made curly by dust, covered with dust, was cleaning (Romero's) tomb carefully with one of his rags. When he left to go out, I felt I needed to talk to him.

"Why do you do that?"

"Do what?"

"Clean Monseñor's tomb."

"Because he was my father."

"What do you mean . . . ?"

"It's like this. I'm just a poor man, you know? Sometimes I make some money carrying things for people in the market in a little cart. And sometimes I spend it all on liquor and end up lying hungover on the streets. But I never get discouraged. I had a father! I did! He made me feel like a person. Because he loved people like me and didn't act like we made him sick. He talked to us, he touched us, he asked us questions. He had confidence in us. You could see in his eyes that he cared about me. Like parents love their children. That's why I clean off his tomb, because that's what children do."

As a child, as a son, Jesus the Good Shepherd lives, dies, and is raised to life in the power of the mutual love between him and his Father. Into this love Jesus gathers his disciples so that they may also share in it.

Ad multos annos!

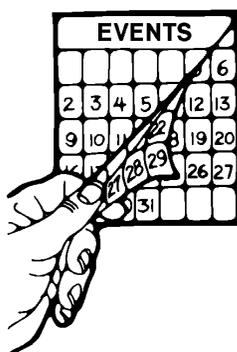
Fr. Bernard Starman, Pastor

THE LORD'S PORTION—04.18.21

Adult Env. (26)	1,532.50
Loose Checks (4)	287.02
Loose Cash	5.00
Online Giving (9)	1,152.21
TOTAL	2,976.73

LITURGICAL MINISTERS — MAY 2

MASS TIMES	Sat. @ Stuart	SUNDAY 10:30
EMHC		Andrea Borer
LECTOR		Pam Bergstrom
GIFTS		
ORGANIST		Jayne Fetherston
SERVERS		VOLUNTEERS
USHERS		



The last class for CCD will be May 5.

Watch next weekend's bulletin for the date & time of Senior Prayer Partner Revealing.

The Saturdays in May when Mass is in Atkinson due to graduation & alumni, there WILL NOT be Mass in Stuart