

# Communicatio Nostrum Nuntium

(Sharing Our News)

January 2023

The Catholic Parishes of Western Holt & Boyd Counties

Assumption BVM ~ Lynch | St. Boniface ~ Stuart | St. Joseph ~ Amelia

St. Joseph ~ Atkinson | St. Mary's ~ Spencer | St. Patrick's ~ O'Neill | Ss. Peter & Paul ~ Butte

## MASS SCHEDULES

### Weekend Masses

St. Boniface—Stuart—Saturday @ 5:00 p.m.

St. Joseph—Atkinson—Sunday @ 9:00 a.m.

St. Joseph—Amelia—Sunday @ 11:15 a.m.

St. Patrick—O'Neill—Saturday @ 5:00 p.m. and Sunday @ 10:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart of Boyd County:

Saturday:

Week 1: St. Mary's—Spencer @ 7:00 p.m.

Week 2: Assumption BVM—Lynch @ 7:00 p.m.

Week 3: St. Mary's—Spencer @ 7:00 p.m.

Week 4: Assumption BVM—Lynch @ 7:00 p.m.

Week 5: St. Mary's—Spencer @ 7:00 p.m.

Sunday:

Ss. Peter & Paul—Butte @ 8:00 a.m.

Ss. Peter & Paul—Butte @ 8:00 a.m.

Ss. Peter & Paul—Butte @ 8:00 a.m.

St. Mary's—Spencer @ 8:00 a.m.

Ss. Peter & Paul—Butte @ 8:00 a.m.

### Weekday Masses

Monday—5:30 p.m. @ St. Boniface—Stuart

Tuesday—5:15 p.m. @ St. Patrick's—O'Neill

5:30 p.m. @ St. Boniface—Stuart

Wednesday—*School Masses subject to change*

8:10 a.m. @ St. Patrick's—O'Neill

\*8:15 a.m. @ St. Joseph's—Atkinson

6:30 p.m. @ SHBC Rotation

Thursday—7:00 a.m. @ St. Patrick's—O'Neill

Friday—7:00 a.m. @ St. Patrick's—O'Neill

8:15 a.m. @ St. Joseph's—Atkinson

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

Happy New Year! My prayer as we begin 2023 is this may be a year filled with blessings for all of us!

As most of you already know Deacon Roger Filips and his wife Ann have moved into our parishes and Deacon Filips has requested that the archbishop transfer his assignment from Holy Trinity parish — Hartington and St. Michael parish — Coleridge to our family of parishes. Welcome Roger and Ann! (Enjoy the sun and the beach the next couple of months, we'll be ready to put you to work when you return!)

As you are also aware, the past several months the Pastoral Planning Team and I worked diligently to develop a pastoral planning document that was sent to the archbishop on November 15<sup>th</sup>. On November 29<sup>th</sup>, I received "Tentative Approval" of our plan from the archbishop. This essentially means that he's not making us go back to the drawing board. The only immediate change for us is that we will cease having weekend Masses at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Catholic Church in Lynch. We will continue to have a weekday Mass twice a month (so that the Blessed Sacrament can continue to be reserved there.) We will also still have baptisms, weddings and funerals for the Sacred Heart Boyd County parishioners who wish to have those liturgies at Assumption.

I am very much aware that that news was very difficult and painful for those who call "Assumption" home. Unfortunately, it is the current reality we live in and we quite honestly fared much better than some of the families of parishes to the east of us. Please pray for the folks at Assumption as they grieve the loss of worshiping in their home church during the coming months.

The archbishop has also asked us to continue our conversations about what we can do to engage our schools in becoming more "missional" in the coming years and to further explore areas we can work together on this. He asked as well that we continue to explore ways to centralize our business office (Much of that has already been done and was outlined in the proposal that he has given tentative approval too.) Some of the things he's asking us to explore are centralized purchasing of some supplies (such as paper) so that we can get more product for our dollars.

Again, all in all we fared well. Pray also for those families of parishes who are struggling to accept the present reality, that the Holy Spirit may move them to a place of peace and grant them the wisdom to find ways to continue the mission of Jesus.

Thank you to all who participated in our pastoral planning meetings your input was important to creating the final document. I will likely be calling a few more meetings before we reach the end of this planning phase.

Ad multos annos!

Fr. Bernard Starman, Pastor



## MINISTRY OF PRAISE—A WORD FROM DEACON FILIPS

January 2023

For many people, if they don't get anything out of the homily, they feel like the entire Mass was a waste of time. This frequently happens to young people and others who have not entered deeply into their faith yet. In fact, I think this is a good diagnostic test; If you feel like you never got anything out of a Mass where the homily limped, (and all of them do sometimes), my assumption would be that you do not yet understand what is actually happening during Mass, because the homily is only the third most important part of the Mass.

The second most important part of Mass is the reading of the scriptures. The actual word of God coming to us directly, speaking to us in our present situation. If you are not getting much out of the scripture readings either, I recommend reading and meditating on them quietly before or after Mass, so when you hear the words proclaimed, they can resonate more deeply in you. Use the WRAP or Lectio Divina method that is taught in small groups. I would be happy to meet with anyone who would like to learn this ancient method of communicating with God.

The most important part of the Mass is the Eucharist, where Jesus is made physically present, by the power of the priesthood, from the bread and the wine. Jesus and His suffering is then offered to the Father as the perfect sacrifice for our sins; we are encouraged to join our sufferings to Jesus' passion to be offered to the Father our salvation and the salvation of the world. Then we eat the flesh and blood of Jesus at communion to nourish and strengthen us and to change us, so we become ready for heaven. (Yes, Jesus' body and blood are both present in the host, you do not have to receive from the cup to get that benefit.)

The truth about the Mass is so amazing that I beg you to watch a short little video on You Tube called "The Veil Removed". It is only 8 minutes long, but it shows beautifully and powerfully what happens at the Mass. Normally it is like there is a translucent veil in front of the altar. You can sort of see what is going on, but not really. At every Mass, Jesus and the saints and angels are at the altar, that is why it is such a privilege to serve at a Mass. And if we can see with the eyes of faith, it is all visible to us. "The Veil Removed" movie uses modern special effects to show what would happen if the veil were removed and we could actually see it happening. It should be mandatory viewing for all Catholics. There is so much happening in that 8-minute movie that you need to watch it twice to catch it all.

A famous recent study showed that less than 1/3 of Catholics believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. This shocked our bishops and showed what we have lost from our faith, so now we are in the first year of a three-year Eucharistic Revival effort. As Dr. Scott Hahn says "If the Eucharist is just a meal, then Calvary is just an execution," and that would be our tragedy.

This short film is a good tool for Eucharistic Revival that you can do with your family; Go to You Tube and watch "The Veil Removed" I strongly urge you to watch this free movie and discuss it with your family, then join or start a small group to grow closer to Jesus and pray for the success of the Eucharistic Revival. The reverse begins the chapter on spirituality from my book "Pearls of the Universal Church" (Available on Amazon and Gloria Deo Bookstores!)

Spirituality grows the soul. Religion is what our body does. Spirituality and religion work together because we have both a soul and a body (see CCC 362).

Many people today say they are "spiritual not religious." This is nonsense! These people are lazy and adolescent. For the soul to express itself, it needs religion. Spirituality without religion is like a gaseous vapor. It has no form and can mean anything to anybody. It usually means "I appreciate that God created this wonderful life for me, but I am too lazy to get out of bed and go to Church to worship my creator!" Or it reveals that the person has rejected Christianity and has fallen into the error and sin of worshipping a pagan god such as "mother earth" or practicing New Age or Eastern spirituality.

### THERE ARE SIMILAR STAGES OF FRIENDSHIP WITH A HUMAN AND WITH GOD:

1. Meet a friend — Meet God.
2. Doing things together — Invite God into our lives through study, prayer, scripture, and the rosary.
3. Just hang out together — Eucharistic adoration.
4. Trust - It is more than mental. We can feel it. We begin to share more deeply with both friends and God.
5. Gift exchange — We give our time, talents, and treasure as a sign of the mutual sharing of selves with a friend or God.
6. Commitment — No more fear. Expectations are raised. Trust is exchanged.
7. Sacrifice — We give willingly for the other person. We donate time, talent, and treasure to His Church.
8. We are willing to die for the other person — Jesus died for us. Martyrs die for Him. Soldiers don't charge into a machine gun nest for the medals or because they are told to do it. They do it to save their friends who are being killed by the machine gun. Jesus charged into the sin to destroy it because it was killing us.



## In Loving Memory . . .

**Alan Wayne Schoenhofer**—St. Joseph—Atkinson

*January 11, 1969—November 8, 2022*

**Derek Morrow**—St. Mary's—Spencer

*December 14, 1987—November 9, 2022*

**Joseph Schaaf**—St. Joseph—Atkinson

*July 21, 1950—November 12, 2022*

**John N. Schmit**—St. Patrick's—O'Neill

*May 18, 1921—November 16, 2022*

**Donald David Sextro**—Ss Peter & Paul—Butte

*October 9, 1963—November 16, 2022*

**Roger Pecena**—SHBC—St. Mary's—Spencer

*September 24, 1946—November 18, 2022*

**John "Jack" O'Connell**—St. Joseph—Atkinson

*February 8, 1934—November 21, 2022*

**Marvin A. Peter**—St. Patrick's—O'Neill

*July 22, 1945—November 24, 2022*

**Sharon Kay (Tomasiewicz) Reichmuth**—St. Patrick's—O'Neill

*November 10, 1966—December 10, 2022*

**Nance (Neva Mae) Morrow**—St. Patrick's—O'Neill

*February 7, 1933—December 10, 2022*

**Anna Moser**—Ss Peter & Paul—Butte

*September 13, 1934—December 21, 2022*

**Brett Joel Ohde**—St. Joseph's—Atkinson

*February 26, 1988—December 24, 2022*

### ST PATRICK'S—YOUTH MINISTRY & CONFIRMATION PREP INFORMATION

Youth Group will meet January 4, 28, and 25. We will be attending the Community Rosary as our youth group the night of January 25th. Meet AT the church. Youth group starts at 7:00 p.m. and runs until approximately 7:45 p.m.

Confirmation Prep has class in the parish hall on January 11th starting at 7:00 p.m.

Please bring your notebooks!

\*\*\*Note—when there is Confirmation Preparation there is NO YOUTH GROUP.

St. Mary's students will be attending the Northeast Nebraska Walk for Life in Norfolk on January 20, 2023.



## Welcome to the Newly Baptized . . .

**Crizon Rye Black**

Son of Dexter & Brittany Black—Ss Peter & Paul—Butte

**Tinzley Lynn Micheel**

Daughter of Kurt & Lindsey Micheel—St. Joseph—Atkinson

**Zuri Renae-Chanel Jackson**

Daughter of Sara Claussen—St. Joseph—Atkinson

**Dax Andrew Schurman**

Son of Colin & Annie Schurman—St. Boniface—Stuart

**Arlo Charles Barrett**

Daughter of Beau & April Barrett—St. Joseph—Atkinson

**Declan Francis Slaymaker**

Son of Bradley & Heather Slaymaker—St. Joseph—Atkinson

**Rory Michael Jeffrey**

**Riggs Johnny Robert**

**Renley Marie Lieswald**

Children of Brett & Rebecca Lieswald—St. Joseph—Atkinson

**Oaklynn Jean Reiman**

Daughter of Dylan & Laura Reiman—Ss Peter & Paul—Butte



*"You are a child of God.  
You are wonderfully made.  
Dearly loved and precious in His sight."  
~Psalm 139*



## Congratulations to the newly married . . .



**Trev Reiman & Gloria Turpin**

**December 2, 2022—SHBC**

*faith*



### Advent Recap



The St. Mary's (Spencer) Religious Education students (K-6th) met on Nov. 16th with their families to participate in a Family Advent Wreath Making Party. Jan Kunz gave a short overview of the meaning of Advent, showed a short clip from Formed.org, and then let the families loose to design and create their family advent wreath. Each family was given the ring, candles, holy water, and prayer cards. The picture on the left is the designing/creating phase of the project and the picture on the right is of all the finished wreaths.



The photos above are from three of St. Patrick's Religious Education families. They designed their family Advent wreath using the Advent Kit that they purchased.



Francis & Deb Kaup  
~ St. Boniface

**BEHOLD STUDY**

Over 100 people in the cluster of parishes, engaged in the 5-week Guided Advent study BEHOLD. There were multiple group studies along with many doing individual studies. The study focused on each facet of a family: mother, father, children, and the family as a unit. The study was written by Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT and included videos, prayers, meditations, and journaling.

**ADVENT WREATH KITS**

The Religious Education programs in our cluster of parishes were offered the chance to purchase Advent Wreath making kits for their families. St. Patrick's held a wreath making contest, St. Mary's in Spencer had a Family Wreath Making Party (see photos above), and St. Boniface asked families to send photos and quips of how they celebrate Advent. The photos were posted on Facebook.



Leon & Connie Weichman  
~ St. Boniface



This is our new addition with the things supplied in the Advent Wreath Making Kit. We are also adding a Jesse Tree this year. ~ Dan & Jonna Kohle Family ~ St. Boniface



We have an Advent Devotional that we read out of and reflect on and light the candle before having a Family meal together! ~ Justin & Becky Estill Family ~ St. Boniface

We place our Advent wreath in the center of our table during the Advent season. It is white porcelain and is some years decorated with greenery; our Christ candle sits in the middle. When the kids were younger, we celebrated Advent with the Jesse tree or with numbered mittens with small encouraging messages or tiny gifts. Now with grown kids and limited time we light our candle/s with those present at mealtime, take turns praying a spontaneous prayer or specific Advent prayer and close with an intercessory prayer of a Saint of choice. ~ Jon & Jennifer Schmaderer Family ~ St. Boniface





**CEC WEEKEND**

Christians Encounter Christ

<https://norfolkcec.com/>

Men's Weekend— January 27th—29th

Women's Weekend—  
February 17th—19th

**LIVE LENT TOGETHER**

Live Lent Together 2022 was a huge success across the Archdiocese of Omaha parishes. Because of that, LLT will be offered again this coming Lenten season 2023. We are looking for people to be small group leaders. There will be an informational training session (date TBA) for anyone that might be interested in being a leader. If you would like to be a leader or want more information, please call Jan Kunz @ 340-2303.



**SPIRIT CATHOLIC RADIO**

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Make a one-time gift or pledge online at [spiritcatholicradio.com/donate](http://spiritcatholicradio.com/donate)

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**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2023**



January 29th—February 4th  
Celebrating our Catholic Schools—  
St. Mary's (O'Neill) and St. Joseph's (Atkinson) and the important education they offer our youth.

**ST. JOSEPH—ATKINSON—CELEBRATION**

The St. Joseph School students will celebrate Catholic Schools Week from Jan. 29- Feb.4. The students are looking forward to celebrating their Catholic education through fun activities. The Home & School Association will host the Parish Carnival on January 27th at the Atkinson Community Center, everyone is welcome to attend. Supper will be served from 5:30-7:00 with proceeds supporting the Altar Society. Carnival games will begin at 6:30 for kids of all ages.



**ROOTED—MEN'S CONFERENCE**

Feb. 4th - Center, NE - God's Country Barn

Feb. 25th - Norfolk, NE - District Event Center

March 4th - Clarkson, NE - The Barn

Through prayer, keynotes, fellowship, and challenge, the Rooted Conference aims to help men establish a firm foundation rooted in Christ.

Check out: [ROOTEDNebraska.com](http://ROOTEDNebraska.com) for more information.



Welcome to Deacon Roger and Ann Filips to our parish family.

**EUCCHARISTIC MIRACLE DISPLAY PANELS COMING**

Eucharistic Miracles of the World Coming to our parishes in January. St. Boniface, Stuart, St. Joseph, Atkinson, and St. Mary's, Spencer parishes will be host sites to the Vatican-approved international Eucharistic Miracles of the World exhibit. The Eucharistic Miracles of the World exhibit is a free traveling display on loan from Spirit Catholic Radio. It features 39 beautiful panels that highlight some of the most powerful Eucharistic miracles in the world. For more information, visit [spiritcatholicradio.com/miracles](http://spiritcatholicradio.com/miracles). The panels will be on display in Stuart from January 14th—21st, in Atkinson from January 23rd—29th, and in Spencer from January 30th—February 5th. Watch respective bulletins for locations and activities in conjunction with the display.

**COMING SOON: BEREAVEMENT AND WELCOMING COMMITTEES**

Two new committees will be implemented starting January 2023. They are the Bereavement and Welcoming Committees. The goal is to have a group of people for each committee available in each of our parishes.

The Welcoming Committee will reach out to newly registered members, do a meet-and-greet, and gift a welcome basket.

The Bereavement Committee will reach out to those who have lost a loved one throughout the year following their loved one's death.

We currently have Welcoming Committees ready in the following parishes:

St. Patrick's—O'Neill & St. Joseph's—Amelia

St. Boniface—Stuart

Bereavement Committees are ready in these parishes:

St. Patrick's—O'Neill & Amelia

SHBC—Ss Peter & Paul (Butte), St. Mary's (Spencer), and Assumption BVM (Lynch)

Thanks to everyone that has agreed to be part of the new Bereavement and Welcoming Committees. We need people to help get the remaining parishes going on these ministries. If you feel called to be part of one of these committees or want more information about them, please call Jan Kunz @ 340-2303. Please prayerfully consider helping these ministries out.

Join the Walk for Life 2023

**JANUARY 27**

**Gala**

Celebrate life the night before the Walk for Life by joining us at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Lincoln, 1040 P St., for the first Nebraska Walk for Life Gala!

5 p.m. VIP Reception  
6 p.m. Dinner and Programs

Learn more and purchase tickets at [nebraskawalkforlife.com/2023](http://nebraskawalkforlife.com/2023), or scan this QR code.

Join the Walk for Life 2023

**JANUARY 28**

**NEBRASKA Walk for Life**

10 a.m. Program at the State Capitol north steps, 100 & K Streets  
Parking available east, south & west of Capitol; pay parking available at garages & meters

11:30 a.m. Keynote speech, pro-life information tables, food and drink at the UNL Student Union, 14th & R streets

**About Speaker Dr. John Bruchalski**  
Dr. John Bruchalski will describe how a return to the religious faith brought him away from performing abortions as part of what he thought was good health care for women to a leading light in pro-life medicine. His Tuesday, 02/07/23 is one of the largest pro-life medical practices in the country and serves as a safe haven for women in crisis pregnancies. His journey is described in his book, "Two Patients: My Conversion From Abortion to Life-Affirming Medicine." Come show your support for life and hear this man's inspiring story!

NEBRASKA  
Mail: P.O. Box 30416, Lincoln, NE 68591-0416  
Phone: 402-438-2372  
Email: [info@righttolife.com](mailto:info@righttolife.com)  
Website: [www.righttolife.org](http://www.righttolife.org)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

# JANUARY

- January 1—Solemnity of Mary—Holy Day of Obligation  
January 2—Eucharistic Adoration @ St. Boniface—6-9 pm  
January 3—Catholic Daughters Mtg @ O’Neill—7 pm  
January 4—Eucharistic Adoration @ St. Patrick’s—1-9 pm  
January 4—Religious Education Classes Resume  
January 4—St. Joseph School Board Mtg @ Atkinson—7 pm  
January 5—CCW Meeting @ Ss Peter & Paul—7 pm  
January 6—Mass at Parkside @ Stuart—2 pm  
January 6—Staff Christmas Party @ Handlebend—5:30 pm  
January 8—KC Free Throw Contest @ 1 pm—Stuart  
January 8—RCIA @ Parish Center in O’Neill @ 4 pm  
January 9—4th Degree KC Meeting @ O’Neill—7:30 pm  
January 10—Mass at Good Sam @ Atkinson—10 am  
January 10—St. Joseph Parish Council Mtg @ Atkinson—7 pm  
January 11—Eucharist Adoration @ St. Patrick’s—1-9 pm  
January 11—Religious Education Classes  
January 11—KC Meeting @ O’Neill—8 pm  
January 12—RNW Priests Deanery Mtg @ O’Neill—12:15 pm  
January 15—RCIA @ Parish Center in O’Neill—4 pm  
January 16—Eucharistic Adoration @ St. Boniface—6-9 pm  
January 17—St. Boniface Parish Council Mtg @ Stuart—7 pm  
January 18—Eucharistic Adoration @ St. Patrick’s—1-9 pm  
January 18—Mass at Butte Senior Living Center—3:15 pm  
January 18—Religious Education Classes  
January 18—St. Patrick Pastoral Council Mtg—7 pm  
January 18—KC Meeting @ Butte—8 pm  
January 22—RCIA @ Parish Center in O’Neill—4 pm  
January 23—Eucharistic Adoration @ St. Boniface—6-9 pm  
January 23—St. Mary’s Altar Society Mtg @ Spencer—7:30 pm  
January 25—Eucharistic Adoration @ St. Patrick’s—1-9 pm  
January 25—Religious Education Classes  
January 25—St. Patrick’s Finance Council Mtg @ O’Neill—7 pm  
January 26—Ladies Guild Mtg—St. Boniface @ Stuart—2 pm  
January 29—RCIA @ Parish Center in O’Neill—4 pm  
January 29—Catholic Schools Week Starts

## CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

[holtboydcatholic.org](http://holtboydcatholic.org)

You will find . . .

- ◆ websites for individual parishes
- ◆ a detailed calendar of Masses and events
- ◆ live stream of the Mass
- ◆ St. Mary’s & St. Joseph Catholic School information



Heavenly Father,

I am about to embark on new beginnings as I face an end to this chapter of my life.

So, I ask that You lead and direct me as I go through new challenges.

Father, will You stay close to me so that I do not stray from You. You are my Good Shepherd and I am Your sheep; so help me to keep my eyes fixed on You as I trust You in all things.

Grant me provision for all that I need, in order to start this new journey, through the directing of Your Holy Spirit.

Thank You Father, Amen.”

**PSALM 22:11, JOHN 10:11,  
HEBREWS 12:2**

womans day

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Bernard Starman ~ Pastor

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Dcn MJ Kersenbrock ~ Director of Operations

mjkersensbrock@gmail.com

Jan Kunz ~ Director of Evangelization & Catechesis

jkunz@holtboydcatholic.org

Dcn Roger Filips

rfilips@archomaha.org

**St. Patrick—O'Neill & St. Joseph—Amelia**

Office: 301 E Adams, O'Neill, NE 68763

Phone: 402-336-1602

Fax: 402-336-1533

Hours: Monday—Friday—8 a.m.—4 p.m.

After hours emergency number: 402-340-0277

Business Manager: Cheleigh Scholes—crsholes@archomaha.org

Director of Stewardship & Development:

Jennifer Wallwey—jmwally@archomaha.org

Youth Director: Bridget Schneider—bschneider@smcards.org

Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Whitney Benson—whitneybenson@gmail.com

**Sacred Heart of Boyd County**

Office: PO Box 8, Butte, NE 68722

Phone: 402-775-0067

Hours: Monday—Thursday 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Secretary: Marge Nolan—sacredheartboyd@gmail.com

Youth Minister/Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Charlotte Mitchell—charlottehuckmitchell@gmail.com 402-336-7826

**St. Joseph—Atkinson**

Office: PO Box 220, Atkinson, NE 68713

Phone: 402-925-2122 Fax: 402-925-2104

Hours: Wednesday—Friday 8 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Secretary: Gayle Jungman—stjoechurchatkinson@gmail.com

Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Linda Wolf—stjohnsdr@gmail.com 402-340-0741

**St. Boniface—Stuart**

Office: 106 E 4th St. PO Box 190 Stuart, NE 68780

Phone: 402-924-3262

Hours: Tuesday—Thursday 8 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Secretary: Deb Kramer—stbonifacestuart@gmail.com

Director of Ministries/Religious Ed. Coordinator:

Jan Kunz—jankunz9@gmail.com 402-340-2303

## MEETING GOD

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of root beer and he started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man. He was sitting in the park just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him a Twinkie. He gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer.

Again, he smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word. As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. He gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring.

Catholic Parishes of Western Holt & Boyd Counties

301 E Adams St.

O'Neill, NE 68763

*Return Service Requested*

welcome  
January

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;  
old things have passed away;  
behold, all things have become new.

2 Corinthians 5:17