

Saint Joseph's Parish
PO Box 623
1318 Ave G West
Wisner, NE 68791
Parish Office: 529-3891
Bulletin Email:
stjo68791@gmail.com
Fr. Vincent Sunguti: 529-3531
Email: vsunguti2018@gmail.com

3rd Sunday of Easter
April 26th, 2020
Administrator: Vincent Sunguti

Holy Cross Parish
PO Box 212
517 N Fraasier
Beemer, NE 68716
Phone: 528-3475

Reconciliation:

St. Joseph's-Saturday: 4:15-4:40 PM or by appointment
Holy Cross-Sunday: 8:00-8:20 AM or by appointment

The 3rd Sunday of Easter – April 26th 2020



When they drew near to the village to which they were going, He appeared to be going further; but they pressed Him to stay with them. "It is nearly evening," they said, "and the day is almost over." So He went in to stay with them. Now while He was with them at table, He took the bread and said the blessing; then He

broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; but He had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?"

Sunday Readings

The **first reading** is taken from the Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33 and concerns bearing witness to the "name" of Jesus, and the implications which this witnessing necessarily brings with it. Peter and the apostles answered their inquisitors by stating firmly their faith in Christ, and the lesson ends with reference to their joy at having been found worthy to endure trials for the name of Christ.

The **Gospel** is from St. Luke 24:13-35. It is the first day of the week after the great Jewish feast of the Passover and Jerusalem is trying to return to its normal routine. The shop keepers count their profits and the Temple priests congratulate themselves because they were able to kill the 'Galilean'. For the disciples and those who were 'foreigners' in Jerusalem, it is time to start to return to their own homes and their normal lives.

Curtains were closed and lights were dimmed not only due to the celebration of Jerusalem's solemn festival but also because everyone had hope that the man Jesus 'would be the One to redeem Israel' (Lk 24:21). The two disciples from Emmaus are to be found, along their journey, talking to 'Jesus in person', 'but their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him' (Lk 24:16).

Why did the Lord not tell the disciples straight away who He was? Indeed, in the dialogue that the liturgy presents to us today, it almost seems that Jesus did all He could to avoid revealing His true identity. Firstly, He pretended not to know what Cleopas and his companion were discussing and then He went on to 'explain to them the passages throughout scriptures that were about Himself' (Lk 24:27) but without making direct reference to Himself.

At the end of the journey, 'He made to go on' (Lk 24:28). Jesus didn't want to play games with His disciples, but He sought to educate their hearts, and also ours, so that we won't be 'slow'! In fact, when faced with the Lord's Presence, we find that the heart quickly 'burns' upon hearing His words as we are grateful of the fact that we were freed not by 'gold and silver but by the precious blood of Christ' who is the 'blameless and spotless' lamb (Cfr. 1 Pet 1:19).

The Risen Lord uses so much gentleness with us! He doesn't oblige us to 'believe' but He offers us the instruments that enable us to judge based on the infallible measure of our own hearts. As St Augustine extraordinarily wrote in the opening of his Confessions 'our heart is restless until it rests in you' (St. Augustine, Conf. 1,1,1:PL 32,659-661)

There is still one more detail that calls for our attention and raises many questions: why did the eyes of the

disciples open to recognize Jesus whilst they were at table with Him? The Eucharistic context is undeniable. The disciples are at table, the Lord is with them; He took the bread and saying the prayer of benediction, broke it. It was during the last action of the breaking of the bread that the companions recognized Jesus. It was not only the action in itself but finally Cleopas and his friends could see, with their own eyes, the hands pierced by the nails of the passion that until that very movement had remained hidden from them during the long journey on the road.

It was in that very moment in which they recognized the presence of the Crucified One, that He 'disappeared from their sight' whilst their eyes remained fixed on the broken bread, that was left to fall 'onto the altar'. Is it not the same experience that every one of us can have every Sunday?

So, 'they set out that instant' (Lk 24:33). They started to understand that death is not the last word on the life of each one of us as we cannot be 'held in its power' (Acts 2:24). This is a sign of great hope that gives us irreprehensible joy! In so much as we journey to Jerusalem — each on his own road, it must often seem long and tiring. However, now with our eyes fully opened it appears that we have the privilege to say to all the world, 'the Lord has indeed risen' (Lk 24:34).

From the Congregation for the Clergy



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:

Spring Time House / Family Blessings

I did begin some house/family blessings last year in 2019. I would like to offer my availability of doing it again this year especially at this difficult time of our lives. Hopefully it can bring some hope. Why Spring time? It is because it is a season of new horizons of so many beginnings including vegetation, planting season, Easter and renewal of our faith that is usually done by baptismal renewal on Easter Sunday.

I plan to stand by my car and offer the blessings with holy water whereas you can stand outside your doorway or porch so that we avoid any physical contact. Also note that you don't have to be there.

If you are interested in this, we will have to set an appointment. You may do so by email or calling. Use: vsunguti2018@gmail.com or rectory number 402-529-3531. This commenced on Wednesday April 22nd 2020.

Situation Updates & Parish Bulletin – All the clergy in the Archdiocese usually have Zoom conference with the Archbishop on every Saturday morning for the updates of the situation in our entire region and the State. As of now, we are not yet sure when we will resume our Mass gatherings. The state had suspended Mass gatherings together with all other groups until April 30th which is soon. We don't know yet the way forward after that. We will communicate any changes as soon as we receive them.

We will continue to post the bulletins on Facebook and email it to those who have provided us with email addresses and continue to place a few copies in the church for pickup on every Saturday as from mid-morning.

Appreciation on Parish Offertory: Thank you all for making efforts of mailing or dropping your offertory to the parish even though you can't make it physically for Mass. For those interested in using online giving, the Archdiocese has set up a link that was designed particularly to assist parishes that do not have online giving capabilities including us. You may make a gift online, including a recurring gift, and designate your parish. Here is the link to use... <http://archomaha.org/offertory> Feel free to use this link to give your tithes and it will be passed on to our account.

Holy Cross Church—Beemer

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—April 19th, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,060.00
Easter:	724.00
Works of Mercy:	860.00
Totals:	\$2,644.00

MAY MOWING GROUP: Chair—Tim Oligmueller, Doug Steffensmeier, Jesus Pena, Robert Praest, Ron Guenther, Dan Spenner, Shane Combs

THANK YOU to all who helped with the Easter décor, the ministries for the services, the clean-up inside and out, and any who donated extra for the Easter and flowers collection. You are greatly appreciated, now more than ever! **GOD BLESS!**

THANK YOU to those who donated for the flowers: Rita Eichelberger in memory of Vergil & Frances Liermann, Ron & Bev Francis for their Family Members, Stan & Marilyn Ortmeier in memory of Alois & Anna Ortmeier, Renae Carlson in memory of Brent Carlson, Marjorie Gentrup in memory of Adolph & Eunice Berhrens and Casper Gentrup, Jr., Karen Spenner in memory of Henry & Eleanor Spenner, Wilfred Spenner, and Leo & Hildegard Hunke.

Welcome to St. Joseph's and Holy Cross Parishes
 We welcome all our guests and new members to our parishes. There are many opportunities for experiencing the peace and joy of our loving God in liturgy, groups, committees and volunteer service to the church. If you would like to join our parish family, contact the parish office or send an email to:
 For St. Joseph—stjo68791@gmail.com
 For Holy Cross—renaecarlson@hotmail.com

Find HOPE and healing. ARE YOU PREGNANT AND NEED HELP: Call/text 888.550.1588 or visit loveline.com
 HAVE YOU TAKEN THE FIRST DOSE OF THE ABORTION PILL? It may not Be too late to save your baby. Call 877.558.0999 or visit abortionpillreversal.com
 FREE, CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELING FOR WOMEN AND MEN EXPERIENCING GRIEF AFTER ABORTION
 Call 888.456.HOPE (4673) or Visit hopeafterabortion.com

Holy Cross Parish Council Members 2019-2020	
Mike Guenther—Pres.	Tracy Oligmueller—Sec.
Alan Batenhorst	Trisha Robertson
Mike Gentrup	Tanya Oligmueller—VP
For contact information, please see the parish directory	

MASS INTENTIONS		
<i>Mass intentions will continue to be scheduled as Fr. Vincent will be saying private Masses. Father is open to any request of saying Mass and stream it for the family and relatives if that Mass's intention is from that family or individual requesting it." No Masses for the people will be held until further notice.</i>		
Mon	27	NO MASS
Tue	28	Residents of Wisner Care Center
Wed	29	Living & Dec'd Members of Anton & Christina Schlickbernd
Thu	30	+ Jayda Oligmueller
Fri	01	+ Duane Humlicek
Sat	02	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parishes Streamed via Wisner's Facebook
Sun	03	+ Norbert Ruskamp Streamed via Beemer's Facebook

FACEBOOK PAGES
 St. Joseph—Joseph Wisner
 Holy Cross—Holy Cross Catholic Church—Beemer

St. Joseph Catholic Church—Wisner
MONEY COUNTERS
 If you are available to help count on Tuesday mornings, please contact Sarah at the church office, 402-529-3891.

MEN'S WORK GROUP—April 2020
 Chair: Scott Mendlik
 Co-Chair: Dave Ebel
 Members: Dixon Godbersen, Gerald Gentrup, Drew Feller, Gary Godbersen, Michael Liermann, Duane Mendlik

MEN'S WORK GROUP—May 2020
 Chair: Terry Soden
 Co-Chair: Ron Machacek
 Members: Bernie Ruskamp, Steve Obermeyer, Adam Brahmer, Jeff Recker, Dan Kane, Tyler McBride

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—April 19th, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$2,540.00
Easter:	1,400.00
Heating/AC:	130.00
Works of Mercy:	465.00
Cemetery:	100.00

WISNER COMMUNITY SR. CENTER has 2-3 tables of canned food products available for anyone of any age. There will be a paper to sign on the tables. For more information, contact Kay Breitreutz at 402-529-3252.

More Like Jesus
 Let us be more like Jesus
 In everything we do;
 Let's live a life of service,
 A life that's fresh and new.

 Let's relinquish worldly things,
 And not be slaves to fashion;
 Let's fill our hearts with love,
 Forgiveness and compassion.

 Yes, let's be more like Jesus,
 Being always in God's will,
 For if Jesus' light shines through us,
 Our earthly purpose we'll fulfill.

By Joanna Fuchs

Saint Joseph Parish Council Members 2019-2020	
Shane Batenhorst — Pres.	Dave Deitloff
Tyler Oligmueller	Rick Jacobs
Kari Moeller	Janet Ludwig
Becky McGuire — Sec.	Mary VonSeggern
For contact information, please see the parish directory	

MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES:
St. Joseph and Holy Cross.
 There are envelopes available in the back of church. If you would like to have a Mass said for a loved one, complete the envelope and place in the collection basket or contact Sarah at the parish office 402-529-3891, or email the info to stjo68791@gmail.com. The suggested donation is \$10.00 per mass.