

Saint Joseph's Parish
PO Box 623
1318 Ave G West
Wisner, NE 68791
Parish Office: 529-3891
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5th Sunday of Lent
March 29th, 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 5th Sunday of Lent – March 29th, 2020



The **first reading** from the Old Testament prophet Ezekiel 37:12-14 is taken from the chapter about pouring forth the Spirit upon the "dry bones" in the valley of his vision. The prophet speaks of restoration through an act of God through the Spirit and that it was through him that the people first were saved from their oppression in Egypt, and by his

power they will be saved again and restored as the people of God. The symbolic meaning of the reading is the resurrection of the people to new life, a theme clearly reiterated in succeeding apocalyptic literature and finally present in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The **Gospel** reading, St. John 11:1-45, opens up in front of us a scene of unprecedented sorrow. The Lord Jesus receives the message from the sisters of Lazarus who, when confronted with the gravity of his condition, tried the only thing possible, they turned to the Lord of who it was said: *'Everything He does is good, he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak'* (Mk 7:37). It is the cry of each one of us who would like their loved ones to live forever without ever leaving us.

The Lord Jesus, inexplicably, waited a further two days before heading for Lazarus' home. Even then, He only left with His disciples when he divinely knew of His friend's death. This particular detail from the Gospel tells us that the Word of God was made Man for the love of all of us. Also, that His look of love is always upon us waiting for that meeting of immense joy that will happen in eternity.

Upon Jesus' arrival in Bethany there was a new apparently inexplicable development in the story. First Mary, then her sister Martha and behind them all the Jews who were united with them, converge on Jesus with the certainty that if there was a response to their sorrow it would come from Him. They were not irreligious people who were looking to Jesus for a solution. They profoundly accepted Israel's faith in the final Resurrection and so even this event was not ultimately inexplicable. In fact, Martha said to the Lord, *'I know that he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day'*. (Jn 11:24) However, knowing that in relation to the Lord, nothing that was authentically human in them or their cry of sorrow would be lost. Prior to that, their only consolation came from the eschatological faith of the time.

In this last sign, worked by the Lord before His triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, everything seems to flow to that 'new reality' inaugurated by Emmanuel, God with us. Sharing our existence, Jesus had loved us with a supreme passion, with that virginal love that doesn't seek to possess the heart of the other, but to love it in truth with delicate insistence right up to sacrificing Himself for us. In this infinite delicacy and attention to everyone, He was able to be moved by those who were linked to Him by ties of the most profound friendship who understood that it could not be anything but God's presence amongst them. *'I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this? She said to him, Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world.'* (Jn 11:25-27)

It was Martha and Mary's faith, even when confronted with Lazarus' death that gave rise to the

extraordinary miracle worked by Christ. This is not only a consoling story narrated in the letters of the Gospel, but it is also accessible to us today in the Church from the day of our Baptism until when we are incorporated to Him by means of the Spirit that He has given to us. *'If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit who dwells in you.'* (Rom 8:11)

Most Holy Mary, the mother of the Risen One, give us the grace to look towards and live the light of this extraordinary reality – the promise of Resurrection in Christ. Amen.

Out of the depths I call to you O Lord: Lord hear my cry. Listen attentively to the sound of my pleading!' (Ps 129:1-2). In this, the fifth Sunday of Lent, the Church invites us to turn our attention to the realities that are perhaps the most 'scandalous' in human experience, the death of a loved one. In this Gospel we see all those who are being supportive of Martha and Mary at the moment of their brother, Lazarus' death.

Previously called "Passion Sunday," this Sunday marks the beginning of Passiontide, a deeper time of Lent. This is the third Sunday of the scrutinies for the preparation of adult converts, and the final Sunday of Lent before the beginning of Holy Week. The Liturgy of the Word of this day speaks of re-creation, resurrection, and new life.

From the Congregation for the Clergy



From Fr. Vincent's' Desk:

Updates on Changing Times in Masses for our Parishes:

All public Masses remain cancelled until further notice. But I will celebrate private Mass on Wednesdays for Beemer, and Thursdays for Wisner. This coming **Saturday, April 4th, at 5:00 pm, Palm Sunday Mass will be for Wisner** and will be live streamed via Wisner's Facebook page "Joseph Wisner". Then on **Sunday, April 5th, at 10:00 am, Palm Sunday Mass will be for Beemer** and will be live streamed from Wisner via Beemer's Facebook page "Holy Cross Catholic Church-Beemer". There will be blessed palms at the entrance of both churches as from afternoon Saturday, April 4th. Feel free to pick them up at your own time.

Offertory to our Parishes: We are all experiencing new ways in our lives and trying something new for the good of each other is good. I know what some families are going through in terms of income, but I would like to pass this information on to you in case you are able to assist our parish financially as we depend on you.

You may mail your check or drop it in the church collection so long as it is sealed and written to the parish. Do not put in cash. With cash, Wisner parishioners may drop in the office or at Pinnacle bank drive through. It should be in an envelope and for St. Josephs. For Beemer, you may also drop cash or check at First Community Bank's drive through in an envelope and for Holy Cross. These banks through their kindness, have agreed to be a drop point during this time.

Online giving: Even though we haven't set up our own, the Archdiocese has set up a link that was designed particularly to assist parishes that do not have online giving capabilities. You may make a gift online, including a recurring gift, and designate your parish. Simply type in this web address: <http://archomaha.org/offertory> and follow the steps. Feel free to use this address to give your tithes or offertory and it will be deposited to our account.

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Holy Cross Church—Beemer

OLD PALMS: There will be a box for old palms in the church entrance.

CONTRIBUTIONS: To insure continued financial support of **Holy Cross Parish**, envelopes that contain checks may be dropped off either in the offertory basket at the front of church, at the parish office, or at First Community Bank in Beemer. Any cash payments should be dropped off at the bank. Please make sure envelopes are clearly labeled. We thank you for your continued generosity.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ST. JOSEPH—GRADES K-6

ST. JOSEPH- GRADES K-6

- Classes will no longer be held for the remainder of the school year coinciding with the school closings. In the upcoming weeks, we will be gathering a packet of information for each family that will have material in it for parents to review with the children. This will help to set aside a time to think about their faith since they will not be able to attend classes or weekend Masses. When the packets are completed, we will notify families as to how they may be picked up.

- 2ND GRADE FAMILIES: First Reconciliation and First Communion are yet to be determined. We will need to see how things go with coronavirus restrictions, and we will let the families know when we have information.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS 7-12

7th-12th Grade: Classes will no longer be held for the remainder of the school year coinciding with the school closings.

St. Joseph Catholic Church—Wisner

MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, Mar. 22nd—Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer

Sunday, Mar. 29th—Team #1 Mary VonSeggern, Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore

MEN’S WORK GROUP—March 2020

Chair: Russ Loberg

Co-Chair: Chris Liermann

Members: Ken Duncan, Marvin Seier, Greg Schlautman, Tony Lampman, Allan Kluthe, Richard Bodwell, Gavin Lampman

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



CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2020

Addisyn “Martin” Albers, Zackery “Francis” Andersen, Spencer “Isidore” Batenhorst, Bowdy “Francis” Bird, Gauge “Joseph” Bramble *, Shelby “Teresa” Braun, Emily “Elizabeth” Buhrman, Kevin “Anthony” Dominguez, Kaden “Anthony” Glennon, Preston “Jerome” Hansen, Danica “Francis” Jacobs, Joslyn “Helen” Jacobs, Austin “Augustine” Kluthe, Lindsey “Marie Rose” Kneifl, Jackson “Sebastian” Knust, Tycin “Anthony” Lampman, Jose “Gabriel” Ramirez Lugo, Lainey “Teresa” Montgomery, Edward “Padre Pio” Peña *, Kristopher “Valentine” Peña *, Laura “Catherine” Ramirez, Conner “Vincent” Robinson *, Beau “Hubert” Ruskamp, Devon “Francis” Schultz, Tori “Elizabeth” Stuhr (* Holy Cross Students)

EASTER LILY DONATIONS: Even though Masses are temporarily suspended, we are still accepting donations for lilies with the remembrance of your loved ones. There is a sign up sheet in the back of church to fill out, or you may leave an envelope at Pinnacle Bank labeled Easter Flowers with your loved ones names noted. Lilies are \$20 each.

CONTRIBUTIONS: To insure continued financial support of **St. Joseph Church**, envelopes that contain checks may be dropped off either in the offertory basket at the front of church, at the parish office (Tues-Fri until noon), or at Pinnacle Bank in Wisner. Any cash payments should be dropped off at the bank. Please make sure envelopes are clearly labeled. We thank you for your continued generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

*Mass intentions will continue to be scheduled as Fr. Vincent will be saying **private Masses**. No Masses for the people will be held until further notice.*

Mon	30	NO MASS
Tue	31	Residents of Wisner Care Center
Wed	01	+ Mary Ann Schlickbernd Streamed via Beemer’s Facebook
Thu	02	+ John Davies Streamed via Wisner’s Facebook
Fri	03	+ Francis Oligmueller
Sat	04	+ Ron Wemhoff Streamed via Wisner’s Facebook
Sun	05	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish Streamed via Beemer’s Facebook

FACEBOOK PAGES

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

CONTINUED... From Fr. Vincent’s’ Desk:

Parish Bulletin:

We will continue publishing our bulletins as usual. Since we are trying to cut down costs in our parishes, we will be emailing a copy to those that have emails on file as well as posting the bulletin on Facebook pages. A few copies will be placed at the back of the church to those that do not have emails. The bulletin will be available late Saturday afternoon. Feel free to pick one up there.

Parish Contact Information:

While we do have information for members within our parishes, it is not up to date and incomplete. At this time of uncertainty, communication is of the utmost importance. Many of our families do not have current or valid email addresses and/or phone numbers. We urgently need you to contact us with your current email address and suitable phone number so we are able to reach out to you. You may simply contact the parish offices: Sarah Jacobs of St. Joseph at 402-529-3891 or email stjoseph68791@gmail.com; and Renae Carlson of Holy Cross at 402-528-3475 or renaecarlson@hotmail.com.

PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATIONS

St. Joseph—Tuesday, April 7th at 7:00pm
Holy Cross—Wednesday, April 8th at 7:00 pm

In accordance with the guidelines set forth by the Archdiocese, confessions are permissible with no face to face. Also in order to observe State guidelines, please remember to observe social distancing practices while inside the church.