

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

4th Sunday of Lent
March 22nd, 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

A Commentary on the 4th Sunday of Lent
March 22nd, 2020



The **first reading**, first Book of Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a contains, at best, oblique references to the other two readings. The anointing of David asking may be a reference to the anointing in the responsorial psalm both of which may refer to Christ the good shepherd. The figure of David may also be a prefiguration of the anointing to Messiahship of

Jesus for his mission. Whatever the reason for its selection for this day, the theme of the liturgy is better reflected in the other two readings for they present implications and applications of the baptism of the believer.

The **second reading** from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians 5:8-14 is particularly significant because throughout the season of Lent the community has been urged to cast aside deeds of darkness and walk in the brilliance of the light of Christ. In this reading, for the first time during Lent, the darkness-light theme which will be so predominant at Easter is enunciated. The believer must leave the deeds of darkness and live according to the justice and truth of God through the light of Christ.

The **Gospel** reading, John 9:1-41, dominates the liturgy by the length of the reading and its significance. Already, in Old Testament Revelation, the Lord God had shown the People of Israel how the justice of the Creator was so much more profound and true than the thoughts of men. We have, in fact, heard in the first reading 'God does not see as human beings see; they look at appearances, but the Lord looks at the heart.' (1 Sam 16:7).

God doesn't give up but comes to meet every one of us in the two-fold way described in today's Gospel.

Firstly, 'he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva and smeared the clay on his eyes' (Jn 9:6). God made man, who is a creature. He united Himself to 'our earth' so that man would never need to flee Him but could come to recognize Him through a meeting with His Holy Humanity. St John wrote in the Prologue to his Gospel, 'The Word became flesh, he lived among us' (Jn 1:14).

In the second place from the Gospel account we read, 'He said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" — which means Sent—'. (Jn 9:7a). Christ, sent by the Father, takes onto Himself all our sins, which are ultimately the consequences of our blindness, as far as allowing Himself to be stripped, crowned with thorns, nailed to the cross, rejected by His own people and abandoned by His closest friends. Christ's unprecedented love can't but definitively overcome, with time, every fear in the face of our limitations because there isn't anything that can stop Him from loving us.

Let us ask Most Holy Mary to help us to be faithful to the truth, to the events of our lives, taking the hand that always takes us to live totally for Him, in this life and eternity. 'Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.' (Eph 5:14).

"Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her, you who love her; rejoice with her, you who mourned for her, and you will find contentment at her consoling breasts." This Sunday is known as *Laetare* Sunday and is a Sunday of joy. Lent is half over, and Easter is enticingly near.

The Church's liturgy, on this the fourth Sunday of Lent, invites us to retrace one of the fundamental dynamics of our baptismal re-birth through the Gospel account of the healing of the 'man born blind'. It is the passage from

the darkness of sin and error to the Light of God, who is the Risen Christ.

This Sunday was formerly called "Laetare Sunday" since its mood and theme was one of hope and rejoicing that Easter was near. In the reformed calendar this Sunday is not different from the other Sundays of Lent even though the entrance antiphon for the day still begins with the Latin word "laetare" and the vestments worn by the celebrant are rose-colored, not violet. The day is important because it is the day of the second scrutiny in preparation for the baptism of adults at the Easter Vigil.

From the Congregation for the Clergy



From Fr. Vincent's' Desk:

Cancellation of Masses in the Archdiocese of Omaha

The Archbishop George Lucas cancelled all Masses indefinitely as from Monday, March 16th, 2020. This is due to the spread of the Coronavirus or COVID-19. This is a result of the federal and state recommendations as you have heard from the news. Only funerals and scheduled weddings will be allowed during this time but with not more than 10 people. The sacrament of confession can go on and adoration on Fridays as from 6 pm. Our Churches will remain open for anyone to get in and pray. As a result of this, I will continue to say one private Mass per day for the intentions that are requested. That means that if you asked Mass for a certain intention like for deceased member of your family, I was say those Masses as scheduled but it will just me alone. For how long will this cancellation last? I don't know as of now, but I will communicate any further information.

You are free to follow livestream Masses once we are streaming our own, I will let you know. I plan to use parish Facebook too for spiritual reflections. Beemer already has a Facebook that is active, and we are trying to update Wisner one. We will try our best to reach out by use of media.

To support our parishes and to keep them running, kindly consider giving your offertory. You can mail your check or drop them in the church collection so long as it is sealed and written to the parish. Do not put in cash. St. Joseph parishioners may also drop their contribution envelopes at Pinnacle Bank in Wisner and Holy Cross may leave theirs at First Community Bank in Beemer. Please leave any cash contributions at the previously named banks.

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.

Congratulations 2020 Class of Confirmation

Congratulation to you all for being newly confirmed recently. Confirmation is a big step in the church that confirms you as an official member in the community of the faithful and we are proud of you. Thank you to all the volunteer teachers, parents, and sponsors who supported them to the end.

Stewardship of God's Gifts Holy Cross—March 15th, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$995.00
Plate:	45.00
HELP/Fuel:	25.00
Cemetery:	20.00
Total:	\$1,085.00

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.



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 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.



MASS INTENTIONS		
<i>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.</i>		
Mon	23	NO MASS
Tue	24	Residents of Wisner Care Center
Wed	25	+ Tom & Beata Prinz
Thu	26	+ Jayda Oligmueller
Fri	27	+ Lvng & Dec'd Members of Frank & Mary Wuestewald
Sat	28	+ Francis Oligmueller
Sun	29	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish



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

Stewardship of God's Gifts St. Joseph—March 15th, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$960.00
Plate:	479.50
Cemetery:	50.00

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EASTER LILIES: There is a sign up sheet in the back of church to donate Easter Lilies. They are \$20 each.



ADDITIONAL RICE BOWLS have arrived and are available in the back of church. The afternoon Religious Ed classes have set a goal for the bowls they have in their classrooms and we have posted a visual chart in the basement of church. Their goal is \$160, which will feed four families for a month. We are encouraging them to share their blessings and to help the less fortunate. It's a wonderful alms giving project, and ask you to help your students to give a small amount each week to reach their goal.

Prayer Chain info....The St. Joseph prayer group is open to all men and women of the parish. The prayer request notifications come to you via text or phone call, and you are not asked to pass on the requests (like past prayer chains have required). You simply include the request in your regular prayers and there is no meeting involved.



If you or a loved one need extra prayers, please let us know. The information you give can be as general or specific as you'd like. All members of the prayer group are asked to keep the intentions confidential. To be added to the prayer group or to ask for special prayer requests, please notify Father Vincent or call or text Anne at 402-750-9616.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
ST. JOSEPH—GRADES K-6
 No classes were held and will not be held until further notice. This is being done to coincide with the school closings.
ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS 7-12
7th-12th Grade: No classes were held and will not be held until further notice. This is being done to coincide with the school closings.

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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	