

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
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2nd Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday
April 19th, 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 2nd Sunday of Easter –
Divine Mercy Sunday – April 19th 2020**



This Sunday is popularly known as Divine Mercy Sunday. Between 1930 and 1938 Christ appeared to Sister Faustina, a Sister of Mercy in Poland who initiated the Divine Mercy devotion. She was canonized on April 30, 2000, the Sunday after Easter, the Feast of Divine Mercy. On Good Friday, 1937, Jesus requested that Blessed Faustina make a special novena before the

Feast of Mercy, from Good Friday through the following Saturday. Jesus also asked that a picture be painted according to the vision of Himself as the fountain of mercy. He gave her a chaplet to be recited and said that it was appropriate to pray the chaplet at three o'clock each afternoon (the Hour of Great Mercy).

The Holy Gospel that the Liturgy presents to us on this second Sunday of Easter, is one of the most well-known, discussed, and appreciated—the meeting of the Risen Lord with St Thomas. The Fathers of the Church have given us numerous insights into this Gospel text. Likewise, it has proven the inspiration to the numerous artists who have physically represented the events of this Gospel in order to give us a clear idea of what happened, ‘eight days after’ the first apparition of the Risen One, to the disciples congregated in the cenacle.

Jesus’ response to Thomas, after he recognized Him as ‘*My Lord and my God*’, has a mysterious fascination that must relate not so much to the disciples—those who ‘*have seen*’—but rather to those, like us, who were added to their number afterwards. ‘*You have come to believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.*’ (Jn 20:29)

The attention that these words evoke seems yet more paradoxical if we remember that the Lord had proposed, to the same author of the Gospel, what can be justly referred to as the Christian method, ‘*come and see*’ (Jn 1:39). How can we possibly reconcile these two phrases by Jesus that form the ideal setting for the whole of the fourth Gospel? Perhaps, in the end, the Lord decided to change His method? What do the words ‘*have not seen*’ really mean?

The timely recollection of the ‘eight days after,’ which is the Sunday after the Resurrection, permits us to tie our reflection to one of the most significant Eucharistic hymns composed by another Thomas, St Thomas Aquinas. In the *Adore Te Devote*, which refers to the Eucharist, we read: ‘*Sight, touch, taste are all deceived in their judgment of you. But hearing suffices firmly to believe*’. Combining these words with today’s Gospel we can justly affirm that the experience ‘*to see*’ was not denied to us, but it is in contrast with the Apostle Thomas’ physical experience, who was able to put his own finger into the holes in Christ’s hands and side, whilst we can only comprehend it in the faith which is guarded and transmitted by the Church, our Mother and Teacher.

That which we ‘*have not seen*’ is therefore the glorious Body of the Risen One. However, today we have the ability to ‘*listen*’ to the Word of God and the Magisterium of the Church and so we can ‘*see*’ the real Body of Christ which is the Eucharist. We can ‘*see*’ His Mystical Body

which is the Church. We can ‘*see*’ Him in our lives and in the lives of our many brothers who, after meeting the Lord in a real but mysterious way, are united to Him in His Spirit!

Like Thomas, Christ calls us to fill the holes left by the instruments of the passion in His Body with our own hands so that our lives and the verbal witness that we give proclaim His Resurrection. Our senses could betray us, but we know that we have met the Risen One and we have recognized Him!

The certain hope that Peter, who betrayed the Lord three times for fear of death, proclaims to us with the words, ‘*rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy*’ (1 Peter 1:8), become fully comprehensible because blessed are they that ‘*have not seen*’ the Risen Lord, but seeing the joy of His disciples ‘*have believed*’ in Him!

The experience of miraculous resurrection of Jesus reminds us that we have access to almighty God’s infinite and indeterminable power if we enter into His story. We do experience glimpses of this resurrection of Christ every time we encounter a new revelation of the mighty hand of God like birth of a newborn baby, recovery of a sick person, escape from an accident or a tragedy among others. Resurrection also teaches us that miracles large and small occur each day orchestrated by God through His people. With God, all things are possible when we answer His call.

Courtesy of the Congregation for the Clergy plus some personal notes



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 too.

If you are interested, please set an appointment by email or calling. Use: vsunguti20018@gmail.com or rectory number 402-529-3531. This commences as from Wednesday, April 22nd, 2020.

Communication: We will continue to post the bulletins on Facebook of both parishes and email it to those who have provided us with email addresses and continue to place few copies in the church for pickup on every Saturday as from mid-morning. We will use Facebook for quick announcements as we have done and stream Masses over the weekends.

Rice Bowls: If you were unable to return the rice bowls on Holy Thursday, or this last weekend, we ask you to drop them in your respective Church basket and time on any day. We have until April 23rd to return them to the Arch-Diocese Finance office. These Rice Bowls will be added to our Works of Mercy collection.

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. Here is the link... <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 12th & 16th, 2020		
Sunday Envelopes:	\$560.00	\$1,110.00
Easter:	1,150.00	2,745.00
Works of Mercy:	830.00	900.00
Easter Flowers:		10.00
Building Fund:		10.00
Totals:	\$2,540.00	\$4,775.00

St. Joseph Catholic Church—Wisner

MONEY COUNTERS

CAN YOU HELP? Due to the increasing threat of COVID-19, we are suspending our regular counting groups. Instead, if you are available to help count on a Tuesday morning, please call Sarah at the church office, 402-529-3891, to schedule a day that works for you.

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

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	

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—April 14th, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$685.00
Plate:	20.00
Heating/AC:	110.00
Easter:	1,560.00
Works of Mercy:	1,711.00
Cemetery:	10.00
Insurance:	500.00

DIVINE MERCY PAMPHLETS AND PRAYER CARDS are available for anyone to pick up at church. Also, flyers on the pandemic from OSV.

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



THANK YOU to the following for donating Easter Flowers at St. Joseph's:

Gary & Carmen Godbersen in memory of Vern & Gail Godbersen; Rick & Sarah Jacobs in memory of Ralph & Irma Donner; Dave & Carol Oligmueller in memory of Jayda Oligmueller and Norbert Ruskamp; Shane & Tammie Batenhorst in memory of Beata Batenhorst; George Koester in memory of Marcella Koester and Doug Koester; Linda & Larry Hansen in memory of John & Adela Koester and Leonard & Ricky Adams; Madonna Servi in memory of Gary Servi and Ron Esser; and Chris & Lori Ruskamp in memory of Mary Jo Barent, Norbert Ruskamp and Jayda Oligmueller.



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

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.

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	20	NO MASS
Tue	21	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Wed	22	+ Conrad Wordekemper
Thu	23	+ Joseph Svoboda
Fri	24	+ Beata Batenhorst
Sat	25	Lvng & Dec'd Mbrs of the Leo & Hildegard Hunke Family Streamed via Beemer's Facebook
Sun	26	+ Shirley Fisch Streamed via Wisner's Facebook
FACEBOOK PAGES		
St. Joseph—Joseph Wisner Holy Cross—Holy Cross Catholic Church—Beemer		

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.

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.

