

Saint Joseph's Parish
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7th Sunday of Easter
May 24th, 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 7th Sunday of Easter – May 24th 2020



"I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they belong to you: all I have is yours and all you have is mine, and in them I am glorified. I am not in the world any longer, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you." (John 17:9)

Sunday Readings

The **first reading** is taken from the Acts of the Apostles 1:12-14 and describes our own situation as well as the situation of the early community. These men first gathered in the upper room for the Last Supper with Jesus and now gather together again to await the gift of his Holy Spirit. The same is true of the present Church for we gather at the Eucharist to proclaim the death of the Lord and we celebrate this Sunday in particular to await the coming of the Paraclete.

The **second reading** is from the first letter of Peter 4:13-16 and enunciates the theme that suffering for the faith is to be part of the life of a believer. Just as Holy Week cannot be fully understood without constant attention to the event of Easter, so the glory and joy of the Easter season cannot be appreciated fully without bringing attention to the fact that the followers of Jesus must walk in trial and suffering as well.

The **Gospel** is from St. John 17:1-11. The Son of God, Jesus Christ, came on earth and lived among us. He was God in real human nature. This is the mystery of the Incarnation, but the real mystery for us is not how it could be done, but why it was done. The answer is the mystery of God's infinite love for us. God wanted to share his own kingdom of everlasting happiness with mankind. He therefore raised us to the status of adopted sons through this mystery of the Incarnation.

God could have found other ways of bringing us to heaven, we can suppose, but we can be sure he chose the best way. He had created us with human hearts and emotions; he had made us capable of reacting to love and benevolence. In Christ he set before us an example of love and benevolence which should move the hardest heart to gratitude and to a desire to repay in some little way the God who did so much for our sakes.

God wants us to earn heaven for ourselves, aided of course by his grace. Would we enjoy and appreciate it fully if we had played no part in attaining it? Now with Christ as our exemplar and model, and as a living, ever-present example of self-sacrifice for us, the carrying of our personal crosses, the ordinary difficulties of life, should seem almost trivial when compared with what he who was innocent and sinless endured for our sakes. He was born in a stable, grew up in poverty in Nazareth, was often hungry and thirsty, traveled the dusty and rough mule-tracks of Palestine preaching repentance to sinners and calling on all to love God. He was continually heckled by the leaders of the Jews who thought they knew God. They even accused him of being in league with the devil. They finally forced the pagan Roman governor, whom they hated, to crucify him because they hated Christ even more. For three hours he hung in agony on the cross until merciful death finally brought relief.

This was all done for you and for me! He belonged to heaven. He need never have left it. He did not have to earn heaven. He went through all of this to give us the possibility of earning heaven for ourselves. Truly enough most of us have to suffer poverty, pains and sometimes great tribulations during our years on earth. But which of us can say that we are sinless, and if we could say it, that we may not have to thank these very trials and tribulations for keeping us so? Or if we have sinned, we can see God in his mercy as using these earthly crosses in order to prepare us for the life of eternal happiness to come.

Sinners or sinless, we are still followers of Christ, and that prayer of his for us at the Last Supper asking his Father "to give eternal life to all who are his" was not said in vain. Unless we deliberately desert him, he will not desert us. He will bring us to the Father, where we will add external glory to the Blessed Trinity, and rejoice forever in the company of Christ who shared our humanity with us so that we could share and enjoy his divinity and humanity in heaven for all eternity.

by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.



From Fr. Vincent's' Desk:

PENTECOST SUNDAY SOLEMNITY

Next weekend May 30th/31st, we will be celebrating Pentecost Sunday that marks the great 50 days after the resurrection of our Lord. It is an important occasion in the Church, and I encourage you to attend Mass either physically or follow by Facebook or TV if you choose to stay at home.

I'm also pleased to let you know that we do have 3 candidates of RCIA from St. Joseph's parish, Wisner who will be received into our Catholic faith during Pentecost Vigil Mass on Saturday May 30th at 5 pm by professing the Creed, be confirmed as well as receiving the First Holy Communion. This event usually takes place during the Easter vigil Mass but due to the coronavirus this year, we did not do it. It has to be done during Easter season and in front of the Faithful and so we had to wait. Our candidates of this year are:

Paige JoAnn Godbersen
Blaine Johnson
Brittany Albers

Please let us all welcome them joyously into our Catholic faith.

Updates on the COVID-19 Guidelines:

The weekend Mass attendance is still small, and we appreciate all those who turned up while adhering to the safety guidelines given. The threat of the virus in our county and state is still at high level risk and we still recommend the elderly to stay at home, and those who choose to come for Mass follow the guidelines given. You are all still under dispensation not to attend Mass physically but at least follow it on the TV or internet.

Since we have 4 days of Masses per week, you may choose to attend at least one of your choice that may have less people attending. I would also like to let you know that if the weekend attendance will increase and the space be rendered not enough, we will ask people to sign up for the Mass that they will attend. The goal is to ensure that we all keep 6 feet away from each other all the time.

Find our Safety Guidelines on the announcement's tables at the entrances of our both churches and in Facebook bulletins of May 3rd.

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer

Weekend of May 31st

WORD: Renae Carlson
EMHC: Susan Niewohner, Gerald Schlickbernd
USHER: Michael Gentrup
PRAISE: Duane Neesen, Bev Francis

Stewardship of God's Gifts Holy Cross—May 17, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,610.00
Plate:	10.00
Ascension:	75.00
Easter Flowers:	200.00
Totals:	\$1,895.00

MINISTRY LISTS are out. Lectors and Ushers: Please let Renae know if you are not going to be at Mass.

LILIES CAN BE TAKEN if anyone wishes to plant one. They are at the entrance by choir loft steps.

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

JUNE MOWING GROUP: Dave Steffensmeier, Mike Guenther, Ben Borgmann, Josh Bramble, Art Fernandez, Sam Steffensmeier, Gerald Wellman, Roy Liermann



Prayer for Healing



Gracious Healer, I entrust these persons into your care. Ease the burdens that this illness brings. Relieve the sharp edges of pain. Stir up hope amid adversity. Give them spiritual strength to cope with the difficulties of this situation. Encourage them to lean on you and to find comfort in your presence. May those who tend to them do so with compassion and skill. Let all who are near these loved ones be a source of love and hope. We commit your loved ones who are ill into your care and safekeeping. Hold them close with your love as you gather them under your wings.

MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	25	NO MASS	---	NO MASS
Tue	26	—	WCC	(private Mass only) Residents of Wisner Care Center
Wed	27	8:00 AM	HC	+ Ralph & Fern Creek
Thu	28	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Jayda Oligmueller
Fri	29	—	CHB	(private Mass only) + Lorenz & Elizabeth Ruskamp
Sat	30	5:00 PM	SJ	Pentecost RCIA sacramental reception + Herb Albers
Sun	31	8:30 AM	HC	Pentecost Lvng & Dec'd Mbrs of the Leo & Hildegard Hunke Family
Sun	31	10:00 AM	SJ	Pentecost Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish

SJ—St. Joseph's HC—Holy Cross
 WCC—Wisner Care Center CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer

Fr. will live stream only the 5:00 Saturday Mass via both Facebook pages...

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

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner

Weekend of May 30th & 31st

LEC: Sally Harms
EMHC: Richard Schultz
USHER: Men's May Work Group

LEC: Joyce Stalp
EMHC: Martha Schweers
USHER: Men's May Work Group

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

MEN'S WORK GROUP—June 2020

Chair: Gerald Ruskamp
Co-Chair: Jim Jensen
Members: Jesse Grenier, Jeremy Rehak, Fred Schultz, Chris Ruskamp, Richard Schultz, Caleb Rehak, Beau Ruskamp

Stewardship of God's Gifts St. Joseph—May 17, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,800.00
Plate:	10.00
Heating/AC:	15.00
Easter:	25.00
Works of Mercy:	135.00
Cemetery:	15.00

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS NEEDED

ST. JOSEPH—GRADES K-12

Looking ahead to the 2020-2021 school year, we will be in need of 5-7 teachers total for elementary and evening Rel Ed classes, as well as the volunteers for prayers, Christmas program, snack, etc. Our program depends completely on volunteers in order to function, and each year it becomes harder and harder to find help. If you are able and willing to lend a hand, please let us know by June 15th. Please call Sarah Jacobs at 402-841-6144 or Capri McGuire at 402-380-2925.

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

