

Saint Joseph's Parish
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Wisner, NE 68791
Parish Office: 529-3891
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4th Sunday of Easter
May 3rd, 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 4th Sunday of Easter Readings:
World Day Pray for Vocations – May 3rd 2020



"I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and

have it to the fullest."

The **first reading** is taken from the Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 36-41 and if taken together with that of the following Sunday provides an alternative theme in exploring the preaching of the early Church in the persons of Paul and Barnabas. The mission first to the Jews is now to be placed second to the mission to the Gentiles, — a theme which the reading for next Sunday also explores with the warning of the preachers that those who follow the Lord will necessarily have to endure trial and sufferings.

The **second reading** is from the first Letter of Peter 2:20-25. In these verses today, St. Peter is giving advice to Christians who were slaves. He tells them to be submissive to their masters with all respect.

The **Gospel** is from St. John 10:1-10. "I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full."

One of the oldest paintings of Christ, in the Roman catacombs, represents Christ as carrying the injured, straying sheep gently on His shoulders back to the sheepfold. This is an image of Christ which has always appealed to Christians. We have Christ as our shepherd—He tells us so himself in today's gospel—and we do not resent being called sheep in this context. There is something guileless about a sheep, and at the same time a lot of foolishness! But with Christ as our shepherd and the "good shepherd" who is sincerely interested in the true welfare of His flock we have reason to rejoice.

The leaders of the Jews, the Pharisees and Sadducees, were false shepherds who tried to prevent the people from following Jesus, but they failed. They then killed the shepherd but in vain. He rose from the dead and His flock increased by the thousands and will keep increasing until time ends.

We surely are fortunate to belong to the sheepfold of Christ—His Church. We surely are blessed to have the Son of God as our Shepherd, who came among us in order to lead us to heaven. Do we fully appreciate our privileged position? Do we always live up to our heavenly vocation? We know His voice, we know what He asks of us, but do we always listen to that voice, do we always do what He asks of us?

There are many among us today who foolishly think they need no shepherd. They think they know all the facts of life while they are in total ignorance of the most basic fact of all, namely, the very purpose of life. Not that the thought of it does not arise disturbingly before their minds time and time again. But they try to smother that thought and ease their consciences by immersing themselves deeper and deeper in the affairs and the passing pleasures of this temporary life. Alas for them, a day of

reckoning lies ahead, a day that is much nearer than they would like to believe. What will be their fate when they meet Christ the Judge, whom they had refused to follow and acknowledge during their days on earth?

This is a misfortune that could happen to any one of us unless we think often of our purpose and our end in life. We have a few short years, but short though they be, we can earn for ourselves an eternity of happiness during this life. Let the straying sheep boast of their false freedom and of the passing joys they may get in this life—this freedom and these joys are mixed with much sorrow and will end very soon. We know that if we follow the shepherd of our souls, we are on the way to the true life, the perfect life, the unending life which will have no admixture of sorrow, regret or pain. Where Christ is, there perfect happiness is, and there with God's grace we hope and trust to be.

Excerpted from The Sunday Readings
by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.



From Fr. Vincent's' Desk:

Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph & Holy Cross,

As you know, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services has issued updated **Directed Health Measures** that affect churches. These changes go into effect on Monday, **May 4**. We have been told that there will be specific instructions for churches that will be sent by DHHS, but we haven't received them yet. We have also received guidelines and safety measures from Archbishop Lucas that we must enforce when we open our buildings for the celebration of Masses and Sacraments. Therefore, our regular schedule of Masses will resume as from **Tuesday, May 5th, 2020** in observation of the given guidelines.

In summary, please note the following measures to limit the spread of illness:

- I will not greet people before or after the liturgy as I usually do on weekends;
 - The sacristy is closed except to those assisting with the liturgy;
 - Please keep appropriate social distance during and after the liturgy, and do not congregate inside or outside of the church building;
 - Please be certain that children stay with their families during and after the liturgy;
 - For the reception of Holy Communion, for the safety of our ministers, please maintain a six-foot distance in line and please consider receiving Holy Communion in the hand and not on the tongue;
 - If you are only open to receiving Holy Communion on the tongue, please receive at the end of the line;
- In order to maintain appropriate distancing, altar servers will not be serving at this time.

Please look at this as an opportunity to exercise patience, charity, and meekness during this time.

For further details, carefully read and observe the attached Guidelines of our Parish Liturgy and all Sacraments. Note that further changes can occur at any time.

Fr. Vincent Sunguti

Modern Catholic Pilgrim is putting together a project called *300 Pilgrimages for Mary* for May. Here's the webpage: <https://www.moderncatholicpilgrim.com/300-pilgrimages-for-Mary>. It has some resources for how to do a short pilgrimage for Mary. Travelling now? Wait! You don't have to travel but you can later.

If you need more information you can open the website and read or, contact Fr. Vincent for clarification.

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of May 9th & 10th

WORD: Shelly Wellman, Marilyn Ortmeier
EMHC: Ken Schlickbernd, Marjorie Gentrup
Ann Bausch, Brenda Anderson
USHER: Melvin Niewohner, Fred Gentrup
PRAISE: Betty Guenther, Rosie McNamara

Stewardship of God's Gifts Holy Cross—April 19th, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$480.00
Easter:	180.00
Works of Mercy:	170.00
Totals:	\$830.00

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



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.

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of May 10th

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



**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.

Stewardship of God's Gifts St. Joseph—April 26th, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$620.00
Easter:	200.00
Heating/AC:	170.00
Works of Mercy:	120.00

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

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.

VOLUNTEERS will be needed to sanitize pews and other surfaces after each Mass at both parishes. If you are able to help, please stay after Mass. With a several volunteers, it shouldn't take much time.

MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	04	NO MASS	---	NO MASS
Tue	05	9:30 AM	WCC	Residents of Wisner Care Center
Wed	06	8:00 AM	HC	+ Francis Oligmueller and Jim Sapp
Thu	07	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Herb Albers
Fri	08	9:00 AM	CHB	+ Don Beerbohm
Sat	09	5:00 PM	HC	+ Dec'd Mbrs of the Duane Neesen Family
Sun	10	8:30 AM	HC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Sun	10	10:00 AM	SJ	+ Leo & Flavia Ausdemore
SJ—St. Joseph's		HC—Holy Cross		
WCC—Wisner Care Center		CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer		
Fr. will <u>live stream only the 5:00 Saturday Mass</u> via the perspective Facebook page...				
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.

**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 stjoe68791@gmail.com. The suggested donation is \$10.00 per mass.

