

**Saint Joseph's Parish**  
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Wisner, NE 68791  
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Fr. Vincent Sunguti: 529-3531  
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**Pentecost Sunday**  
**May 31st, 2020**  
Administrator: Rev. 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 Pentecost Sunday Reading Reflections**  
**May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020**



*And when the days of Pentecost were drawing to a close, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a violent wind coming, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them parted tongues as of fire, which settled upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in foreign tongues, even as the Holy Spirit prompted them to speak (Acts 2, 1-4).*

On Christmas we celebrate the birthday of Christ in his Physical Body. Today is the birthday of the Church, of all those who have been reborn into his Mystical Body. How did the first Christians all prepare for this day? They were all in prayer together with Mary the Mother of Jesus. Prayer and actions are the true marks of Christians.

After Jesus had ascended to heaven from Mt. Olivet, the apostles and disciples returned to the Holy City. They remained together in the Upper Room or Cenacle, the place where Jesus had appeared to them and which may well be called the first Christian church. About a hundred and twenty persons were assembled there. They chose Matthias as an apostle in place of the unhappy Judas; they prayed and waited for the Paraclete.

Ten days had passed, it was Sunday, the seventh Sunday after the resurrection. At about nine o'clock in the morning, as they were together praying fervently, the Holy Spirit descended upon them. Note how all the great theophanies in Christ's life occurred during the course of prayer. After His baptism, for instance, when Jesus was praying the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove; likewise, it was during prayer at night that the transfiguration took place on Tabor. Surely too it was while Mary was praying that Gabriel delivered his message, and the Holy Spirit overshadowed her. Pentecost followed precedent. The small community of Christians had prepared themselves through prayer for the coming of the Paraclete. The same is true at Mass today, every day; through prayer we ready our souls for the advent of the Spirit.

The descent upon the apostles was internal and invisible in nature although accompanied by certain visible phenomena. There came a mighty roar, like the onrush of a violent wind. It came suddenly, from heaven; but unlike storms that strike a structure from without, this one penetrated and filled the room where the disciples were gathered. Therefore, it was not a natural wind, it was a miracle peculiar to the occasion. A second visible sign consisted in tongues of fire that descended upon each one present. These fiery tongues gave visible evidence that the Holy Spirit had descended upon them.

Today at Mass, particularly at holy Communion, the power of the Holy Spirit will come down upon us; fiery tongues will not be seen, but invisible tongues of fire will not be absent. There was still another external manifestation of the Holy Spirit; the apostles and disciples were enabled to speak various languages.

After the roar of the wind many of Jerusalem's pilgrims hurried to the Cenacle. Pentecost was one of the three festivals which obliged all Jews to be present in Jerusalem. Jews from distant lands, and Jewish converts from paganism too, attended these feasts. As a result, a colorful

crowd speaking a variety of languages surrounded the house. Now the apostles, who so shortly before had hid in fear behind locked doors, came forth and courageously walked among the multitude speaking to each in his native tongue. It was indeed amazing! Galileans, and multilingual?

But the malicious too were present; they had the answer. Nothing marvelous at all! Those Galileans were simply drunk, and their drunken babble sounded like a foreign language! Peter showed no hesitation in answering the charge. None of their number, he said, were intoxicated; it was but nine o'clock in the morning, and at that hour men usually are sober. What the multitude saw was, in fact, the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy: In those days (of the Messiah), God will pour forth His Spirit upon men and they will prophesy. . . . Then the apostle pointed his words more directly against the accusers: they had killed Jesus, had nailed Him to the Cross; but God had awakened Him and after His departure to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit.

The pilgrims who had heard Peter give this first Pentecostal sermon "were pierced to the heart and said: Brethren, what shall we do? But Peter said to them: Repent and be baptized; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Three thousand responded.

One final question: why the miracle of tongues? In answer, recall the story regarding the tower of Babel. Puffed up by pride, men attempted to build a tower that would touch the heavens. To punish their sin, God confused their speech. Sin causes confusion and division. Now Christ came to gather all men into His Church and thereby to unite them to Himself. This should result in creating but one family of nations again. To this blessed state the miracle of tongues points.

Yes, even we as individuals have a gift of tongues which all men can understand. It is the gift of love infused into us by the Holy Spirit. Love unites, love is a common language, by means of love we can speak to all nations.

*Excerpted from The Church's Year of Grace*



**From Fr. Vincent's' Desk:**

**A Word of welcome to New Members**

We are grateful to officially welcome into the Church our new RCIA members who will be confirmed, receive First Holy Communion and recite Act of faith (Creed) this weekend. Thank you for your perseverance in preparation to this noble journey of faith that has just begun as Catholics. We will always be united with you as one in Christ every time you attend Mass and receive Holy Communion in which Christ himself is present and promises a new life to whomever eats his Body and drinks his Chalice.

Our next RCIA (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*) will start in September of this year 2020. So far, I do have 2 aspirants. Send me an email or call me if you have the desire and are ready. The RCIA program is open for those who came from other Churches and have joined us but not yet officially received, those not baptized, those who have not received Confirmation and Holy Communion or anyone who want to *know why we do what we do*.

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**PENTECOST**

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer

Weekend of June 7th

**WORD:** Shelly Wellman  
**EMHC:** Marjorie Gentrup, Ken Schlickbernd  
**USHER:** Melvin Niewohner  
**PRAISE:** Mike McTaggart, Jeanie McTaggart

Stewardship of God's Gifts Holy Cross—May 24, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$625.00
Ascension:	115.00
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$740.00</b>

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

Holy Cross Church, Beemer Office Availability


FYI: I will be available in the Beemer parish office every Tuesday from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm during the summer season beginning June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. Note that you are welcome at any time. No need for appointments.

*Fr. Vincent*

**HOLY WATER** is available in containers for you to take home on the table at Holy Cross.



**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](mailto:stjo68791@gmail.com)  
 For Holy Cross—[renaecarlson@hotmail.com](mailto:renaecarlson@hotmail.com)

 **Continued From Fr. Vincent's Desk:**  
Updates on Covid-19 by DHMs from June 1<sup>st</sup>  
 The Department of Health and Human Services (DHMs) Phase II has made statewide changes as from June 1<sup>st</sup>:

- ◆ Only Individuals returning from international travel will be required to quarantine for 14 days upon returning in Nebraska.
- ◆ The above restrictions do not apply to those returning from military or health care services abroad.
- ◆ Church gatherings remain limited to only 25% of rated occupancy with maintenance of 6 feet separation from each party. We have been doing this and will continue.
- ◆ Wedding and Funeral Reception Venues: Will be limited to the greater of 25 people or 50% of rated occupancy, keeping 6 feet separation between parties with maximum of 6 people per party. Self-serve buffets and salad bars are prohibited. Venue staff will serve food directly to all individuals. No dances or other social events that require guests to gather outside of their respective tables are permitted.

For all other DHMs detail updates, check on their website or copy this link below and open it on your browser:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ew1knz1n4cingvg/COVID-19%20Outline%20of%20Changes%20to%20Upcoming%20DHMs%20Phase%20II.pdf?dl=0>

This DHM does not change the previous DHM for churches, so our current status quo will remain after June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**N/B:** I would like to remind you to keep using facemasks when coming for Mass and use hand sanitizer before and after Mass.

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner

Weekend of June 6th & 7th

**LEC:** Bonnie Styskal  
**EMHC:** Richard Schultz  
**USHER:** Men's June Work Group

**LEC:** Jeff Phillips  
**EMHC:** Martha Schweers  
**USHER:** Men's June Work Group

**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 24, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$980.00
Plate:	64.00
Ascension:	150.00
Cemetery:	30.00

**ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS  
EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE**

There is an early deadline for the bulletin this week. I will be out of the office June 6th-13th and bulletin formation for **BOTH** weekends of the 6th-7th and the 13th-14th. Please have all announcements emailed to the parish office **by 10:00 am on Wednesday, June 3rd.**

**CAN YOU HELP?** **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.



MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	01	NO MASS	---	NO MASS
Tue	02	—	WCC	(private Mass only) Residents of Wisner Care Center
Wed	03	8:00 AM	HC	+ Mac Seeman
Thu	04	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Donald Lueninghoener
Fri	05	—	CHB	(private Mass only) + Kevin & Brian McTaggart
Sat	06	5:00 PM	SJ	+ Darrell Bruning
Sun	07	8:30 AM	HC	+ Wayne Meier
Sun	07	10:00 AM	SJ	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
SJ—St. Joseph's		HC—Holy Cross		
WCC—Wisner Care Center		CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer		
<b>Fr. will <u>live stream only the 5:00 Saturday Mass</u> via both Facebook pages...</b>				
St. Joseph—"Joseph Wisner"				
Holy Cross—"Holy Cross Catholic Church—Beemer"				