

**26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 27th, 2020**

Saint Joseph's Parish

PO Box 623
1318 Ave G West
Wisner, NE 68791
Parish Office: 529-3891
www.stjosephwisner.org
Reconciliation: Saturdays before Mass
4:15-4:40 pm or by appointment

Administrator: Rev. Vincent Sunguti

529-3531

Email: vsunguti2018@gmail.com

Holy Cross Parish

PO Box 212
517 N Fraiser
Beemer, NE 68716
Phone: 528-3475
www.holycrossbeemer.org
Reconciliation: Sundays
8:00-8:20 am or by appt.

Bulletin and Office Email: stj68791@gmail.com

The 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



"Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him (Matt. 21:31-32)."

Sunday Readings

The **first reading** is taken from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel 18:25-28. A notion very prevalent among the Jews, all through their history, was that the sins of parents were punished in their children. Ezekiel tells his audience that each man is responsible for his own sins. As each man has a free will, the good man may foolishly turn to sin, and likewise, the sinner may repent and live a good life.

The **second reading** is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 2:1-5. St. Paul is urging his new converts to live in unity of love and mutual charity. Each one must esteem his neighbor as of more importance than himself and help him in every way. In doing this, they are only imitating their Savior Christ Jesus who although Creator became a creature, though Master He made Himself a slave—all for love of us.

The **Gospel** is from St. Matthew 21:28-32. This parable was primarily intended to show up the hypocrisy of the chief priests and elders of the Jews, and the perilous position in which they stood in relation to God and heaven. It is, however, a warning against hypocrisy for all time. Lip service of God will not merit heaven. Nominal Christians are not working in the Lord's vineyard. At any moment they may be called from this life, and what defense can they offer the just judge? Will they dare to offer the flimsy excuses with which they try to silence their consciences now: "we didn't realize how sinful we were"; "we were too occupied with family and personal cares to have time for our spiritual duties"; "we were led astray by bad example"; "we didn't like to be different from others"; "we were going to put things right"? Who will dare to offer such excuses at the judgment seat? Their utter futility will then be apparent in all its nakedness.

However, we are still on earth, and while we are the door of God's mercy is wide open to us. If in the past we said, "I will not go into your vineyard", we still have time to reverse that sinful decision. Not only can we with God's grace turn over a new leaf, but we can completely wipe out the sinful pages of our life's story written up to now. Remember that what God in His mercy did for the tax-collectors and harlots in the parable, the Matthews, the Mary Magdalenes, the Augustines, the Margarets of Cortona, the Matt Talbots and the millions of unknown penitents who are now saints in heaven He can also do for you.

We answered the call to God's vineyard by accepting baptism and membership of His Church. If we have grown lax in our fervor and refused to do the tasks allotted to us, we still have time, thanks to God's mercy and patience, to put things right. Today, look into your conscience and see how much of your past life you have given to God and how much you have kept for yourself. If you were called tonight to render an account to the Lord, would the balance sheet be in your favor? Is your corner of the vineyard producing abundant crops, or is it perhaps filling up with weeds, briars and brambles? If the latter, then we will say a heartfelt "Thank you, God, for not calling us to judgment today. We will begin right now to understand our sinful past, so that our corner of your vineyard will be in good order when you do call us. Thank you, Lord, for your mercy. God grant that we shall never abuse it.

In Courtesy of Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

**From Fr. Vincent's Desk:
2020-2021 Archbishop's Annual Appeal**



Parish Contact leaders:
Holy Cross: Robin Hansen & Karen Spenner
St. Joseph: Martha Schweers & Steve Ausdemore

or for either parish Fr. Vincent Sunguti.

The 2020 Archbishop's Annual Appeal once again is on. Next weekend, we will have a guest speaker who will give a brief overview of AAA's for this year after Holy Communion.

You may have received an invitation from Archbishop Lucas to support the work of the Church through a personal commitment. If you haven't received one, let any of the above parish contact persons know. The Financial goal of this year for St. Joseph, Wisner is **\$7,192** with participation goal of **26%** based on **139 households**. Holy Cross's financial goal is **\$9,875** with participation goal of **49%** based on 76 household.

The Archbishop's Annual Appeal makes up **25%** of the Archdiocesan Annual Operating Budget. Now, more than ever, I hope you will join me in making a gift the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. As disciples of Jesus, we are invited to trust, to let go of fear and open our minds and hearts to God's saving work. Please join me and thousands across our archdiocese in sharing your gifts, recognizing we are all One Church.

CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrines) / Religious Education and RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Programs of 2020/2021

We began our **CCD program of this** year with for Grade School and High School two weeks ago. We are following all the health guidelines regarding the virus precautions. We are still in need of some volunteer teachers. Contact us if you can help. Ensure your son or daughter attends Mass on Sunday either physically or online. I highly recommend physical attendance of Mass on Sundays for all the CCD students.

We also started our **RCIA** program on Sept 11th. We do have 2 candidates who have registered and are attending the class so far. This is the last weekend for registration if anyone would like to join us.

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer

Weekend of October 4th

WORD: Rita Eichelberger
EMHC: Mary Mostek, Dennis Mostek
USHER: Fred Gentrup
PRAISE: Mike McTaggart, Jeanie McTaggart

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—September 20, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$505.00
Plate:	7.00
Insurance:	100.00
Totals:	\$612.00

HOLY CROSS ALTAR SOCIETY will hold their regular meeting on October 5th, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. in the church basement. Masks are highly requested.

BIBLE STUDY will be on Friday, October 2 from 2 - 3 p.m. in Holy Cross church basement. We will be reading and discussing Exodus 5 and 6. Everyone is welcome. The Bible Studies are scheduled for the first and third Fridays of the month now.

LIFE CHAIN is a peaceful, prayerful public witness of pro-life Americans standing in honor of 60 million lives lost to abortion, praying for our nation, for people in crisis situations and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by the Christian community that abortion kills children and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death. Beemer's Life Chain will take place on October 4th in front of the Nutrien Ag Solutions building on Highway 275 from 2 - 3 p.m. Signs will be available about 1:45. You can bring chairs and everyone is welcome to join us.

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner

Weekend of October 3rd & 4th

LEC: Bonnie Styskal
EMHC: Martha Schweers
USHER: Men's October Work Group

LEC: Alan Harms
EMHC: Sally Harms
USHER: Men's October Work Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—September 20, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$735.00
Plate:	83.00
Rel. Ed.:	75.00

MEN'S WORK GROUP—October 2020


Chair: Jeremy Schultz
Co-Chair: Mike Stuhr
Members: Norm Weber, Bob Feller, Blake Albers, Derreck Marx, Alan Feller, David Deitloff

Ladies' Guild

The next **Ladies' Guild** meeting will be held September 28th at 7:00p.m. in the church basement.

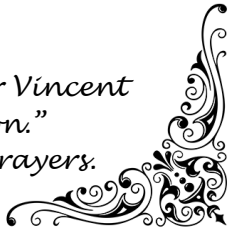
All women from the parish are invited to attend.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Fr. Vincent is looking for a couple of people to volunteer to help sanitize the pews after Mass on Saturday nights. Please contact him if you are able to help.



PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY

*"Almighty Father, we thank You for the vocation of Father Vincent whom you have called into the Priesthood of Your Son."
Let us keep Father Vincent and all priests in our daily prayers.*



PLEASE NOTE

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

There will be an early deadline the week of September 28th. Please have all announcements emailed to the parish office **by 11:00 am on Wednesday, September 30th for the bulletin weekend of October 3rd & 4th.**

MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	28	NO MASS	---	NO MASS
Tue	29	9:30 AM	WCC	Wisner Care Center Residents
Wed	30	8:00 AM	HC	+ James Hetherington
Thu	01	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Leo & Flavia Ausdemore
Fri	02	8:00 AM	HC	+ Jim McNamara
Sat	03	5:00 PM	SJ	Lvng & Dec'd Mbrs of Ron and MaryAnn Wemhoff Fam
Sun	04	8:30 AM	HC	+ Dorothy Gentrup
Sun	04	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				
Fr. will <u>live stream only the 5:00 Saturday Mass</u> via both Facebook pages... St. Joseph—"Joseph Wisner" Holy Cross—"Holy Cross Catholic Church—Beemer"				

Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6

All classes met in their classrooms with teachers. The 3rd grade reviewed and practiced for First Reconciliation. The 1st grade toured the church discussing different items found there.

This week: Class from 4:00 - 5:30. The 3rd grade will celebrate First Reconciliation with Fr. Vincent.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS (GRADES 7 -12)

Grades 7th & 8th: We began with prayer, thanking God who made us who we are. We talked about the lessons we will be having on Theology of the Body and who God wants us to be. Our journals were started and we ended with prayer. Please return your registration and COVID sheets if your family hasn't already done so.

Grades 9th-12th: We welcome Missy Johnson a new teacher this year and she will be doing a youth group format with grades 9-12. They watched the "Veil Removed" movie which is about the coming of heaven and earth at Mass and this was following by a group discussion. They also read the bible passage "The Healing of a Boy with a Demon"(Mark 9:14-29) and had a group discussion. The evening ended with Adoration, a song and a Litany of Trust.

This week: Class from 7:00-8:30.