

**32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
November 8, 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 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday In Ordinary Time, Year A**



While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!' But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.' Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour (Matt 25:10-13).

**Sunday Readings**

The **first reading** is taken from the Book of Wisdom 6:12-16 and cites watchfulness as the key to a faithful religion and understanding of wisdom.

The **Gospel** is from St. Matthew 25:1-13. Although commentators and writers have found difficulty in explaining many of the details in this parable, the general lesson is clear enough. Our Lord described an incident that happened or could have happened at a wedding festival in order to bring home to his listeners the need for being ever vigilant and ready in his service if they wish to avoid the calamity of being excluded from the heavenly and eternal nuptials on the last day. In the other parable in which our Lord uses a wedding feast to describe his kingdom, the lesson concerns those who refused the invitation and will not come to the wedding. Here it concerns those who gladly accepted the invitation.

The ten bridesmaids, or maidens, in the parable represent all Christians. On receiving the sacrament of baptism, the Christian starts on the road to heaven; he gets his invitation to the heavenly nuptials but this is only the beginning. From the moment he comes to the use of reason he is expected to prepare himself, by living according to the law of God, for the great moment when the call will go forth: *Behold the bridegroom! Come to meet him.* This moment will be, first, at the hour of death for each individual when each one's eternal fate will be decided, and again at the general judgment of the human race. During their lifetime all are invited to the heavenly wedding, and all have the necessary means to get ready. But, like the foolish bridesmaids, many will fail to make use of these means and will realize their folly when it is too late. Sad, but true.

A certain number of those for whom Christ died on the cross, and to whom he gave the gift of his revelation and offered all the helps they needed, will never reach heaven because they exchanged their heavenly birthright for a mess of earthly pottage. That the foolish bridesmaids in the parable lost a golden opportunity through their negligence is evident and we can all sympathize with them up to a point, but the thoughts of very few will turn to the bride and groom who were so seriously insulted by this act of negligence on the part of chosen friends.

So too, every Christian lost is a grievous insult to the God who created and redeemed him. Christians have received the fullness of God's revelation, and have been offered a special place in his marriage festival; they have received a privileged invitation not given to others. Is it not a serious and deliberate insult to God not to comply with the conditions of that generous offer?

Providing themselves with oil was the obligation imposed on the bridesmaids in the parable. It was surely a trivial condition when compared with the reward offered them: a very special place at the marriage feast. The obligations imposed on us Christians are surely trivial too when compared with the reward offered us in return: an eternity of happiness in heaven. It seems incredible that there are many among us

this very day who, like the foolish bridesmaids, doze and sleep contentedly holding empty lamps in their hands, while at any moment they may be awakened by: *Behold, the bridegroom comes! Go forth to meet him.* It will be too late then to do anything; even their best friends cannot help them. Each one must stand before the judge just as he is: there can be no borrowing of the oil of merit from others and there will be no time to buy any.

Now is the time for all of us to say "Lord, Lord, open to us." open to us the doors of your mercy and kindness. Open to us the eyes of our understanding that we may see our defects and remedy them while there is yet time.

It is up to us now to decide, aided by God's grace, where we shall be found on the last day—with the wise bridesmaids or with the foolish.

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



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

**Update on Archbishop's Annual Appeal**

Parish Contact leaders: Holy Cross, Beemer: Robin Hansen & Karen Spenner

St. Joseph, Wisner: Martha Schweers & Steve Ausdemore or Fr. Vincent Sunguti.

Your generosity to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal is a commitment to be part of the Living Body of Christ. Please prayerfully consider the gifts you have received and share a portion of your blessings with others during these unprecedented times.

Materials for those who did not receive mailing from the Archbishops' are in the parish office and with AAA parish leaders.

**Let's Learn About Mass Corner: Why do we do that?**

Continuation on Part 2 on Gathering rites:

**Greeters.** In many churches today there will be someone at the door to greet you as you arrive for Sunday Mass: We all like to be greeted and welcomed when we gather for a celebration. When friends come for a meal or a party, we greet them at the door and welcome them into our home. Beemer Church has greeters every Sunday. I hope we can get volunteers to do the same in Wisner. Let me know if you are interested. We may pause as of now due to the virus.

**Use of water.** One of the first things Catholics do when they come to church is dip their right hand in water and make the sign of the cross. This ritual is a reminder of our Baptism: We were baptized with water and signed with the cross. At every Mass we renew our promises to die to sin. Currently, we have removed water due to the pandemic but it will be back sooner than later.

**Genuflection.** In medieval Europe, it was a custom to go down on one knee (to genuflect) before a king or person of rank. This secular mark of honor gradually entered the Church and people began to genuflect to honor the altar and the presence of Christ in the tabernacle before entering the pew. Today many people express their reverence with an even older custom and bow to the altar before taking their place.

Next weekend I will discuss: *Posture, Entrance song, Greeting by the priest and sign of the Cross.*

**Friendly COVID Reminders:**

I believe our churches have been safe because we are following the safety precautions. But since you don't know who will sit next to you on Sunday, consider wearing a mask and hopefully he or she will too. Sanitize your hands before you enter the church and before you leave.

The war against this virus is not yet over. We may get tired, but we will arrive safely.

Continued on the next page.....

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer

Weekend of November 14th & 15th

**WORD:** Doris Guenther, Marilyn Ortmeier  
**EMHC:** Marjorie Gentrup, Ken Schlickbernd  
 Mike McTaggart, Jeanie McTaggart  
**USHER:** Fred Gentrup, Michael Gentrup  
**PRAISE:** Marge Gentrup, JoAnn Steffensmeier

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—November 1, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,495.00
Plate:	25.00
Assumption:	5.00
All Saints:	85.00
HELP/Fuel	115.00
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$1,725.00</b>

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner

Weekend of November 15th

**LEC:** Joyce Stalp  
**EMHC:** Alan Harms  
**USHER:** November Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—November 1, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,735.00
Plate:	112.00
Heating/AC:	500.00
World Mission:	220.00
All Saints Day:	70.00

**MEN'S WORK GROUP—November 2020**

**Chair:** Mitch Schweers  
**Co-Chair:** Steve McGuire  
**Members:** Jack Godbersen, Arvid Hass, Matt McGuire, Brook Andersen, Tim McGuire, LaVern Houghton, David Dinklage, Zach Andersen

**THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE** is at the entrance of Holy Cross. Please write the names of all those who have died whom we will pray for during the month of November. Your All Souls envelope or the parish ones available can be used to request a Mass for your loved one if you wish. Usual stipend is \$10.

MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	09	NO MASS	—	<b>NO MASS</b>
Tue	10	9:15 AM <b>By Zoom</b>	WCC	Wisner Care Center Residents Mass by zoom only
Wed	11	8:00 AM	HC	Lvng & Dec'd Mbrs of the Henry and Eleanor Spenner Family
Thu	12	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Jayda Oligmueller
Fri	13	8:00 AM	HC	+ Mr. & Mrs. Francis Hetherington
Sat	14	5:00 PM	HC	+ Dorothy Gentrup
Sun	15	8:30 AM	HC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Sun	15	10:00 AM	SJ	+ Bill Murphy
SJ—St. Joseph's		HC—Holy Cross		
WCC—Wisner Care Center		CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer		
<p><b>Fr. will <u>live stream only the 5:00 Saturday Mass</u> via both Facebook pages...</b></p> <p>St. Joseph—"Joseph Wisner"                      Holy Cross—"Holy Cross Catholic Church—Beemer"</p>				

**HAMBURGER FEED:**



**Please join the Knights of Columbus and the Ladies Guild:** Sunday, **November 22, 2020**, from 11:00am—1:00 pm. **TAKE OUT ONLY** and will be served from the church basement. The meal will consist of a grilled hamburger, chips, cookies and a bottle of water for \$6.00. Extra hamburgers will be \$2.00 each. Proceeds to go toward the renovation of St. Joseph's church basement.



**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.

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

**Anniversaries, birthdays and other celebration announcements**

We are planning to make our bulletin more community inclusive and one of the things that has been suggested to me is to celebrate events within our parish by recognizing them through our bulletin. This is a great idea but we need volunteers in both parishes of Beemer and Wisner to help in setting this up. Their role will be to gather birthday and other celebration data from our office or individuals, and also help to get in touch with individuals if they are ok to be included in the bulletin or not. It will be a campaign for few weeks or months and then set up automatic reminders using modern technology. Contact me if you would like to volunteer.

*Give Thanks to the Lord,  
 for He is good.  
 Psalm 107:1*



**Religious Education**

**ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6**

- All the students recited prayers to the prayer volunteers that we have. The 3rd grade finished up some items on First Communion and watched a video that talked about the sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation and First Communion.  
 - **This week:** Class 4:00- 5:30pm

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

**Grades 7th & 8th:** The class finished watching the movie "I Can Only Imagine". We then had a short discussion on 3 of the lessons that they learned from the movie which are forgiveness, facing your pain, and letting God use your story. Class ended with a closing prayer.

**Grades 9th-12th:**

- The subject for class was vocations and the kids watched and discussed a short video on vocations by Fr. Mike Schmitz. They also discussed the bible passage John 15:9-17. The evening finished with Adoration Reflection, a song by Mercy Me titled "Word of God Speak" and then closing prayer was a Litany of Trust.

**This week:** Class from 7pm - 8:30 pm.