

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 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: stjo68791@gmail.com

The 4th Sunday of Advent – Year B:



"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

The first reading is taken from 2 Samuel 7:1-5; 8-11;16 and refers to when David was anointed king in Hebron by all the tribes of Israel and Judah and his first step was to capture Jerusalem from the Jebusites and make it the political capital of his kingdom.

The second reading is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 26:25-27 where he introduces himself to the Christians in Rome and he gives an incomplete synthesis of his theology. His words remind us to give glory to God this Christmas and always, for the marvelous things he has done for us.

The Gospel is from Luke 1:26-38. At the moment our Lady said: "be it done to me according to thy word" the most stupendous event that ever happened, or ever could happen on earth, took place on this planet of ours. The Son of God took on human nature in the womb of the Blessed Virgin. We are familiar with this story from childhood. We often say the Angelus in which this tremendous act of God's love is described. Although familiarity, in this case, does not breed contempt, it does help to blunt the real impact on our minds of such an extraordinary occurrence. If God had created a very special child, and made him into an outstanding saint, so that he could intercede with God for us, this would be a great act of love for us on God's part. Or, if he had sent an angel from heaven in human form, to teach us all about God and to help us to lead holy lives, this would deserve our deepest gratitude. But neither a saintly man nor a holy angel could do for us all that God wanted. No man or angel could make us adopted sons of God and heirs of heaven. It was necessary, in God's plan for us, that his divine Son should become man, should share our humanity so that we could share his divinity.

Could infinite love have gone any further? Our creation, the fact that we exist as human beings on earth, is a great gift to us on the part of God. Of what value could eighty, a hundred, even seven hundred years of a continuously happy life on this earth be for us if we learned that we had to depart life forever one day? In a world tormented by sin and its evil effects our normal span of life would be less satisfying. However, when God created us, he so planned that our stay here would be but a stage, a stepping stone in fact, toward our everlasting home. We are well aware indeed of the lengths to which God's love has gone in order to make us his children and heirs to his kingdom. Are we, however, grateful to him for the love he has shown us? Are we honestly and sincerely trying to make ourselves worthy of the great future he has in store for us?

Today is a suitable occasion to look right into our hearts, to see how we stand with God. During the week we shall be keeping the feast of Christmas. The Baby in the

manger will remind us of what God has done and is still doing for us. What are we doing in return? Have we shown our gratitude by living as true followers of Christ? If most of us must answer: "no," this is the time to change our course and return to the right road once more. God is asking this of us today. Shall our answer be: "behold here I am Lord, your humble and grateful servant, let it be done to me according to your word"?

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



From Fr. Vincent's' Desk:

Christmas Masses and Special offertory

For Christmas Mass times, be sure to check on the Holiday Mass schedule. Since at Christmas times we usually have more people, due to Covid-19 regulations, in case there will be overflow, kindly move down to the Church basements. There will be chairs arranged and there are audio speakers that can help you to follow Mass. Eucharistic minister will bring you Holy Communion when it is time. Ushers may be there to direct people or they may not.

Since our parish budget factors in a big way our Christmas offertory, kindly do not forget to support your parish. Baskets will remain where they always are and you may drop in your contribution whenever. Your donation of any size helps tremendously.

Trust & Will Day:

Carter Lowman, Esq. will be visiting our parishes on Tuesday, January 5th. Whether you are just starting a family or preparing to retire, whatever your walk in life, everyone, especially Catholics, should have an estate plan. Come tell us about your family and goals and learn about everything from wills, trusts, durable powers of attorney, and advance health care directives to charitable planning and more. Carter will be at St. Joseph in the morning and at Holy Cross in the afternoon. Sign up for your own by visiting www.calendly.com/catholicplan/stjoseph or by emailing Carter@Lux.Law today. You may also reach him by phone at 402-278-1396.

Let's Learn About Mass Corner: Preparation of Gifts

Mixing water and wine – Once the priest has received the bread and wine, the priest places them on the table. He then mixes water with the wine and washes his hands to help us think of the Last Supper. Mixing water with wine and washing hands are things all Jews did at meals in Jesus' day.

Mixing some little water into wine has a profound theological significance too. While mixing, the priest says: "By the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity." In this context, wine symbolizes the divinity of Christ, while water, symbolizes our humanity. This mingling, captures the mystery of incarnation, the mystery of God becoming man but it also points to our call to share in Christ's divine love. This makes us become partakers of Divine nature. Also, after consecration, the priest breaks the bread which has become the body of Christ, and mixes it with wine that has become blood of Christ, while saying: "May the mingling of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it". He breaks the bread and puts a small piece into the chalice to signify the unity of the body and blood of the Lord in the work of salvation.

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer

Weekend of December 26th & 27th

WORD: Tom Peatrowsky, Renae Carlson
EMHC: Jeanie McTaggart, Mike McTaggart
 Gerald Schlickbernd, Susan Niewohner
USHER: Gerald Gentrup, Melvin Niewohner
PRAISE: Betty Guenther, Rosie McNamara

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner

Christmas Eve Mass

LEC: Shane Batenhorst
EMHC: Tammie Batenhorst
EMHC: Madonna Servi
USHER: Men's December Work Group

Christmas Day Mass

LEC: Joyce Stalp
EMHC: Capri McGuire
EMHC: Martha Schweers
USHER: Men's December Work Group

Weekend of December 27th

LEC: Chris Ruskamp
EMHC: Madonna Servi
USHER: December Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—December 13, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	890.00
Plate:	24.00
Thanksgiving:	110.00
Christmas:	1,615.00
Christmas Flowers:	220.00
Immaculate Conception:	120.00
Totals:	\$2,979.00

DONATION ENVELOPES, Calendars, and booklets are available on the table at church. Please pick yours up



HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE—Thursday, Dec. 24th
 St. Joseph—5:00 pm
 Holy Cross—7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY—Friday, Dec. 25th
 Holy Cross—8:30 am
 St. Joseph—10:00 am

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—December 13, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,415.00
Plate:	80.00
Immaculate Conception:	35.00

MEN'S WORK GROUP—December 2020

Chair: Tom Feller
Co-Chair: Jordan Feller
Members: Tim Montgomery, Rick Jacobs, Chet Beckmann, Randy Jensen, Dave McGuire



MEN'S WORK GROUP ASSIGNMENTS for 2021... are now available in the back of church. Please pick yours up before January 15th. Any questions, please contact Richard Schultz or Norm Weber.



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Thurs., Dec. 31st, St. Joseph—5:30 pm
 Friday, Jan. 1st, Holy Cross—8:30 am
 Friday, Jan. 1st, St. Joseph—10:00 am

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE

St. Joseph's - Tuesday has been cancelled
 Please make use of Saturdays at 4:15

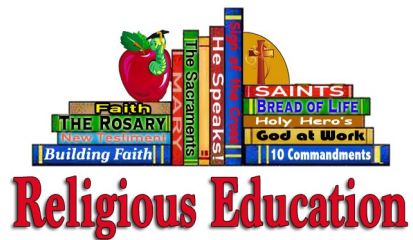
MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	21	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	22	8:00 AM	WCC	Lvng & Dec'd Relatives Of Ron Stalp (Live Streamed on both Facebook pages)
Wed	23	—	HC	NO MASS
Thu	24	5:00 PM	SJ	Christmas Eve (Live Streamed on both Facebook pages)
Thu	24	7:00 PM	HC	Christmas Eve
Fri	25	8:30 AM	HC	Christmas Day
	25	10:00 AM	SJ	Christmas Day
Sat	26	5:00 PM	HC	+ Jayda Oligmueller
Sun	27	8:30 AM	HC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Sun	28	10:00 AM	SJ	+ William D. (Bill) Murphy

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"



Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6

- Students enjoyed Christmas parties in their individual classrooms. The 4th grade made a video of the Apostles Creed while the 2nd grade watched the movie "The Star". The other classes did Christmas lessons and craft projects to take home to family.
- This week: Christmas break
- Classes resume January 13th.

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

- This week the students celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr. Vincent and 2 additional priests.
- 7th & 8th:** Mass was the start of our night with the youth as lectors. We then went down to snacks and games of BINGO and LEFT, RIGHT with some unusual prizes. Please try to attend Mass at Christmas.
- 9th-12th:** The evening started by celebrating mass with Fr. Vincent and the students took part in the mass by being the lectors. After mass, we congregated in the church basement for snacks and the students won prizes playing bingo and the left-right game
- This week: Christmas break
- Classes resume January 13th.

