

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord January 10, 2021

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: stj068791@gmail.com

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Sunday



Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. This brings to an end the season of Christmas. The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes.

In the Eastern Church this feast is called Theophany because at the baptism of Christ in the River Jordan God appeared in three persons. The baptism of John was a sort of sacramental preparatory for the Baptism of Christ. It moved men to sentiments of repentance and induced them to confess their sins. Christ did not need the baptism of John. Although He appeared in the "substance of our flesh" and was recognized "outwardly like unto ourselves", He was absolutely sinless and impeccable. He conferred upon the water the power of the true Baptism which would remove all the sins of the world: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold Him Who takes away the sin of the world".

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin. The mystery of Christ's baptism in the Jordan by St John, the Precursor, proposes the contemplation of an already adult Jesus. This mystery is infinitely linked to the Solemnities of the Lord's birth and the Epiphany that we have just celebrated, as in some ways it takes up and represents their significance to us.

The same Spirit, that descended on the water of the River Jordan wafted over the waters during the first creation (Gen 1:2). Therefore, the Baptism in the Jordan presents yet another truth: that Jesus has started a new creation. He is the second man (1 Cor 15:47) or the last Adam (1 Cor 15:45), that comes to repair the first Adam's guilt. He does this as the Lamb of God that takes away our sins. 'Looking at the events in light of the Cross and Resurrection, the Christian people realized what happened: Jesus loaded the burden of all mankind's guilt upon His shoulders; he bore it down into the depths of the Jordan. He inaugurated his public activity by stepping into the place of sinners' (Joseph Ratzinger, *Jesus of Nazareth*, Bloomsbury 2007, p 18).

in front of the tall cross. During special and very unique services the water is blessed and brought home by parishioners. This is taken in before breakfast is eaten. The same water is used to sprinkle on the land to be planted in the year, on the livestock, and seeds to be planted. The remains are kept during the year to keep the home safe from fire, lightning and sickness.

The priest then gives out his schedule of visits to his parishioners to bless their homes with the holy water that the New Year may be one of cooperation with the gift of God; His Son and the participation in the Life He has come to lead us in toward Salvation. This celebration marks the beginning of new life of Jesus coming to our homes with New year blessings.

Important reminder to EMHC (Extra Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion)

Starting from this month of January 2021, you can take holy Communion to the home bound and the sick in the homes on Sundays. We will give you the names of those you will visit once we confirm with them if they are comfortable. The nursing homes are still closed to outside visitors as of now.

Secondly, I would like to remind the EMHC on duty on Sundays that when you come to help me in distributing Holy Communion, Covid-19 guideline procedures require you to follow the following steps: first receive Holy Communion when you come on the sanctuary, then the next step is to put on your mask, followed by hand sanitization and then you can take Holy communion to the congregation.

2021 The Year of St. Joseph

From Dec. 8th, 2020—Dec. 8th, 2021, Pope Francis dedicated this year to St. Joseph the husband of Mary and earthly Father of Jesus Christ. Throughout the year, we honor St. Joseph as guardian and protector of the Church and the faithful. Since he is the patron saint of St. Joseph Church Wisner, we will celebrate this great Saint on his Feast Day during the Mass of May 1st, 2021 at 5 pm when we observe St. Joseph the Worker.

Mass Explained: Why we do or say that?

My Sacrifice and Yours, Are they two? After the precreation of the gifts, the priest says: Pray my brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father. Why does he say "my" sacrifice and "yours"? Does it mean that we have two sacrifices? The "My" part of the sacrifice points to the sacrifice of Christ made by the priest who acts in the person of Christ. The "You" part of the sacrifice refers to the entire Church offering itself in union with Christ during Mass.

The people's response recognizes how both sacrifices of Christ's and their own will be united and offered to the father through the hands of the priest saying the Mass. So, the people respond with the words:

"May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, (priest's) for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of his holy Church".

In ancient times, people used to bring things for sacrifice such as a lamb without any blemish or a portion of their crops such as bread and wine. The prayer would be said for God to accept the sacrifice. The lamb would then be slain and the crops would be burned as a sacrifice. The same format can be seen in the Mass. The Bible says the we bring to God our best of produce. Therefore, the bread and wine are just symbols but the best offering we give to God is ourselves that we might be changed into the body and blood of Christ. This helps us to be transformed and reborn in Jesus Christ. We ask that we too take part in Christ's resurrection. When you received the bread and blood of Christ, we become one with him.

From Fr. Vincent's' Desk:

Customs on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

In the many parishes of Kenya, the faithful gather in the front of the church where a tall cross made from pieces of wood is placed. Since there are no rivers near churches, a bucket is filled with water and is placed



Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer

Weekend of January 17th

WORD: Shelly Wellman
EMHC: Mary Mostek, Dennis Mostek
USHER: Scott Ortmeier
PRAISE: Marge Gentrup, JoAnn Steffensmeier

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner


Weekend of January 16th & 17th

LEC: Tammie Batenhorst
EMHC: Shane Batenhorst
USHER: Men's January Work Group

LEC: Bonnie Styskal
EMHC: Steve Ausdemore
USHER: Men's January Work Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—January 3, 2021	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$660.00
Plate:	20.00
Christmas:	550.00
Solemnity of Mary:	260.00
Totals:	\$1,490.00

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—January 3, 2021	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$2,300.00
Plate:	80.00
Christmas:	670.00
Solemnity of Mary:	64.00
Heating/AC:	300.00




Celebrations:
 Holy Cross Parish wishes happiness and God's blessings to the following:

Birthdays:
 Caleb Combs January 1
 Griffen Robinson January 3
 Fr. Vincent January 5
 Susan Steffensmeier January 14
 Shane Combs January 15

Anniversaries:
 Bev and Ron Francis January 14

MEN'S WORK GROUP—January 2021

Chair: Galen Minds
Co-Chair: Chris Borgelt
Members: Tyler Oligmueller, Brian Phillips, Steve Ausdemore, Shane Batenhorst, Tim Phillips, Alex Ausdemore, Spencer Batenhorst




MEN'S WORK GROUP ASSIGNMENTS for 2021... This is the last weekend to pick yours up. Please do so by January 15th. Any questions, please contact Richard Schultz or Norm Weber.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS were made by Marjorie Gentrup in memory of Casper Gentrup, Jr., Casper & Margaret Gentrup, and Ralph & Eunice Behrens Rita Eichelberger in memory of Joe Eichelberger, and Vergil & Frances Liermann, Karen Spenner in memory of Henry & Eleanor Spenner, Mike & Mary Kate Guenther in memory of Niall Hansen, Renae Carlson in memory of Brent Carlson, Ron & Bev Francis in memory of their families, Doug Steffensmeier in memory of Ray & Odelia Steffensmeier, Dennis & Mary Mostek in memory of Duane Hassler, Stan & Marilyn Ortmeier in memory of Ruth Benson and Anna Ortmeier, Art & Pia Fernandez in memory of Andres & Julieta Fernandez and Becong & Angela Parong, Bernie Oligmueller in memory of Ben & Elizabeth Wordekemper, Bill & Hannah Oligmueller, Francis Oligmueller, and Jim Sapp, Al & Diana Dinslage. Thank you all!

CHRISTMAS "UN"DECORATION will take place after Sunday morning Mass today for anyone who can help.


ST. JOSEPH AND HOLY CROSS
The annual seminary collection Takes place TODAY, January 10th of 2021. This collection is included in our "Works of Mercy" envelope that is in your envelope box during Holy Week. However, if you would like to make an additional or separate donation for it, there are envelopes located in the back of both parishes that may be mailed directly to the Archdiocese. Please contact Sarah or Renae if you have any questions. Thank you.



Nebraskans Embracing Life is hosting a Virtual Livestreaming event on January 15th at 7:00pm, with Archbishop Joseph Naumann as keynote speaker, introduced by His Excellency Archbishop George Lucas. Other speakers include Governor Pete Ricketts, Sr. Renee Mirkes, Mary Buckley, and Pastor Chris Hruska. We are also honoring Claire and Denny Hartford with our lifetime achievement award. Everyone can participate! We are offering free advance registration at Nebraskansembracinglife.org.



MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	11	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	12	—	—	Private Mass Lvng & Dec'd Relatives of Ron Stalp
Wed	13	8:00 AM	HC	+ Peter & Elizabeth Peitzmeier
Thu	14	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Jayda Oligmueller
Fri	15	8:00 AM	HC	+ Ray Steffensmeier
Sat	16	5:00 PM	SJ	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Sun	17	8:30 AM	HC	+ Robert & Violet Yosten
Sun	17	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 <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
 &
ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS (GRADES 7 -12)

All classes grades K-12 will resume at regular times on
Wednesday, January 13, 2021

