

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 17, 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

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Holy Cross Parish

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

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The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi..., where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see" (John 1:35-37).

Sunday Readings

The **first reading** is taken from the first Book of Samuel 3:3b-10, 19 and gives an account of Samuel's vocation to take over the leadership of the Chosen People.

The **Gospel** is from St. John 1:35-42 and gives an account of the vocation of the first four Apostles who followed Jesus. It was a momentous event in the history of salvation. It was the beginning of a stream of vocations that would grow and spread down through the ages until the end of the world. It was momentous, firstly, in that Christ, who had come to open heaven for all men and who could find means of bringing them all to that eternal home without help from any man, decided instead to let men cooperate with him in this divine task. He decreed to set up a kingdom in this world—his Church—which would be run by mere mortals for their fellow-mortals, but which would be under his protection and assisted by his divine aid until the end of time. Christ chose this very human way, in order to make his Church more acceptable to our limited, human understanding and more approachable for sinful, human nature.

Christ, as God, could deal directly with every human being on earth. He could teach the infallible truth; he could pardon sins; he could give all the graces needed to travel successfully to heaven. There would then be no need for a Church with its teaching magisterium, no need for the sacrament of Baptism, or of Penance, nor of the Holy Eucharist itself or of any other such aids. Christ could do all that his Church does for the salvation of mankind, and more successfully, of course, but yet he chose the way which divine wisdom saw was best.

We mortals know that God can speak directly to our hearts, and actually has done so to many men in the past. We know that he can do directly all that is done by his Church, to whom he gave the power, with its teaching magisterium and sacraments. If he were to act in this way we should be open to continuous doubts about the source of our inspirations and the objectivity of the graces we thought we were receiving. It was to remove such doubts, and the possibility of self-deception that Christ left to us the external visible kingdom to which he gave all the powers necessary for men's salvation. It was for the security and peace of men's consciences that he set up a visible Church founded on the Apostles, men like ourselves, but transformed by his assisting grace.

Another momentous fact in Christ's choice of the Apostles on whom he was to build his Church, is that he "chose the lowly and the humble to confound the wise." The first four Apostles, as well as the other eight, were simple, lowly fishermen from Galilee. They may possibly have been able to read and write a little, but they were certainly not men of education or any social standing in their

communities. He could have converted and chosen some of the more highly educated scribes of Jerusalem, or some of the Roman centurions then in Palestine, or some of the many philosophers in Greece, or even Roman senators whose influence as Christian teachers would carry such weight with the educated elite of the empire. But he did not. The instrument he chose to carry his message to all men was not dependent on human ingenuity or on the educational or social standing of his witnesses. Rather it was to stand on the power of God, of which it was the expression and proof.

We can see clearly the divine wisdom governing Christ's choice of Apostles! Had his message of salvation been spread and promulgated by men of learning and social standing, the cry would soon go up on all sides: "This religion is the invention of philosophers; it is a clever plan of the upper classes to keep the poor and humble workers in subjection." But it was the poor and working classes who spread Christ's message, and who suffered imprisonment and death itself at the hands of the educated and upper classes for so doing.

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



From Fr. Vincent's' Desk:
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.

Mass Explained: Why do we do that?

The Eucharistic Prayer: Last Sunday we looked at prayer after offertory in which we all participate. Today we will briefly discuss the Eucharistic prayer that the priest starts. The long prayer which follows brings us to the very center of the Mass and the heart of our faith. While the words of the prayer may vary from Sunday to Sunday, the prayer always has this structure:

- 1) We call upon God to remember all the wonderful saving deeds of our history.
- 2) We recall the central event in our history, Jesus Christ, and in particular the memorial he left us on the night before he died. We recall his passion, death and resurrection.
- 3) After gratefully calling to mind all the wonderful saving acts God has done for us in the past, we petition God to continue those deeds of Christ in the present: We pray that we may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

Invitation: The prayer begins with a dialogue between the leader and the assembly. First, the priest greets us with "The Lord be with you." He then asks if we are ready and willing to approach the table and to renew our baptismal commitment, offering ourselves to God: "Lift up your hearts." And we say that we are prepared to do so: "We lift them up to the Lord." We are invited to give thanks to the Lord our God. And we respond: "It is right and just." To "give thanks" translates the traditional Greek verb which now names the whole action: *Eucharist*.

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer

Weekend of January 23rd & 24th

WORD: Renae Carlson, Tom Peatrowsky
EMHC: Ann Bausch, Gerald Schlickbernd
 Susan Niewohner, Marjorie Gentrup
USHER: Melvin Niewohner, Gerald Gentrup
PRAISE: Duane Neesen, Bev Francis


Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner

Weekend of January 24th

LEC: Joyce Stalp
EMHC: Madonna Servi
USHER: Men's January Work Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—January 10, 2021	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$.00
Plate:	.00
Christmas:	.00
Solemnity of Mary:	.00
Totals:	\$.00

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—January 10, 2021	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$480.00
Plate:	54.00
Christmas:	15.00
Heating/AC:	50.00



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

Birthdays:
 Jean Batenhorst January 16
 Chris Black January 18

Anniversaries:
 Paul and Deb Schlickbernd January 21

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



THANK YOU to these volunteers who delivered Meals on Wheels on behalf of St. Joseph parish last week: Barb Deitloff, Tammie Batenhorst, Kris Brahmer, Anne Ausdemore, and Kari Moeller.

ARCHDIOCESE OF OMAHA ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1/22-3/25/2021


Pro-Life Essay Contest

Give voice to your pro-life values! The Archdiocese Pro-Life Essay Contest is now taking entries from students in grades 7-11. Prizes range from \$20-\$40, and first place entries will be submitted to the Knights of Columbus statewide contest. For the writing prompt and submission details visit archomaha.org/essaycontest/. For more information contact Whitney Bradley, Respect Life Apostolate Coordinator, at wabradley@archomaha.org or call 402.551.9003 x1306.

1/28-1/31/2021

Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille offers a welcoming and loving space to couples who have been living with the misery of a failing marriage. Retrouvaille helps couples to show each other mercy through the opportunities it provides to listen, to forgive, to be reconciled and to move into their futures believing that God loves them and with His help and their efforts, their marriages can be healed and restored. Retrouvaille provides help for marriage problems/difficulties/crises. For more information about a **Virtual Retrouvaille Weekend** program. January 28-31 2021 to register call 1-800-470-2230, or www.helpourmarriage.org, www.retrouvaille.org last day to sign up January 25th 2021.



Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6

The 5th grade class talked about Sacramentals, made a cross and decorated it with tissue paper. The 3rd grade watched a video by Fr. Mike Schmitz about the Baptism of Jesus, discussed the Our Father and also started the Apostles Creed.

This week: Class from 4:00p.m. - 5:30p.m.



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 Nebraskanembracinglife.org.

2020/2021 RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)
Team member needed

We do have three candidates of the RCIA program this year. They began their classes last September and they will officially be accepted into the Catholic Church at Easter during Virgil Mass. I need one more volunteer team member to help in journeying with these candidates in the program. I do have one volunteer and I need a second one. The role of team member in RCIA program is more of mentorship. I may call upon you also to teach them when I can't make it occasionally. Our classes are usually on Thursdays at 7:30 pm via Zoom as of now. If interested, call me or email me at: vsunguti2018@gmail.com.

MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	18	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	19	—	—	Private Mass For Residents of the Wisner Care Center
Wed	20	8:00 AM	HC	+ Alvin & Betty Haranek
Thu	21	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Ron Esser
Fri	22	8:00 AM	HC	+ Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Emanuel
Sat	23	5:00 PM	HC	+ Norbert Ruskamp
Sun	24	8:30 AM	HC	+ Niall Hansen
Sun	24	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"				

