

**The Epiphany of the Lord  
January 3, 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: stj68791@gmail.com

**The Epiphany of the Lord**



Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany. "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power." With these words, the Church proclaims that today's feast brings to a perfect fulfillment all the purposes of Advent. Epiphany, therefore, marks the liturgical zenith of the Advent-Christmas season.



This Feast is celebrated either on January 6 or, according to the decision of the episcopal conference, on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. The young Messiah is revealed as the light of the nations. Yet, as the antiphon for the *Magnificat* at Second Vespers reminds us, three mysteries are encompassed in this solemnity: the adoration of the Christ Child by the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the wedding feast at Cana. Extra candles and/or lamps may be placed around the sanctuary and in other parts of the church to honor Christ revealed as the Light of the Gentiles (*Ceremonial of Bishops*). It is customary to replace the images of the shepherds at the crib with the three Magi and their gifts.

The Epiphany feast was kept in the East and in certain Western Churches before being observed in Rome. It also seems to have been originally a feast of the nativity; January 6, for those churches where it was kept, was the equivalent of Christmas (December 25) in the Roman Church. It was introduced at Rome in the second half of the sixth century and became the complement and, so to say, the crown of the Christmas festival.

Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation. St. Leo brings out this point admirably in a sermon, read at Matins, in which he shows in the adoration of the Magi the beginnings of Christian faith, the time when the great mass of the heathen sets off to follow the star which summons it to seek its Savior.

That is the meaning, too, of the wonderful prophecy from Isaias which the liturgy appoints to be read in the first nocturn at Matins and at the Epistle of the Mass. This same thought of universal redemption the Church returns to as she sings, in the antiphon to the *Magnificat* at 2nd Vespers, applying the words to herself, of the union with Christ typified by the wedding feast at Cana, by the baptism of her children foreshadowed by that of Christ in the waters of the Jordan. Formerly the Epiphany was an additional day for solemn baptisms.

*In Courtesy of Msgr. Peter J. Elliott, Ignatius Press*



From Fr. Vincent's' Desk:

**Appreciation Note**

Just a few days before Christmas, I was unknowingly diagnosed with Covid-19 when I went to visit Colonial Haven Nursing home in Beemer which requires a test before being allowed in. It shocked me since I was feeling so well. I had to stay in isolation like everyone else who tests positive and unfortunately missing the ever-beautiful Christmas Masses for the first time since I was ordained. It was a real baptism of fire experience staying in the house during Christmas time.

It is a strange year that we will live to remember. I want to thank you all for your prayers, kind messages, for those who cooked food and brought it to me and those who got some groceries for me to ensure that I had all that I needed. My words cannot express how grateful I am to be among you. I felt at home surrounded by love and care from my parish families of Wisner and Beemer. Your prayers worked well as I experienced mild symptoms. I am now out and feeling great and back to doing my parish work. Let's keep on supporting our other parish members who are currently fighting this virus in their homes and hospitals. Stay strong and fight to the end. We hope all will overcome and bounce back. God bless you all.

**Archbishop's Annual Appeal Updates**

Thank you to all those at our parishes who have responded so generously to Archbishop Lucas' invitation to join him in the work of equipping disciples and living mercy. By Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, our parish of **St. Joseph, Wisner** has raised **\$8,005.00** towards our goal of **\$7,191.53** with a percentage of **111.3%**. Our other parish of **Holy Cross, Beemer**, has raised a total of **\$9,311.00** towards our goal of **\$9,874.58** with a percentage of **94.3%**. For a 2nd year in a row, Wisner has hit past their goal in this. Thank you so much. We are all almost there. We are just waiting for few people in Beemer left to send in their commitment and we will hit the goal sooner or later. I know you will. I appreciate your generosity of supporting the Archdiocese.

**New Year's Message**

We are so grateful that the 2020 has gone. There is so much to be grateful for especially our own lives and health. I know it is a year that has impacted negatively many families and individuals due to the virus. We are happy that we are entering into the year 2021 equipped with the vaccine as well as knowledge on managing the virus. As we look forward for a better New Year, let's still take precautions by observing the basics in order to be safe. I want to thank you all who have supported our parishes financially throughout this past year of 2020. Even though things were not easy to some, many remained faithful in supporting their parish. We tried to cut down the costs of unnecessary expenditures last year in order to adjust to a drop in our income. We are so far managing our finances well.

As we begin the new year, kindly remember your parish in your estate planning will. As a parish, we are part of your family and count on you for any support.

I did cut down physical meetings this past year unless it was necessary. We look forward to being back to our normal routine of meetings this year trusting that all will be well sooner or later. Otherwise, we will continue utilizing the modern technology of virtual meetings where necessary.

The Church building of St. Joseph, Wisner and the basement need some repairs and maintenance work. I will be sending a letter to the members later this month outlining in detail what we need to do. It has taken us some time, but the delay has been beyond our control.

I want to wish you all a blessed New Year of 2021. God bless us all.

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer

Weekend of January 9th & 10th

**WORD:** Doris Guenther, Marilyn Ortmeier  
**EMHC:** Tom Peatrowsky, Dawn Peatrowsky, Jeanie McTaggart, Brenda Anderson  
**USHER:** Brad Schulz, Michael Gentrup  
**PRAISE:** Mike McTaggart, Jeanie McTaggart

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner

Weekend of January 10th


**LEC:** Dave McGuire  
**EMHC:** Capri McGuire  
**USHER:** Men's January Work Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—December 27, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$990.00
Plate:	108.00
Christmas:	7,010.00
Christmas Flowers:	70.00
Thanksgiving:	100.00
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$8,278.00</b>

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—December 27, 2020	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,330.00
Plate:	77.00
Christmas:	8,654.00
Immaculate Conception:	20.00


**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



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

**Happy Birthday:**  
 Trisha Robertson January 2  
 Bridgette Borgmann January 3  
 Rita Heiser January 5  
 Russell Gentrup January 7



Thank You!

**Addition and correction:** The following were missed in last week's announcement, and we apologize for the omission. We would like to thank them for their poinsettia donations: Alan & Sally Harms in memory of Laura and Bill Winter and Rudolph and Donna Harms; Dave & Carol Oligmueller in memory of Jayda Oligmueller.

**ST. JOSEPH AND HOLY CROSS .....**

The annual seminary collection will take place on 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.

Find HOPE and healing. ARE YOU PREGNANT AND NEED HELP? Call/text 888.550.1588 or visit [loveline.com](http://loveline.com)  
 HAVE YOU TAKEN THE FIRST DOSE OF THE ABORTION PILL? It may not be too late to save your baby. Call 877.558.0999 or visit [abortionpillreversal.com](http://abortionpillreversal.com)  
 FREE, CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELING FOR WOMEN AND MEN EXPERIENCING GRIEF AFTER ABORTION Call 888.456.HOPE (4673) or Visit [hopeafterabortion.com](http://hopeafterabortion.com)

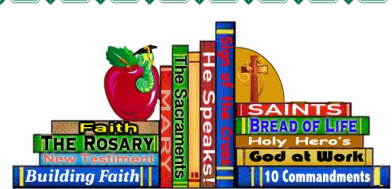
**MEN'S WORK GROUP ASSIGNMENTS for 2021...** are now available in the back of church. Please pick yours up before January 15th. Any questions, please contact Richard Schultz or Norm Weber.



**BOOKS AT ST. JOSEPH'S...** "Give Us This Day" and "Living Faith" books are now available in the back of church.

Happy New Year

MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	04	—	—	<b>NO MASS</b>
Tue	05	—	—	<b>Private Mass</b>
Wed	06	8:00 AM	HC	+ James Hetherington
Thu	07	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Robert Stalp
Fri	08	8:00 AM	HC	Lvng & Dec'd Mbrs of the Ray Steffensmeier Family
Sat	09	5:00 PM	HC	+ Elwood & Molly Minds, Mary Ellen Minds, and Gary Minds
Sun	10	8:30 AM	HC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Sun	10	10:00 AM	SJ	+ Mary Jo Barent
SJ—St. Joseph's		HC—Holy Cross		
WCC—Wisner Care Center		CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer		
<b>Fr. will <u>live stream only the 5:00 Saturday Mass</u> via both Facebook pages...</b>				
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, December 16th.

**MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES:**  
**St. Joseph and Holy Cross.**  
 There are envelopes available in the back of church. If you would like to have a Mass said for a loved one, complete the envelope and place in the collection basket or contact Sarah at the parish office 402-529-3891, or email the info to [stjo68791@gmail.com](mailto:stjo68791@gmail.com). The suggested donation is \$10.00 per mass.

