

1st Sunday of Lent February 21, 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



The 1st Sunday of Lent

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit for forty days in the wilderness, tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing in those days; and when they were ended, he was hungry. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone.'" And the devil took him up, and showed him all

the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory; for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it shall all be yours." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'"

The **first reading** is from Deuteronomy 26: 4-10. In these verses we have the ritual prescribed by Moses for the feast of the harvest thanksgiving. The people once settled in the Promised Land are to show their gratitude to the good God who brought them out of the slavery of Egypt and gave them this good land to be their home.

The **Gospel** is from St. Luke 5:1-11. Christ's voluntary self-mortification of forty days' fast, with its accompanying temptations, was but part of the self-mortification, with its climax on the Cross, which He gladly underwent for our salvation. He did not need to fast in order to keep the inclinations of the body in subjection, He did not need to allow the insult of temptation. He could have said, "begone Satan" at the beginning as easily and as effectively as he said it at the end. But He willingly underwent this humiliation in order to set us an example and to prove to us the infinite love He bears us and the value, the priceless value, He sets on our eternal salvation. He became like us in all things (except sin) in order to make it possible for us to become like Him—the beloved of his Father—and co-heirs with Him in the kingdom of heaven.

With this example given us by Christ no Christian can or should expect to travel the road to heaven without meeting obstacles and temptations. Our weak human nature is of itself, even without any external tempter, a source of many temptations to us, especially of those three illustrated in the case of Christ. Our body desires all the pleasures and comforts that can be got out of life and resents any curtailment of these desires even on the part of our Creator and Benefactor. Our gifts of intelligence and free-will often tempt most of us to look for power, political or economic, over our fellowmen. We want to be better off than others in this world, when our purpose in life is to help ourselves and our fellowmen to the better life. Finally, so fully occupied are many in the mad rush after pleasure and power that they have no time to devote to the one thing that matters, the attainment of eternal life.

Yet, through some foolish logic of our own, we expect God to do for us what we refuse to do for ourselves. We are tempting God by presuming he will save us if we have deliberately chosen the road to perdition.

There are few, if any, amongst us who can honestly say: "I am free from such inclinations or temptations." The vast majority of us can and should beat our breasts and say with the publican: "O God, be merciful to me a sinner." And merciful he will be if we turn to him with true humility. He may not remove all our temptations, all our wrong inclinations, but he will give us the grace to overcome them if we sincerely seek his aid.

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



From Fr. Vincent's' Desk:

2021: Lent Invitation to Reconnect to our Parish Community

It is amazing that it has been one year since the pandemic began, turning things zig-zag for us, but thank God we haven't tumbled down! As we are grateful for the gift of health and life, I would like to invite all our parishioners who have been away from the church due to the pandemic, to think about how they may reconnect back to our parish community during this time of lent. Although the obligation of attending the Sunday Mass is still suspended, think about a safer way of beginning to reconnect. If Sunday doesn't work for you, think of using a week day Mass that has fewer people. I would also suggest that you make use of the sacrament of Reconciliation opportunities. Lent is the perfect time to get back to this. Other options are to visit the blessed sacrament at your own time as our churches are open throughout the day, or come for the Stations of the Cross at Beemer every Friday during lent at 6:30 pm. We look forward to seeing people vaccinated so that we may get back to our parish communities and participate more fully as before. Have Fruitful Lent!

Rite of Election – Sunday, February 21

During the 10:00 am Mass on this First Sunday of Lent, we will celebrate a milestone for those who will be receiving the sacraments of initiation in our parish at the Easter Vigil. For months, these catechumens have received initial instruction in the faith. The RCIA catechists and their godparents have observed their sincere desire for conversion in mind, heart, and action. With 40 days until Easter, they will embark on the final, more intensive "home stretch" of their journey into our faith community. The "Rite of Election" celebrates the moment when our catechumens make an official "pledge of fidelity" to enter into this period, inscribing their names as those called or "elected" by Christ for membership in the fullness of his body the Church. Normally, the Archbishop celebrates this ritual at the cathedral with all catechumens gathered. Due to COVID-19 precautions we will celebrate this as a parish community. The ritual will occur after the homily. Although it does not require prior practice from the assembly, your presence signifies the support we pledge to these brothers and sisters at this special moment in their faith journey. Please keep them in your prayers.

We have 3 Candidates from Wisner:

Cameron Wittstruck, Abby Dixon, and Jerae Schweers

Team leaders are: *Fr. Vincent Sunguti, Steve Ausdemore, and Sally Harms.*

Mass Explained: Why do we do that?

The Communion Rite:

Last Weekend, we did finish the Eucharistic prayers that ends with a prayer called "Epiclesis" which means invocation of the Holy Spirit recited by the priest 'Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the Unity of the Holy Spirit, all Glory are yours Lord,' After consecration prayers, the priest invites us to stand and recite our Lords' prayer.

Our Father and Sign of Peace: We prepare to eat and drink at the Lord's Table with those words taught us by Jesus: "Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Keenly aware that communion (the word means "union with") is the sign and source of our reconciliation and union with God and with one another; we make a gesture of union and forgiveness with those around us and offer them a sign of peace.

Invitation to Communion. The priest then shows us the Body of Christ and invites us to come to the table: "Behold the Lamb of God....Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb." The members of the assembly now approach the altar in procession. Next week we will look at who should receive Holy Communion.

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of February 27th & 28th

WORD: Renae Carlson, Rita Eichelberger
EMHC: Gerald Schlickbernd, Ann Bausch
 Jeanie McTaggart, Brenda Anderson
PRIASE: Betty Guenther, Rosie McNamara
USHER: Melvin Niewohner, Fred Gentrup

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of February 28th

LEC: Dave McGuire
EMHC: Steve Ausdemore
SERV: Alicia Ramirez-Torres, Beau Ruskamp
USHER: February Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—February 14, 2021	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$935.00
Plate:	7.00
HELP/Fuel:	100.00
Totals:	\$1,042.00

RICE BOWLS and Lenten prayer helps will be on the table this week. Please make use of them.

POINSETTIAS ARE AVAILABLE for anyone (whether from our parish or not.) Please take them ASAP as we need to have them gone soon.

EXPOSITION & STATIONS OF THE CROSS
At HOLY CROSS
 6:30 pm—Adoration & 7:00 pm—Stations of the Cross
 Fridays, Feb. 19th—March 26th

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

Birthdays:
 Georgia Batenhorst February 22
 Gerald Schlickbernd February 26
 Betty Hegarty February 26

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. The suggested donation is \$10.00 per mass.

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—February 14, 2021	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,490.00
Plate:	85.00
Insurance:	100.00

THE LADIES GUILD would like to thank Linda Hansen and Capri McGuire for their many years of service as President and Treasurer of the Ladies Guild. We appreciate all of their hard work and the numerous hours they have given serving the Guild.

New officers of the Ladies Guild are:
 President – Martha Schweers – 402-380-2114
 Treasurer – Lisa Montgomery – 402-380-2905
 Secretary – Alison Kluthe – 402-541-6522

RICE BOWLS are available to pick up in the back of church. Please take them home and return them by Good Friday. Rel Ed students are asked to return theirs to class by March 24th. Donations may also be given online at www.crsricebowl.org/give.

ST. WENCESLAUS PARISH FUN FEST, DODGE

Online auction bidding began Feb. 1st and will close on Feb. 27th at 12 pm. There will be having a drive thru meal Feb. 28th from 11 am – 1:30 pm. The meal consists of roast beef and dumplings.

Winning auction bidders can pick up their auction items at the drive-thru meal event, or via other arrangements. Our online site also includes a quilt raffle, cash raffle, and you can purchase meal tickets ahead of time as well ...all online!! See posters in the back of church.

MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	22	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	23	—	—	Private Mass + Marie Woerdemann
Wed	24	8:00 AM	HC	Lvng & Dec'd Mbrs of the Leo & Hildegard Hunke Family
Thu	25	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Gary Servi
Fri	26	8:00 AM	HC	+ Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Emanuel
Sat	27	5:00 PM	HC	+ Larry Thiem
Sun	28	8:30 AM	HC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Sun	28	10:00 AM	SJ	+ Dolores Rief
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

The 3rd grade class watched a video about Ash Wednesday and the 3 important things we do in Lent (Almsgiving, Prayer & Fasting). The other classes also had lessons and videos regarding Lent. We then celebrated Ash Wednesday Mass with Fr. Vincent and the 6th graders were the servers and lectors.

This week: Class from 4:00-5:30 and both the 5th & 6th grades will meet with Fr. Vincent to start training to be a Mass server.

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

Grades 7th & 8th: Ash Wednesday Mass began our Lent this year. This is our season to focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving (as we should all year-round.)

Grades 9th - 12th: Attended Ash Wednesday Mass
 This week: Class from 7:00 - 8:30

