

4th Sunday of Lent
March 14, 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 4th Sunday of Lent



This Sunday is called "Laetare Sunday" in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite since its mood and theme is one of hope and rejoicing that Easter is near. In the Ordinary Form this Sunday is not different from the other Sundays of Lent even though the entrance antiphon for the day still begins with the Latin word "laetare" and the vestments

worn by the celebrant are rose-colored, not violet. The day is important because it is the day of the second scrutiny in preparation for the baptism of adults at the Easter Vigil.

The **first reading** is taken from the Book of Chronicles 2 Chron: 36:14-16, 19-23. It refers to the edict of Cyrus, the king of Persia, permitting the exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple, which had been burned by the Chaldeans as a punishment from God for the infidelities of the Chosen People.

The **Gospel** is from St. John 3:14-21. This man Nicodemus had a half-open mind as regards Jesus. He was moved by his teaching and miracles. He defended him when his companions were out to have Jesus arrested. He helped to have him properly buried when his enemies had him put to death, but that was as far as he went, apparently. There is no mention of him in the first Christian community of Jerusalem. What held him back, what kept him from giving himself fully to Jesus who spoke so kindly and told him so clearly that he himself was indeed a teacher who had come from God, that he had been offered by God as the sacrificial victim who would save the world? All Nicodemus had to do was to accept his word, "believe in him" and be baptized and he too would have eternal life.

Why did he not do this? The answer is given in the beginning of his story "He came to Jesus by night." He was one of the leading Pharisees and evidently was afraid of what they would think of him had they seen him associating with Jesus. How much more so did he dread what their reactions would be had he become a follower of him whom they called "this impostor." Nicodemus had only half of his mind open to the truth, the other half was closed and barred by his fear of what his own class—the leaders of the Jews—would think of him. He risked his own future happiness in order not to lose the present respect of his sinful associates.

What a foolish man we would all say! Yet, are not many of us often like Nicodemus, when it comes to living up to our following of Christ? There are Catholic men who would like to, and should, go much more often to Holy Communion but are afraid of what their fellow-parishioners, who receive but rarely, would think of them. There are many, far too many, Christians who will not defend or stand up for their religion when it is insulted and attacked in their place of work or in a saloon. There are Christians who stand idly by, and give at least tacit approval, when grave injustices are being carried out by individuals or by local or national groups. These and many more like them are Christian types of Nicodemus, who through fear of losing the approval, the worthless esteem, of their sinful associates, are prepared to forfeit the esteem of God and their own eternal welfare.

Nicodemus probably thought he had made reparation for his lack of openness to Jesus when he assisted at his burial. What value, however, had that work of mercy for one of his frame of mind?


There are amongst us today, humanists, most of them ex-Christians, men and women who make assisting their neighbor, while excluding Christ and God, the essence of religion. While the assistance the neighbor receives will benefit him materially, what spiritual or religious value can it have for the humanist who excluded God and our Savior Jesus Christ? Humanism or concentrating on our neighbor to the exclusion of God, is an imitation of religion and a very false imitation at that. Helping our neighbor because he is a son of God is part of our true religion, and the second of the two great commandments of love; but helping a neighbor from whom we have effaced the image of God has not and cannot have any religious value or significance whatever. It is as meaningless as lighting a candle before the photograph of a wife one has deliberately deserted.

Thank God, we have accepted Christ with our whole heart and our whole mind. It is through him that we have been made sons of God. It is through him that we have learned to love God and learned of God's infinite love for us. Because all men are God's sons also, and our brothers in Christ, we will gladly help them whenever and wherever we can because God has commanded us to do so. This is true humanism which sees in the neighbor the workmanship of the almighty Creator, and what is more important still, the elevating effects of the divine Savior, as well.

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

From Fr. Vincent's' Desk:

Facebook Mass streaming Coming to an end

 It is now one year since I began streaming weekend Masses. Facebook Mass streaming will come to an end on March 27th 2021. I want to thank all those who have been volunteering to help whenever approached. Without your help, this couldn't have succeeded. Although it was extra work for me sometimes when there was no volunteer or when there were some hitches, I did enjoy the challenge of doing it. We are happy we could help in reaching out to some parishioners who couldn't attend Mass physically. We hope it did enable you to stay connected to your parish in some way. The virus is still a threat but since vaccinations have picked up tremendously, you are all welcome to come for Mass on weekends or weekdays. I still recommend we follow the Covid guidelines.

The Year of St. Joseph

Pope Francis declared this year of 2021 under the patronage of St. Joseph. It began on Dec. 8th 2020 and will end on Dec. 8th 2021. In making his declaration, Pope Francis noted that this year marks the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX on Dec. 8, 1870.

Pope Francis said the coronavirus pandemic has heightened his desire to reflect on St. Joseph, as so many people during the pandemic have made hidden sacrifices to protect others, just as St. Joseph quietly protected and cared for Mary and Jesus.

I will ask you to make Novenas (9-day prayers) under the patronage of St. Joseph. On this year, anyone who invokes St. Joseph, through the prayers of the rosary, meditation, Litany of St. Joseph among others, will receive plenary indulgences (removal of all punishments due to forgiven sins). Feel free to pick Litany of St. Joseph prayer card on the back table.

Continued on the next page.....

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of March 21st

WORD: Shelly Wellman
EMHC: Brenda Anderson, Jeanie McTaggart
PRIASE: Marge Gentrup, JoAnn Steffensmeier
USHER: Melvin Niewohner

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of March 20th & 21st

LEC: Alan Harms
EMHC: John Woerdemann
SERV: Yasmine Miranda, Austin Kluthe
USHER: March Men's Group

LEC: Joyce Stalp
EMHC: Anne Ausdemore
SERV: Jordyn Gentrup, Hayden Schroeder
USHER: March Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts Holy Cross—March 7, 2021	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$600.00
Plate:	25.00
Totals:	\$625.00

SOUPER BOWL COLLECTION total was \$160.00. That will be split between Norfolk Rescue Mission, Fremont Lifehouse, Siena Francis House and Open Door Mission. Thank you all for your generosity to those who have so much less.

SERVERS & USHERS are being contacted to begin their regular duties after this Covid break. We need to have everyone back in place before Holy Week. Any questions or concerns, please call Renae (402-459-0176).

MONEY COUNTERS
Sunday, March 14—Team #1 Mary VonSeggern, Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore
Sunday, March 21—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder

MEN'S WORK GROUP—March 2021
Chair: Dave Ebel
Co-Chair: Dixon Godbersen
Members: Gerald Gentrup, Drew Feller, Gary Godbersen, Duane Mendlik, Blaine Johnson, Nick Schultz, Scott Mendlik

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

Stewardship of God's Gifts St. Joseph—March 7, 2021	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$2,620.00
Plate:	143.00
Cemetery:	120.00

Celebrations:
Holy Cross Parish wishes happiness and God's blessings to the following:
Birthdays:
Sarah Lierman - March 16
Ben Oligmueller - March 17

PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATIONS
St. Joseph—Tuesday, March 16th at 7:00pm
Holy Cross—Tuesday, March 23rd at 7:00 pm

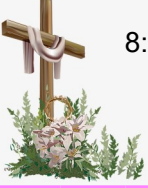
HOLY WEEK MASS SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday
5:30 pm at St. Joseph—Wisner
7:00 pm at Holy Cross—Beemer

Good Friday
3:00 pm at Cross—Beemer
7:00 pm at St. Joseph—Wisner

Holy Saturday
8:00 pm at St. Joseph—Wisner

Easter Sunday
8:30 am Holy Cross—Beemer
10:00 am Joseph—Wisner





MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	15	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	16	9:30 AM	WCC	+ Marie Woerdemann
Wed	17	8:00 AM	HC	+ James Hetherington
Thu	18	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Joseph Svoboda
Fri	19	8:00 AM	HC	+ Wenzel Franzluebbers
Sat	20	5:00 PM	SJ	+ Vincent & Catherine Ulrich
Sun	21	8:30 AM	HC	+ Henry & Eleanor Spenner Family
Sun	21	10:00 AM	SJ	Christian J. Schroeder For Confirmation
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
Grades 2-6 celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr. Vincent to help prepare themselves for Easter. The 3rd grade is learning about the different parts and subparts of the mass.
This week: Class from 4:00- 5:00. Students will attend the 5:00 mass and be dismissed afterwards.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS (GRADES 7 -12)
Grades 7th & 8th: We finished our lesson on "Vocations" and started our movies "October Baby" for the girls and "We Are Marshall" for the boys. More details next week.
Grades 9th - 12th: Missy discussed the Circle of Grace Lessons with the students and then ended with closing prayer
This week: Class from 7:00- 8:30.



 **Continued From Fr. Vincent's Desk:**
RCIA: Second Scrutiny of the Elect (4th Sunday of Lent)
This Sunday, we continue the celebration of the Scrutinies. On the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent we pray in a particular way for those who are to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. We pray that any attachment to evil might be removed, and that they be truly converted to Christ. Again, because we are celebrating the Scrutinies, the readings will be taken from Cycle A of the Lectionary.