

**5th Sunday of Lent  
March 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 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**



Previously called "Passion Sunday", this Sunday marks the beginning of Passiontide, a deeper time of Lent. This is the third Sunday of the scrutinies for the preparation of adult converts, and the final Sunday of Lent before the beginning of Holy Week. The Liturgy of the Word of this day speaks of recreation, resurrection, and new life.

**Sunday Readings**

The **first reading** is taken from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah 31:31-34. In today's extract, the prophet is foretelling the setting up of a New Covenant, to replace the Old Covenant made between God and his Chosen People on Mt. Sinai, a covenant which the Chosen People had not kept. The New Covenant would not be written on tablets of stone but on each individual's heart. It would be a covenant of love rather than one of obligation.

The **Gospel** is from St. John 12:20-33. On the first Palm Sunday, as Christ entered Jerusalem not as a conquering king on a charger but "riding on an ass" to show that he was the humble servant of all men, he clearly foresaw the sufferings and torments that would be his in that city, before the week was out. Among those who waved palm branches to honor him and who sang aloud: "Hosanna to the son of David, Hosanna in the highest," there were perhaps some who, urged on by the leaders, would be shouting the following Friday, "away with him, crucify him," and "we have no king but Caesar." Such was the fickleness of human nature then. Unfortunately, it has not changed much, if at all, in the two thousand years that have since elapsed. We are still fickle when it comes to choosing between Christ and the things of this world. Yet he knew all of this, and was still willing to carry the cross for us who are such unworthy mortals!

This very thought should put us all to shame, for what repayment does the very best of us make for the incredible love he has shown for us? We grumble and complain when some small cross is laid on our shoulders; we are full of laments if life is not running smoothly for us; we cannot understand why God should let certain things happen to us, his friends! But see for a moment what the lot of his beloved Son was on earth. Born and reared in extreme poverty; insulted and offended by those he wanted to teach; quickly forgotten by those he benefited by his miracles; hounded by his enemies and betrayed by one who had been his disciple for over two years and who had sat at table with him that same night; deserted in his moment of trial by those very ones who had sworn undying allegiance to him. Then followed the torments wished on him by his enemies—those he had come to save; the mock trial and illegal condemnation; the scourging at the pillar; the crowning with thorns; the carrying of the cross and finally the three hours of intense torture and agony while his body hung on the cross! The next time we are tempted to grumble and complain about our sad lot. Let us look thoughtfully at a crucifix for a few moments!

"He who loves his life loses it," this is a truth stated by Christ at the solemn moment when he was speaking of the purpose of his own painful death. He died so that we might live, not for sixty or even a hundred years on earth, but forever in heaven. We can, we know, lose the eternal life Christ won for us if we are too attached to our transitory, earthly life. If we love our own comforts, pleasures, temporal gains, our own worldly will, more than we love our unending, happy future, then we are loving our earthly lives wrongly, and we are gravely risking the loss of the future, true life.

If, on the other hand, we do our best to be faithful servants of Christ, we shall always judge all our actions with eternity in view. We can use the things of this life which God gives us, and still be close followers of Christ. The lawful possession of the goods of this world, the enjoyment of the licit pleasures of life, are allowed to the fervent Christian. If these possessions and pleasures are accepted with Christian gratitude, they will become stepping-stones that will help us across the river of life to our everlasting home beyond.

Each one of us should look fervently and devoutly on the crucifix today, and try to compare our willingness to suffer those crosses sent to us by God, with the crushing cross and passion our Savior Jesus Christ gladly accepted for us and not for his own sake. Do not let the conclusion you draw stun you into inactivity, but rather let it shock you into a new outlook on life; a new resolve to serve, follow and imitate our loving Christ more closely in future. So may it be for all of us.

*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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 an 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.

**St. Joseph's Church Maintenance and Repairs Capital Campaign Reminder**

As I mentioned recently, we have been blessed with our beautiful magnificent Gothic style church that still stands out in our town of Wisner. From a far look, it looks fine but taking a closer look, there is much that we need to do in order to keep it in good shape for the next decade or so. The last time thorough work was done was over 10 years ago.

Recently, I did mail letters with details on what we need to do and the cost which is around \$150,000. I'm grateful for all those who have responded generously. Our goal is to achieve 100% participation. It will be great for our parish. So far, we have 16% for those who have participated. I'm kindly imploring you to prayerful consider this as a priority for our parish so that we can accomplish this task as soon as we can. Be blessed.

**Welcome Back to your Parish Home**

Fellow parishioners, let's start getting back to our parishes. As the vaccinations are going on, things are getting better and better. Let's make this Easter as a welcome back home function after one full year of being away due to pandemic. I know the Archbishop's dispensation from attending Mass during pandemic is still in effect, but my interoperation is that if you have received your second vaccine, then the dispensation of not attending Mass doesn't apply to you after the 14<sup>th</sup> day since you received your second vaccine. I encourage everyone to keep social distance from each other, sanitize hands before and after Mass and wear a mask especially if you haven't been vaccinated.

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

WORD: Renae Carlson, Rita Eichelberger  
EMHC: Marjorie Gentrup, Susan Niewohner  
Dennis Mostek, Mary Mostek  
PRIASE: Duane Neesen, Bev Francis  
USHER: Gerald Gentrup, Fred Gentrup

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


LEC: Tammie Batenhorst  
EMHC: Shane Batenhorst  
SERV: Chesney Ruskamp, Beau Ruskamp  
USHER: March Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts Holy Cross—March 14, 2021	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$804.00
Plate:	40.00
Easter Flowers:	140.00
Building Fund:	60.00
Works of Mercy:	85.00
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$1,129.00</b>

**MONEY COUNTERS**  
Sunday, March 21—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder  
Sunday, March 28—Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer

**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

**MEN'S WORK GROUP—April 2021**  
Chair: Ron Machacek  
Co-Chair: Bernie Ruskamp  
Members: Steve Obermeyer, Adam Brahmer, Jeff Recker, Dan Kane, Terry Soden, Tyler McBride



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

**Birthdays:**  
Gerald Wellman - March 21  
Brad Schulz - March 23  
Dawn Peatrowsky - March 26

Stewardship of God's Gifts St. Joseph—March 14, 2021	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,285.00
Plate:	189.00

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

**PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATIONS**  
**Holy Cross—Tuesday, March 23rd at 7:00 pm**



**EASTER LILY DONATIONS:** There is a sign up sheet in the back of church to donate for Easter lilies and flowers in the remembrance of your loved ones. Suggested donation for lilies is \$20 each. Please complete the form as you would like to have the names listed. Thank you.

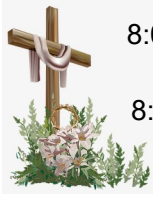
**HOLY WEEK MASS SCHEDULE**

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



**Religious Education**

**ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6**  
The 5th & 6th grade finished discussing the Stations of the Cross and practiced for their presentation next week. The 3rd grade learned more about the parts of the mass. The afternoon ended by celebrating mass with Fr. Vincent.  
**This week:** Class from 4:00p.m. - 5:00p.m. with also an Easter Egg Hunt. Stations of the Cross will be presented by the 5th & 6th grade classes at 5:00p.m. and then children will be dismissed afterwards.

**ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS (GRADES 7 -12)**  
**Grades 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>:** Fr. Vincent came to tell us about his childhood and how he grew up to find his vocation to the priesthood. He also told us about Kenya and how priests that he knew had influenced his decision to become a priest. We are very grateful to them as we are blest to have him as our priest. We then finished our movies. The boys movie was about teamwork and hard work against great odds. The girls learned about forgiveness and doing the right thing to preserve every life because it is a gift from God.  
**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.

MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	22	—	—	<b>NO MASS</b>
Tue	23	9:30 AM	WCC	Wisner Care Center Residents
Wed	24	8:00 AM	HC	+ Claton & Betty Francis
Thu	25	8:00 AM	SJ	Lvng & Dec'd Members of Ron & Mary Ann Wemhoff Family
Fri	26	8:00 AM	HC	+ Dec'd Mbrs of Ray Steffensmeier Family
Sat	27	5:00 PM	HC	+ Dorothy Gentrup
Sun	28	8:30 AM	HC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Sun	28	10:00 AM	SJ	+ John Davis
SJ—St. Joseph's		HC—Holy Cross		
WCC—Wisner Care Center		CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer		

Lent IS A TIME TO  
**GROW**  
CLOSER TO JESUS