

## 2nd Sunday of Easter April 11, 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

402-529-3531

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

### Second Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday



*"I shall sing forever the Lord's mercy." (Ps 89 [88]) This Sunday is popularly known as Mercy of God Sunday. Between 1930 and 1938 Christ appeared to Sister Faustina, a Sister of Mercy in Poland who initiated the Divine Mercy devotion. She was canonized on April 30, 2000, the Sunday after Easter, the Feast of Divine Mercy. On Good Friday, 1937, Jesus re-*

*quested that Blessed Faustina make a special novena before the Feast of Mercy, from Good Friday through the following Saturday. Jesus also asked that a picture be painted according to the vision of Himself as the fountain of mercy. He gave her a chaplet to be recited and said that it was appropriate to pray the chaplet at three o'clock each afternoon (the Hour of Great Mercy).*

The Holy Gospel that the Liturgy presents to us on this second Sunday of Easter, is one of the most well known, discussed, and appreciated—the meeting of the Risen Lord with St Thomas. The Fathers of the Church have given us numerous insights into this Gospel text. Likewise, it has proven the inspiration to the numerous artists who have physically represented the events of this Gospel in order to give us a clear idea of what happened, ‘eight days after’ the first apparition of the Risen One, to the disciples congregated in the cenacle.

Jesus’ response to Thomas, after he recognized Him as ‘My Lord and my God’, has a mysterious fascination that must relate not so much to the disciples—those who ‘have seen’—but rather to those, like us, who were added to their number afterwards. ‘You have come to believe because you have seen me. Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.’ (Jn 20:29)

The attention that these words evoke seems yet more paradoxical if we remember that the Lord had proposed, to the same author of the Gospel, what can be justly referred to as the Christian method, ‘come and see’ (Jn 1:39). How can we possibly reconcile these two phrases by Jesus that form the ideal setting for the whole of the fourth Gospel? Perhaps, in the end, the Lord decided to change His method? What do the words ‘have not seen’ really mean?

The timely recollection of the ‘eight days after,’ which is the Sunday after the Resurrection, permits us to tie our reflection to one of the most significant Eucharistic hymns composed by another Thomas, St Thomas Aquinas. In the *Adore Te Devote*, which refers to the Eucharist, we read: ‘Sight, touch, taste are all deceived in their judgement of you. But hearing suffices firmly to believe’. Combining these words with today’s Gospel we can justly affirm that the experience ‘to see’ was not denied to us, but it is in contrast with the Apostle Thomas’ physical experience, who was able to put his own finger into the holes in Christ’s hands and side, whilst we can only comprehend it in the faith which is guarded and transmitted by the Church, our Mother and Teacher.

That which we ‘have not seen’ is therefore the glorious Body of the Risen One. However, today we have the ability to ‘listen’ to the Word of God and the Magisterium of the Church and so we can ‘see’ the real Body of Christ which is the Eucharist. We can ‘see’ His Mystical Body which is the Church. We can ‘see’ Him in our lives and in the lives of our many brothers who, after meeting the Lord in a real but mysterious way, are united to Him in His Spirit!

Like Thomas, Christ calls us to fill the holes left by the instruments of the passion in His Body with our own

hands so that our lives and the verbal witness that we give proclaim His Resurrection. Our senses could betray us, but we know that we have met the Risen One and we have recognized Him!

The certain hope that Peter, who betrayed the Lord three times for fear of death, proclaims to us with the words, ‘rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy’ (1 Peter 1:8), become fully comprehensible because blessed are they that ‘have not seen’ the Risen Lord, but seeing the joy of His disciples ‘have believed’ in Him!

*In Courtesy of the Congregation of the Clergy*



### From Fr. Vincent's Desk:

#### Supply Priests:

While I’m away for my annual vacation, Fr. Norman Hunke will be the main celebrant on the weekend of April 10/11<sup>th</sup> 2021. Fr. Norman is a retired priest in our Archdiocese of Omaha. We welcome him into our parish.

#### Mass attendance Dispensation Comes to End

The Archbishop of Omaha, Most Rev. George Lucas, after some consultations with several stake holders will be ending the general dispensation from the obligation to participate in Sunday Mass, in our Archdiocese effective the weekend of Pentecost, May 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. Many parishes have been experiencing increase in Mass attendance recently and vaccines are more widely available. However, we are recommended to still follow the DHHS guidelines.

While the responsibility to participate in Mass rests with each of us, there are persons who may consider themselves as excused under certain circumstances. For instance, those in advanced age, the sick, disabled persons, or anyone with any other serious conditions are excused. Also, those who feel they are at high risk of contracting COVID, are also excused. I will communicate with leaders so that we plan something for our parish on the Pentecost weekend or shortly after. Let us prayerfully consider this as an invitation to come back and connect in our parishes.

#### Week of Prayer for Vocations

Our Archdiocese of Omaha has been experiencing a very low admissions of young men into the seminary for the priesthood. This year we have no ordinations. Parents do not underestimate your role as a vocation promoter. You are a primary person in encouraging vocations. As parents especially those of young people, help us to create a positive image of priesthood, share good and encouraging stories about your church with your children. For example, I went to the seminary because my mother gave me a chance to serve Mass on Sundays and she used to share so much of her great experiences with Missionary priests while she was in a boarding grade school run by Catholic nuns. I still remember all those stories. She created an idealistic dream of priesthood in me. We thank God out of our family of 9, two of us are now catholic priests. Let us prayerfully consider this as part of our collective responsibility to encourage young people to join the seminary.

As a result of this challenge of vocations, the Archdiocese has dedicated the week of ordination as a week for prayer for vocations. That will be on May 30<sup>th</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. I would like each of our parish to have at least three new volunteers to act as Vocation committee. Please consider this noble task and I will work with you. Anyone interested, for Wisner send your name to Sarah Jacobs, our Parish bookkeeper, and for Holy Cross, send to Renae Carlson the part time parish secretary. I will meet with this committee on early May and plan for the prayer week for Vocations.

**Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer**  
**Weekend of April 18th**

**WORD:** Shelly Wellman  
**EMHC:** Marjorie Gentrup, Susan Niewohner  
**PRIASE:** Marge Gentrup, JoAnn Steffensmeier  
**USHER:** Gerald Gentrup

**Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner**  
**Weekend of April 17th & 18th**

**LEC:** Joyce Stalp  
**EMHC:** Janet Ludwig  
**SERV:** Aidan McBride, DeVine Streeter  
**USHER:** April Men's Group

**LEC:** Bonnie Styskal  
**EMHC:** Alan Harms  
**EMHC 2:** Madonna Servi  
**SERV:** Ella Jacobs, Maddisyn Lampman  
**USHER:** April Men's Group

| Stewardship of God's Gifts |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Holy Cross—April 4, 2021   |                   |
| Sunday Envelopes:          | \$560.00          |
| Plate:                     | 127.00            |
| Easter:                    | 3,520.00          |
| Easter Flowers:            | 325.00            |
| Works of Mercy:            | 3,855.00          |
| Building Fund:             | 10.00             |
| <b>Totals:</b>             | <b>\$8,397.00</b> |

**MONEY COUNTERS**  
**Sunday, April 11th—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder**  
**Sunday, April 18th—Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer**

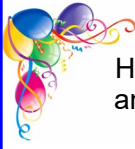
**THANK YOU** to all who helped with the ministries and décor during Holy Week. It made it a prayerful and beautiful time even with some adjustments this year.

**APRIL MOWING GROUP:** Chair: Mike Gentrup  
 Members: Sam Steffensmeier, Scott Ortmeier, Ethan Ortmeier, Brian Gentrup, Jeff Robertson

**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

| Stewardship of God's Gifts |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| St. Joseph—April 4, 2021   |            |
| Sunday Envelopes:          | \$1,195.00 |
| Easter Envelopes:          | 5,300.00   |
| Easter Plate:              | 819.26     |
| Heating/AC                 | 285.00     |
| Works of Mercy:            | 1,275.00   |
| Cemetery:                  | 100.00     |



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

**Birthdays:**  
 Gauge Bramble - April 13  
 Marjorie Gentrup - April 14  
 Ella Schulz - April 17

## Religious Education

### ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6

The afternoon started with all gathering in the church and the 6th grade led the prayer service to "Resurrect the Alleluia and the Gloria" that we buried at the start of Lent. We also sent a video to Fr. Vincent showing the kids singing "He is Here". The kindergarten talked about the excitement of Easter and also discussed how Jesus taught through stories and how we have stories at Mass. They then discussed the stories of David & Goliath and Daniel and the lion's den. The 1st grade talked about Jesus's death on the cross on Good Friday and his rising from the dead on Easter Sunday.

**This week:** Class from 4:00p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Students will recite prayers for the last time this Spring.

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

**Grades 7th-8th:** We began our Lesson 8 "Hope & the Future" as we finished our snacks. We have help to live our lives and vocations through prayer, the Eucharist, Reconciliation, and good friends and role models. Our plan for life always needs to put God first for true happiness. Class as usual next week.

**Grades 9th-12th:** No Class


**This week:** Class from 7:00p.m. to 8:30p.m. Will continue watching and discussing the first series of The Chosen.



**PROM MASS:** St. Joseph's welcomes all Wisner-Pilger Jr./Sr. prom goes to attend our 5:00 pm Mass. There will be a short blessing and picture taking after.

**SENIOR SUNDAY** will be May 2nd at the 10:00 Mass with a breakfast to follow for senior graduates and their family members. Parents, please RSVP to Barb Deitloff or Rina McGuire by April 23rd.





**Thank you**

**Special thanks** to all who donated lilies and flowers this Easter season! Gary & Carmen Godbersen in memory of Vern & Gail Godbersen; Dave & Carol Oligmueller in memory of Jayda Marie Oligmueller; Mark & Martha Schweers in memory of Vincent and Catherine Ulrich; Nancy Bruning & Family in memory of Darrell Bruning; Tim & Joyce Stalp in memory of Bob and Illa Stalp, Wayne and Mary Wiese, and Joshua Stalp; Shane & Tammie Batenhorst in memory of Beata Batenhorst; Rick & Sarah Jacobs in memory of Ralph and Irma Donner; Bob & Judy Feller in memory of Leo and Delores Rief & William and Clara Feller; Russ Loberg Family in memory of Wade Loberg and Karen Frederickson; Madonna Servi in memory of Ted, Louise & Ron Esser and Gary Servi; Dianne Dixon in memory of Jack and Chuck Dixon, Linda & Larry Hansen in memory of George and Marcella Koester, Doug Koester, John and Adala Koester, & Leonard and Ricky Adams; Sally & Alan Harms in memory of William and Laura Winter & Rudolph and Donna Harms; Arvid & Karen Hass in memory of Arvid L. & Genevieve Hass; Anne & Steve Ausdemore in memory of Bill, Leo and Flavia Ausdemore; Chris & Lori Ruskamp in memory of Norbert Ruskamp and Mary Jo Barent.

| MASS INTENTIONS |    |          |     |   |
|-----------------|----|----------|-----|---|
| Mon             | 12 | —        | —   | <b>NO MASS</b>                            |
| Tue             | 13 | 9:30 AM  | WCC | <b>NO MASS</b>                            |
| Wed             | 14 | 8:00 AM  | HC  | <b>NO MASS</b>                            |
| Thu             | 15 | 8:00 AM  | SJ  | <b>NO MASS</b>                            |
| Fri             | 16 | 9:00 AM  | CHB | <b>NO MASS</b>                            |
| Sat             | 17 | 5:00 PM  | SJ  | <b>PROM MASS</b><br>+ Norbert Ruskamp     |
| Sun             | 18 | 8:30 AM  | HC  | + Wayne Emanuel                           |
| Sun             | 18 | 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

**TEAMMATES** Join the TeamMates Mentoring Program in Wisner on Friday, April 16th, from 6-7 PM to participate in the One Hour Walk: Making a Difference for Youth! The Walk will be held at the Wisner-Pilger Track. Registration will begin at 5:30, with the Walk starting at 6:00 PM. For additional information call Staci Jensen at 529-3338.