

3rd Sunday of Easter
April 18, 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: stjo68791@gmail.com

The 3rd Sunday of Easter



Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. As they were saying this, Jesus himself stood among them. But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." (Luke 24:35-39).

The **first reading**, taken from the Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15, 17-19, relates the story of Peter and John's meeting with a man crippled from birth who asked them for alms. Peter said he had neither gold nor silver, but he would give him something better and proceeded to heal him.

The **Gospel** is from St. Luke 24:35-48. Our Lord's glorious resurrection is the crowning miracle of his sojourn on earth among men. It is the foundation and cornerstone of our Christian religion. His death on Calvary proved that he was really human; his resurrection proved he was also divine. During his public life he had claimed to be God. Had that claim been untrue God the Father could not have raised him from the dead. By his death he made atonement for the sins of the world — "he nailed them to the tree of the cross"; by his resurrection he opened the gates of death for all men and made them heirs to the eternal life.

We need hardly delay to prove the fact of the resurrection of Christ, for without it there would have been no Christianity, no Christian Church. In the story of the appearance which precedes today's Gospel, we are told how two of Christ's disciples were so depressed and disorientated by his death that they were giving up all interest in the dead Master and were returning home at the first opportunity (the Sabbath, Saturday, had intervened and they could not travel on that day). The Apostles were no better since Good Friday. They had remained behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. They had no hope left. They too would have left Jerusalem that Sunday were it not for the story brought by Mary Magdalene that Christ's body had been taken from the tomb. When the risen Christ appeared to the ten Apostles (Thomas was absent) they thought he was a ghost, so far were their thoughts from a possible resurrection.

When the truth sank into their minds, however, they became changed men. After Pentecost day they fearlessly proclaimed to the Jews, of whom they had been frightened, that Christ whom those same Jews had crucified, had risen and was now glorified by the Father. Thousands of Jews in Jerusalem had come to believe in Christ, because they were convinced, he had risen and was the Messiah and the Son of God, as he claimed to be. The four Evangelists testify to the truth of the resurrection and we have the exceptional witness of St. Paul whose radical change of life can have only one explanation — he saw the risen Christ on the road to Damascus.

Human life has always been the great enigma for philosophers down through the ages. The resurrection of Christ, which causes and guarantees our resurrection, is the one and only explanation of that enigma. If death were the end of man, with all his gifts of intellect and will; if the grave were to enclose forever this noble being whom God has raised above all other earthly creatures and has endowed with super-mundane gifts and aspirations, then indeed man's sojourn on earth would be an inexplicable enigma. But the gifts God gave to man were not simply to help him to make a precarious living and enjoy a fleeting happiness, interspersed with much sadness, for sixty, seventy or even a hundred years. No, they were intended to last for eternity and to reach their real fruition in eternity.

With St. Paul then, we may well sing out today: "O death where is thy victory, O death where is thy sting...thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15 : 55-57). Yes, Easter time is a time of rejoicing for every true Christian. It is a time for Alleluias, for praising and thanking God. Our happy future is within our reach. Our eternal happiness has been won for us by Christ and is within our grasp, if only we hold fast to the true faith of Christ, taking the rough with the smooth, going through our lesser Gethsemanes and Calvaries as Christ went through his great ones. If we do this, we can hopefully await the angel who will roll back the stone from our grave one day, and allow us to enter into the glory of the eternal Easter in heaven.

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



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 17th & 18th. 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 22nd/23rd. 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 30th – June 5th, 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 in early May and plan for the prayer week for Vocations.

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of April 24th & 25th

WORD: Renae Carlson, Rita Eichelberger
EMHC: Dawn Peatrowsky, Tom Peatrowsky
Ann Bausch, Gerald Schlickbernd
PRIASE: Betty Guenther, Rosie McNamara
USHER: Melvin Niewohner, Fred Gentrup

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of April 25th

LEC: Jeff Phillips
EMHC: Anne Ausdemore
EMHC 2: Richard Schultz
SERV: Emma Schroetlin, Mariah Andersen
USHER: April Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts
Holy Cross—April 11, 2021

Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,584.00
Plate:	75.00
Easter:	4,275.50
Building Fund:	300.00
GA/CC:	1,000.00
HELP/Fuel:	200.00
Insurance:	20.00
Totals:	\$7,454.50

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

Celebrations:

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

Birthdays:

Alan Batenhorst April 21
Art Fernandez April 23

Anniversaries:

Josh and Sherron Bramble April 8



Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6

The students finished reciting prayers to the prayer personnel for this Spring. The 3rd grade had a lesson on Pentecost and reviewed for their final test.

This week: Students will take their year-end tests. Reminder that final class is May 5th.

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

Grades 7th-8th: We began with our Litany of Love prayer to God. We then had a review of what we learned this year. We ended with a Litany of St. Joseph and prayer for his guidance and protection, in this his holy year. Class as usual this week.

Grades 9th-12th: Watched and discussed the 2nd episode of The Chosen and then ended with closing prayer.

This week: Class as normal from 7:00 - 8:30. Reminder that final class is May 5th.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	19	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	20	9:30 AM	WCC	NO MASS
Wed	21	8:00 AM	HC	NO MASS
Thu	22	8:00 AM	SJ	NO MASS
Fri	23	9:00 AM	CHB	NO MASS
Sat	24	5:00 PM	HC	Lvng & Dec'd Members of the Henry & Eleanor Spenner Family
Sun	25	8:30 AM	HC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Sun	25	10:00 AM	SJ	+ Herb Albers Jr.
SJ—St. Joseph's		HC—Holy Cross		
WCC—Wisner Care Center		CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer		

MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, April 18th—Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer
Sunday, April 25th—Team #1 Mary VonSeggern, Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore

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 11, 2021

Sunday Envelopes:	\$2,850.00
Plate:	202.00
Easter Envelopes:	205.00
Heating/AC	20.00



PROM MASS: St. Joseph's welcomes all Wisner-Pilger Jr./Sr. prom goers to 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.



ST. JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL...is looking for parishioners to be on the ballot for the 2021-2023 election. The council meets about every quarter or so, depending on the needs of the parish. We are looking for 4 men and 4 women to be on the ballot. The outgoing members are Shane Batenhorst, Tyler Oligmueller, Kari Moeller, and Becky McGuire. Please contact any of them, or Sarah at the parish office if you would like to be involved.

Updates of St. Joseph's Church Maintenance and Repairs Capital Campaign

We are most grateful to all our parishioners who have already made a donation and pledged to our parish Capital campaign. As of today, we currently have \$77,730 committed towards our goal of \$150,000, with 29 out of 140 of our parish families participating which is 21% of our total parishioners. If you have not taken the opportunity to make a donation, you may drop off your commitment card to the parish office or place it in the collection basket next weekend.



Prayer Chain info.....St. Joseph prayer group is open to all men and women of the parish. The prayer request notifications come to you via text or phone call, and you are not asked to pass on the requests (like past prayer chains have required). You simply include the request in your regular prayers and there is no meeting involved.

If you or a loved one need extra prayers, please let us know. The information you give can be as general or specific as you'd like. All members of the prayer group are asked to keep the intentions confidential. To be added to the prayer group or to ask for special prayer requests, please notify Father Vincent or call or text Anne at 402-750-9616.