

4th Sunday of Easter
April 25, 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

The 4th Sunday of Easter
World day of Prayer for Vocations



I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. A hired man, who is not a shepherd and whose sheep are not his own, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf catches and scatters them. This is because he works for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know mine and mine know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I will lay down my life for the sheep (Jn 10:11-15).

Today is the feast of St. Mark which is superseded by the Sunday Liturgy.

The **first reading** is taken from the Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12. This excerpt is a sequence of what was described in last Sunday's first reading. Peter had cured a cripple-from-birth and told the people that it was not by his own power that he did this, but through the power of Jesus of Nazareth, whom the Jews had crucified.

The **Gospel** is from St. John 10:11-18. The image of Christ as our Good Shepherd has always appealed to human nature. One of the earliest paintings of Christ in the Roman catacombs represents him as carrying an injured sheep on his shoulders. This is a manifestation of love which touches our innermost feelings. We do not mind being likened to sheep in this context. There is something guileless about a sheep, and at the same time a lot of foolishness. Does not this describe the vast majority of men, even many of those who openly oppose Christ? Is there not something very sheeplike about the man who, because God gave him a limited intellect, thinks he knows all things and needs no further help from God? The sheep who thinks it knows as much, and even more, than the shepherd and sets out to fend for itself, is no more foolish than the man who thinks he can do without God's revelation and God's Church.

Indeed we all act like sheep on many occasions, when it comes to the things that concern our spiritual welfare. We often ramble off from the flock to nibble at little bits of forbidden pasture. However, we have a Shepherd who understands us, one whose patience and love are infinite. He is always ready to go after us when we stray too far; his voice is constantly reaching out to us in missions, retreats, sicknesses, crosses and other various ways. How many times have we already felt his loving grace calling and helping us back to the safety of his fold?

There are many who are not so fortunate as we, who either through no fault of their own or through their own fault do not hear his voice and do not know or follow him. This is an opportunity he gives us to show how we appreciate all he has done for us. He died on the cross for all men. He wills all men to profit by his death, and his statement "them also I must bring" is a direct appeal to us to cooperate with him in this work. Every Christian is a missionary. The very fact of living the Christian life in its entirety, in the midst of our fellowmen, is of itself a powerful example to outsiders. It influences for good the lax Christian and the non-Christian. It makes them stop and think and look into their consciences. This is generally the first step on the road back to God.

The devout Christian will not stop at good example only. If he truly loves God, he must truly love his neighbor and must want him to have a share in his own good fortune. He knows there is welcome and room in heaven for all men, and he knows that the greater the number there the greater will be God's eternal glory. He will strive then by every available means to help his neighbor into Christ's fold.

After good example, prayer will be his most potent weapon. Day in, day out the devout Christian must pray for the conversion of his fellowmen who are wandering aimlessly in the barren desert of this life far from God. He must also learn all he can about the truths of his faith in order to be able to help honest enquirers. He must also cooperate with any parochial or diocesan societies for the propagation of the faith, insofar as his family and financial state allow him.

The sermon preached by our Savior nearly two thousand years ago is still echoing and re-echoing around the world, calling on his faithful flock to do all in their power to help those other children of God who are still outside the fold. Do not shut your ears to this call of Christ today. Give him a helping hand by helping your fellowman to see the light of the true faith.

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



From Fr. Vincent's' Desk:

Supply Priests:

While I'm away, Fr. Matthew Niggemeyer will be the main celebrant on the weekend of April 24th & 25th. Fr. Matt is a priest from St. Mary's Parish in West Point. 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.

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 \$80,730 committed towards our goal of \$150,000, with 30 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.

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of May 2nd

WORD:
EMHC:
PRIASE:
USHER:

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of May 1st & 2nd


LEC: Kathy Johnson
EMHC: Shane Batenhorst
SERV: Dayton Gentrup, Jordyn Gentrup
USHER: May Men's Group

LEC: Dave McGuire
EMHC: Tammie Batenhorst
EMHC 2: Martha Schweers
SERV: Ghia Bramble, Hayden Schroeder
USHER: May Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts Holy Cross—April 18, 2021	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$825.00
Plate:	107.00
Building Fund:	5.00

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


MAY MOWING GROUP: Chair: Tim Oligmueller
Members: Shane Coombs, Jesus Pena, Robert Praest, Ron Guenther, Dan Spenner



Celebrations:

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

Birthdays:
Robin Hansen April 27



Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6

The students took their year-end tests for this semester. The 4th grade class discussed Pentecost and wrote thank you notes to the people that donated items for the "emergency back packs" that they will be taking to The Bridge in West Point.

This week: Students will finish year-end tests.
May 5th: Final class from 4:00 - 5:30

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

Grades 7th-8th: We began our movie "Risen" about the death and rising of Jesus from the perspective of the Roman soldier who looked for His body and His followers. Surprise! He was truly alive again! Will finish next week.

Grades 9th-12th: Watched and discussed episode 3 of The Chosen and then finished with closing prayer.

This week: Class as normal from 7:00 - 8:30
May 5th: Final class from 7:00 - 8:30



MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	26	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	27	9:30 AM	WCC	NO MASS
Wed	28	8:00 AM	HC	NO MASS
Thu	29	8:00 AM	SJ	NO MASS
Fri	30	9:00 AM	CHB	NO MASS
Sat	01	5:00 PM	SJ	+ Ben Stalp
Sun	02	8:30 AM	HC	+ Joseph Steffensmeier
Sun	02	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		

MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, April 25th—Team #1 Mary VonSeggern, Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore
Sunday, May 2nd—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder

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

MEN'S WORK GROUP—May 2021

Chair: Jim Jensen
Co-Chair: Jesse Grenier
Members: Jeremy Rehak, Fred Schultz, Chris Ruskamp, Richard Schultz, Gerald Ruskamp, Beau Ruskamp, Caleb Rehak

Stewardship of God's Gifts St. Joseph—April 18, 2021	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,820.00
Plate:	221.00
Easter:	200.00
Heating/AC:	165.00
Works of Mercy:	50.00
Cemetery:	25.00

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 at 402-292-6461, or Rina McGuire at 402-649-7796, by April 25th. 2021

ST. JOSEPH PARISH COUNCIL nominees for this years election are:

Chris Ruskamp	Lindsey Burki
Matt Albers	Ruth Bloedorn
Trevor Cyboron	Kyla Miller
Tim Montgomery	Anne McBride
Mark Porter	Megan Feller

These names will run in the bulletin for 2 weeks, and the election will be held the weekend of May 15th and 16th. Each adult parishioner will vote for 2 men and 2 women that will replace the 4 outgoing members.

LOST AND FOUND ITEMS: There have been several pieces of clothing, books and other items left in the church over the past several months to a year. They will be set out on a table in the basement of church. Anything not claimed by May 31, will be donated.

