

6th Sunday of Easter
May 9, 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: stj068791@gmail.com

The 6th Sunday of Easter – May 9th 2021



As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15:9-13).

The **first reading** is taken from the Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48 and describes the reception of the first Gentiles into the Christian Church.

The **Gospel** is from St. John 15:9-17. It is only a few weeks since Good Friday when we commemorated the agonizing death of Christ on Mount Calvary. This was an excruciating, shameful death even for hardened criminals who deserved it. But for our loving Savior, the innocent lamb of God, one who had never offended God or neighbor, it was something of which the whole human race should be ashamed forever. What caused Christ that torment and death on the cross was our sins, the sins of all mankind and not the spite and hatred of his Jewish opponents, who were only instruments in the tragedy. Atonement had to be made to God for the sins of the world, so that men could reach the eternal inheritance which the incarnation made available to them. However, not all the acts of the entire human race could make a sufficient atonement to God. A sacrifice, an expiation of infinite value was needed. The death of the Son of God in his human nature was alone capable of making such an expiation.

That Christ willingly accepted crucifixion for our sakes, that he gave the greatest proof of love which the world has ever known, by laying down his life for his friends, did not make his sufferings any less, did not ease any of the pains of Calvary. His agony in the Garden before his arrest shows this: he foresaw all the tortures and pains which he was to undergo and sweated blood at the thought of what awaited him. But he was to keep his Father's commandment "not my will but thine be done." We Christians must have hearts of stone, hearts devoid of all sense of gratitude, when we forget what Christ has done for us and deliberately offend him! Alas, this is what all of us do sometimes, and many of us do all the time. Christ died to bring us to heaven but we tell him, by our sins, that he was wasting his time. We do not want to go to heaven, we are making our happiness here!

Because God gave us a free will we can in a moment of folly, a moment of madness really, deprive ourselves of the privileges and possessions which Christ has made available to us. We can choose to exchange an eternity of happiness for a few fleeting years of self-indulgence on earth. We can fling Christ's gift of love back in his face and tell him we don't want it. God forbid that we should ever act like this, that we should ever forget God's purpose in creating us. It is a marvelous thing to be alive, if we have hope in a future life. If nothing awaited us but the grave, then to live on this earth, which is a valley of sorrow and tears for the vast majority, would be the cruelest of jests. But of this we need have no fear. Life on earth is but a short prelude to our real existence. If we use this brief period as Christ has told us how to use it, death for us will be the passage into the eternal mansions. Be grateful to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; love the Blessed Trinity; prove your

love by loving your fellowmen. By doing this you are fulfilling the whole law and the prophets; and you are assuring yourself of the place in heaven which Christ has won for you.

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



From Fr. Vincent's' Desk:

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 \$89,730 committed towards our goal of \$150,000, with 34 out of 140 of our parish families participating which is 24% 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.

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 the 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 parishes to have at least three new volunteers to act as a 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 Book Keeper, 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 May 16th

WORD: Renae Carlson
EMHC: Dawn Peatrowsky, Tom Peatrowsky
PRIASE: Marge Gentrup JoAnn Steffensmeier
USHER: Gerald Gentrup

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of May 15th & 16th

LEC: John Woerdemann
EMHC: Madonna Servi
SERV: Joel Good, Erica Good
USHER: May Men's Group

LEC: Diane Davies
EMHC: Steve Ausdemore
EMHC 2: Kathy Johnson
SERV: Jesa Montgomery, Lillian Leathers
USHER: May Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—May 2, 2021	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,140.00
Plate:	29.25
Easter:	1,001.90
Works of Mercy:	500.00
Total:	2,671.15

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

CONGRATULATIONS to Henry Robertson on his upcoming graduation from Madonna School in Omaha, to Griffen Robinson on his graduation from West Point-Beemer High School, and to Ben Oligmueller on his recent Confirmation. **GOD BLESS YOU ALL!**


MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, May 9th—Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer

Sunday, May 16th—Team #1 Mary VonSeggern, Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore

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



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

Birthdays:
 Stella Guenther May 9

Anniversaries:
 Eugene and Lavina Mestl, May 12
 Joe and Robin Hansen, May 12

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—May 2, 2021	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$2,025.00
Plate:	144.00
Heating/AC:	50.00
Ascension:	25.00

Find HOPE and healing. ARE YOU PREGNANT AND NEED HELP? Call/text 888.550.1588 or visit loveline.com
 HAVE YOU TAKEN THE FIRST DOSE OF THE ABORTION PILL? It may not Be too late to save your baby. Call 877.558.0999 or visit abortionpillreversal.com
 FREE, CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELING FOR WOMEN AND MEN EXPERIENCING GRIEF AFTER ABORTION Call 888.456.HOPE (4673) or Visit hopeafterabortion.com



FIRST COMMUNION

Today is First Communion and we have 4 second graders that are celebrating this special event. This year's students are: Brodrick Burki, Sawyer Kloth, Ty Montgomery and Cooper Schultz. Please say a prayer for them and congratulate them on this special day.

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 |

The election will be take place next weekend, May 15th and 16th. Ballots will be in the pews and collected during or after Mass. 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.



Welcome to St. Joseph's and Holy Cross Parishes
 We welcome all our guests and new members to our parishes. There are many opportunities for experiencing the peace and joy of our loving God in liturgy, groups, committees and volunteer service to the church. If you would like to join our parish family, contact the parish office or send an email to:
 For St. Joseph—stjo68791@gmail.com
 For Holy Cross—renaecarlson@hotmail.com



MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	10	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	11	9:30 AM	WCC	+ Marie Woerdemann
Wed	12	8:00 AM	HC	+ Alvin Dinslage
Thu	13	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Vincent & Catherine Ulrich
Fri	14	9:00 AM	CHB	Colonial Haven Pastoral Care
Sat	15	5:00 PM	SJ	Lvng & Dec'd Members of The Ron & MaryAnn Wemhoff Family
Sun	16	8:30 AM	HC	+ Art & Marcella Kalvoda
Sun	16	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		

Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6

It was the final class of the year. The 4th grade delivered Crisis Bags for Kids to The Bridge in West and also visited St. Francis Convent. 2nd grade had rehearsal for First Communion. The 3rd grade finished watching the movie "We Bought A Zoo". Other grades enjoyed fun activities and snacks. Have a great Summer!

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

Grades 7th-8th: We prayed, ate pizza and ice cream, then played a game of "Left, Right" with prizes. This was our last session for the season. Have a safe and holy summer! See you at Mass!

Grades 9th-12th: Since it was the final class of the year, the students spent time socializing and enjoying a trip to Dairy Keen for ice cream treats. Have a great Summer!