

**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 30, 2022**

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 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time



The **First Reading** is taken from the book of Jeremiah (Jer 1:4-5, 17-19). Jeremiah is the second of the four great prophets of Israel; a contemporary of Zephaniah, Nahum, and Habakkuk. He was born in the last part of the reign of Manasseh, about 645 years before the birth of Jesus and almost a century after Isaiah. Today's reading comes from the prologue which gives an account of Jeremiah's calling. It is a dialog between Yahweh and Jeremiah.

The **Gospel** reading is taken from St. Luke (Lk 4:21-30). There is a shocking turnaround in today's Gospel. The people with whom Jesus grew up were assembled in the Nazareth synagogue. After they heard him read Sacred Scripture and give a one sentence homily "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" St. Luke tells us that "all spoke well of him and were AMAZED at the gracious words that came from his mouth." But that amazement soon turned into doubt and then into fury.

This rejection of Jesus by his own townfolks must have sincerely grieved him. But it was only the beginning of similar rejections. Their attempt to murder him was an indication of what was yet to come. "To his own he came but his own did not accept him" as St. John says (1:11). The reason was that the Messiah they were looking for was a political leader who would make Israel a political power not only among the nations but over the other nations. Nearly all the messianic prophecies had references to the universality of the messianic kingdom—this universality they interpreted in a political, worldly sense. Their interest in things spiritual was then at a very low ebb and therefore the message of Christ had little interest for them. They did not want a spiritual kingdom.

For seventeen centuries they had been God's Chosen People, and they were proud of their superiority over the sinful Gentiles who did not know the true God. That very pride of theirs was their undoing. The Gentiles were God's children too, and they also were to share in the new kingdom which the Messiah would establish, but the very thought of this was abhorrent to the vast majority of the Jews.

In spite of all their opposition, however, Jesus spent his public life amongst them. He gave them the first offer of entering the new kingdom. They could still continue to be God's Chosen People together with, and alongside, the other nations of the earth. They refused. And their refusal went so far as to call in the aid of the hated Gentiles to crucify the One—their own fellow Jew—who had come to bring them the message of the true kingdom and the offer of being its first citizens.

There were exceptions, of course, and honorable exceptions at that. Christ founded his Church, the new kingdom of God on the Apostles, who were Jews, and through their noble sacrifices and efforts, the kingdom spread to all the Gentile nations of the earth. Because of their sacrifices, we are Christians, members of Christ's kingdom on earth and heirs to his eternal kingdom in heaven. Through our Christian teaching we have learned that our life on this earth is but a period of preparation, a period during which we can earn the true life as citizens of his eternal kingdom. How often do we, like the Jews of

Christ's day, forget this and bend all our efforts to building for ourselves a kingdom of power or wealth in this world, a kingdom which we will have to leave so soon?

We would not, of course, openly deny Christ, much less try, like his neighbors in Nazareth, to throw him to his death over a cliff: but how often in our private actions, and in our dealings with our neighbors, do we push him and his doctrine quietly aside and act as if we knew him not. In this we are no better than Christ's neighbors of Nazareth and we grieve his loving heart as much as they did on that sad day. Am I one of those (each one of us can ask himself)? Do I really love Christ or, to put it in a more personal way, do I really love myself? If I do, I will not risk losing my place in the eternal kingdom for the sake of some paltry pleasure or gain in this present life which will end for me so very soon.

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



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:

Updates on Archbishop's Annual Appeal: 21-22

Through our participation in the Archbishop's Annual Appeal, we are invited to take the Holy Spirit up on the gifts that are being offered to us. As of Tuesday Jan. 18th, 2022, our parish of Wisner had currently committed \$7,175 from 27 donors towards our goal of \$7,945.42. Holy Cross Beemer had committed \$8,609 from 23 donors and towards our goal of \$10,986.53. Thank you for those who have donated. I'm making a kind appeal to you if you did receive a letter from the archbishop, consider sending in your donation. If we all do it, this remaining balance will be cleared. According to this week's report, most of the parishes have already achieved their goal. Let us be counted among them.

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

Saint Joseph Parish Council Members 2021-2022	
Dave Deitloff— Pres.	Ruth Bloedorn—Vice Pres.
Rick Jacobs	Matt Albers
Janet Ludwig	Lindsey Burki
Mary VonSeggern	Chris Ruskamp
For contact information, please see the parish directory	

Holy Cross Parish Council Members 2021-2022	
Mike Guenther—Pres.	Trisha Robertson—V.P.
Mike Gentrup	Tracy Oligmueller—Sec.
Robert Praest	Michelle Borgmann
For contact information, please see the parish directory	

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer

Weekend of February 6th

WORD: Renae Carlson
EMHC:
PRAISE:
SERVER: Gus Harrison
USHER:

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner

Weekend of February 5th & 6th

LEC: Steve McGuire
EMHC: Anne Ausdemore
SERVER: Anna Jacobs, Jordyn Gentrup
OFF: Steve McGuire
USHER: February Men's Group

LEC: Holly Schroeder
EMHC: Richard Schultz
EMHC2: Linda Hansen
SERVER: Ghia Bramble, Autumn Chohon
OFF: Tim Phillips
USHER: February Men's Group


Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—January 23, 2022	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$735.00
Plate:	87.00
Children:	12.00
Total:	\$834.00

MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, Jan. 30th—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder
 Sunday, Feb. 6th—Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer

MEN'S WORK GROUP—February 2022

Chair: Dixon Godbersen
Co-Chair: Gerald Gentrup
Members: Drew Feller, Gary Godbersen, Duane Mendlik, Blaine Johnson, Nick Schultz, Scott Mendlik, Dave Ebel



Celebrations:
 Holy Cross Parish wishes happiness and God's blessings to the following:
 NO birthdays or anniversaries

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—January 23, 2022	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$906.00
Plate:	219.00
Children:	60.26
Solemnity of Mary:	4.00

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS have been completed and mailed out. Please look for yours in your mailbox. For any questions, contact Sarah at 402-529-3891.

Learn about the importance of Church and School in our rural communities with a special program in conjunction with the current Smithsonian exhibit in Wisner. It is scheduled for this Sunday, January 30 at 1:00 p.m. in the Wisner-Pilger Fine Arts auditorium. The event will include The Heavenly Hens performing old-time hymns. Then Humanities Nebraska Speaker Paul Campbell will speak on "The Role of Church & School in Rural Nebraska", showing how small-town revitalization is based in its churches and schools. The Smithsonian exhibit on Rural America will be open following the program at the Wisner Senior Center.

Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6

Grades K-6: The 1st grade students are learning what sin is and about God's forgiveness. They are also learning about how and where Jesus prayed. The 4th grade started the Ten Commandments and are discussing the meaning of each one. All students will be reciting prayers this coming week so please help your child practice their prayers.

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

Grades 7-9: Rel. Ed.: 7-9: We have begun a new program called "Chosen" with the basis that God chose us to continue this journey toward Confirmation. Now we must choose to follow Him. We started with a "hunt" to learn more about each other and then think about what makes us happy and our life goals.

Grades 10-12: No class. There will be class this week.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	31	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	01	9:30 AM	WCC	NO MASS
Wed	02	8:00 AM	HC	NO MASS
Thu	03	8:00 AM	SJ	NO MASS
Fri	04	9:30 AM	CHB	NO MASS
Sat	05	5:00 PM	SJ	+ Robert & Illa Stalp
Sun	06	8:30 AM	HC	+ Mike McTaggart
Sun	06	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		



TRIVIA NIGHT
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
 Saturday, February 26th
 Social Hour & Registration 6-7pm
 Followed by Trivia 7-10pm
 Gather friends and family for a fun evening. Pick a theme (Hawaiian, Italian, campfire, etc) for your table then dress & decorate accordingly. \$200 reserves your table, then your group provides food and drink to fit the theme. Register by February 7th. Flyers are posted in the back of church with more details or call Paige Godbersen @ 402-604-0406. All proceeds go to St. Joseph Church.



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.

