

Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 27, 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: stjoe68791@gmail.com

The 4th Sunday of Lent



Today is the halfway mark of Lent. This Sunday is known as **Laetare Sunday** for the first word of the Introit or Entrance Antiphon *laetare* (rejoice); it is a Sunday of joy. The celebrant has the option to wear rose colored vestments. Although we don't have adult catechumens preparing for baptism in our parishes, we usually perform a ritual called second scrutiny for them. It is a second step of inquiring officially where they stand in their preparation to becoming full Catholics through the sacrament of baptism. This Sunday is our foretaste of Easter joy.

The **First Reading** is taken from the book of Joshua, 5:9, 10-12. Today's reading recounts the celebration of the Passover in the Promised Land by Joshua and those who had sojourned with him in the desert for 40 years. The **Gospel** is from St. Luke 15:1-3, 11-32. This reading recounts the parable of the Prodigal Son, one of Jesus' most beautiful parables. It teaches us once more that God is a kind and understanding Father. The son who asks for his part of the inheritance is a symbol of the person who cuts himself off from God through sin. "Although the word 'mercy' does not appear, [this parable] nevertheless expresses the essence of the divine mercy in a particularly clear way" (John Paul II, *Dives in misericordia*, 5).

Mercy — as Christ has presented it in the parable of the prodigal son — has *the interior form of the love* that in the New Testament is called *agape*. This love is able to reach down to every prodigal son, to every human misery, and above all to every form of moral misery, to sin. When this happens, the person who is the object of mercy does not feel humiliated, but rather found again and 'restored to value'. The father first and foremost expresses to him his joy, that he has been 'found again' and that he has 'returned to life'. This joy indicates a good that has remained intact: even if he is a prodigal, a son does not cease to be truly his father's son; it also indicates a good that has been found again, which in the case of the prodigal son was his return to the truth about himself".

LIVE LENT TOGETHER!

Join us for scripture, prayer and fellowship this Lent.
Small groups are starting in both parishes.

Holy Cross

Tuesday, **March 29** at Sue Steffensmeier's home at 2:00 P.M., and Wednesday, **March 30** at Holy Cross rectory at 5:30 P.M. Let Marilyn (402-380-0676) know which you will be attending to have materials ready.

St. Joseph's

Tuesday, **March 29** at noon in the basement of St. Joseph Church, and Wednesday, **March 30** at 7:00 P.M. at Anne Ausdemore's home. Contact Anne (402-750-9616) or Ruth (402-640-3446) to attend either group.

All are welcome!



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:

Kenya Mission Trip Presentation

I have had several people asking about our Mission Trip to Kenya. We have put together some pictures and video clips in a PowerPoint along with a few notes of the places we visited, the people we met and the things we did. If you are interested and would like to listen and watch, Holy Cross will host a potluck on Saturday, March 26th after Mass in the basement hall. St. Joseph's date will be on Sunday, May 1st, in the basement hall with refreshments provided.

Today's Catechism – Let's learn something about our Catholic Faith

Chapter 12: Purgatory

What is Purgatory? It is a place or state of temporary punishment after death, for sinners who have damaged their union with God. In Mt. 12:32, we read: *"Let anyone speak against the Holy Spirit and he will not be forgiven in the world or next."*

How do we know there is a purgatory? The Bible, the constant teaching of the church and even our own common sense prove that there is purgatory. (*"Fire will test the quality of each person's work. If his structure stands up to it, he will get his wages. If it is burnt down, he will be the loser and through he is saved himself, it will be as one who has gone through fire."* 1st Cor. 3:14-15).

How does common sense prove the existence of purgatory? Only people with mortal sin go to hell and no one enters to heaven with any stain of sin. Then there must be a place or reparation for people who fall in between with lesser offences and shortcomings.

Who goes to Purgatory?

Those who die while guilty of unrepented venial sins and those who die without having done sufficient penance to strengthen their union with God or their determination not to sin.

Is there suffering in purgatory for those who go there? Yes, they suffer its cleansing pains or purification.

How long does purgatory last for those who go there? No one knows. It is likely that it will depend on the number of and seriousness of the sins to be atoned for. (Mt. 5:26 Amen, I say to you, thou will not come out from it until you have paid the last penny".)

Where do you go when you leave purgatory? To heaven to be in union with God in eternal perfect joy.

Can you help the souls in purgatory?

Yes, we can help them by having Masses said for the souls, praying for them and doing good works for them. (James 5:17 *The heartfelt prayer of a good man works very powerfully*).

Does the Bible say anything about praying for the dead? Yes, we read that Judas Maccabeus sent twelve thousand drachmas of silver to Jerusalem for sacrifice to be offered for the sins of the dead (2nd Macc. 12:43). *"It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead"*.

How can you avoid purgatory? Strive to avoid offending God and by doing penance for your sins.

Fourth Sunday Of




Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of March 3rd

WORD: Tom Peatrowsky
EMHC: Mary Mostek
SERVER: Gus & Bryn Harrison

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—March 20, 2022	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$830.00
Plate:	18.00
Children:	13.00
Ukraine Relief:	406.05
Total:	\$1,267.05

HOLY CROSS POTLUCK THIS SATURDAY after Mass on March 26th. A presentation of the Kenya Mission Trip. All are welcome!

HOLY CROSS ALTAR SOCIETY will be meeting April 3rd at 5:30 in the church basement. No lunch and no Friday bingo for the guild ladies this month.



Celebrations:

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

Birthdays:
Scott Ortmeier March 31

ADORATION & STATIONS OF THE CROSS

At HOLY CROSS
6:30 pm—Adoration & 7:00 pm—Stations of the Cross
Fridays, Mar. 4th—April 8th

PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATIONS

ST. JOSEPH—Sunday, April 3rd after Mass
HOLY CROSS—Thursday, April 7th at 7:00 pm

ST. MARY'S PARISH in West Point will have an up-close experience of the most studied artifact of all time – The Shroud of Turin, what many believe to be the authentic burial cloth of Christ. **The Man of the Shroud** exhibit will include 42 beautifully designed panels on display on the lower level of St. Joseph's Retirement Home (enter through the lower-level west door) from Wednesday, March 30-Sunday, April 3. Viewing Times: Wednesday, 8 am – 8 pm, Thursday-Sunday, noon – 6 pm. Also on display will be replicas of the Crown of Thorns, whips, nails, and Holy Sponge used in the Passion of Our Lord. This exhibit will raise the questions, *"Could the Shroud be the most important archaeological artifact ever found? Does it provide clues to what happened during the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus?"* On Thursday, March 31, at 7 pm at St. Mary's, Shroud expert, **Jim Bertrand**, M.Ed. of the American Confraternity of the Holy Shroud, will give a special presentation and a rare viewing of a Shroud replica. For more information on this exhibit, visit spiritcatholicradio.com/shroud.

MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	28	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	29	9:30 AM	WCC	Care Center Residents
Wed	30	8:00 AM	HC	+ Francis Oligmueller
Thu	31	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Ron Esser
Fri	01	9:30 AM	CHB	+ Duane Batenhorst
Fri	01	6:30 PM	HC	Adoration & Stations
Sat	02	5:00 PM	SJ	Prom Mass + Deborah Houghton
Sun	03	8:30 AM	HC	+ Charles F. Hetherington
Sun	03	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				

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of April 2nd & 3rd

LEC: Alan Harms
EMHC: John Woerdemann
SERVER: Abraham Millan Jr., Haley Kneifl
OFF: Sid Kneifl
USHER: April Men's Group

LEC: Madonna Servi
EMHC: Anne Ausdemore
EMHC2: Capri McGuire
SERVER: Knoxyn Thies, Lainey Montgomery
OFF: Shane Batenhorst
USHER: April Men's Group

MONEY COUNTERS
Sunday, Mar. 27th—Team #1 Mary VonSeggern, Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore
Sunday, Apr. 3rd—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder

MEN'S WORK GROUP—March 2022
Chair: Bernie Ruskamp
Co-Chair: Steve Obermeyer
Members: Adam Brahmer, Jeff Recker, Dan Kane, Terry Soden, Ron Machacek, Shawn Davie, Tyler McBride

MEN'S WORK GROUP—April 2022
Chair: Jesse Grenier
Co-Chair: Jeremy Rehak
Members: Fred Schultz, Chris Ruskamp, Richard Schultz, Gerald Ruskamp, Jim Jensen, Willy May, Beau Ruskamp, Caleb Rehak

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—March 20, 2022	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$3,015.00
Plate:	129.00
Children:	28.00
Cemetery:	20.00
Ukraine Relief:	2,242.00



PROM MASS... Wisner-Pilger Jr./Sr. Prom is scheduled for Saturday, April 2nd. St. Josephs Church invites all prom goers to attend our 5:00 pm Mass. There will be a short blessing and picture taking after Mass.

EASTER LILY DONATIONS: There is a sign up sheet in the back of church to donate for Easter lilies and flowers in the remembrance of your loved ones. Suggested donation for lilies is \$20 each. Please complete the form as you would like to have the names listed. Thank you.



MINISTRY SCHEDULES for the second quarter have been emailed out and there are copies available on the bulletin board in the back of church. We are excited to have our 5th grade students join us on the list as they grow in their stewardship for our parish.

MEN'S LENTEN BREAKFAST: Men's breakfast is on Thursday's during Lent at 6:45 am at UMCC fellowship hall. Free will donations are welcome to support the Wisner Faith Ministerial account that assists the needy who come to our church doors for some help.

Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6
Grades K-6: Kindergarten is finishing up their "Circle of Grace" unit and reviewing their Lenten journeys. They will then be discussing how Jesus loved to bring friends together to tell them stories, just like how we still gather at church to hear stories about God's love in the various readings during mass. The afternoon closed will all classes in church with the 6th grade leading the Stations of the Cross.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS (GRADES 7 -12)
Grades 7-12: To help themselves prepare for Easter, the students celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr. Vincent. The evening ended with the Way of the Cross in which all took turns reading a different Station.