

**7th Sunday of Easter  
May 29, 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 7th Sunday of Easter**



To encounter the divine in an intimate, transcendent way is not an experience reserved for certain people because they are faithful, pious, godly, virtuous or holy. An encounter with the *mysterium tremendum* is a pure gift, initiated by the gift-giver, and is meant to be transformative and informative for the recipient and the recipient's community.

People who wish to categorize such encounters as "mystical" or "religious" experiences, labeling those who encounter the divine as "mystics," tend not to realize that the sacred one is forever present and self-revealing in the midst of all creation, among all people regardless of status, class, belief, orientation, gender, race, color, ability and age in ways that are sometimes extraordinary but more often ordinary. The theme of this Sunday's readings is encounter and intimacy.

*Acts 7:55-60* - The first reading from Acts features Stephen experiencing an encounter with the divine made possible through the gift of the Spirit. Although the reading records "Holy Spirit," not until post-biblical times did the construct of the Christian Trinity come into existence. Stephen encounters the glory of God and the risen Christ whom he sees standing at the "right hand" of God.

Is Stephen's experience an actual outward appearance of the divine? Probably not. Is it a vision? Probably so. Encounters with the divine affect all the internal faculties, allowing for things to be seen "in the mind's eye." Stephen's encounter sparks violent hostility among those who witness him speaking about and to the divine. He pays the extreme price of being prophetic. He is unjustly stoned to death, a punishment reserved for criminals. His death mirrors Jesus' death, and his prayer of forgiveness parallels Jesus' prayer at the time of the crucifixion.

Interestingly, this passage contains the image of the "right hand" that deserves to be unpacked. In the Bible, the "right hand" is preferred over the left hand. The "right hand" holds arrows, strokes the strings of lyres, extends special blessings and represents a place of honor. When associated with the deity, it shatters enemies and gains victories. The image of the "right hand," then, represents a bias imbedded not only in the text but also in past and present cultures.

*John 17:20-26* - The Gospel picks up on the theme of encounter and intimacy. The story describes the beautiful unity existing between the Godhead and Jesus. In dialogue with the divine, Jesus expresses his desire for those whom he loves, namely, that they also share in the same divine oneness that he shares in with his God. This unity, based on and flowing from love, is the palpable presence of God that reveals God to the world and continues the mission of Jesus. It is a visible expression of God's love in the community and among its members that not only reveals something of the divine but also draws others to faith. The "glory" that will be revealed in and through the love of Jesus for his own is rooted in his love for the divine and the divine's love for him.

In summary, today's Gospel as well as the other readings for this Sunday, invite us into a life of intimacy and encounter with the divine that deepens with time, a gift given not because of one's place or position in life but because of an abiding love that is forever self-revealing and distinctively unifying.

*In courtesy of Dominican Sisters*



**From Fr. Vincent's Desk:  
Parish Directory Volunteers Needed**

Time has come for a new parish directory and we are looking for at least two volunteers to help coordinate it. It involves signing up families, making appointments, confirming contact information, and organizing content. If you are interested, kindly contact us by phone at 402-529-3891 or email at [stjo68791@gmail.com](mailto:stjo68791@gmail.com).

**Open House for Vocations**

I'm inviting any young man considering priesthood to an open house evening, with us priests and Archbishop Lucas, on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from 6 pm to 8 pm at St. John Newman Center in Omaha. There will be some evening prayers along with refreshments. Mass will start at 5:30 pm. This event is open to young men who are freshmen in high school and above that are interested in priesthood or can try to do so in the future with a prayerful estimate. Help me to spread the word out there. I can be reached at 402-529-3531 or email: [vsunguti2018@gmail.com](mailto:vsunguti2018@gmail.com) or [stjo68791@gmail.com](mailto:stjo68791@gmail.com).

**Appreciation: Archbishop's Annual Appeal 2021-2022**

Thank you to all those at our parish who have responded so generously to Archbishop Lucas' invitation to join him in the work of equipping disciples and living mercy. To date, St. Joseph Church has raised \$7,995.00 towards the goal of \$7945.42; and Holy Cross Parish has raised \$10,105.00 towards a goal of \$10,986.53. Thank you all for donating to this annual Archdiocesan event to support the pastoral work and we appreciate St. Joseph Church for reaching their goal. It is never too late.

**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](mailto:stjo68791@gmail.com)  
For Holy Cross—[renaecarlson@hotmail.com](mailto:renaecarlson@hotmail.com)



Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer  
Weekend of June 5th

WORD: Doris Guenther  
EMHC: Dennis Mostek  
SERVER: Will Robertson

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner  
Weekend of June 4th & 5th

LEC: Bonnie Styskal  
EMHC: Janet Ludwig  
SERVER: Charlee Thies, Haley Kneifl  
OFF: Dave Deitloff  
USHER: June Men's Group

LEC: Dave McGuire  
EMHC: Sally Harms  
EMHC2: Richard Schultz  
SERVER: Austin Kluthe, Sydney Porter  
OFF: Rick Jacobs  
USHER: June Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts  
Holy Cross—May 22, 2022

Sunday Envelopes:	\$895.00
Plate:	91.00
Children:	17.00
Ascension:	100.00
HELP/Fuel	100.00
Total:	\$1,203.00

**MAY MOWING GROUP--** CHAIR: Mike Gentrup  
Members: Sam Steffensmeier, Scott Ortmeier, Ethan Ortmeier, Brian Gentrup, Jeff Robertson

**JUNE MOWING GROUP--** CHAIR: Dave Steffensmeier  
Members: Brian Oligmueller, Ben Borgmann, Josh Bramble, Art Fernandez, Gerald Wellman



**Celebrations:**

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

**Birthdays:**

Stan Ortmeier May 31  
Tom Peatrowsky May 31  
Vanessa Praest June 4

**Anniversaries:**

Brian and Tanya Oligmueller May 29  
Larry and Annette Bausch May 31  
Mike and Mary Kate Guenther May 31

Find HOPE and healing. ARE YOU PREGNANT AND NEED HELP: Call/text 888.550.1588 or visit [loveline.com](http://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](http://abortionpillreversal.com)  
FREE, CONFIDENTIAL COUNSELING FOR WOMEN AND MEN EXPERIENCING GRIEF AFTER ABORTION  
Call 888.456.HOPE (4673) or Visit [hopeafterabortion.com](http://hopeafterabortion.com)

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Mon	30	—	—	<b>NO MASS</b>
Tue	31	9:30 AM	WCC	Care Center Residents
Wed	01	8:00 AM	HC	+ Lorenz & Elizabeth Ruskamp
Thu	02	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Barb Albers
Fri	03	9:30 AM	CHB	+ James V. Hetherington
Sat	04	5:00 PM	SJ	Lvng & Dec'd members of Ron & Mary Ann Wemhoff
Sun	05	8:30 AM	HC	Lvng & Dec'd Family of Casper & Margaret Gentrup
Sun	05	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, May 29th—Team #1 Mary VonSeggern, Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore  
Sunday, June 5th—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder

**MEN'S WORK GROUP—May 2022**

Chair: Ken Knust  
Co-Chair: Mark Porter  
Members: Tony Wemhoff, Chuck Ross, Tim Stalp, John Woerdemann, Eric VonSeggern, Jeff Phillips, Jack Knust

**MEN'S WORK GROUP—June 2022**

Chair: Ray Johnson  
Co-Chair: Nick Heller  
Members: Austen Godbersen, Perry Albers, Roger Lampman, Todd Schroeder, Chad Ludwig, Lorin Batenhorst, Dylan Ludwig

Stewardship of God's Gifts  
St. Joseph—May 22, 2022

Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,255.00
Plate:	101.00
Children:	36.26



**"I need YOU to help teach OUR children!"**

By now, all St. Joseph parishioners should have received a letter regarding the status of our Religious Education program and the urgent need for volunteers.

We encourage members of both parishes to consider volunteering in some way. You do not need to have a child in the program or a deep knowledge of our faith. All you need is a desire in helping our kids.

Call if you have questions or an interest in helping. Sarah: 402-641-6144 or Capri: 402-380-2925. Please pray about this opportunity and for the strength of our Religious Education program.

**PENTECOST SUNDAY:** Red is the liturgical color Pentecost Sunday. Red recalls the tongues of flame in which the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles on the first Pentecost. So next Sunday, wear red to Mass!



**TITHE.LY**

**Online Giving with Tithe.ly**

Both parishes of St. Joseph and Holy Cross now have an online giving option. The process is very simple. You may make a one time gift or sign up for something reoccurring and never have to remember your envelope again.

To sign up, visit your parish website and while at the home page, you will see a "Donate" button at the top right side. Click on it to create an account and set up how you would like to give to your parish. Brochures are available in the back of church. If you have any questions, call the parish office at 402-529-3891.

