

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

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 17, 2022

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 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's reflection: Did Jesus have brothers and sisters?



For centuries theologians have debated whether or not Jesus had any siblings. But what does scripture say about his complicated family tree?

The only child often gets a bad rap. Stereotyped as entitled and self-important, people who grow up without siblings aren't always looked upon favorably—especially by those of us with at least a sibling or two. Jesus may have acted like an only child at times in the gospels, but all of the four evangelists make some mention of his brothers and sisters.

In Mark, a crowd asks of Jesus, “Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are his sisters here with us?” (6:3). In Luke, when Jesus is told by a crowd gathered to hear him speak, “Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you,” Jesus famously rejects them: “My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it” (8:19-21). And John writes that after Jesus performed his first miracles in Cana, “he went down to Capernaum with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples; and they remained there a few days” (2:12).

The evidence may seem clear, but scripture scholars and theologians have been debating these and other passages for nearly two millennia, arguing whether those brothers and sisters were in fact biological siblings, step-siblings, “half” siblings, or not even siblings at all, but cousins.

The first recorded argument was between St. Jerome and another fourth-century theologian, Helvidius, who had written that after the virgin birth of Jesus, Mary had other children with her husband, Joseph. St. Jerome disagreed, indicating that by the fourth century at least some of the church community believed that Mary had stayed a virgin for the rest of her life. These children of Mary, Jerome said, were from Mary of Clopas, Jesus' aunt and his mother's sister, making them cousins. He claimed that the Greek word *adelphios* could refer to cousins, not just biological siblings.

Epiphanius, bishop of Salamis and a contemporary of Jerome and Helvidius, threw another possibility into the hat. He argued that the siblings weren't cousins, but Joseph's children from a previous marriage, making them the step-siblings of Jesus. Joseph isn't mentioned outside of the birth of Jesus, causing some to believe that he was much older than Mary and died before Jesus' public ministry. It is conjecture, but some apocryphal works, such as the Protoevangelium of James, the Gospel of Peter, and the Infancy Gospel of Thomas, all seem to indicate a tradition of belief that Jesus' brothers and sisters were the children of Joseph.

These three general arguments continue to be defended and disputed by scholars today, whose positions depend mostly on their particular traditions and how they interpret early church theology. The New Testament writers didn't leave a clear picture of what first-century Christians thought about Mary's virginity after the birth of Jesus, if they left any details at all. All we can say for sure is that Jesus' family tree looks just as complicated as those of many modern families.

(I drafted this article from an old magazine but hopefully it is helpful to expound on this pertinent issue of

Jesus having siblings – It appeared in the December 2013 issue of U.S. Catholic (Vol. 78, No. 12, page 46).



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:

Updates on Family Pastoral Planning Team Meeting

Our parish family of the West Point cluster will be holding our second meeting on July 26th at 7 pm at St. Aloysius Catholic Church. We did receive a template from the Archdiocese that we are using as guide. This template has several sections, but we are going one at a time. Section one was about general information which we did in our first meeting. At this next meeting, we will be discussing section two which is about “Flourishing as Missional Faith Communities.” The information is detailed. If you are interested in reading this information, simply email me or any of the team member and we will send to you this template. Parish group representatives that I'm working with are:

St. Joseph, Wisner – Ruth Bloedorn & Sally Harms
Holy Cross, Beemer – Stan Ortmeier & Karen Spenner

Holy Cross Church rectory temporary renting

Guardian Angels Central Catholic high school in West Point is getting a new principal and he has had trouble finding a house near West Point. He, together with the pastor, have requested to rent the Beemer rectory from the end of July 2022, until he finds a house for his family. We have discussed with the parish council and approved these temporary arrangements. Therefore, do not be surprised when you see family occupying the Beemer rectory soon.

St. Joseph Church Sound System Upgrading

Some people have come to me several times with concerns on how they struggle to understand me in our beautiful church of Wisner, but when they attend Mass in Beemer, they understand me quite clearly. Some did donate money a few years ago specifically asking us it to improve on our sound system. Well, your prayers have been answered. It is high time we try to modernize our sound system and look forward to good quality sound. Myself, Parish Council and the Finance Committee, have unanimously agreed and voted to replace our entire church sound system. We had two bids applying to do the work and we awarded the job to one company after several discussions and considerations. We have already signed a contract and the work will be starting soon.

Due to the current inflation, the prices of everything has gone up and we will appreciate any contribution that you can make towards upgrading costs of the new sound system. Write the check to St. Joseph Church with a note indicating “For Sound system”. Blessings to you all.

Reserve the date in your calendar – Archdiocesan Annual Pastoral Conference

On the first Saturday of October every year, the Archdiocese usually holds a Pastoral conference in the entire region. This year, it will be online on Saturday October 1st at 9:00 am. Important information will be communicated to us this year. Don't miss it. We are required to gather together, watch and follow along online. We will hold it at Wisner church basement hall. Be sure to reserve this date and time in your calendar.

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of July 23rd & 24th

WORD: Shelley Wellman, Doris Guenther
EMHC: Ann Bausch, Gerald Schlickbernd
SERVER: Sat: Ben Oligmueller
 Sun: Kris & Kim Pena

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of July 24th

LEC: Chris Ruskamp
EMHC: Richard Schultz
EMHC 2: Alan Harms
SERV: Sydney Porter, Jaylee Lueken, Lilly Good
OFF: AJ Burki Family
USHER: July Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts
Holy Cross—July 3, 2022

Sunday Envelopes:	\$926.00
Plate:	52.00
Tithe.ly Online:	100.00
Children:	1.00
Total:	\$1,079.00

July 10, 2022

Sunday Envelopes:	950.00
Plate:	170.00
Tithe.ly Online:	100.00
Children:	26.00
HELP/Fuel	100.00
Total:	\$1,346.00

MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, July 17th—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder
Sunday, July 24th—Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer

MEN'S WORK GROUP—July 2022

Chair: Sid Kneifl
Co-Chair: AJ Burki
Members: Keith Schroetlin, Trevor Cyboron, Alan Harms, Chad Dixon, Devon Dixon, Brad Cornell, Dylan Kneifl

Stewardship of God's Gifts
St. Joseph—July 10, 2022

Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,190.00
Plate:	130.00
Tithe.ly Online:	420.58
Children:	11.00
Insurance:	100.00

JULY MOWING GROUP-- CHAIR: Doug Steffensmeier
 Members: Chris Black, Roy Liermann, Keith Anderson, Ron Stieren, Paul Schlickbernd



Rescheduled Date

HOLY CROSS PICNIC IN THE PARK

Thursday, July 28th, at 6:00 p.m. at the park across from Colonial Haven. Please bring a main and side dish or dessert. Water and tableware will be provided. If you would like other beverages, you may bring your own. Fun and games for kids. Bring your lawn chair to relax.

ST. JOSEPH LADIES GUILD will have their next meeting Tuesday, July 26th, at 7:00 pm in the church basement. The Fall Dinner will be discussed. All committee chairs are encouraged to attend.

FALL DINNER SIGN UP: St. Joseph's Fall Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, October 2nd. Sign up sheets for committees are now available in the back of church. Please sign up for a committee of your choice, as well as whether you'd like to bring a salad or pies. For questions, you may contact Martha Schweers at 402-380-2114 or Alison Kluthe 402-541-6522.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE... Information and announcements need to be in by **Monday, July 18th**, for next weekend's bulletin. If you have questions, contact Sarah at 402-529-3891.



Celebrations:

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

Birthdays

Jean Meier July 22
 Ron Francis July 24

Anniversaries

Jeff and Trisha Robertson July 20
 Ron and Doris Guenther July 21

LIFE RUNNERS ... A-Cross America Relay for Pro-Life! (Jul 4th to Aug 7th): liferunners.org/across. Register now to walk or run a 5K leg of the world's largest spanning Pro-Life event, sharing the "REMEMBER The Unborn" message across 5,359 miles (12 million steps). The Relay goes through Nebraska in late July; however, you can complete 5K legs off the course anytime from July 4th to Aug 7th. Join LIFE Runners at Carhart's abortion facility in Bellevue to walk or run a 5K Relay leg at 8:30am on Sat July 9th and 30th. The Relay will pause for a prayer rally at Omaha Planned Parenthood at 9am, Sat, July 30th. All In Christ for Pro-Life!



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.

MASS INTENTIONS

Day	Time	Location	Intention
Mon	18	—	NO MASS
Tue	9:30 AM	WCC	Care Center Residents
Wed	8:00 AM	HC	+ Peter & Elizabeth Peitzmeier
Thu	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Jayda Oligmueller
Fri	9:30 AM	CHB	+ Eugene Mestl
Sat	5:00 PM	HC	Lvng & Dec'd Members of Henry & Eleanor Spenner Fam.
Sun	8:30 AM	HC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Sun	10:00 AM	SJ	+ Pauline Bethune

SJ—St. Joseph's HC—Holy Cross
 WCC—Wisner Care Center CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer

Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-12

REL ED is still in need of several teachers as well as many subs and volunteers. Please return the letter that was mailed in May. Any changes to the program will be announced by the end of July. To offer suggestions, or solutions, please contact Sarah or Capri.