

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

3rd Sunday of Advent **December 11th, 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: stj68791@gmail.com

The 3rd Sunday of Advent



Today is known as **Gaudete Sunday**. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice." The celebrants have an option to wear rose-colored vestments to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose-colored candle on our Advent wreath.

As Christmas draws near, the Church emphasizes the joy which should be in our hearts over all that the birth of our Savior means for us. The great joy of Christians is to see the day drawing nigh when the Lord will come again in His glory to lead them into His kingdom. The often-repeated *Veni* ("Come") of Advent is an echo not only of the prophets but also of the conclusion of the Apocalypse of St. John: "Come, Lord Jesus," the last words of the New Testament.

The **First Reading** is from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 35:1-6, 10*. Even if we took this prophecy of Isaiah as relating to the return from Babylon only, it would still be a source of consolation to us, and a reason for thanking our good God who, in this return of the Jews from Babylon, was preparing the way for the coming of his divine Son among us. The Exodus from Egypt in the 13th century, and the liberation from Babylon in the 6th, were big steps taken by God on the road to our eternal liberation.

But as we know from our Lord's own interpretation (Mt 11:5), these words of the prophet referred also to God's greatest act of love and mercy—the Incarnation of his divine Son, which was to liberate all mankind from the slavery of sin and worldliness, and make men citizens of an everlasting homeland, heaven.

The **Gospel** is taken from *Matthew 11:2-11*. The Church brings John the Baptist, the man who prepared the people for Christ's public mission, before our minds today, as an example that we should follow, even if only from afar. John prepared himself for the test of welcoming and introducing Christ to others, by a life of self-mortification and penance. He told the people that the first essential for getting Christ, and profiting by his coming, was that they should turn away from sin and give up any evil ways, which hitherto they had followed. He himself practiced what he preached and his preaching, therefore, bore fruit among many of his hearers. John is calling on us too today, to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming this Christmas, by turning away from sin, and by the mortification of ourselves in many ways.

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



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:

Update on St. Joseph Church Sound System

We are grateful that the company crew that was contracted to upgrade our sound system are here and the work is in progress. We are looking forward for an improved sound quality in the next few weeks or so.

Updates on Archbishop's Annual Appeal 2022-2023

We are most grateful to all our parishioners who have already made a gift to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. To date in Wisner, 25 donors have committed \$9,650.00 with participation goal of 28%. In Beemer, 17 donors have committed \$5,460.00 with a participation goal of 49%. Please, if you received a letter from the archbishop asking you to donate and you haven't done so, kindly consider doing it.



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

Lesson: 18: The Church Sacraments

What are the most valuable things in life? Those things which deepen and increase our union with God.

How is the grace of union deepened and increased in us? By special acts of Christ in his church called sacraments.

What is a sacrament? It is an outward sign made by Jesus Christ to give you, His life. This sign is an act which the church does with some ceremony and Christ is present by his power in that action. For instance baptism, confirmation, anointing among others.

What do we mean by outward sign? It is something which you can see, hear or feel which tells you about or points to something you do not or cannot see. They cause something bigger than just their appearance.

Give some examples of receiving sacraments unworthily. Receiving Holy Communion, Matrimony, Holy Orders while in state of mortal sin. Not being truly sorry for or telling all your serious sins in confession.

How many times can one receive baptism, confirmation and Holy orders? Only once because they establish a relationship between Christ and a person in a permanent way.

How often can you receive anointing of the sick? Whenever you begin to be in danger from sickness, accident or old age. The sacrament may be repeated.

How often can you receive the sacrament of marriage? Only once, unless your marriage partner dies.

What is annulment in marriage? It is a process that declares that the attempted marriage was null and void due to some serious issues that came up. They include serious cheating among many other issues.

Who is the minister of sacraments?

- The priests are ministers of Baptism, Holy Communion, Penance and Anointing of the Sick. Deacons are ministers of Baptism and Holy Communion.
- Bishops administer Confirmation and Holy Orders.
- In Matrimony, the real minister of the sacrament is the bride and the groom.

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of December 18th

WORD: Rita Eichelberger
EMHC: Jeannie McTaggart
SERVER: Kim & Kris Pena

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of December 17th & 18th

LEC: Richard Schultz
EMHC: John Woerdemann
SERVER: Haley Kneifl, Jentrye Frederickson,
Alicia Ramirez-Torres
OFF: Sid Kneifl
USHER: December Men's Group

LEC: Steve McGuire
EMHC: Janet Ludwig
EMHC2: Linda Hansen
SERVER: Hayden Schroeder, Lilly Good, Ghia Bramble
OFF: Keith Schroetlin
USHER: December Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts Holy Cross—December 4th, 2022	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,010.00
Plate:	73.00
Tithe.ly Online:	100.00
Youth:	11.00
Thanksgiving:	350.00
Immaculate Conception:	25.00
Total:	\$1,569.00



Celebrations:

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

Birthdays

Hannah Praest December 12
Heath Harrison December 16

MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, December 11th—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder
Sunday, December 18th—Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller

MEN'S WORK GROUP—December 2022

Chair: Chris Borgelt
Co-Chair: Tyler Oligmueller
Members: Brian Phillips, Steve Ausdemore, Shane Batenhorst, Tim Phillips, Galen Minds, Alex Ausdemore, Spencer Batenhorst

Stewardship of God's Gifts St. Joseph—December 4th, 2022	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,155.00
Plate:	314.00
Children:	14.50
Tithe.ly Online:	151.62

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES are labeled and available in the back of church. Please pick yours up at your earliest convenience.

MENS GROUP work assignment schedules for 2023 are completed and ready to be picked up in the back of church until the end of December. Any remaining envelopes will be mailed at that time.

SAVE THE DATE!
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH!!!
NOT February 25, 2023
2nd annual Trivia Night for St. Joseph Church, Wisner

TRIVIA night Start getting your teams together!
More information to follow!!

Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6

Grades K-6: The students practiced for the upcoming Christmas program this week. Parents of grades K-2 please work with your child on memorizing their line. An invitation was sent home with each student to invite their families to the Christmas Program this week.

This week: Christmas Program and Soup Supper: After class the students will remain at church to prepare for the Christmas Program. The program will start at 6:00 and will be followed by a soup supper hosted by the Ladies Guild. Families of students need to bring the following according to their last name. A-L: 6 sandwiches cut in half and M-Z: 2 dozen cookies or bars

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS— GRADES 7-12

Grade 7: Watched episode 6 of The Chosen in which Jesus heals the leper and the paralyzed man. This week: No Class due to grade school Christmas Program.

Grade 8-10: We studied a review sheet of things we needed to know. We ended with prayer. All parents should have received an information sheet about Confirmation. Please review it with your youth. Our next session will be Jan. 4, 2023. Please attend the Holiday Masses. Have a blessed Christmas season!

Grade 11-12: No class this week. Classes resume Jan. 4th.



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

St. Joseph's - Tues., December 13th at 7:00 pm
Holy Cross - Tues., December 20th at 7:00 pm



HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE—Saturday, Dec. 24th
St. Joseph—5:00 pm
Holy Cross—7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY—Sunday, Dec. 25th
Holy Cross—8:30 am
St. Joseph—10:00 am

NEW YEAR'S EVE— Saturday, Dec. 31st
Solemnity of Mary Vigil Mass
St. Joseph—5:00 pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY— Sunday, Jan. 1st
Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God
Holy Cross— 8:30 am
St. Joseph—10:00 am

MASS INTENTIONS

Day	Time	Location	Intention
Mon	12	—	—
NO MASS			
Tue	13	9:30 AM	WCC Lvng & Dec'd Family of Ron & MaryAnn Wemhoff
Wed	14	8:00 AM	HC Lvng & Dec'd Mbrs of the Ray Steffensmeier Family
Thu	15	8:00 AM	SJ + Keith Schroeder
Fri	16	9:30 AM	CHB + Eugene & Elsie Emanuel
Sat	17	5:00 PM	SJ + Herb Albers
Sun	18	8:30 AM	HC + Brent Carlson
Sun	18	10:00 AM	SJ + Herb Albers

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