

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

Christmas Day
December 25th, 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: stj068791@gmail.com

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas Day)



Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, the Birth of Jesus Christ, and the First Day in the Octave of Christmas. Throughout Advent the Church longed ardently for the coming of our Savior. Today she celebrates His birth with unrestrained joy. "The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." The Son of God became man to give us a share in that divine life which is eternally His in the Blessed Trinity. Christmas time begins on December 24 with the first Vespers of the feast and ends on the feast of the Baptism of Christ. White vestments reappear in our churches as a sign of joy.

The Christmas feast is a festival full of joy. The Eternal Word has become Man and dwells among us. The longings of the patriarchs and prophets are fulfilled. With the shepherds we hurry to the manger and adore the Incarnate Son of God, who for us and for our salvation descended upon earth. The purpose of the Christmas feast is beautifully expressed in the Preface of the Nativity: "For by the mystery of the Word made flesh the light of Thy glory hath shone anew upon the eyes of our mind; so that while we acknowledge Him a God seen by men, we may be drawn by Him to the love of things unseen."

During the Christmas season there is an extensive exchange of greetings and good wishes among friends. These greetings are a reminder of those "good tidings of great joy that shall be to all the people, for this day is born to you a Savior Who is Christ the Lord" (Lk. 2:11). They are a reminder, too, that all blessings and graces come to us from Christ: "Hath He not also with Him given us all things?" (Rom. 8:32).

Typically, there is also an exchange of gifts. This custom should recall to us that on this day God Himself gave to us the greatest of all gifts, His beloved Son: "God so loved the world as to give His only begotten Son" (John 3: 16).

Christmas says to us: alone we can't profoundly change the world to remedy it. Alone, we can make the world better or worse, but we can't save it. Christ came therefore, because left to ourselves; we couldn't escape the 'mortal disease' that has enveloped us from the first moment of conception in our mother's womb. This gives us hope, true hope, and true Christian optimism: I can't do it but He is there! This is the mystery of grace synthesized in the human figure of God incarnate.



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:

Some History of the Christmas Tree:

The Christmas tree, of which the first -known mention was made in 1605 at Strasbourg, was introduced into France and England in 1840. It symbolizes the great family tree of Christ which through David and Jesse has its roots in Abraham, the father of the chosen race. It is often laden with gifts to remind us that Christmas brought us the priceless gifts of grace and of eternal life. It is frequently adorned with lights that recall to us that Christ is the Light of the world enlightening those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.



Though not entirely unknown before, the custom of the **Christmas Crib or Creche** was adopted by St. Francis of Assisi at Greccio, Italy, on Christmas 1225. It is a concrete and vivid way of representing to ourselves the Incarnation and birth of Christ. It depicts in a striking manner the virtues of the newborn Savior, especially His humility, poverty, and charity.

Catholic culture offers you various opportunities such as the advent candle, weekly intentions, the recent advent retreat we had, and confession to help us prepare well for the joy of Christmas by keeping a spiritual focus on the season.

Throughout this wonderful time there will always be much hustle and bustle, shopping and baking and gift giving. But we hope you will try to keep your catholic faith in balance and above all, coming to Mass during this season of Christmas joy.

Let us try to celebrate Christmas with the innocence and humility of children, always keeping in mind the wonderful birth of the Christ Child.

Joy to the world the Lord has come, let earth receive her King.

Merry Christmas & Good will wishes

It is another time of the year that our families gather for this special baby that was born many years ago in a very remote and unknown village in the Middle East. During that time, very few probably paid attention to it since it was just like any other baby. The reality only unveiled later on. Even after that, Jesus was still rejected by his own. Indeed, a prophet is never accepted in his or her homeland. Christmas is more meaningful to us believers since we put God first a head during such time by filling our pews. Remember to extend your generosity to the less fortunate. If you don't know where to direct your help, let me know and I will guide you. To both my parishioners of St. Joseph Church, Wisner, Holy Cross Church, Beemer and all our guests, may you and your families have fabulous Nativity celebrations full of joys and blessings. Merry Christmas to you all.



HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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



Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of January 1st
New Year's Day

WORD: Renae Carlson
 EMHC: Tom Peatrowsky
 SERVER: Kris & Kim Pena

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of December 31st & January 1st
New Year's Eve

LEC: Chris Ruskamp
 EMHC: Kathy Johnson
 SERVER: Jordyn Gentrup, Jace Hansen,
 Abraham Millan Jr.
 OFF: Steve McGuire
 USHER: December Men's Group
New Year's Day
 LEC: Dave McGuire
 EMHC: Martha Schweers
 EMHC2: Capri McGuire
 SERVER: Autumn Chohan, Emma Schroetlin,
 Mariah Andersen
 OFF: Mark Porter
 USHER: January Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—December 18th, 2022	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$590.00
Plate:	93.00
Youth:	8.00
Tithe.ly Online:	100.00
Christmas:	310.00
Christmas Flowers:	95.00
Immaculate Conception:	50.00
Total:	\$1,246.00

MONEY COUNTERS
 Sunday, December 25th—Team #1 Mary VonSeggern,
 Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore
 Sunday, January 1st —Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane
 Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder

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

MEN'S WORK GROUP—January 2023
 Chair: Gerald Gentrup
 Co-Chair: Gary Godbersen
 Members: Duane Mendlik, Blaine Johnson, Nick
 Schultz, Scott Mendlik, Dave Ebel, Dixon Godbersen

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

Birthdays
 Michelle Borgmann December 29

Anniversaries
 Stan and Marilyn Ortmeier December 29

MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	26	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	27	—	—	NO MASS
Wed	28	8:00 AM	HC	+ Jayda Oligmueller
Thu	29	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Leo McGuire
Fri	30	9:30 AM	CHB	+ Eugene Mestl
Sat	31	5:00 PM	SJ	New Year's Eve + Francis Oligmueller
Sun	01	8:30 AM	HC	New Year's Day Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Sun	01	10:00 AM	SJ	New Year's Day + Herb Albers
SJ—St. Joseph's		HC—Holy Cross		
WCC—Wisner Care Center		CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer		

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—December 18th, 2022	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$2,360.00
Plate:	156.00
Children:	15.00
Tithe.ly Online:	80.81
Immaculate Conception:	50.00

ST. JOSEPH K-6 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM... was a great success. We have 58 students this year and only 3 were unable to attend. The number of families that came to watch and support them was amazing and truly made our hearts happy!!! A standing ovation was given to this fantastic group of children.



ST. JOSEPH PARISH—POINSETTIAS

If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia for the Christmas Season in memory of a loved one(s), the sign up sheet and envelope are in the back of the church. You may also put an envelope in the collection basket, or mail it to the church at PO Box 623. Be sure to include the name of your loved one(s) and \$20 for each Poinsettia.

Thank you! St Joseph Environment Committee

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

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

Religious Education
ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6
 January 4th - All grades(K-12) resume classes at regularly scheduled times.

