

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

Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God ***January 1st, 2023***

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

Sunday of the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God, The Octave Day of the Nativity of the Lord



Today the Church celebrates the **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**, our Lady's greatest title. This feast is the **Octave Day of Christmas**. In the current liturgical Calendar only Christmas and Easter enjoy the privilege of an octave.

The Word Took Our Nature from Mary

The Apostle tells us: *The Word took to himself the sons of Abraham, and so had to be like his brothers in all things*. He had then to take a body like ours. This explains the fact of Mary's presence: she is to provide him with a body of his own, to be offered for our sake. Scripture records her giving birth, and says: *She wrapped him in swaddling clothes*. Her breasts, which fed him, were called blessed. Sacrifice was offered because the child was her firstborn. Gabriel used careful and prudent language when he announced his birth. He did not speak of "what will be born *in you*" to avoid the impression that a body would be introduced into her womb from outside; he spoke of "what will be born *from you*" so that we might know by faith that her child originated within her and from her.

By taking our nature and offering it in sacrifice, the Word was to destroy it completely and then invest it with his own nature, and so prompt the Apostle to say: *This corruptible body must put on incorruption; this mortal body must put on immortality*.

This was not done in outward show only, as some have imagined. This is not so. Our Savior truly became man, and from this has followed the salvation of man as a whole. Our salvation is in no way fictitious, nor does it apply only to the body. The salvation of the whole man, that is, of soul and body, has really been achieved in the Word himself.

What was born of Mary was therefore human by nature, in accordance with the inspired Scriptures, and the body of the Lord was a true body: It was a true body because it was the same as ours. Mary, you see, is our sister, for we are all born from Adam.

The words of Saint John: *The Word was made flesh*, bear the same meaning, as we may see from a similar turn of phrase in Saint Paul: *Christ was made a curse for our sake*. Man's body has acquired something great through its communion and union with the Word. From being mortal, it has been made immortal; though it was a living body it has become a spiritual one; though it was made from the earth it has passed through the gates of heaven.

Even when the Word takes a body from Mary, the Trinity remains a Trinity, with neither increase nor decrease. It is forever perfect. In the Trinity we acknowledge one Godhead, and thus one God, the Father of the Word, is proclaimed in the Church. (From ancient letter by St. Athanasius).

The **Gospel of today's feast** is from the *Gospel of Luke 2:21*. This story of the humble shepherds of Bethlehem coming to find Jesus "in the manger wrapped in swaddling clothe" already read at the Dawn Mass on Christmas Day, is repeated today because of the feast we are celebrating, the Divine Motherhood of Mary. It is the feast of Christmas again, the feast of the Incarnation and birth of our Savior, but it is Mary's part in this wonderful mystery of God's love for men that the Church is stressing today.



From Fr. Vincent's Desk: **The New Year's Message**

Happy New year to you all. Thank you all for supporting our parishes this past year. I would like to thank all the parishioners for their financial generosity to the parish and to our Archdiocese of Omaha. Thank you to all the volunteers including those who ensure music is in our churches, sacristans, ladies helping out during funerals and celebrations, CCD volunteers and teachers, lectors, EMCs, sacristans, men who tirelessly shovel snow during winter and mow the grass in summer for both the parish lawns and cemeteries, and to many other volunteers. If I forgot to mention your area, please receive my appreciation.

It is not just any other new year, but it is a unique year once again because it will come to your life with many new things. Most of the things that we will encounter in the course of the new year will be good, especially in realizing our own dreams and goals. Life cannot go on without challenges, there will be a few things here and there that will make us uncomfortable, but that is what it is in life. We will learn how to cope and deal with them as they come up. One thing that gives us assurance is that God never changes, he remains faithful to those who call upon his name. We now ask him to accompany us in the course of the new year so that we may accomplish it successfully.

At our parish pastoral level, we are anticipating some changes that I will announce to you as soon as I receive an official communication from the archdiocese. As I mentioned to you this past year, we have been engaging in a series of meetings with our pastoral team that comprises of 2 representatives from each parish in our parish family of West Point. We have submitted our proposal on how the family of our parishes will be managed as from this year. Sometime this month, I will be communicating to you officially the pastoral direction that our parishes of St. Joseph, Wisner and Holy Cross, Beemer will be taking as from July 1st. We are waiting for direction from the Archdiocese Pastoral office. Many people have been asking me whether I will stay or not. My answer is, that as of now, I don't know. I haven't received any communication regarding any future placement, but when I do, I will be sure to share it with you.

May you all have a blessed and prosperous year of 2023.

The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.

Happy New Year



**Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of January 8th**

WORD: Doris Guenther
EMHC: Jeanie McTaggart
SERVER: Ben Oligmueller

**Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of January 7th & 8th**

LEC: Maci Batenhorst
EMHC: Allison Kluthe
SERVER: Claire Flack, Mariah Andersen, and
Jesa Montgomery
OFF: Sid Kneifl
USHER: January Men's Group

LEC: Diane Davies
EMHC: Sally Harms
EMHC2: Richard Schultz
SERVER: Henry Jacobs, Chesney Ruskamp, and
Jaylee Lueken
OFF: Chad Ludwig
USHER: January Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts

Holy Cross—December 25th, 2022

Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,795.00
Christmas Plate:	417.00
Christmas Youth:	24.00
Tithe.ly Online:	100.00
Christmas:	4,000.00
Christmas Flowers:	70.00
Total:	\$6,406.00


MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, January 1st —Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder
Sunday, January 8th—Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer

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

BIBLE STUDIES AT HOLY CROSS will be on Tuesday, January 3rd at 2:00 PM at Susan Steffensmeier's house and on Wednesday, January 4th at 5:30 PM at the rectory. Everyone is welcome.



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

Birthdays
Caleb Combs January 1
Trisha Robertson January 2
Bridgette Borgmann January 3
Griffen Robinson January 3
Fr. Vincent Sungunti January 5
Rita Heiser January 5

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—December 25th, 2022	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$885.00
Christmas Envelopes:	9,145.00
Christmas Plate:	1,063.00
Christmas Children:	147.27
Tithe.ly Online:	403.34
Solemnity of Mary:	50.00

**GriefShare—
Grieving the loss of someone close to you**

Franciscan Healthcare in West Point will be hosting a GriefShare workshop. It is a video seminar series that features some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on grief and recovery topics as seen from a biblical perspective. The video seminars are combined with support group discussion of the materials presented during the video.

Date and Times are: January 30th—April 10th, 2023, from 6-7 pm. The workshop will be held at the Hospital on the second floor in the Clare Conference Room. Registration is strongly encouraged for material purposes (please see the flyer in the back of church).


For questions, contact Chaplain Tom Manhart at 402-372-6708 or manhart@franhealth.org. Check flyers for more information.



POINSETTIAS... This is the last weekend to sign up to donate a poinsettia in memory of a loved one. The donation envelope is in the back of church.

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!!



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

Mon	02	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	03	9:30 AM	WCC	+ Gerald Ruskamp
Wed	04	8:00 AM	HC	+ Charles F. Hetherington
Thu	05	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Mary Thomas
Fri	06	9:30 AM	CHB	Lvng & Dec'd Mbrs of the Ray Steffensmeier Family
Sat	07	5:00 PM	SJ	Lvng & Dec'd Family of Ron & MaryAnn Wemhoff
Sun	08	8:30 AM	HC	+ Francis Oligmueller and Jim Sapp
Sun	08	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		

Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6
Grades K-6: Classes resume this Wednesday

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS– GRADES 7-12
Grade 7-12 Classes resume this Wednesday. We will be having pizza and ice cream at 7:00 and will then follow with class.