

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

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 15th, 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

The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A



With the feast of the Baptism of the Lord we have entered into the liturgical time that we call "ordinary". (Tempus per Annum, or "Time of the Year. This is the liturgical time that no longer has a particular season or celebration.) On this second Sunday, the Gospel presents to us the scene of the meeting between Jesus and John the Baptist at the Jordan River. The narrator is the eye witness, John the Evangelist,

who, before he was a disciple of Jesus was a disciple of the Baptist, together with his brother James, with Simon and Andrew, all are from Galilee, all are fisherman. So, John the Baptist sees Jesus, who steps forward from the crowd and, inspired from above, sees in Jesus the one sent by God. For this reason he points him out with these words: "Behold the lamb of God, he who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 49:3, 5-6* and is the second of the "suffering servant" prophecies, found in Isaiah. These were prophecies uttered during the Babylonian exile to encourage the Jewish exiles to persevere in their trust in Yahweh, who would soon liberate them from Babylon, and eventually send them the long-expected Messiah, promised to Abraham.

The **Gospel** is from *St. John 1:29-34*. The pages of the Gospel present John the Baptist as a symbolic example of a 'bridegroom's friend', as Christ's excellent and exemplary witness. The Baptist's pre-eminent witness was affirmed in two ways: firstly, with regard to the content of his testimony and secondly with respect to its style.

With regard to the content of his testimony, the Baptist identified Jesus as '*the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world*' (Jn 1:29). Anticipating Jesus' messianic and salvific role, each of the four evangelists start their Gospels with the Baptist's words. The Lamb refers to the idea of salvation. The Lamb is the gift of liberation that, following the flight from Egypt, the Israelites sacrificed to the Lord. The Lamb recalls the servant of the Lord, the messianic image described by the Prophet Isaiah, '*like a lamb led to the slaughter-house, like a sheep dumb before its shearers*' (Is 53:7). The Lamb recalls the image of the Victorious Lamb in the Book of the Apocalypse who at the end of time will definitively destroy evil and sin. John the Baptist is therefore, an authoritative witness who knew Jesus' exact identity and why He came amongst men.

With regard to John the Baptist's style, St John's Gospel (cfr Jn 3:28-29) presents St John the Baptist through the image of the 'bridegroom's friend'. He gives witness, yet is not positioned central to the events that are unfolding. His testimony is totally centralized on Christ. John indicates the presence of the Lord and then steps into the margins. '*I am not the Christ*' and he goes on to affirm '*I am the one who has been sent to go in front of him. It is the bridegroom who has the bride; and yet the bridegroom's friend, who stands there and listens to him, is filled with joy at the bridegroom's voice. This is the joy I feel, and it is complete. He must grow greater, I must grow less.*' (Jn 3:28-30)

Today's Gospel offers us an eloquent example to imitate, so that we can also become Christ's authoritative witnesses. A believer can only give an authoritative witness if it

coexists in perfect harmony with two of the Baptist's evangelical qualities. Firstly, knowledge of Christ that is cultivated through prayer, the sacramental and ecclesial life, reading good books and edifying friendships. Secondly, the constant attributes of a 'bridegroom's friend' who goes in search of the Groom through the virtue of humility because always, in everyone's life, Christ must increase and we must decrease!

In courtesy of the Congregation of the Clergy



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:

A word of Appreciation for Archbishop's 2022-2023 Annual Appeal

The 2022-2023 Archbishop's Annual Appeal is usually part of our annual stewardship to support the Archdiocese work which is 30% of their annual budget. I just want to say thank you to all those at our parishes who have responded so generously to this invitation to join him in the work of equipping disciples and living mercy. To date, our parish of St. Joseph, Wisner has raised \$10,100 towards our goal of \$8,279.09. Our other parish of Holy Cross, Beemer has raised \$8,435 towards our goal of \$11,345.11. Thank you.

I'm closing the AAA updates in the bulletin but anyone is still free to make a donation to the Archdiocese. With this note of thanks, this marks the end of these updates. Thank you all once again for your supportive hearts.

GIVE GOD YOUR
weakness
AND HE WILL GIVE YOU HIS
strength

FINALIZING THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

FAMILY PHOTOS... If you did not get your picture taken in November when the photographer was here and would like to submit a vertical family photo, please do so by January 20th. You may email it to the parish office at stjo68716@gmail.com. Please use a high resolution photo, and if it is a professional photo, you will need to complete a release form. There is a \$15 charge to submit a photo. You may put it in the collection basket with Sarah's name on it, or mail it to the parish office at PO Box 623.

ADDITIONALLY... We are working on content for the church directory, and are looking for photos that represent our parish. Looking specifically for photos from Trivia Night or the Luau, the Fall Dinner, youth events, or others that represent our faith. You may email them to brendaaprn@gmail.com.

Questions... please contact:
Laura Ritter at 402-380-8639
Brenda Liermann at 402-649-5001
Parish Office at 402-529-3891

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of January 22nd

WORD: Tom Peatrowsky
EMHC: Dennis Mostek
SERVER: Kris & Kim Pena

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of January 21st & 22nd

LEC: Chris Ruskamp
EMHC: Madonna Servi
SERVER: Giddean Andersen, Alicia Ramirez-Torres,
Aidan McBride
OFF: Richard Schultz
USHER: January Men's Group

LEC: Bonnie Styskal
EMHC: Capri McGuire
EMHC2: Tammie Batenhorst
SERVER: Annamae Bloedorn, Knoxyn Thies,
Abraham Millan Jr.
OFF: Eric VonSeggern
USHER: January Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts
Holy Cross—January 8th, 2023

Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,659.17
Plate:	54.00
Youth:	10.00
Tithe.ly Online:	100.00
Christmas:	10.00
Solemnity of Mary:	180.00
Total:	\$.00

MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, January 15th —Team #1 Mary VonSeggern,
Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore
Sunday, January 21st—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane
Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder

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

MARJORIE GENTRUP'S new address is: Ridgewood Senior Living Apt. 303, 12301 North 149th Circle, Bennington, NE 68007. Her phone is: 402-380-9434. Bless you at your new home and we will miss you.



Thank you to all who donated to the Christmas Flowers: Ron & Bev Francis in memory of Family Members, Mestl Family in memory of Eugene Mestl, Rita Eichelberger in memory of Vergil & Frances Liermann, Bernie Oligmueller in memory of Francis Oligmueller, Ben & Elizabeth Wordekemper, Jim Sapp, William & Johanna Oligmueller, Karen Spenner in memory of Henry & Eleanor Spenner, Renae Carlson in memory of Brent Carlson, Robert & Violet Yosten, Stan Ortmeier in memory of Anna Ortmeier & Ruth Benson, Doug Steffensmeier in memory of Ray & Odelia Steffensmeier, Marjorie Gentrup in memory of Casper Gentrup, Jr., Adolph & Eunice Behrens, Casper & Margaret Gentrup, Brad & Anne Schulz in memory of Marilyn Schulz, and David Steffensmeier.

Stewardship of God's Gifts

St. Joseph—January 8th, 2023

Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,040.00
Plate:	168.00
Children:	9.00
Tithe.ly Online:	490.08
Heating/AC:	225.00

MARCH FOR LIFE... The 3rd Annual Northeast Nebraska March for Life will be held Friday, January 20th, in Norfolk. Events begin at 11:30 am with the march taking place at 1:00 pm in front of St. Mary's. A flyer is posted in the back of church with more details. For additional questions, please contact Lindsay Headley at 402-371-7284.

Celebrations:

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

Birthdays

Shane Combs January 15
Jean Batenhorst January 16
Chris Black January 18

Anniversaries

Paul and Deb Schlickbernd January 21



MASS INTENTIONS

Day	Date	Time	Location	Intention
Mon	16	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	17	9:30 AM	WCC	+ Keith Schroeder
Wed	18	8:00 AM	HC	+ Francis Oligmueller and Jim Sapp
Thu	19	8:00 AM	SJ	Lvng & Dec'd Family of Ron & MaryAnn Wemhoff
Fri	20	9:30 AM	CHB	+ Alvin Dinslage
Sat	21	5:00 PM	SJ	+ Jayda Oligmueller
Sun	22	8:30 AM	HC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Sun	22	10:00 AM	SJ	+ John Elenga

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: The Circle of Grace Curriculum was given to the teachers to cover during the next month. Grade 2 finalized preparations for receiving the sacrament of First Reconciliation this coming week. The afternoon closed with all the students gathering in church for a photo and to start learning a new song for the Spring Youth Mass.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS—GRADES 7-12

Grade 7: Started episode 7 of The Chosen in which Nicodemus meets with Jesus. Fr. Vincent visited the class and I had him talk to the students about the woman at the well and he answered many other questions that the students had.

Grades 8-10: We began with an opportunity to participate in the Walk for Life at Norfolk on Friday, January 20th. Call Missy or Capri for details. Father talked about expectations for Confirmation. We then had our Circle of Grace session with handouts and discussions. We ended with prayer. Please remember our retreat at Beemer on January 22nd. Every family should have gotten a letter with details.

Grades 11-12: They reviewed and discussed the Circle of Grace and how it applies to them on an everyday basis.



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH!!!

2nd annual Trivia Night for St. Joseph Church, Wisner
Get your teams together!

To sign up, contact Paige Godbersen at 402-604-0406