

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

**7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 19th, 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: stjoe68791@gmail.com

The 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time



The First Reading is taken from the *Book of Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18*. Today, we hear one of the rules of conduct which are set out in chapter 19; that of love of neighbor. Other rules included reverence for parents, observance of the Sabbath, avoidance of idolatry, upon harvesting leaving some of the grain in the fields for the poor, and the practice of justice and charity in social dealings.

The **Gospel** is taken from *St. Matthew (5:38-48)*. The lesson we have to learn from today's gospel hardly needs any emphasizing. We must, if we are truly Christian, forgive those who offend or injure us. We must love all men, whether they be friends or enemies. G. K. Chesterton says: "We are commanded to love our neighbors and our enemies; they are generally the same people." This is very true for all of us. It is very easy for me to love (in a theoretical way) all Japanese, Chinese, Russians and most Europeans—they never come in contact with me and never tread on my corns. But it is my neighbors, those among whom I live and work, who are liable to injure me and thus become my enemies.

No two persons in the world, not even identical twins, can agree on all things, so it is vain and unrealistic to expect even one's married partner to agree with one in all points. Christian charity alone can cover the multitude of faults of both partners. If there is peace and harmony between husband and wife, as there will be if both are truly charitable, the children will learn too to be understanding and forgiving. Such a home will be a truly happy home even if it has little of the world's riches.

Our charity must spread from the home to our neighbors—to all those with whom we have contact. It is easy to get on with most people, but in every neighborhood and in every village or town there will always be those who are difficult. There will be the dishonest, the tale-bearers, the quarrelsome, the critic of everyone and everything. It is when we have dealings with such people that all our Christian charity is necessary. Most likely we will never be able to change their ways of acting, but charity will enable us to tolerate their faults and will move us to pray for their eternal welfare.



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:
Norfolk Christians Encounter Christ (CEC)
(A Personal Encounter with Christ)

What is CEC? It is a Catholic movement within the Archdiocese of Omaha. It is a 3-day weekend experience beginning on Friday and ending on Sunday. It is a personal and communal encounter with Christ which leads to a lifelong relationship with God in our spiritual growth. It will be held as follows: Men: March 17, 18 & 19. Women: April 28, 29, & 30. I have been planning to attend this program for the last 4 years and I didn't do it. But this time I have already registered to attend. Anyone interested? We will reach out to you also individually or by phone call.

ROOTED - Nebraska Catholic Men's Conference

Men of Nebraska, join us as we strive to be uncompromising for Jesus Christ. Through prayer, keynotes, fellowship and challenge, this one-day conference aims to help all

men establish a firm foundation rooted in Christ. NOTE: This event has 2 dates left at different locations. February 25th at Norfolk and March 4th at Clarkson. I attended this conference last year with a few men and it is very helpful. We will reach out to you by phone calls too to see if you are interested. Register at rootednebraska.com



Lent Season Reflection 2023

On Wednesday, Feb. 22nd, of this week, we will attend Ash Wednesday Mass to mark the coming 40 days of Lent. The number 40 is simply a symbolic number that appears so many times in the Bible. It is not specifically referring to a numeric number as such but it refers to a preparation period of time that may be less or more than 40. The preparation is followed by a major event in our spiritual journey. I remember when I was growing up back in Africa, sometimes we were in a group of many people and things were being stolen many times and since we couldn't find who was responsible, the leader would say: "I'm giving the person who is stealing things 40 days only and we will know who you are." It is a common phrase until today. My mother used the term several times too when someone knows something and was hiding from saying it or apologizing. It is a period of repentance. It is like amnesty given to the thief to return the stolen items or else he or she will be caught up with the law.

I'm not saying that we are thieves but rather we are all sinners before God. Every year, we dedicate the 40 days before Easter as our grace period to reflect and evaluate where we stand before God and do something about it. Like I said last year, do something new for your own personal mortification (spiritual discipline). Try to challenge yourself if you can go without something that you value so much in life, yet you can still do without it.

For instance, foods like meat or chocolate or cookies among many others. Can you try to fast from them for some days if not weeks? Start with just a single day, then 2, 3, 4 and so on. Think of also other areas of your life where you lack discipline. May it be our drinking habits, our language or talks, spiritual life, physical exercise, or even the time we spend on your smart phone or watching TV.

Do something new in this Lenten season. When you succeed your own challenge goals that you set, you really feel good about it and then you can try and win spiritual goals too. To give some examples, some people commit to 40 prayers of rosaries for various needs of our community and society. Some choose to attend at least one week day Mass. Others choose to spend 30 minutes before the Holy Eucharist every day or every week.

To help you, the church asks us to consider 3 areas: Prayer Life (spiritual exercise), Fasting (eating habits) and Alms Giving (relationship with others or being charitable).



**FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY 24TH!!!**

2nd annual Trivia Night for St. Joseph Church, Wisner

**Proceeds from this fundraiser will go
towards the growth of our parish and cemetery
endowment funds.**

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

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of February 25th & 26th

WORD: Tom Peatrowsky, Rita Eichelberger
EMHC: Dennis Mostek, Ann Bausch
SERVER: Sun: Bo Oligmueller

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of February 26th

LEC: Gayle Lampman
EMHC: Kathy Johnson
EMHC 2: Steve Ausdemore
SERV: Gidean Andersen, Paislie Burki, Joel Good
OFF: Jeff Phillips
USHER: February Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts
Holy Cross—February 12th, 2023

Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,390.00
Plate:	139.00
Youth:	16.00
HELP/Fuel:	100.00
Tithe.ly Online:	100.00
Total:	\$1,745.00

MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, February 19th—Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer
Sunday, February 26th —Team #1 Mary VonSeggern, Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore

MEN'S WORK GROUP—February 2023

Chair: Adam Brahmer
Co-Chair: Jeff Recker
Members: Dan Kane, Terry Soden, Ron Machacek, Shawn Davie, Doug Oertwich, Bernie Ruskamp

COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS after Mass today. Please join us!

"SOUPER BOWL" collection will be taken next weekend after Mass. Please be generous.

Celebrations:
 Holy Cross Parish wishes happiness and God's blessings to the following:
No Birthdays or Anniversaries

Stewardship of God's Gifts
St. Joseph—February 12th, 2023

Sunday Envelopes:	\$600.00
Plate:	335.00
Children:	6.25
Heating/AC:	100.00
Tithe.ly Online:	491.39



LENTEN SERVICES

Ash Wednesday
8:00 am at Holy Cross Beemer
7:00 pm at St. Joseph Wisner

Adoration (6:30pm) & Stations of the Cross (7:00pm)

At Holy Cross—Beemer
 Fridays, Feb. 24th, and Mar. 3rd, 17th, 31st

At St. Joseph—Wisner
 Fridays, Mar. 10th and 24th



We thank these volunteers who recently delivered Meals-on-Wheels on behalf of St. Joseph parish: Helen Feller, Kari Moeller, Carol Oligmueller, Mary Donner, and Anne Ausdemore.

The Ladies Guild will host **COFFEE and COOKIES** after the Sunday morning mass on February 26TH. All are welcome. Please join us for fellowship!



ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS
TO ALL CONFIRMATION FAMILIES

The Ladies Guild will provide a hot meal to all confirmation students and their families as well as extended family members for Confirmation on Sunday, March 12, 2023.

The meal will be in the church basement following the Confirmation Mass. Invites have been sent to all Confirmation families.

Please RSVP by March 1st to Martha.

Questions, please contact Martha Schweers 402-380-2114.



LIVE Lent TOGETHER

Lent is more than just giving something up and eating fish on Fridays. It's an opportunity to refocus on Jesus. And you don't have to go it alone.

Small groups are forming in both parishes for a six-week (once a week) focus on the meaning of Lent. Bonus—you'll form deeper friendships with group members as you make the Lenten journey together. To find out if there's a group that fits in your schedule... Call Karen Spenner at 372-8430, or Anne Ausdemore at 750-9616.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	20	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	21	9:30 AM	WCC	+ Gerald Ruskamp
Wed	22	8:00 AM	HC	Dec'd Family of Frank & Mary Wuestewald
Thu	23	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Duane Breikreutz
Fri	24	—	—	NO MASS
Sat	25	5:00 PM	HC	+ Bob Schlickbernd
Sun	26	8:30 AM	HC	+ Mary Thomas
Sun	26	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: The 4th grade discussed the 5th Commandment and with the start of Lent this week they talked about prayer, fasting and giving. Our 3rd grade continued working on the Apostles Creed and read about the Baptism of Jesus in the Gospel of John. The afternoon ended with all classes celebrating Mass with Fr. Vincent. The 5th grade were the lectors and servers for Mass.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS— GRADES 7-12

Grade 7: We watched a Preparing for Lent video by Fr. Mike Schmitz and then talked about what we could do for Lent to better ourselves and others.

Grades 8-10: Father came in to talk to us about Lent. We reviewed our test after prayer. We talked about why we fast and abstain from meat on Fridays of Lent. Next week, we have Ash Wednesday Mass and a short class after it.

Grades 11-12: Did Chapter 2 of Made for More which is a reflection of bible verses and case studies relating to sports and success as an athlete but most importantly who you are as a person and what values you have.