

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

The 1st Sunday of Lent February 26th, 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 First Sunday of Lent



The scene of the temptation, which opens the public life of Jesus, declares in the Gospels in a very forceful manner the great change in our lives that He introduces into the world by His work of redemption. Where Adam fell, Christ, the new Head of humanity, triumphs over the power of Satan: at the time of His passion "the prince of this world" will be cast out. The Gospel of the temptation heralds Christ's victory in advance.

By appointing this Gospel for the beginning of Lent the Church proclaims that this victory should be ours also. In us, as all around us, it is Christ's temptation, Christ's struggle, Christ's victory which is prolonged; our effort is His and so is our strength; His will be our victory at Easter.

The **First Reading** is from the Book of *Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7* and is about the creation and fall of man.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 4:1-11*. This incident in our Lord's life, his forty days and nights of fasting followed by temptations, has been chosen as a reading for this first Sunday of Lent for our edification and encouragement. Lent is a period of preparation for the central Christian events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Christ, the Son of God in human nature, died the excruciating death of crucifixion on Good Friday, because of the sins of the human race. By this supreme act of obedience to his heavenly Father he made atonement for all our disobediences, and set us free from the slavery of Satan and of sin. In his resurrection his human nature was glorified by God the Father, and in that glorification, we are all offered a share and given the right to an eternal life of glory, if we follow Christ faithfully in this life.

For every sincere Christian therefore, who appreciates what Good Friday and Easter Sunday mean for her or him, this period of preparation should be a welcome opportunity. The Church no longer imposes on us any obligatory daily fasting from food, but it urges us to find other means of mortifying ourselves, so as to show that we realize what Christ has done for us and what he has earned for us through his passion, death and resurrection. The example of Christ fasting from food for forty days, should move even the coldest Christian heart to try to do something to make reparation for past negligence and sins. Christ had no sin to atone for; it was for our sins that he mortified himself. We all have much to atone for. If, because of the demands of our present way of life, we cannot fast rigorously as our grandparents did, we can find many other less noticeable, but maybe nonetheless difficult, ways of subduing our human worldly inclinations. Where there is a will there is a way; the willing Christian will find ready substitutes for fasting.

The temptations, to which our Lord allowed himself to be submitted, are for us a source of encouragement and consolation. If our Lord and master underwent temptation, we cannot and must not expect to live a Christian life without experiencing similar tests and trials. The three temptations Satan put to our Lord were suggestions to forget his purpose in life--his messianic mission of redemption. He was urged to get all the bodily comforts of life, all the self-glory which men could give him, and all the possessions and power this world has to offer.

Our basic temptations in life are the same: bodily comforts and pleasure, the empty esteem of our fellowman, wealth and power. There are millions of men and women on earth today—many of them nominal Christians—who have given in to these temptations and, are wasting their lives

chasing after these unattainable shadows. But even should they manage to catch up with some of them, they soon find out that they are empty baubles. They will have to leave them so very soon.

Today, let each one of us look into his heart and honestly examine his reaction to these temptations. Do we imitate our Savior and leader, and say "begone Satan"? Our purpose in life is not to collect its treasures, its honors or its pleasures. We are here for a few short years, to merit the unending life which Christ has won for us. Would we be so foolish as to swap our inheritance for a mere mess of pottage (see Gen. 25:29-34)?

Lent is a golden opportunity to review our past and make sensible resolutions for our future.

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

Pray + Fast + Give



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:

Lent Season Reflection 2023

This past Wednesday, Feb. 22nd, we attended Ash Wednesday Mass to mark start of the 40 days of Lent that we are in. 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.

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 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).

Upcoming 2023 Sacrament of Confirmation

On Sunday, March 12th, the Archbishop of Omaha George Lucas will be here at St. Joseph's Church, Wisner to celebrate Mass and do the sacrament of Confirmation. We have 17 candidates from St. Joseph, Wisner and Holy Cross, Beemer. I encourage the parents and sponsors to support the candidates as they prepare for this important upcoming occasion in their spiritual lives. The candidates are supposed to participate in Lent season programs like stations of the cross and alms giving through the Rice Bowl collections.

On that Sunday, we will have only one Mass in Wisner at 10:00 am. There will be no Mass in Beemer.

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of March 5th


WORD: Doris Guenther
EMHC: Dawn Peatrowsky
SERVER: Sun: Will Robertson

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—February 19th, 2023	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$215.00
Plate:	60.00
Youth:	6.00
Tithe.ly Online:	100.00
Total:	\$381.00

“SOUPER BOWL” collection will be taken after Mass this weekend. The money will go to area soup kitchens and homeless shelters. Please be generous to your brothers and sisters in need. Later donations can be put in next week's collection labeled “Souper Bowl”.

HOLY CROSS ALTAR SOCIETY committee will serve Bingo at Colonial Haven Friday March 3, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

LIVE LENT... The first Live Lent Together sessions at Holy Cross in Beemer will be on Tuesday, February 28th at 3 PM in the rectory and on Wednesday, March 1st at 5 PM in the rectory. Everyone is welcome.



Celebrations:

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

Birthdays

Gerald Schlickbernd February 26
Betty Hegarty February 26
Preston Praest February 27
Vicky Krupka February 29
Doug Steffensmeier March 2
Joanna Borgmann March 2
Kevin Lueshen March 4
Leo Schulz March 4

LENTEN SERVICES

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

At Holy Cross—Beemer
Fridays: Mar. 3rd, 17th, 31st

Stations only:
Mar. 10th and 24th

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

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



MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	27	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	28	9:30 AM	WCC	Care Center Residents
Wed	01	8:00 AM	HC	+ Mike McTaggart
Thu	02	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Marie Woerdemann
Fri	03	9:30 AM	CHB	+ Eugene Mestl
Sat	04	5:00 PM	SJ	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Sun	05	8:30 AM	HC	+ Wenzel Franzluebbers
Sun	05	10:00 AM	SJ	+ Hugh McGuire
SJ—St. Joseph's		HC—Holy Cross		
WCC—Wisner Care Center		CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer		

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of March 4th & 5th

LEC: Holly Schroeder
EMHC: Madonna Servi
SERVER: Myles Lampman, Dayton Gentrup, Hayden Schroeder
OFF: Duane Mendlik
USHER: March Men's Group

LEC: Chris Ruskamp
EMHC: Kathy Johnson
EMHC2: Janet Ludwig
SERVER: Henry Jacobs, Ella Jacobs, Knoxyn Thies
OFF: Del Styskal
USHER: March Men's Group

MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, February 26th —Team #1 Mary VonSeggern, Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore
Sunday, March 5th—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder

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

MEN'S WORK GROUP—March 2023

Chair: Jeremy Rehak
Co-Chair: Fred Schultz
Members: Chris Ruskamp, Richard Schultz, Jim Jensen, Willy May, Garrett Esau, Jesse Grenier

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—February 19th, 2023	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,340.00
Plate:	221.00
Children:	12.00
Insurance:	170.00
Tithe.ly Online:	280.81



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

MEN'S LENTEN BREAKFAST

at United Methodist Church of Christ

This breakfast usually starts at 6:45 am Thursday's during Lent. Freewill donation is accepted. These monies go to the Wisner Ministerial Fellowship to help those in need within our community. St. Joseph Church is scheduled to host on Thursday, March 16th. The following is the schedule of dates that we will do this breakfast: Feb. 23rd, March 2nd, March 9th, March 16th, March 23rd, March 30th & April 6th.

Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6

Grade K-6: The 3rd grade continued working on the Apostles Creed and discussed the practice of fasting and abstaining during Lent. The afternoon closed with everyone attending an Ash Wednesday Prayer Service.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS– GRADES 7-12

Grade 7-12: Classes were cancelled due to the weather. Some students did attend the Ash Wednesday Mass at 7:00. Classes will be as normal this week.

Grade 8-10: No class due to weather. This Wednesday, March 1st, we are having our interviews. Please be there by 7:00.

TO ALL CONFIRMATION FAMILIES

Please RSVP by March 1st to Martha
for the Confirmation meal
whether attending or not ...thank you
Martha Schweers 402-380-2114.