

**Saint Joseph's Parish**  
PO Box 623  
1318 Ave G West  
Wisner, NE 68791  
Parish Office: 529-3891  
[www.stjosephwisner.org](http://www.stjosephwisner.org)  
Reconciliation: Saturdays before Mass  
4:15-4:40 pm or by appointment

***The 3rd Sunday of Lent  
March 12th, 2023***

**Administrator: Rev. Vincent Sunguti**  
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**Holy Cross Parish**  
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Beemer, NE 68716  
Phone: 528-3475  
[www.holycrossbeemer.org](http://www.holycrossbeemer.org)  
Reconciliation: Sundays  
8:00-8:20 am or by appt.

**Bulletin and Office Email: [stjo68791@gmail.com](mailto:stjo68791@gmail.com)**

**The Third Sunday of Lent Bulletin**



The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of Exodus 17:3-7*. The Israelites, the Chosen People of God, were suffering slavery and the threat of total extermination in Egypt; God miraculously set them free and, with Moses as their leader, he led them towards the promised land of Canaan. But they soon forgot what God had done for them and began to murmur and rebel because of the difficulties

of the long desert journey. One of these rebellious murmurings is put before us today.

The **Gospel** is from *St. John 4:5-42*. This gospel, about the Samaritan woman, is exceptionally rich. Every time we read it we are passionately moved by that intense conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. The Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, recalling the great teaching of Saint Augustine, with regard to Christ's request to the woman, "give me something to drink", said: "Yes, God thirsts for our faith and our love. As a good and merciful father, he wants our total, possible good, and this good is he himself. The Samaritan woman, on the other hand, represents the existential dissatisfaction of one who does not find what he seeks. She had "five husbands" and now she lives with another man; her going to and from the well to draw water expresses a repetitive and resigned life. However, everything changes for her that day, thanks to the conversation with the Lord Jesus....." (Benedict XVI, Angelus 24 February 2008).

Man without God is inevitably destined to dissatisfaction, limited in everything by his own limits as a creature, even in "giving himself" or "obtaining for himself" joy, love, happiness... Man without God cannot think to reach boundless joy, unlimited and eternal love, the living water of which, precisely, Jesus speaks with the Samaritan woman.

Happiness, another word for the living water, can only be given by the One who possesses it, and man does not possess it. God alone can share it with those who place their trust in Him and follow Him.

The living water, the gift of the Holy Spirit, can only be given by the Lord Jesus whom the Father sent into the world to give to all men and women eternal life, that is, never ending happiness. As the Pope reminds us "only the water that Jesus offers, the living water of the Spirit, can quench" man's "thirst for the infinite" (Benedict XVI, homily 24 February 2008). Man is able to give his fellow humans, affection, money, power, human glory, honor, career ... but not endless happiness which, since it is an unlimited good, belongs to the divine, infinite sphere!

The living water flows only from the divine source. The Samaritan woman went to a well which was deep, but limited, whereas unlimited was her thirst for happiness and love. The woman, the Holy Father tells us, "Represents the existential dissatisfaction of one who does not find what he seeks". How often man seeks the infinite, the eternal, well-being...but sadly continues to seek it in a well, in a reality, the earthly reality, which is unable to contain it. How many wells, deep but empty, how many wells of stagnant water, we have met on our way! We carry within us immense desires and easily deceive ourselves that we can meet them.

On our path of conversion, what a great grace it is to find the Lord Jesus waiting patiently for us beside our

senseless wells. When, like the Samaritan woman, we are tired of the things of this world, of almost empty wells, then the Divine Master is especially close to us. He asks us to give him something to drink, he asks us to trust Him to satiate our heart and if we trust in Him we discover the joy of finding the true well, the source of crystal clear water.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, with wisdom typical of saints, explained why we should give ourselves to God: "Why should we give ourselves completely to God? Because God has given Himself to us. If God who owes us nothing is ready to give us nothing less than Himself, can we respond with only a small part of ourselves? Giving ourselves totally to God is a way of receiving God. I am for God and God is for me. I live for God and renounce myself, in this way I allow God to live for me. To possess God, we must allow Him to possess our souls.

Blessed Teresa di Calcutta



**From Fr. Vincent's Desk:**  
**St. Joseph Church & Holy Cross**  
**Parish are pleased to welcome**  
**Archbishop George Lucas for**  
**the Confirmation Sacrament**



The last time Archbishop Lucas visited our parishes was in 2019 during his pastoral visit. We are so grateful that he was able to find time to come and officiate the Sacrament of Confirmation to our candidates who have been preparing for some time. We are so blessed to host him, because it is the policy of the archbishop to come to the parish for confirmation only if they have at least 20 candidates or more. Secondly, he can come on week days. Since we have only 17 candidates, the initial plan was to team up with West Point but Archbishop Lucas graciously bent that policy and offered us a chance to come on a Sunday. We are grateful indeed!

Our 17 candidates from St. Joseph Church, Wisner and Holy Cross Parish, Beemer will be confirmed this weekend. We would like to offer a word of congratulations to them all. Thank you also the volunteer catechists who have been teaching them every Wednesday for the last few years. I would like to encourage the parents and the sponsors to continue supporting the candidates on their journey of faith that has just begun and not ended with this Sacrament of Confirmation. You have just been empowered to go out and bear witness to our faith.



*Third*  
SUNDAY  
IN  
LENT


Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer  
Weekend of March 19th

WORD: Tom Peatrowsky  
EMHC: Jeanie McTaggart  
SERVER: Kim & Kris Pena

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—March 5th, 2023	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$700.00
Plate:	12.00
Children:	7.00
Tithe.ly Online:	100.00
Total:	\$819.00

COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS after Mass next Sunday at Holy Cross. Please join us.

THE LIVE LENT TOGETHER sessions for this coming week will be Tuesday, March 14, at the rectory at 3 PM and Wednesday, March 15, at the rectory at 5 PM. Another group is forming and for more information you can call Trisha Steffensmeier at 402-380-5943. Everyone is welcome to any group.



### Celebrations:

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

**Birthdays**

Ashley Praest March 13  
Sarah Lierman March 16  
Ben Oligmueller March 17

## LENTEN SERVICES

**Adoration (6:30pm) & Stations of the Cross (7:00pm)**  
**At Holy Cross—Beemer**  
Fridays: Mar. 17th, 31st

Stations only:  
March 24th

**Adoration (6:30pm) & Stations of the Cross (7:00pm)**  
**At St. Joseph—Wisner**  
Fridays: Mar. 24th

MARRIAGE ANNULMENT SEMINAR

A marriage annulment seminar will be held on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the auditorium of the Archdiocese of Omaha's Office (2222 N. 111<sup>th</sup> St. in Omaha). The marriage nullity case process will be explained and how to start it. You can attend in person or via Zoom. Registration is required. Please register via the website: [www.archomaha.org/annulments](http://www.archomaha.org/annulments). Or if unable to register online, please call Tribunal Judge, Elizabeth Sondag, at 402-827-3737 to register.

MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	13	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	14	9:30 AM	WCC	Care Center Residents
Wed	15	8:00 AM	HC	Lvng & Dec'd Mbrs of the Leo & Hildegard Hunke Family
Thu	16	8:00 AM	SJ	Lvng & Dec'd Family of Ron & MaryAnn Wemhoff
Fri	17	9:30 AM	CHB	Lvng & Dec'd Mbrs of the Ray & Odelia Steffensmeier Family
Sat	18	5:00 PM	SJ	+ John Elenga
Sun	19	8:30 AM	HC	+ Wenzel Franzluebbbers
Sun	19	10:00 AM	SJ	+ Kathy Lorenz
SJ—St. Joseph's                      HC—Holy Cross WCC—Wisner Care Center      CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer				

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner  
Weekend of March 18th & 19th

LEC: Richard Schultz  
EMHC: Martha Schweers  
SERVER: Leighton Porter, Lilly Good, Alicia Ramirez-Torres  
OFF: Rick Jacobs  
USHER: March Men's Group

LEC: Tammie Batenhorst  
EMHC: Linda Hansen  
EMHC2: Sally Harms  
SERVER: AnnaMae Bloedorn, Chesney Ruskamp, Jesa Montgomery  
OFF: A.J. Burki  
USHER: March Men's Group

MONEY COUNTERS  
Sunday, March 12th —Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer  
Sunday, March 19th—Team #1 Mary VonSeggern, Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore

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—March 5th, 2023	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,725.00
Plate:	222.00
Children:	23.00
Tithe.ly Online:	151.62

CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMATION STUDENTS: Jesa Montgomery, Kimberly Pena, Alicia Ramirez Torres, Chesney Ruskamp, Autumn Chohon, Jordyn Gentrup, Anna Jacobs, Charli Jacobs, Hayden Schroeder, Mariah Andersen, Averi Buhrman, Caleb Combs, Dayton Gentrup, Hannah Grenier, Andrew Hansen, Haley Kneifl, Sydney Porter.

*Ladies' Guild* THE NEXT LADIES GUILD meeting will be Tuesday, March 21 at 5:30 in the church basement. Topics discussed will be Senior Sunday and Fall Dinner or a Guild Fundraiser. Every lady of the parish is welcomed to attend.

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 are the remaining dates scheduled for breakfasts: March 16th, March 23rd, March 30th & April 6th.

## Religious Education

**ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6**  
**Grades K-6:** Grades 3 thru 6 celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr. Vincent. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade learned about the New Commandment and how to show love for others.

**ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS– GRADES 7-12**  
**Grade 7:** Celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr. Vincent. This week we will finish the movie we were watching, discuss the scripture passages in it and take a test over it.

**Grade 8-10:** We celebrated the sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr. Vincent and had a quick practice for Confirmation. Please be at church by 9:00 and remember to set your clocks ahead. Class as usual next Wednesday.

**Grade 11-12:** No class. Will have class this week.