

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 4th Sunday of Lent
 March 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: stj68791@gmail.com

The 4th Sunday of Lent



Today is the halfway mark of the Sundays of Lent. This Sunday is known as **Laetare Sunday** for the first word of the Introit or Entrance Antiphon *Laetare* (rejoice); it is a Sunday of joy. The celebrant has the option to wear rose-colored vestments. This is also the Second Scrutiny in preparation for the baptism of adults at the Easter Vigil.

The **Solemnity of St. Joseph** is usually celebrated on March 19, but has been transferred to March 20 since the liturgy of the Lenten Sundays take precedence.

The **First Reading**, from the *first Book of Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a*, contains, at best, oblique references to the other two readings. The anointing of David as king may be a reference to the anointing in the responsorial psalm both of which may refer to Christ the good shepherd. The figure of David may also be a prefiguration of the anointing to Messiahship of Jesus for his mission. Whatever the reason for its selection for this day, the theme of the liturgy is better reflected in the other two readings for they present implications and applications of the baptism of the believer.

The **Gospel** reading from *John 9:1-41*, dominates the liturgy by the length of the reading and its significance. Already, in Old Testament Revelation, the Lord God had shown the People of Israel how the justice of the Creator was so much more profound and true that the thoughts of men. We have, in fact, heard in the first reading *'God does not see as human beings see; they look at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.'* (1 Sam 16:76). The Lord pointed out in this way the true, unique, criteria on which men are judged. He also indicated the unique place in which man can meet God's gaze and enter into a relationship with Him—in his heart. Obviously, by the word 'heart' the Bible doesn't mean the center of pulsation, but man's 'shrine', his conscience where he can really listen and recognize God's voice and so benefit from the Light: *'for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and uprightness and truth'*. (Eph 5:9)

Man, incapable of remaining faithful to the truth that is in him, falls back to his own limited criteria. This criterion produces every malice, injustice and falsehood and is used to govern himself, to decide between good and evil, whilst hoping that what he obtains will be to his benefit and so in this way he acts *'like God'* (Gen 3:5).

God doesn't give up but comes to meet every one of us in the two-fold way described in today's Gospel. Firstly, *'he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes'* (Jn 9:6). God made man, who is a creature. He united Himself to 'our earth' so that man would never need to flee Him, but could come to recognize Him through a meeting with His Holy Humanity. St. John wrote in the Prologue to his Gospel, *'The Word became flesh, he lived among us'* (Jn 1:14).



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:
RURAL FAMILY F WEEKEND MASS
Schedule beginning July 1, 2023

SATURDAYS

4:30 PM St Anthony/St Boniface rotation allowed until July 1, 2024*

*St Anthony will cease having a weekend Mass beginning July 1, 2024

5:00 PM Howells – Sts. Peter and Paul

6:00 PM West Point

SUNDAYS

7:30 AM Aloys

8:30 AM Beemer

9:00 AM Dodge

10:00 AM West Point

10:00 AM Wisner

10:30 AM Howells – St. John

11:30 AM West Point – Spanish*

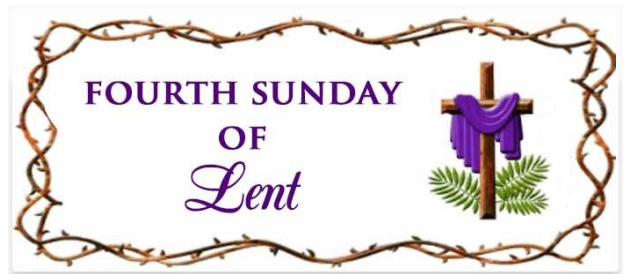
*The Spanish Mass will continue until we no longer have a Spanish speaking priest in our family. Sacred Heart in Olean will cease having a weekend Mass beginning July 1, 2023.



Eucharistic Exposition and Adoration

The Archdiocese is encouraging each parish to revive Eucharist as the center of our worship or what is called Eucharistic revival. This is in preparation to the Eucharistic Congress for the entire nation that will be held at Indianapolis in 2024.

I invite you to join me for Eucharistic adoration as follows:
St. Joseph, Wisner - Friday March 24th at 6:15 pm – 7:00 pm. Followed by Stations of the Cross.
Holy Cross, Beemer - Friday March 31st at 6:15 pm – 7:00 pm. Followed by Stations of the Cross.



MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	20	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	21	9:30 AM	WCC	+ Jane Fischer
Wed	22	8:00 AM	HC	+ Alvin Dinslage
Thu	23	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Herb Albers
Fri	24	9:30 AM	CHB	+ Russell Gentrup
Sat	25	5:00 PM	HC	+ Francis Oligmueller
Sun	26	8:30 AM	HC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Sun	26	10:00 AM	SJ	+ MaryAnn McGuire
SJ—St. Joseph's		HC—Holy Cross		
WCC—Wisner Care Center		CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer		

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

WORD: Rita Eichelberger, Renae Carlson
EMHC: Gerald Schlickbernd, Dennis Mostek
SERVER: Sun: Bo Oligmueller

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

LEC: Jeff Phillips
EMHC: Anne Ausdemore
EMHC 2: Madonna Servi
SERV: Chloe Schroetlin, Emma Schroetlin, Jace Hansen
OFF: Chris Liermann
USHER: March Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts

Holy Cross—March 12th, 2023

Sunday Envelopes:	\$935.00
Plate:	165.00
Children:	7.00
Building Fund:	100.00
Easter Flowers:	100.00
Tithe.ly Online:	100.00
Total:	\$1,407.00

MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, March 19th—Team #1 Mary VonSeggern, Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore
Sunday, March 26th —Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder

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

MEN'S WORK GROUP—April 2023

Chair: Mark Porter
Co-Chair: Tony Wemhoff
Members: Chuck Ross, Tim Stalp, John Woerdemann, Eric VonSeggern, Jeff Phillips, Nathan Janke, Ken Knust, Jack Knust, Dayton Gentrup

COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS after Sunday Mass today. Please join us in the basement for fellowship. All visitors welcome!

THE LIVE LENT TOGETHER sessions for this coming week will be Tuesday, March 21, at the rectory at 3 PM and Wednesday, March 22, 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

Gerald Wellman March 21
 Brad Schulz March 23

Stewardship of God's Gifts

St. Joseph—March 12th, 2023

Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,090.00
Plate:	338.00
Cemetery:	100.00
Tithe.ly Online:	491.39

PENANCE SERVICES

At Holy Cross—Beemer

Tuesday, March 21st at 7:00 pm

At St. Joseph—Wisner

Tuesday, March 28th at 7:00 pm

LENTEN SERVICES

Adoration (6:15pm) & Stations of the Cross (7:00pm)

At Holy Cross—Beemer

Friday: Mar. 31st

Stations only:
 March 24th

Adoration (6:15pm) & Stations of the Cross (7:00pm)

At St. Joseph—Wisner

Friday: Mar. 24th



THE NEXT LADIES GUILD meeting

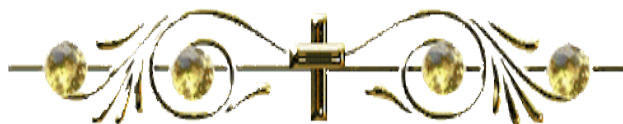
will be Tuesday, March 21st, at 5:30 in the church basement. Topics discussed will be Senior Sunday and Fall Dinner or a Guild Fundraiser. Every lady of the parish is welcomed to attend.

PARISH COUNCIL meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 23rd, at 7:00 pm. All are welcome.



EASTER LILY DONATIONS: There is a sign up sheet in the back of church for Easter lilies and flowers in the remembrance of your loved ones. Suggested donation for lilies is \$20 each. Please complete the form as you would like to have the names listed. Thank you.

MEN'S LENTEN BREAKFAST held each Thursday at 6:45 am during Lent at United Methodist Church of Christ.



Congratulations
To our 2023 Confirmands



Back: Dayton Gentrup, Andrew Hansen, Caleb Combs, Averi Buhrman, Anna Jacobs, Jesa Montgomery, Fr. Vincent, Hailey Kneifl, Sydney Porter, Hannah Grenier, Charli Jacobs, Autumn Chohon, Archbishop Lucas, Mariah Andersen, Hayden Schroeder, Jordyn Gentrup, Chesney Ruskamp, Alicia Ramirez-Torres, Kimberly Pena.

Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6

Grades K-6: The 5th grade discussed the Sacrament of Confirmation. The 3rd grade is still working on the Apostles Creed. The day ended with all meeting in church to practice their song for the youth mass. Prayers were sent home with the students so please help your child finish learning their prayers. First grade will recite prayers this week on March 22nd and the rest of the classes will do it on March 29th.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS— GRADES 7-12

Grade 7: Finished the movie they were watching and took a test over it. The movie stressed scripture and how "Good is Good", "Put our Trust in the Lord" and "All things are possible with God". This week will be discussing the Stations of the Cross and the importance of Holy Week.

Grade 8-10: Rel. Ed. 8-10: We talked about Confirmation Sunday with Fr. Vincent. Please remember that Confirmation is not an end but a beginning to your life as a responsible adult in the church and your learning to bring yourself and others closer to the Lord. We then went over our last test and took a new one. Classes as usual next week.