

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 2nd Sunday of Lent
March 5th, 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 2nd Sunday of Lent Year A



The Gospel is from *St. Matthew 17:1-9*. This momentary vision of Christ, in his glory, was given in order to strengthen the three principal Apostles to face the trials to their faith, which the sufferings and crucifixion of their beloved master would bring on them. For the very same reason it is retold to us today, in the early part of Lent, to encourage us to persevere in our Lenten mortification. It reminds us that, very soon, the Easter bells will be ringing out their message of joy once more. If we are sharers with Christ in his sufferings, we shall be sharers with him in his glory as St. Paul reminds us.

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This is a truth we all too easily forget, namely, that we cannot and do not get to heaven in a limousine. Our spell on earth is the chance given us by our heavenly Father to earn an eternal reward. This reward surpasses even the wildest imagination of man. We could never earn it, but God accepts the little we can do and provides the balance of his infinite mercy. And yet there are many, far too many, who refuse even that little bit that is asked of them, and are thus running the risk of not partaking in God's scheme for their eternal happiness.

And are they any happier during their few years on this earth by acting thus towards the God of mercy? Can they, by ignoring God and their duties towards him, remove all pain, all sorrow, all sufferings, from their daily lives? Death, which means a total separation from all we possessed and cherished in this world, is waiting around the corner for all of us. Who can face it more calmly and confidently —the man who is firmly convinced that it is the gateway to a new life, and who has done his best to earn admission through that gateway, or the man who has acted all his life as if death did not exist for him, and who has done everything to have the gate to the new life shut forever in his face?

Illnesses and troubles and disappointments are the lot of all men. They respect neither wealth, nor power, nor position. The man who knows his purpose in life, and is ever striving to reach the goal God's goodness has planned for him, can and will see in these trials of life the hand of a kind father who is preparing him for greater things. His sufferings become understandable and more bearable because of his attitude to life and its meaning. The man who ignores God and tries to close the eyes of his mind to the real facts of life has nothing to uphold him or console him in his hours of sorrow and pain. Yet, sorrow and pain will dog his footsteps, strive as he will to avoid them, and he can see no value, no divine purpose in these, for him, misfortunes.

Christ has asked us to follow him, carrying our daily cross, and the end of our journey is not Calvary but resurrection, the entrance to a life of glory with our risen Savior. The Christian who grasps his cross closely and willingly, knowing its value for his real life, will find it becomes lighter and often not a burden but a pleasure. The man who tries to shuffle off his cross, and who curses and rebels against him who sent it, will find it doubles its weight and loses all the value it was intended to have for his true welfare.

Let the thought of the Transfiguration encourage each one of us today, to do the little God demands of us, so that when we pass out of this life we may be assured of seeing Christ in his glory, ready to welcome us into his everlasting, glorious kingdom.



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:

Lent Works of Mercy Envelopes and Rice Bowls

This is just a polite reminder that we are now in the second week of Lent and we will have our Works of Mercy envelope and Rice Bowl collection during the Mass of Holy Thursday April 6th. Works of Mercy envelopes are a donation given once a year in place of the special collections that occur on different Sundays throughout the year. Kindly do not ignore this important collection. These collections include support of the Seminarians formation, World Mission Sunday that supports the Missionaries, St. Peter's Pence a collection that supports the activities of the Holy See in Rome that finances the Pope's charitable works, the Holy Land collection done on Good Friday which supports our church in the Holy Land and a few others. Whatever you donate, we split among the nine special collections spread throughout the year. Therefore, kindly be generous to avoid doing any other second collection in the course of the year.

The Rice Bowls are meant for what you have fasted or sacrificed. When you sacrifice your meat on the menu for example from 7 times in a week to 4 or 3, then calculate what you sacrificed in terms of money and put it in the Rice Bowl. These monies support Catholic Relief Services which is our church organization that helps areas of disasters like in Turkey during earth quake and parts of the world hit by extreme drought.

We are one church and let us support the less fortunate and in dire need as we have always done.

Upcoming 2023 Sacrament of Confirmation

Next Sunday, March 12th. The Archbishop of Omaha George Lucas will be here at St. Joseph's Church, Wisner to celebrate Mass and do sacrament of Confirmation. We have 17 candidates from Holy Cross, Beemer and St. Joseph, Wisner. 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 collection.

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 11th

WORD: Marilyn Ortmeier
EMHC: Tom Peatrowsky
SERVER: Sat: Ben Oligmueller

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—February 26th, 2023	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$757.00
Plate:	202.00
Children:	5.00
HELP/Fuel:	20.00
Tithe.ly Online:	100.00
Total:	\$1,084.00

NO SUNDAY MASS AT HOLY CROSS NEXT WEEK.

THE LIVE LENT TOGETHER sessions for this coming week will be Tuesday, March 7 at the rectory at 3 PM and Wednesday, March 8 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

JoAnn Steffensmeier March 8
 Tom Conrad March 9
 Kimberly Pena March 9

LENTEN SERVICES

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

At Holy Cross—Beemer

Fridays: Mar. 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



MARRIAGE ANNULMENT SEMINAR

A marriage annulment seminar will be held on Thursday, March 30th at 6pm in the auditorium of the Archdiocese of Omaha's Office (2222 N. 111th 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. Or if unable to register online, please call Tribunal Judge, Elizabeth Sondag, at 402-827-3737 to register.

MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	06	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	07	9:30 AM	WCC	+ Gerald Ruskamp
Wed	08	8:00 AM	HC	+ James V. Hetherington
Thu	09	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Keith Schroeder
Fri	10	9:30 AM	CHB	+ Fred & Rita McNamara
Sat	11	5:00 PM	HC	+ Natacia Gentrup
Sun	12	—	HC	NO MASS
Sun	12	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		

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of March 12th

LEC: Dave McGuire
EMHC: Alan Harms
EMHC 2: Shane Batenhorst
SERV: Emma Schroetlin, Maddisyn Lampmann, Lilly Good, Jentrye Frederickson
OFF: Bob Feller
USHER: March Men's Group

MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, March 5th—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder
Sunday, March 12th —Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer

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 26th, 2023	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,435.00
Plate:	149.00
Children:	96.00
Tithe.ly Online:	232.53

CONFIRMATION is scheduled for next weekend. Please pray for these 17 candidates from both St. Joseph and Holy Cross parishes. Pray that they may feel the Lord's embrace and that they will sense His guiding presence at each challenge they face in life's journey.

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 9th, March 16th, March 23rd, March 30th & April 6th.

LIFE Runners "All In Christ for Pro-Life!" Banquet is 6pm, Fri, Mar 31st, St. Elizabeth Event Center, Omaha. Keynote Speaker John-Henry Westen, LifeSite News co-founder (Canada). Emcee is Jen Brown, KVSS Spirit Mornings Show. Benefits LIFE Runners ministry work in 3,367 cities around the world, impacting hearts & minds for saving lives! Limited seating. Details at liferunners.org/banquet.

Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6

Grades K-6: The 2nd grade did Lent lessons and did the Stations of the Cross in church. The day ended with all gathering in church to "Bury the Alleluia" and practice music for the youth Mass in April.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS—GRADES 7-12

Grade 7: Discussed Lent and started watching Facing of the Giants which is an inspirational movie with the message: In everything, let God be praised.

Grade 8-10: We survived our interviews for Confirmation. We tackled another test and were reminded about practice this Sunday at 11:00 A.M. at St. Joe's. Please bring your sponsor or a parent. Class next week.

Grade 11-12: The students have been receiving daily reflections from their teacher (Missy Johnson) since Ash Wednesday taken from the book "33 Days to Merciful Love" by Fr. Michael Gaitley. Their class time was spent discussing these daily reflections.

