

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 Easter
April 16th 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.

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The 2nd Sunday of Easter- Divine Mercy Sunday



The **First Reading** is taken from *Acts 2:42-47*. On Pentecost Sunday the Holy Spirit, as promised by Christ, descended on the Apostles with external signs which brought the people of Jerusalem in their hundreds to the Upper Room where the Apostles with external signs which brought the people of Jerusalem in their hundreds to the Upper Room where the Apostles lived. St. Peter addressed them and explained what had happened, with the result that “about three thousand souls were baptized and added that day” (*Acts 2:41*) to the Apostles and disciples, who formed the nucleus of the Christian Church.

The **Gospel** is read for all years (Cycles A, B and C) and is taken from *John 20:19-31*. Last Sunday’s gospel, also taken from St. John, described the first hint at the resurrection which the Apostles received. Peter and John, convinced that the body had not been taken away, because the winding sheets were left behind, were beginning to believe. But the others were skeptical, the two disciples on the way to Emmaus paid no heed to the women’s story, and Thomas refused to believe the testimony of the other ten, even when this present appearance of our Lord had convinced them.

It may surprise and amaze us that the Apostles were so reluctant to believe that Christ had risen from the dead, to live forever in glory with his Father in heaven. But we must remember that during their two or three years with him they saw nothing in him but a mere man, one with divine powers, but yet a man; certain prophets of the old covenant had some such powers also. Christ had “emptied himself” of his divine nature, and he had foretold his resurrection many times. But that he could be really God, as well as man, was something they could not then grasp, and if he was a mere man death had to be the end.

Their slowness of faith had its value for the future Church and for all of us. If they had been expecting the resurrection, and anxiously looking forward to it, people could say that they imagined it, that they persuaded themselves it had happened. Indeed, there have been men proud of their acuteness of judgment, who have said that the story of the resurrection is a story of mass hallucination, although all the evidence proves the opposite. Their conviction that it could not happen, could not be removed from their minds except by impressive evidence that it had. Hallucination is born in a mind already excepting and hoping for the *imagined fact*.

We can thank the Apostles and especially Thomas, the last to give in, that our faith in the resurrection and divine glorification of Christ is that much the stronger. Our Christianity which would have ended before the first Easter week had passed, if Christ had not risen in glory, spread rapidly to the then known world and is still spreading because its author was none other than Christ “our Lord and our God.” How prophetic were the words of the Gamaliel at the meeting of the Sanhedrin which tried to prevent the Apostles from preaching the new Christian faith: “if this plan or work is of men, it will overthrow; but if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow it” (*Acts 5:38-39*).

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



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:

Divine Mercy Sunday

The second Sunday of Easter is usually celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. God sent his son to us out of his mercy and love. We don’t take it for granted. Out of his mercy, he forgave all those who executed him. Pope Saint John Paul the second said this of Divine mercy: “.... a gift to humanity, which sometimes seems bewildered and overwhelmed by the power of evil, selfishness, and fear, the Risen Lord offers His love that pardons, reconciles, and reopens hearts to love. It is a love that converts hearts and gives peace. How much the world needs to understand and accept Divine Mercy!”

The Divine Mercy Sunday origin is from a revelation to Saint Faustina, a Sister of Mercy in Poland who initiated the Divine Mercy devotion. Between 1930 and 1938 Jesus requested numerous times a Feast of Divine Mercy. On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of Saint Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday.

Updates on Priests Placement in our family Parish of West Point

It is now official that as from July 1st, 2023, we will have three priests in our family of 9 parishes. Fr. James Weeder of St. Mary’s, West Point will remain as the Pastor. I will remain as an administrator of St. Joseph & Holy Cross parishes so far as I’m still around. Fr. Walter Jong-A-Kiem currently the Pastor of St. Stanislaus, Duncan & St. Joseph, Platte Center has been appointed into our parish family as from July 1st. Fr. Mathew Niggemeyer, the current Associate of West Point will be moving to South Sioux City. Fr. Stanley Schmitt the current pastor of Howells & Heun Churches and Fr. Matthew Gutowski the current pastor of Dodge, Olean, and Clarkson churches will both move to Humphrey and Lindsey.

Clarification on Sunday Giving and Holy Day Collections

There has been some misinformation concerning which parish collection that goes to the Archdiocese of Omaha and which ones remain in the parish. Unfortunately, some people have been living with an assumption that all of our Sunday collection goes to the Archdiocese. As a result, they have not been completely giving Sunday collection or have reduced drastically what they give. That assumption is not true. I would like to clarify this. Our collections are counted and recorded by parish volunteers and then banked into our parish account. That is the money we use to run our parishes. With regard to the money that we remit to the Archdiocese, it is in the form of AAF tax (Archdiocesan Administrative Fund). Each parish’s allocation is based on a percentage of a six fiscal year rolling average of Sunday/Holy Day revenue. It is reviewed every year and fluctuates depending with our income. If you need more information, call or visit the office of our Parish Bookkeeper and she will explain to you the details.

So please my parishioners, let us support our parish. Much of what we give is what runs our parishes. The first support to your parish begins with registering into your parish officially. We have some young families that haven’t registered. Visit the parish website and print out a form under the window that says: “Do you want to become a parish member?”. In addition, registration forms are available through the parish office.

I would like to thank those who are faithful in supporting our parishes financially. There are still many family offertory envelopes at the back of the church that have not been claimed. Kindly pick up your envelopes to help support us. Our bills have become expensive as they have everywhere in the country. We need your support.

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of April 22nd & 23rd
WORD: Rita Eichelberger, Renae Carlson
EMHC: Gerald Schlickbernd, Ann Bausch
SERVER: Bo Oligmueller

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of April 23rd
LEC: Joyce Stalp
EMHC: Richard Schultz
EMHC 2: Shane Batenhorst
SERV: Chloe Schroetlin, Ella Jacobs,
Emma Schroetlin
OFF: Steve Ausdemore
USHER: April Men's Group

MONEY COUNTERS
Sunday, April 16th—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder
Sunday, April 23rd —Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer

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

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—April 9th, 2023	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$3,175.00
Plate:	325.00
Children:	113.00
Cemetery:	100.00
Heating/AC:	200.00
Works of Mercy:	1,239.00
Easter:	3,535.00
Tithe.ly Online:	481.39



YOUTH MASS TODAY— Welcome all of our St. Joseph Rel Ed Families. We are thankful and blessed to have you here with us today. Please join us after Mass in the basement for refreshments.

SENIOR SUNDAY—Today is Senior Sunday and we have 5 members of the parish that will be graduating from Wisner Pilger High School on May 13th. This years Seniors are: Addisyn Albers, Emily Buhrman, Jackson Knust, Laura Ramirez Torres, and Devon Schultz. Please congratulate them and wish them good luck with their future endeavors.

4TH GRADE SERVICE PROJECT:
Can you help us 4th graders help Kids in Crisis? We need donations of stuff that kids will need when they have to get out of a place that's dangerous. Mostly we need bathroom things like regular-size shampoo, soap, toothpaste and toothbrush, and brushes and maybe socks. We will put the things in bags and deliver them to The Bridge Crisis Center in West Point. There is a box in the back of church if you have donations. Or you can give money and our teachers will buy things. Thank you from the 4th grade religious education class. Please donate by April 18.




Special Thanks to all who donated lilies and flowers the Easter season! Chris & Brenda Liermann in memory of Eileen Brandl; Alan & Sally Harms in memory of their parents; Steve & Anne Ausdemore in memory of their parents; Linda & Larry Hansen in memory of Doug, Marcella & George Koester, John & Adela Koester, and Leonard & Ricky Adams; Rick & Sarah Jacobs in memory of Ralph & Irma Donner; Diane Davies in memory of John Davies; Mark & Martha Schweers in memory of Vincent & Catherine Ulrich; Madonna Servi in memory of Ted, Louise, and Ron Esser and Gary Servi; Dave & Carol Oligmueller in memory of Jayda Oligmueller; Bob & Judy Feller in memory of Leo & Dolores Rief and Bill & Clara Feller; Chris & Lori Ruskamp in memory of Alvin & Mary Jo Barent and Norbert Ruskamp; Tim & Joyce Stalp in memory of Wayne & Mary Wiese, Bob & Illa Stalp, Joshua Stalp, and Kathy & Jeanine Wiese; Bonnie & Del Styskal in memory of Edwin & Edna Knievel and Leonard Styskal.

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—April 9th, 2023	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,450.00
Plate (Easter):	328.00
Children:	19.00
Building Fund:	20.00
Easter:	8,796.81
GA/CC:	2,941.21
Holy Thurs. (Works of Mercy):	3,455.00
Tithe.ly Online:	100.00
Total:	\$17,110.02

COFFEE, JUICE, and DOUGHNUTS after Mass today. Please join us!

CONGRATULATIONS to those receiving their First Communion: Asher Borgmann on April 30th at West Point and Jude Carlson today.



Celebrations:
Holy Cross Parish wishes happiness and God's blessings to the following:
Birthdays
Ella Schulz April 17
Alan Batenhorst April 21



MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	17	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	18	9:30 AM	WCC	+ Gerald Ruskamp
Wed	19	8:00 AM	HC	Lvng & Dec'd Mbrs of the Henry & Eleanor Spenner Fam.
Thu	20	8:00 PM	SJ	+ Herb Albers
Fri	21	9:300 PM	CHB	+ Diana Batenhorst
Sat	22	5:00 PM	HC	+ Francis Oligmueller
Sun	23	8:30 AM	HC	+ Julita Fernandez
Sun	23	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 2nd is finishing up the lessons in preparation for First Communion. The day ended with all gathering in church to unbury the Alleluia and to practice for Youth Mass this weekend. Duties have been assigned to each child so please make sure your child/children attend. Final class for elementary will be on May 3rd.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS– GRADES 7-12
Grade 7-10: Fr. Vincent joined us to watch a short video called The Road to Emmaus and Fr. Vincent gave a short explanation of the story beforehand. The evening ended with all of us gathered in church for closing prayer. The final class for high school will be April 26th.