

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 Easter
April 30th 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 4th Sunday of Easter – Good Shepherd Sunday



Jesus said: "The shepherd calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he walks ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice. But they will not follow a stranger, they will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers." Christ Himself is the Good Shepherd, who

knows each one of His sheep, who gives His life for them and snatches them from the jaws of the marauding wolf. He is the true shepherd who fulfills Ezekiel's prophecy foretelling for Israel a shepherd from the end of time who was to deliver his people.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter marks the 60th Anniversary of the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations** instituted by Pope Paul VI in 1964. Parishes are especially encouraged to include prayers for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life in the general intercessions on that day and the homily may focus on vocations. Pope Francis' messages for each year should be read and taken to heart.

The **Gospel** is from *St. John 10:1-10*. One of the oldest paintings of Christ, in the Roman catacombs, represents Christ as carrying the injured, straying sheep gently on His shoulders back to the sheepfold. This is an image of Christ which has always appealed to Christians. We have Christ as our shepherd—He tells us so himself in today's gospel—and we do not resent being called sheep in this context. There is something guileless about a sheep, and at the same time a lot of foolishness! But with Christ as our shepherd and the "good shepherd" who is sincerely interested in the true welfare of His flock we have reason to rejoice.

The leaders of the Jews, the Pharisees and Sadducees, were false shepherds who tried to prevent the people from following Jesus, but they failed. They then killed the shepherd but in vain. He rose from the dead and His flock increased by the thousands and will keep increasing until time ends.

We surely are fortunate to belong to the sheepfold of Christ—His Church. We surely are blessed to have the Son of God as our Shepherd, who came among us in order to lead us to heaven. Do we fully appreciate our privileged position? Do we always live up to our heavenly vocation? We know His voice, we know what He asks of us, but do we always listen to that voice, do we always do what He asks of us?

There are many among us today who foolishly think they need no shepherd. They think they know all the facts of life while they are in total ignorance of the most basic fact of all, namely, the very purpose of life. Not that the thought of it does not arise disturbingly before their minds time and time again. But they try to smother that thought and ease their consciences by immersing themselves deeper and deeper in the affairs and the passing pleasures of this temporary life. Alas for them, a day of reckoning lies ahead, a day that is much nearer than they would like to believe. What will be their fate when they meet Christ the Judge, whom they had refused to follow and acknowledge during their days on earth?

This is a misfortune that could happen to any one of us, unless we think often of our purpose and our end in life. We have a few short years, but short though they be, we can earn for ourselves an eternity of happiness during this life. Let the straying sheep boast of their false freedom and of the passing joys they may get in this life—this freedom and these joys are mixed with much sorrow, and will end very soon. We know that if we follow the shepherd of our souls, we are on the way to the true life, the perfect life, the unending life which will have no admixture of sorrow, regret or pain. Where Christ is, there perfect happiness is, and there with God's grace we hope and trust to be.

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



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:
A prayer For Vocations on World
Vocation Sunday

God our Father, you made each of us to receive our gifts in the body of Christ. We ask that you inspire young people whom you call to the priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow your will.



Send workers into your great harvest so that the gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, your people are strengthened by the sacraments. We ask this through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

Memorial Day Mass

Memorial Day is coming quicker than I thought! That is on Monday, May 29th, 2023. I would like to re-start the tradition of saying Mass at the cemetery on this important day of remembering our beloved dead. On this Monday, I will celebrate Mass at Wisner cemetery at 8:30 am and I invite you to join me. Then I will join Beemer's community for the Memorial Day celebrations at 10:00 am where I will say the benediction or prayers under the invitation of the Legion. Next year, Beemer will have Memorial Day Mass. We will be rotating as we always do.

No Priest.... No Mass! June 3rd 2023 – Ordination Day
in the Archdiocese of Omaha

On the first Saturday of June every year, we usually have ordinations of priests in Omaha. Unfortunately, due to lack of candidates, there has been no ordinations for the last two years. Seminarians go to the seminary for 7 years and then they are ordained to become Deacons. Then after 6 months, they are ordained to priesthood. We have not had any for 2 years. As a result, the archbishop has asked us to dedicate this regular day of ordination as a day of prayer for vocations in our parishes. Each parish can pick any other day close to the first Saturday of June and arrange their own prayer format. For our two parishes of Wisner and Beemer, we will do our prayers on Sunday, May 28th, from 4:00-5:00 pm at Holy Cross Church, Beemer. It will be exposition of Eucharist followed by holy hour or adoration, rosary, prayers and concluded by Benediction.

AAA (Archbishop's Annual Appeal) Update April 2023

In response to a good number of people who have been asking me, below is the summary of AAA as of today:

St. Joseph – Target Goal - \$ 8,279.09
Gifts received - \$ 10,100.00

Holy Cross – Target Goal \$ 11,345:11
Gifts received - \$ 10,685.00

Thank you all for contributing towards AAA of 2022-2023.

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer

Weekend of May 7th

WORD: Renae Carlson
EMHC: Ann Bausch
SERVER: Kris & Kim Pena

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner

Weekend of May 6th & 7th

LEC: Steve McGuire
EMHC: Steve Ausdemore
SERVER: Henry Jacobs, Aubrianna Ricardez-Good, Jentrye Frederickson
OFF: Dave McGuire
USHER: May Men's Group

LEC: Holly Schroeder
EMHC: Shane Batenhorst
EMHC2: Linda Hansen
SERVER: Giddean Andersen, Charlee Thies, Chesney Ruskamp
OFF: Tim Phillips
USHER: May Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—April 23rd, 2023	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$890.00
Plate:	74.00
Children:	9.00
Easter:	100.00
Tithe.ly Online:	100.00
Total:	\$1,173.00

APRIL MOWING GROUP— CHAIR: Ron Guenther
 Members: Shane Coombs, Jesus Pena, Robert Praest, Tim Oligmueller, Dan Spenner

BEEMER'S FAITH SHARING GROUP will meet Wednesday, May 3rd at 5 o'clock in the rectory. Everyone is welcome.

THANK YOU to all who donated toward the Easter flowers: Rita Eichelberger in memory of Vergil & Frances Liermann, Robert & Ashley Praest in memory of Marcella Praest and Marcia Janzig, Doug Steffensmeier in memory of Ray & Odelia Steffensmeier, Ron & Bev Francis in memory of deceased family members, Bernie Oligmueller in memory Ben & Elizabeth Wordekemper, William & Johanna Oligmueller, Francis Oligmueller, and Jim Sapp, Brad & Anne Schulz in memory of Marilyn Schulz, Renae Carlson in memory of Robert & Violet Yosten and Brent Carlson, Art & Pia Fernandez in memory of Julita Andres, Angela Ludovico, and Camilo Reinerio Fernandino, Lavina Mestl in memory of Eugene Mestl, Marjorie Gentrup in memory of Casper Gentrup, Jr., Natacia Gentrup, and Adolph & Eunice Behrens, Stan & Marilyn Ortmeier, and Dave and Sue Steffensmeier.


MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, April 30th—Team #1 Mary VonSeggern, Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore
Sunday, May 7th —Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder

MEN'S WORK GROUP—May 2023

Chair: Nick Heller
Co-Chair: Austen Godbersen
Members: Perry Albers, Roger Lampman, Todd Schroeder, Chad Ludwig, Lorin Batenhorst, Ray Johnson, Hayden Schroeder

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—April 23rd, 2023	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,410.00
Plate:	2,078.00
Children:	49.00
Heating/AC:	220.00
Works of Mercy:	200.00
Easter:	550.00
Tithe.ly Online:	170.81



Celebrations:
 Holy Cross Parish wishes happiness and God's blessings to the following:
Birthdays
 Farrah Lierman May 2

MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon through Fri			—	NO MASS
Sat	06	5:00 PM	SJ	+ Yvonne Niewohner
Sun	07	8:30 AM	HC	+ Ben & Elizabeth Wordekemper
Sun	07	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		

CHILDREN'S BOOKS— Several children's books have been purchased and have been placed in a basket located in the back of church. Please let your kids enjoy them during Mass, then simply return them to the basket when Mass is over.

ST. CROIX HOSPICE is looking for volunteers to serve our patients in the Wisner area! Please consider sharing your time and talents to provide emotional and practical support for our patients and their families. Whether it's an hour a week or an hour a month, we would love to have you!

St Croix Hospice Volunteers are provided training, support, and flexible scheduling.

For more information, please reach out to parish member, Kyla Miller, at 402-350-7916. Thank you!

Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6
Grades K-6: The 4th grade did a field trip to West Point and delivered the tote bags, filled with necessity items, to The Bridge representative. Classes did end of year tests and those that did not pass need to re-take it this week. This Wednesday is the final class and we will have an ice cream sundae party since the goal for the Rice Bowls was met. The party will be followed by the students having class as normal to wrap things up for the year.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS— GRADES 7-12
Grade 7-12: This was the final week of class and we had our pizza & ice cream party. Have a great Summer and will see you in September.



FIRST COMMUNION -- Congratulations to those that received their First Communion Sunday, April 23rd. Pictured are Fr. Vincent Sunguti with Teacher Angie Kilcoin, Karla Millan Rico, Nora Porter, Aubrianna Ricardez Good, Aiden Soto Good, James Bloedorn, Kasey Kilcoin, and Riggs Buhrman.