

Saint Joseph's Parish
PO Box 623
1318 Ave G West
Wisner, NE 68791
Parish Office: 529-3891
www.stjosephwisner.org
Reconciliation: Sundays after Mass
or by appointment

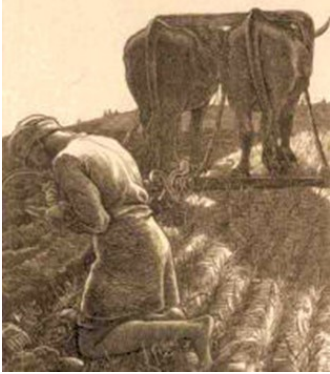
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 30th 2023

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: stj068791@gmail.com

The 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time



The **First Reading** is taken from the *First Book of Kings* 3:5, 7-12. God gives Solomon a choice of gifts. Solomon asks God for "an understanding mind," so that he could always do what was just and best for his subjects. God rewards him with the gift of wisdom making him the wisest man that ever lived.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew* 13:44-52. The lesson of these two parables is as true for us today, as it was for those Palestinians to whom Christ spoke. All Christians are called on to imitate the two wise men, and surrender all their earthly possessions, if necessary, in order to gain eternal life. Does this "giving all" mean that we are all expected to abandon the world and take on the religious vows of poverty, chastity and obedience? There are many who do just this. But it is not the only way, nor the normal way, to purchase the eternal treasure. Heaven is within the reach of all, who follow the ordinary vocations of life and partake of this world's joys and pleasures *within the framework of God's commandments*, but never lose sight of the goal toward which they are moving.

Keeping within the framework of God's commandments is the difficulty. We need not have a vow of obedience, but we must obey all legitimate authority. We may possess the goods of this world, but only such goods as we lawfully and justly acquire. Nor may we withhold all of these from a fellow man who is in need. We do not have to take a vow of chastity, but yet we must be chaste, we must use the gifts and the pleasure of sex only within the limits set down by God's wise laws.

Remember this: we shall not be asked at the judgment, "What did your neighbor do?", but "what did you do?" If we lose the pearl of great price in the eternity of happiness God has offered to us-it will not be the fault of others. The fault will be ours and ours only. We refused to pay the price. We did not think it worth the "paltry all" which we possessed in this life.

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

From Fr. Vincent's Desk:

Missionary Priest Visit

Today, Sunday July 30th, we will be having a visiting Missionary priest, Fr. Onesmo Komba, from the Archdiocese of Songea in Tanzania. We will therefore have a second collection after Holy Communion. You will find envelopes in the pews and let us use those. Write your check to your parish and note "Tanzania Missions" in the memo. There are so many Missionary challenges in working in the Archdiocese of Songea in Tanzania and since we can't all reach there to help, let us give a hand and encourage the priests there by being generous to them. Your support will be appreciated. In case you are not yet ready to make a donation today, kindly take an envelope home. You may mail it to the office or drop it in next week's collection to be sent with the others. God blesses a generous giver.

Be Patient, Appreciative, and Joyful

Having lived in the African background much of my life and now here in the United States for the last 12 years, I'm grateful for the variety of experiences, credible people and culture that I have acquired and met. It took me long to adjust and learn but now I'm so enriched with all these blessings of making new friends and learning new things as well as visiting places that I had never been before.



With my little experience and mixed perspectives of life, I have learned three most important things: to be Patient, Appreciative and Joyful. Like many of you, my personality type is that of action oriented. There is always an inner speed of doing things inside me that drives what I do. Many times, I lack patience and end up being disappointed when whatever I want to do has not been accomplished. But my virtue of patience has really grown with time, especially since I came here. Culture shock was my biggest struggle. Many days I almost felt like giving up but my inner voice kept on telling me to be patient, it will be okay tomorrow. Indeed, that next day came and is still here and all is well despite the same impatience in other things too that still exists. I learned that patience pays.

Our American culture has taught me so much in terms appreciation. I'm saying this from my heart and not to please anyone. I won't gain anything by doing that. This is a very rich value that we have here that doesn't exist anywhere else in the world that I know of, especially at the level that we have here. There is a sense of appreciation that has been instilled in our American values that permeates across our nation and makes us so rich in terms of relationships. This appreciation is not only between the living but also the deceased especially those who sacrificed so much for our nation. I'm thinking of our annual family reunions, annual classmate get togethers, holidays in our nation to remember and appreciate our heroes both dead and alive, among many others. There is always a kind word of appreciation communicated to a soldier from even strangers whenever they meet on the streets or airports. Priesthood especially today is challenging but I'm always encouraged many kind people's sense of appreciation.

Can we find joy in everything that we do? As kids, yes, but adults sometimes we struggle with that question. That is why Jesus challenges us that unless we become like little children we will not enter into God's kingdom. But we are encouraged by great Saints like St. Paul and Mother Teresa who found some joy in everything that they did. St. Paul reminds us to rejoice in the Lord always and those that we love. This joy begins with a smile that is part of our American social values. When the world around you does not give you joy, go for it yourself and find it. It is there and pick it up. Our Catholic faith is one of the things that brings us joy and hope. Take a book and read about a Patron saint on anything and you will realize how joyful they were despite the odds they faced in their times.

Let this summer bring us some fruits of patience, appreciation and joy. Happy Sunday.



Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer

Weekend of August 6th

WORD: Marilyn Ortmeier
EMHC: Mary Mostek
SERVER: Kris & Kim Pena

AUGUST MOWING GROUP— CHAIR: Alan Batenhorst
 Members: Gary Batenhorst, Heath Harrison, Tom Peatrowsky, Ron Francis, Gerald Schlickbernd

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner

Weekend of August 6th


LEC: Holly Schroeder
EMHC: Linda Hansen
EMHC 2: Steve Ausdemore
SERV: Giddean Andersen, Alicia Ramirez-Torres, Aidan McBride
OFF: Richard Schultz
USHER: August Men's Group

MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, July 30th—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder
Sunday, August 6th —Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer

MEN'S WORK GROUP—August 2023

Chair: Arvid Hass
Co-Chair: Matt McGuire
Members: Brook Andersen, Tim McGuire, LaVern Houghton, Mitch Schweers, Steve McGuire, Jack Godbersen



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

Birthdays
 Josh Bramble August 4
 Ghia Bramble August 4
 Anne Schulz August 4

More Like Jesus

Let us be more like Jesus
 In everything we do;
 Let's live a life of service,
 A life that's fresh and new.

Let's relinquish worldly things,
 And not be slaves to fashion;
 Let's fill our hearts with love,
 Forgiveness and compassion.

Yes, let's be more like Jesus,
 Being always in God's will,
 For if Jesus' light shines through us,
 Our earthly purpose we'll fulfill.

By Joanna Fuchs

Religious Education

CO-DRE AND TEACHERS NEEDED:
 Would you like to share your faith with the children of our parish? The Religious Education program is in need of a Co-DRE to share in coordinating our Rel Ed program. This is a part time paid position. We are also looking for volunteer teachers for grades 1st and 6th this fall semester, starting in September. We would like to fill these 3 positions as soon as possible. If interested, please contact Capri (402) 380-2925 or Sarah (402) 841-6144.


West Point Parish Family Weekend Mass Schedule:

Weekend Mass	Sat.	Sun.
St. Boniface/St. Anthony (Until July of 2024)	4:30 pm	
Sts. Peter and Paul-Howells	5:00 pm	
St. Mary's-West Point	6:00 pm	
St. Aloysius-Aloys		7:30 am
Holy Cross-Beemer		8:30 am
St. Wenceslaus-Dodge		9:00 am
St. Joseph-Wisner		10:00 am
St. Mary's-West Point		10:00 am
St. John Nep.-Howells		10:30 am



ST. CROIX HOSPICE is looking for volunteers to serve our patients in the Wisner area!
There when you need us the most. 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!



Prayer Chain info..... St. Joseph prayer group is open to all men and women of the parish. The prayer request notifications come to you via text or phone call, and you are not asked to pass on the requests (like past prayer chains have required). You simply include the request in your regular prayers and there is no meeting involved.

If you or a loved one need extra prayers, please let us know. The information you give can be as general or specific as you'd like. All members of the prayer group are asked to keep the intentions confidential. To be added to the prayer group or to ask for special prayer requests, please notify Father Vincent or call or text Anne at 402-750-9616.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	31	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	01	9:30 AM	WCC	Care Center Residents
Wed	02	8:00 AM	HC	Lvng & Dec'd Family of Alvin & Opal Wieck
Thu	03	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Mary Thomas
Fri	04	9:30 AM	CHB	+ Fred & Rita McNamara
Sat	05	—	—	NO MASS
Sun	06	8:30 AM	HC	Lvng & Dec'd Family of Ben Franzluebbbers
Sun	06	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

