

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

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 24th, 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 25th Sunday – September 24th 2023



The Gospel is from *St. Matthew 20:1-16a*. The call to the vineyard (to the Church), through God's gift of faith and the sacrament of baptism, is a gift for which we can never sufficiently thank God. If we remain in the vineyard and labor honestly, that is, if we cooperate with the actual graces God is continually giving us,

we are assured of reaching heaven when our earthly days are ended. The work we have to do in God's vineyard is the fulfilling of the duties of our state in life. By carrying out these duties faithfully and honestly, we are doing the will of God and earning heaven. The greater part of our day and indeed of our life, will be taken up with tasks of themselves worldly, but these tasks when done in the state of grace and with the intention of honoring God, have a supernatural value. For this we have to thank God for His goodness and generosity.

He could have made the attainment of heaven so much more difficult. He could have demanded extraordinary mortifications and renunciations and the reward (heaven) would still be exceedingly great. Instead, He allows us to live our everyday life, to enjoy the love and friendship of our family and friends, to satisfy the natural desires of our bodies, within the commandments, and yet to merit a supernatural reward while so doing. As He tells us through St. Paul: "whether you eat or drink or whatever else you do, do all to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10 : 31)."

Looking back on our past life, how many years have we really given to God since we came to the use of reason? Those school years, the time spent learning a trade or profession, the weeks, months, years working in an office or factory or farm, the hours among the pots and pans in the kitchen — have we earned some credit in heaven for all of this, or is it all crossed off our pay sheet through lack of right intention or through sin?

If so, those years are lost to us. We were "idle" all that time. Today's parable, however, should give us new hope and courage. It may be the sixth or the ninth or even the eleventh hour of our life but we can still earn heaven if we listen to God's call and set to work diligently in His vineyard. If we put our conscience right with God today and resolve to be loyal to Him from now on, He will be as generous to us, as the parable promises.

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

MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	25	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	26	9:30 AM	WCC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Wed	27	8:00 AM	HC	Lvng & Dec'd Family of Harold & Ruth Benson
Thu	28	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Tim Svoboda
Fri	29	9:30 AM	CHB	+ Eric Wellman
Sat	30	—	—	NO MASS
Sun	01	8:30 AM	HC	+ Duane Humlicek
Sun	01	10:00 AM	SJ	+ Leo & MaryAnn McGuire
SJ—St. Joseph's		HC—Holy Cross		
WCC—Wisner Care Center		CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer		



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:
Just for Today: Are We Still Proud of the Cross?

This last week, we just celebrated the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. It is actually the Feast Day of Holy Cross parish in Beemer. Hopefully we can plan and celebrate it next year. In ancient times during the time of Jesus, the cross was a symbol of humiliation and some form of punishment. It was so barbaric. Think about death penalty executions that used to be by hanging on the rope and then on electric chair. It is something awful that you don't want even to imagine of it. During the time of Jesus, criminals died on the cross and therefore it had no honor in it. To mock Christ as the king of the Jews, the Romans and Jews of the time decided to humiliate Jesus by putting him to death among criminals by dying on the cross.

Christ's death on the cross changed the perception of the cross from humiliation to victory. To counter the mockery of the Romans and Jews about the Cross, Christ ended up making the Cross as a symbol of his followers by exalting it. He ended up saying in the Gospel: "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. Mark 15:39".

Are we still proud of the Cross? If so, wear one, have one in your car and in your house. It is our sign of Christianity and we are proud of it. Every time I say my prayers in the church, or house, I look at the Cross before and after. Sometimes I touch the Cross to bless myself. I have a crucifix in my bedroom, sitting room, office and car. Every time I look at them, they remind me something Godly. Hope you can develop your own habits that can connect you to the cross of Christ. Like Moses who told Israelites that every time they look at the image of the bronze serpent which God had instructed him to mold, all those beaten by snakes were healed. We seek spiritual, physical and emotional healing of Christ through his cross.

Adult Faith Formation First Meeting – CCD Parents

I'm sure by now, all the parents of our CCD program children have received my letter inviting them to come for this first ever session of Adult Faith Formation. It will be held this Wednesday, Sept. 27th, at 7:00 pm at St. Joseph's church. The plan is to meet once in a month for just one hour. Come and support us in the faith formation of the children and all of us as well.

Archbishop's Annual Appeal (AAA) 2023-2024

Recently you received a letter from Archbishop Lucas inviting your support of the Archbishop's Annual Appeal. Please give prayerful consideration to your response. Our parish of St. Joseph, Wisner's financial goal for this year's Annual Appeal is \$8,268.17 with a participation goal of 28%. Our other parish of Holy Cross, Beemer's financial goal for this year's annual appeal is \$11,396.77 with a participation goal of 49%.

Together, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we will create a culture of unity, evangelization, leadership and mercy.



Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer

Weekend of October 1st

WORD: Tom Peatrowsky
EMHC: Mary Mostek
SERVER: Vanessa & Preston Praest

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner

Weekend of October 1st

LEC: Chris Ruskamp
EMHC: Alan Harms
EMHC 2: Capri McGuire
SERV: Leighton Porter, Jentrye Frederickson, Haley Kneifl
OFF: Mark Porter
USHER: October Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—Sept. 17th, 2023	
Sunday Envelopes:	1,280.00
Plate:	120.00
Children:	21.00
Tithe.ly Online:	150.00
Insurance:	200.00
GA/CC:	100.00
Total:	\$1,871.00

MONEY COUNTERS
Sunday, September 24th—Team #1 Mary VonSeggern, Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore
Sunday, October 1st—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder

MEN'S WORK GROUP—September 2023
Chair: Rick Jacobs
Co-Chair: Chet Beckmann
Members: Randy Jensen, Dave McGuire, Tom Feller, Ryan Schulz, Jordan Feller, Tim Montgomery


MEN'S WORK GROUP—October 2023
Chair: Dave Oligmueller
Co-Chair: Dane Miller
Members: Steve McManigal, Jeff Albers, David Dinklage, Del Styskal, Steve Gerken

SEPTEMBER MOWING GROUP— CHAIR: Brad Schulz
 Members: Mike Guenther, Melvin Niewohner, Joe Hansen, Alex Schulz, Tom Peterson

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

LIFE CHAIN—We will be participating in Life Chain on October 1, 2023 on Highway 275 in front of the Nutrien Ag facility in Beemer from 2 to 3 PM. This is a peaceful, prayerful hour of holding signs and praying for an end to abortion. The signs will be provided. People are welcome to bring chairs if standing for an hour is a problem. Children and young people are encouraged to attend.

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—Sept. 17th, 2023	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,145.00
Plate:	72.00
Children:	22.00
Tithe.ly Online:	141.62
Assumption:	30.00
Religious Ed:	100.00



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

Birthdays
 Sadie Schulz September 24
 Larry Bausch September 25
 Mason Praest September 29

UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF support group sessions will meet on Mondays from Oct 2nd-Nov 20th from 5:30-7:00 pm. Meetings will be held at Franciscan Healthcare in West Point on the second floor in the Bonaventure Conference Room. Registration is required as space is limited and for material purposes. Register by phone or email to Tom Manhart at 372-6708 or tmanhart@franhealth.org.

Ladies' Guild The next Ladies Guild meeting is this Wednesday, September 27, at 4:30 in the church basement. Every lady of the parish is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Thank You and Welcome to newest members of our St. Joseph's money counting groups. A.J. and Lindsey Burki, and Chris and Brenda Liermann have joined as a 4th group in the money counting schedule. If anyone else would like to join a group, please contact Sarah at the parish office.

WISNER SENIOR CENTER FUNDRAISER: Sunday, September 24th, 11:30 am—1:30 pm. It will be held at the Wisner VFW. They are having a smoked grilled beef tenderloin meal cheesy hashbrowns, calico beans and cheesecake!! Dine-in, carry-out or delivery. There will be music, door prizes and a pitch tournament. For more details, see the poster on the bulletin board at the back of church

SS CYRIL & METHODIUS CHURCH in Clarkson
 Parish Fall Dinner on September 24th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at St. John Neumann Hall.
 \$13 for adults, \$7.00 for children 6-12 years old
 5 and under are free
 Lots of activities. Auction begins at 1:15 pm

OPEN HOUSE at the WISNER CARE CENTER:
 Sunday, October 1st. 11:00 am—1:00 pm.
 Join them for Coffee and Donuts!



Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6

Grades K-6: The 5th grade subject for the day was: "What are the Sacraments?" They will be discussing each sacrament in detail throughout the year.
 We had great attendance with 59 out of 60 kids being present. Start reviewing prayers now with your children. We are looking forward to another fantastic fun and faith filled year.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS– GRADES 7-12

Grade 7-9: We finished our lesson on "Who I Am" and discovered things that were important to us.

Grade 10-12: They discussed who are they going to "Be". Describing others not by their labels, but rather by their attitude, the way they treat others, and what makes them beautiful. Choosing positivity and paying it forward.

All grades ended with prayer in church.

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