

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

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time November 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: stj68791@gmail.com

The 31st Sunday – November 5th 2023



The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Malachi 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10*. This reading states that this is a people who had wandered from the way of belief in God. The prophet chastises and threatens the priests of the temple.

The **Gospel** is from the Gospel of *Matthew 23:1-12*. As this picture of the Pharisees is painted by none other than Christ himself, we can have no doubt but that the description given is the truth and nothing but the truth. In spite of their great knowledge of "the law and the prophets"—the divine revelation God had given to the Chosen People—and of their many strict observances of that law, they were not pleasing to God. All their good works and all their learning were spoiled by the vice of pride which made them seek earthly glory for themselves and prevented them from giving glory or thanks to God. Their religion was an empty external cloak which they used to attract attention and honor to themselves. Internally, they were so full of their own importance that there was no room for God in their hearts.

Our divine Lord warned his disciples, and through them all of us, to avoid that pernicious vice of pride. It should not be hard for any true Christian to avoid this vice. We know that every material and spiritual talent we have has been given us by God, so we must give glory to God for any gifts we possess and not to ourselves. St. Paul reminds us of this fact when he asks us: "What have you that you have not received, and if you have received it why glory in it as if it were your own?" We owe everything we have to God and we should use all the gifts he has given us for his honor and glory, and for that purpose alone.

Do we always do this? Are we never tempted to look down on our less fortunate brothers? If we have got on well in our temporal affairs, do we attribute our success to our own skill and hard work or do we thank God for the opportunities he gave to us and not to others. If, aided by God's grace, we are keeping his commandments, do we show contempt for those who give in to temptations which we did not have to meet? The best of us can profit from an examination of conscience along these lines. If our external observance of the Christian rule of life is motivated solely by love and gratitude to God all is well. But if our hearts are far from God and our motives in our religious behavior is self-glorification, we are in a dangerous position. The sinners and harlots of Christ's day repented and were received into his kingdom; the Pharisees, unable to repent, were left outside.

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

From Fr. Vincent's Desk:

Updates on AAA 2023-2024

Together, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we will create a culture of unity, evangelization, leadership and mercy. May God transform our simple gifts to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal and guide our parishes to become missional communities. Our parish of St. Joseph's Wisner, has currently committed \$9,475 towards our goal of \$8,268.17. Holy Cross Beemer, has committed \$6,370 towards our goal of \$11,396.79. Thank you for saying yes to being a disciple and living mercy to our neighbors across the archdiocese.

PADRE'S PONDERINGS

Norfolk Daily News article – The October 27th issue of the *Norfolk Daily News* had an article titled "Rural churches search for answers" which contained some inaccurate information. I contacted the newspaper and am working to clarify the information with them. In the meantime, I want to offer the following points of clarification and correction.

First, the article stated that "within the next year, the two Catholic congregations in Howells will have to decide which will remain open for weekend Mass." This is not accurate. Based on the Journey of Faith guidelines and parameters that the Archdiocese provided and the deliberations with our Family Pastoral Planning Team, the Mass times and locations proposed have been approved and are currently taking place. Part of these deliberations recognized that based on attendance and capacity of the churches in Howells, there was a need to have two weekend Masses in Howells. Therefore, St John Nepomucene and SS Peter and Paul will each continue to have a weekend Mass into the future.

A second point that needs to be clarified concerns St Anthony and St Boniface. The article stated that "St Anthony and St Boniface will merge into one." One could read this and think that the two will merge into one parish. This is not the case. While there is an option for the two to merge, at this time St Boniface will remain an individual parish. However, discussion continues about merging St Anthony's and St Mary's in West Point as one parish. Concerning Mass times, St Anthony will cease to have a weekend Mass beginning July 1, 2024, but will continue to be open for funerals, weddings, baptisms, and other Masses during the week. St Boniface will also be open for the above stated liturgies and will continue to have a weekend Mass.

A third matter regards Sacred Heart in Olean. Sacred Heart will remain open for funerals, weddings, baptisms, and other Masses during the week. Sacred Heart currently has a Mass on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month.

In conclusion, these inaccuracies were not intentional, but as we know the further away from the source one is, the accuracy is subject. Moreover, according to the Archdiocese all parishes will remain open even if they do not have a weekend Mass. As we continue the Journey of Faith may the Lord grant us patience, understanding, and the grace to persevere in His love.

HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY The church dedicates the month of November to praying for the Holy Souls in Purgatory, that is, those who have died but have not reached their eternal home of heaven. Reflecting on this St John Paul II said,

"In praying for the dead, the Church above all contemplates the mystery of the Resurrection of Christ, who obtains salvation and eternal life for us through his Cross.... To believe in the resurrection of the flesh is to recognize that there is a final end, an ultimate goal for all human life, which so satisfies man's appetite that nothing else is left for him to desire.... Joined to the merits of the saints, our fraternal prayer comes to the aid of those who await the beatific vision. Intercession for the dead, just as the life of those living according to the divine commandments, obtains the merits that serve the full attainment of salvation. It is an expression of the fraternal charity of the one family of God.... Contemplation of the lives of those who have followed Christ encourages us to lead a good, upright Christian life so that we can prepare ourselves each day for eternal life."—Saint John Paul II

In Christ, Fr. Weeder

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of November 12th

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

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

LEC: Diane Davies
EMHC: Linda Hansen
EMHC 2: Steve Ausdemore
SERV: Henry Jacobs, Claire Flack, Jesa Montgomery
OFF: A.J. Burki
USHER: November Men's Group


Stewardship of God's Gifts Holy Cross—Oct. 29th, 2023	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$994.00
Plate:	67.00
Children:	29.00
Tithe.ly Online:	150.00
World Mission:	50.00
Total:	\$1,290.00

MONEY COUNTERS
Sunday, November 5th—Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer
Sunday, November 12th—Team #4 A.J. and Lindsey Burki, Chris and Brenda Liermann

MEN'S WORK GROUP—November 2023
Chair: Tyler Oligmueller
Co-Chair: Steve Ausdemore
Members: Shane Batenhorst, Tim Phillips, Galen Minds, Jeremy Ritter, Chris Borgelt

BIBLE STUDY—Due to All Saints Day Holy Cross bible study was postponed and will now be held Wednesday, November 8th, at 5:00 p.m. in the church rectory.

Stewardship of God's Gifts St. Joseph—Oct. 29th, 2023	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$615.00
Plate:	59.00
Children:	12.00
Tithe.ly Online:	393.34
World Mission:	\$1,079.34



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

Birthdays
Emmet Praest November 7
Curtis Carlson November 8
Fran Gentrup November 9
Jim Black November 10

TODAY PANCAKE FEED: Prom fundraiser by the Wisner-Pilger Jr. Class. 10:00am– 1:00pm at the WP Elementary. Free Will Donation. Full details on flyer in the back of church.

THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE has been set out and is located in the front of church in front of the statue of Mary. You may list the names of those you'd like to have prayers said for during this time. Intention envelopes are located in the basket beside the book.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS will host a hot breakfast next Sunday, November 12th, after Mass in the church basement. Please join them for great food and fellowship.



AED—An Automated External Defibrillator has been installed at the entrance of the church. There are two educational sheets on the table for you to take. One includes a QR code to access a short 2-3 minute video demonstration on what an AED is and how to use it. We encourage you to be familiar with how it works. If there is interest, we can arrange a live demonstration and hands on practice time. If interested, contact Sarah at the office. 529-3891.

ST. MARY'S (WEST POINT) FAMILY FUN DAY
"Take Me Out to the Ballgame" is Sunday November 5th. Serving from 10:30am to 1:00pm a roast beef/pork, sausage, sauerkraut and dumplings dinner. Price for tickets will be \$15.00 for 12 & over and \$5.00 for 11 and under, 3 & under free. There will be a country store, raffle tables, cake walk, games, silent auction & a big auction starting at 1:00pm. Please join us.

PLEASE NOTE

**ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS
EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE**

There will be an early deadline for this weeks. Please have all announcements emailed to the parish office **by 11:00 am on Wednesday, November 8th for the bulletin weekend of November 12th.**

Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6
Grades K-6: 2nd grade is learning how to use the bible and look up bible verses. The afternoon ended with all gathering to start practicing Christmas songs.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS– GRADES 7-12
Students attended the parish Mass for All Saints Day and afterwards went to their separate classes.

Grade 7-9: Girls: We started on our Lesson 4 on virtues and vices. What we want to do well in life, we need to practice, even though it may not be fun at the time. It is much easier to develop a bad habit, which we all have. We will continue this lesson next week.

Grade 7-9: Boys: Started lesson 5 by watching the video that discusses Chastity, Modesty and Love.

Grades 10-12: Watched short video "The Veil Removed" with a brief discussion then adjourned for the evening.



MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	06	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	07	9:30 AM	WCC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Wed	08	8:00 AM	HC	+ Chad Francis
Thu	09	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Irma Donner
Fri	10	9:30 AM	CHB	+ Paul Stalp
Sat	11	—	—	NO MASS
Sun	12	8:30 AM	HC	Lvng & Dec'd Mbrs of the Henry & Eleanor Spenner Fam
Sun	12	10:00 AM	SJ	+ Jayda Oligmueller
SJ—St. Joseph's		HC—Holy Cross		
WCC—Wisner Care Center		CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer		

