

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

The Third Sunday of Advent
December 17th, 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 3rd Sunday of Advent



Today is known as *Gaudete* Sunday. The term *Gaudete* refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, "Rejoice". Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near, and we also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath.

The **First Reading** is from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11*. Isaiah's words of consolation and promise

are addressed in the first place to the exiles, but they were fully and truly realized only when Christ the Messiah came. Christ applied the first two verse of this text to himself when he first preached in the synagogue of Nazareth (Lk 4:18-19). This morning, let us thank God from our hearts for the "good tidings" of our redemption and exaltation, brought to us by Christ the Son of God and our loving Brother.

The **Gospel** is from *John 1:6-8, 19-28*. Last Sunday we had St. Mark's account of the Baptist's activity at the Jordan as he prepared the people for the public mission of Jesus. John was the last of the great line of prophets and he was the greatest of them all. It was his privilege to point out to his audience the Son of God in human nature, the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," and also to hear God's voice from heaven proclaiming Christ to be his "beloved Son." He was surely a man sent from God. Let us listen to the call of John the Baptist, and from our hearts repent of our sins. Let us prepare for Christmas, the anniversary of Christ's human appearance on earth, by cleaning ourselves of all sinful attaches, but making a firm resolution to follow the Lamb through life.

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



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
4:00 pm St. Anthony's St. Charles	7:30 am St. Aloysius Aloys
4:00 pm St. Wenceslaus Dodge	8:30 am Holy Cross Beemer
5:00 pm St. Mary's West Point	9:00 am St. Wenceslaus Dodge
5:30 pm Sts. Peter and Paul Howells	10:00 am St. Mary's West Point
5:30 pm St. Joseph Wisner	10:00 am St. Joseph Wisner
7:00 pm St. Boniface Monterey	10:30 am St. John's Howells
Midnight Mass St. Mary's West Point	



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:

The sacrament of reconciliation has not changed, but it is still important in maintaining our spiritual balance and connection with God. Recognizing the reality of sin and the need for repentance is a fundamental aspect of our Catholic faith tradition. I encourage you to participate in confession, especially during significant seasons like Advent and Lent. This can indeed be a powerful way to reflect, reconcile, and renew one's spiritual journey.



You may miss going for confession on other days of the year, but don't miss these two important days. As a matter of fact, Advent and Lent are opportune moments for self-reflection and seeking forgiveness as symbolized by the purple color that we use during Mass. They offer a chance for a deeper spiritual preparation for the celebrations of Christmas and Easter, respectively.

If you can as well, regular confession can be a meaningful practice in fostering spiritual growth and maintaining a clear conscience too. Consider taking advantage of these opportunities for reconciliation and renewal. For dates and times, check in the bulletin.



Dear all, the season of Advent bears a penitential character that nearly parallels that of Lent. This is mainly reflected in the use of purple as liturgical color and the absence of the Greater Doxology, the "Gloria in Excelsis Deo," at Mass. Strictly speaking, however, Advent is also a season of longing, a time of restless, active, and joyful anticipation of the fulfillment of God's promises. It begins on the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle (November 30) and spans roughly four Sundays and four weeks. In the last two weeks, our focus has been on the Lord's Second Coming at the end of the world. And today, the Third Sunday of Advent, known as "Gaudete Sunday," we switch to rose-colored vestments and candles to celebrate our belief in Christ's coming among us in the present while looking forward to the future with joy. Literally translated from Latin, the term "Gaudete" means "Rejoice." It is placed in the verbal plural imperative form to remind us that it is as a community of faith that we are to glimpse the joy that will soon be ours on Christmas day. Indeed, the joy that today's liturgy reawakens in our hearts is not reserved for us alone. It is a joy to be shared with others, a prophetic proclamation destined for all humanity. And so, as we rejoice, it is also crucial for us to remember our brothers and sisters around the world, those experiencing the drama of war, the poor, the lonely, and the sick who, in addition to being tried in their bodies, are sorely tried in their souls: What joy can they experience? What will their Christmas be like? In the days leading up to Christmas, brothers and sisters, let us wrestle with these questions and embrace the liturgical invitation to rejoice not as an alienating message but as an appeal for rescue that begins with inner renewal, permeates our souls, and brings joyful hope and healing to the world.

Many Blessings, Fr. Michel

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of December 24th

WORD: Rita Eichelberger
EMHC: Mary Mostek
SERVER: Kris & Kim Pena
Christmas Day
EMHC: Dawn Peatrowsky

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of December 24th

LEC: Dave McGuire
EMHC: Capri McGuire
EMHC 2: Anne Ausdemore
SERV: Annamae Bloedorn, Angel Ramirez-Lugo,
Emma Schroetlin
OFF: Ushers
USHER: December Men's Group


Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—Dec 10th, 2023	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,140.00
Plate:	80.00
Children:	25.00
Tithe.ly Online:	150.00
Christmas Flowers:	220.00
Immaculate Conc.:	55.00
Thanksgiving:	500.00
Christmas:	200.00
Total:	\$2,370.00

Christmas Eve
LEC: Richard Schultz
EMHC: Madonna Servi
EMHC 2: Alan Harms
SERV: Jaylee Lueken, Henry Jacobs, Joel Good
OFF: Matt McGuire
USHER: December Men's Group

Christmas Day
LEC: Gayle Lampman
EMHC: Linda Hansen
EMHC 2: Martha Schweers
SERV: Leighton Porter, Chloe Schroetlin,
Charlee Thies
OFF: Ushers
USHER: December Men's Group

ENVELOPES & CALENDARS for 2024 are on the table. Please pick them up soon.

BABY NEEDS & EYEGLASSES are being collected until January. Baskets are on the table.



Celebrations:

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

Birthdays

Kailey Pena December 18
Dan Spenner December 19
Betty Guenther December 20
Brandon Lierman December 22

MONEY COUNTERS
Sunday, December 17th—Team #1 Mary VonSeggern, Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore
Sunday, December 24th—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder

MEN'S WORK GROUP—December 2023
Chair: Marvin Seier
Co-Chair: Greg Schlautman
Members: Tony Lampman, AJ Kluthe, Rich Bodwell, Russ Loberg, Chris Liermann, Ken Duncan, Gavin Lampman, Tycin Lampman, Austin Kluthe

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

St. Joseph's - Tues., December 19th at 7:00 pm
Holy Cross - Thurs., December 21st at 7:00 pm

Both with Fr. Vincent and Fr. Walter

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—Dec 10TH, 2023	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$3,265.00
Plate:	57.00
Children:	30.00
Immaculate Conc.:	45.00
Tithely:	481.39



HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE—Sunday, Dec. 24th
St. Joseph—5:30 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY—Monday, Dec. 25th
Holy Cross—8:30 am
St. Joseph—10:00 am

MENS WORK GROUPS: The 2024 Men's Group schedule has been updated and is available in the back of church. Please try to pick them up before the end of the year. Many thanks.

ST. JOSEPH PARISH—POINSETTIAS
If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia for the Christmas Season in memory of a loved one(s), the sign up sheet and envelope are in the back of the church. You may also put an envelope in the collection basket, or mail it to the church at PO Box 623. Be sure to include the name of your loved one(s) and \$20 for each Poinsettia. Thank you! St Joseph Environment Committee



THE LADIES GUILD work group list for 2024-2026 is available in the back of church. Please pick them up.

MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	18	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	19	9:30 AM	WCC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Wed	20	8:00 AM	HC	+ Peter & Elizabeth Peitzmeier
Thu	21	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Gary Servi
Fri	22	9:00 AM	CHB	+ Adolph & Eunice Behrens
Sat	23	—	—	NO MASS
Sun	24	8:30 AM	HC	+ Francis Oligmueller
Sun	24	10:00 AM	SJ	+ Norbert Oligmueller
Sun	24	5:30 PM	SJ	Christmas Eve
Mon	25	8:30 am	HC	Christmas Day
Mon	25	10:00 am	SJ	Christmas Day

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 Christmas Program was held on Wednesday evening and was followed by a soup supper hosted by the Ladies Guild. The program was very well attended by family and friends and the students did an awesome job with their parts and skits.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS— GRADES 7-12

Grade 7-12: The kids enjoyed an evening of friends, food, and bowling at the annual high school Christmas Bowling Party at Tornado Alley.

Have a Blessed Christmas Season and a Happy New Year!

January 10th - Classes resume for all grades