

**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 First Sunday of Advent**  
**December 3rd, 2023**

**Administrator: Rev. Vincent Sunguti**  
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**Holy Cross Parish**  
 PO Box 212  
 517 N Fraasier  
 Beemer, NE 68716  
 Phone: 528-3475  
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 Reconciliation: Sundays  
 8:00-8:20 am or by appt.

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**The First Sunday of Advent—Year B**



The First Sunday of Advent marks the new Liturgical Year, and the Church shifts into a new Lectionary Cycle for Sundays, with 2023-24 returning to **Cycle B, the Gospel of St. Mark**. In the Sunday Gospel (Mark 13:33-37) Jesus invites us to recognize the signs of the last days. This is a reminder

that Advent is not just looking back at the first coming of Christ at Christmas, but our personal preparation for His Second Coming: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come."

The traditional Collect (Opening Prayer) of the last Sunday of the Church year began "Stir up the wills of Thy faithful people, we beseech Thee, O Lord..." With this request to God to "stir up" our wills, this day was traditionally called **Stir-Up Sunday**. Because the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Christ the King on the last Sunday of the year, "Stir-Up Sunday" can now be the First Sunday of Advent. The traditional Collect of the First Sunday is asking God to stir up His might: "Stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come." Many families create a traditional plum pudding or fruit cake or some other recipe that all the family and guests can "stir-up." This activity of stirring-up the ingredients symbolizes our hearts that must be stirred in preparation for Christ's birth.

The **Gospel** is taken from *Mark 13:33-37*. "Watch!" is Christ's advice and command. We know not the year or the day or the hour when our master will call us. That year, day and hour will be unexpected, even if we are advanced in years or have been suffering from prolonged illness. We shall not be unprepared for it if we have tried all our lives to be faithful to Christ and to our Christian faith.

This holy season of Advent is an opportune time for each one of us to look into his life and see how he stands with God. Christmas should remind us of the second coming of Christ, which will be very soon for all of us.

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

<b>West Point Parish Family Weekend Mass Schedule:</b>		
<b>Weekend Mass</b>	<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Sun.</b>
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



**From Fr. Vincent's Desk:**

**Parish Advent Retreat**

As we begin advent, it is time also to re-treat or go back into our lives and start working on some areas where we struggle in our relationship with God and others. As you will be hearing the readings talking about preparations, let us be part of this. We will therefore have a short retreat at Holy Cross Church, Beemer today from 4-5 pm offered by Fr. Steve Mills, the assistant Chief Administrative Officer of Bishop Neumann Junior & Senior High school in Wahoo, Lincoln Diocese. There will be an opportunity for confession too. The retreat is open to anyone.

**St. Joseph Church - Special Wi-Fi Headphones for Mass**

For people with hearing difficulties during Mass, we do have special gadgets that are plugged with ear plugs that will help you to hear and understand much better. Anyone who would like to use them, has to arrive early before Mass and come into the sacristy to pick one. We will show you how it is used. After Mass, kindly return it into the sacristy counter. We only have 4 of them for the time being, and so first come first served. Help me to pass this information to people who may need to use these hearing aids.

**Archbishop's Annual Appeal 2023-2024**

This Advent, take the Holy Spirit up on the gifts that are being offered to you. Your gifts to the Archbishop's Annual Appeal strengthen our parishes, schools and ministries. Thank you for your faithful support!

**GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

**December 3, 2023 1st Sunday of Advent—**

Lately I've been listening to a science-based podcast on healthy daily living. The host frequently discusses the wide range of health benefits of sleep. So, each night I'm trying to get more, and better, slumber, and it's helping me feel energized. So, why in the world should we follow Christ's advice this week? —Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house will come ... lest he find you asleep. Isn't sleep, especially at midnight and cockcrow, a good thing? Of course, it is. But the wakefulness the Lord calls us to is a deep, personal orientation to Him. A nightly vigil is therefore a metaphor for this, but it's not just that. We should give up real sleep in order to pray, too. This difficult practice is a time-tested way to foster wakefulness of heart. When we give up sleep to pray, it focuses us. We learn that life is not an endless series of days. You and I belong to the Lord — awake or asleep, in life and in death. Sooner or later, even our need for our physical sleep will pass away. And our attentiveness to God — that is, whether we are awaiting Him to meet us — will be all that matters. May I challenge us this week and this Advent to intentionally give up at least one hour of sleep each week for prayer? Stay up later, wake up in the middle of the night, or an hour earlier, and pray. Will we be a bit more tired the next day? Yes. But we'll be amazed at the spiritual wakefulness that results, too. — **Father John Muir**



Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer  
Weekend of December 3rd

WORD: Doris Guenther  
EMHC: Brenda Anderson  
SERVER: Vanessa & Preston Praest

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner  
Weekend of December 10th

LEC: Steve McGuire  
EMHC: Capri McGuire  
EMHC 2: Madonna Servi  
SERV: Kinsley Lueken, Jentrye Frederickson.  
Autumn Chohon  
OFF: Ron Machacek  
USHER: December Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts Holy Cross—Nov. 26th, 2023	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$880.00
Plate:	200.00
Children:	18.00
Tithe.ly Online:	200.00
Thanksgiving:	785.00
Total:	\$2,083.00

**MONEY COUNTERS**  
Sunday, December 3rd—Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer  
Sunday, December 10th—Team #4 A.J. Burki, Lindsey Burki, Chris Liermann, Brenda Liermann

**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

**2023 ADVENT RETREAT**—A free event at Holy Cross TODAY. Speaker at 4:00 pm followed by Exposition, Adoration, and Confessions. Childcare will be provided.

**HOLY CROSS ALTAR SOCIETY** will hold their meeting December 4th at 5:00 p.m. in the church basement. The baby Jesus Shower basket will be in the back of church for donations. We also will be collecting used eye glasses in a separate basket.


**HOLY CROSS BIBLE STUDY:** Because of our December 3rd Retreat and the Altar Society meeting the 4th, Holy Cross bible study won't be held December 6th. Our next Bible study will be January 3rd.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Stella Guenther, Preston Praest, Elijah Woodbury & Easley Woodbury on receiving their server crosses. God bless you and thank you for your ministry!

Stewardship of God's Gifts St. Joseph—Nov. 26th, 2023	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,330.00
Plate:	106.00
Children:	18.50
Tithe.ly:	393.34

**ST. JOSEPH 2024 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES** are in the back of church. Please pick them up at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

*Ladies' Guild* The Ladies Guild work group list for 2024-2026 is available in the back of church. Please pick them up.




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

**Birthdays**  
Skyler Peatrowsky December 4  
Duane Neeson December 8  
Emmett Steffensmeier December 8

\*\*\* TODAY \*\*\*

**WISNER VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE SOUP FUNDRAISER**

Sunday, December 3rd  
At the Wisner City Auditorium  
Soup Meal 11:00am—1:30 pm  
Chicken—Chili—Oyster Stew  
Visit with SANTA 11:00—12:30



**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SERVICES**

St. Joseph's - Thursday, December 7th at 5:30 pm  
Holy Cross - Friday, December 8th at 12:00 noon



**Religious Education**

**ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6**  
**Grades K-6:** Grades 3-6 celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr. Vincent. This week will be normal class times.  
December 13<sup>th</sup> - Class is from 4:00 - 6:00  
**December 13<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Program at 6:00p.m.** followed by soup supper. Invites were sent home. Families that have names starting with A-L need to bring 6 sandwiches cut in half and families from M-Z need to bring 1 dozen bars (precut) or cookies.

**ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS– GRADES 7-12**  
The evening starting with eating cupcakes and celebrating birthdays for Gerald, Renae and Sarah who all have birthdays in these 2 weeks.

**Grade 7-9: Boys:** Watched and discussed the movie When the Game Stands Tall.  
**Grades 10-12:** Discussed Advent and our word for the week was "Anticipate".

The evening ended with an Advent Prayer Service having us reflect on how we are filled with the hope of Christ's coming.

November 29th, December 6<sup>th</sup> - Class as normal  
December 13<sup>th</sup> - End of semester Bowling Party

MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	04	—	—	<b>NO MASS</b>
Tue	05	9:30 AM	WCC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Wed	06	8:00 AM	HC	+ John Hassler
Thu	07	8:00 AM	SJ	<b>No Morning Mass</b>
Thu	07	5:30 PM	SJ	+ Lori Hollman Ruskamp
Fri	08	9:00 AM	CHB	<b>No Morning Mass</b>
Fri	08	12:00 PM	HC	+ Russell Gentrup
Sat	09	—	—	<b>NO MASS</b>
Sun	10	8:30 AM	HC	+ Mac Seeman + Eugene Mestl
Sun	10	10:00 AM	SJ	+ Herb Albers
SJ—St. Joseph's		HC—Holy Cross		
WCC—Wisner Care Center		CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer		