

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 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 14th, 2024

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: stjoe68791@gmail.com

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



The **First Reading** is taken from the *First Book of Samuel* 3:3-10; 19 and gives an account of Samuel's vocation to take over the leadership of the Chosen People.

The **Gospel** is from the Gospel of *St. John* 1:35-42 and gives an account of the vocation of the first four Apostles who followed Jesus. It was a momentous event in the history of salvation. It was the beginning of a

stream of vocations that would grow and spread down through the ages until the end of the world. It was momentous, firstly, in that Christ, who had come to open heaven for all men and who could find means of bringing them all to that eternal home without help from any man, decided instead to let men co-operate with him in this divine task. He decreed to set up a kingdom in this world—his Church—which would be run by mere mortals for their fellow-mortals, but which would be under his protection and assisted by his divine aid until the end of time. Christ chose this very human way, in order to make his Church more acceptable to our limited, human understanding and more approachable for sinful, human nature.

Today, let us thank our blessed Lord who provided so humanly—and yet so divinely for our eternal welfare. In the Church, which he founded on the lowly but solid foundation of simple fishermen of Galilee, he erected an institution against which the gates of hell, the power of all the enemies of our salvation, cannot prevail, for his divine guidance and help will be with it forever. It has had enemies and opposition from the beginning; they may be more numerous and more destructive than ever today. But the promise of Christ still holds good, his word cannot fail. Therefore, neither the opposition of materialistic enemies from without, nor the even more insidious attacks from faint-hearted and worldly-minded members from within, can affect the safety and permanence of the building which Christ built on the Rock. "If God is with us," it matters not "who is against us.

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



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:
2024 Rel Ed Parents: Family Faith Formation
— 2nd session

We have once again a wonderful opportunity for parents of Rel Ed families to come together and deepen their faith. I'm inviting you again.



This part of the year's meetings will be done on the third Wednesday of the month. Our next session will be January 24th, at 7:00 pm in the church here at St. Joseph. We usually spend one hour with different activities including learning a new prayer and a new saint of the month, "Lectio Divina" and watching a faith-based video followed by some discussions. Help me in supporting your children in their faith formation.

Fr.'s Desk continued on the next column.....

St. Joseph Church Improvement Projects – Jan. 2024

I would like to let you know that myself, St. Joseph Parish council together with the Finance Council have approved the following two projects to take place in 2024:

1. Church vestibule bathroom – In the current reconciliation room as well as what acts as the cry room, a section of it will be constructed into a bathroom with a handicapped accessible door. We will still have a small room for the sacrament of reconciliation as well as a cry room. The bathroom project is expected to start this week or so.
2. Concrete work on the front church steps – We will be replacing the front church steps. The current one is well worn with many cracks and other issues that in the past, we have repaired from time to time. It has also been recommended by Catholic Mutual Insurance which is the insurance company that covers our churches. Work on the steps is scheduled to begin this spring. When this work commences, it is possible that we may need to relocate Sunday Mass to the church basement hall.

If there is anything specific you would like to discuss, or if you have any questions related to these projects, feel free to contact myself or any member of the Parish or Finance councils.



SPIRITUAL INSIGHT from Fr Walter

Samuel was taught by the Lord to listen to Him. And do you know what is so encouraging? The Lord called Him not once, not twice, not thrice, but four times before he learned how to listen to Him. That means I don't have to get it right the first time. God is very patient with us and He loves to teach us to listen to Him. Are we willing to learn? How teachable am I? This is what I need to reflect upon. Why is this so important? God wants a living, loving, dynamic, real relationship with me and this relationship is not really alive, active, dynamic if I don't know how to listen to Him. Doesn't Jesus tell us in the Our Father Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven? That means that we listen to the Father like all the angels and Saints do in Heaven this very moment of our lives on earth. That means that Jesus tells us we have the capability and the gift given to us to hear His voice. Why is this believable? We are His adopted children at baptism and a loving Father communicates with us as much as possible to show us how much He loves us. St Ignatius of Loyola tells us:

It is true that the voice of God having once penetrated the heart, becomes strong as the tempest and loud as a thunder. But before reaching the heart it is weak as light breath that scarcely agitates the air. It shrinks from noise and is silent amid agitation.

We can hear God's voice much easier when it is silent and when we expect in faith to hear a loving voice. How does He communicate to us? He can talk to us via thoughts, feelings, desires, hearing, images. Holy Spirit teach me to listen to God; Mary pray that I have a listening heart to do His will for that leads to deep joy and union with God.

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of January 21st

WORD: Rita Eichelberger
EMHC: Tom Peatrowsky
SERVER: Vanessa & Preston Praest

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of January 21st

LEC: Sally Harms
EMHC: Martha Schweers
EMHC 2: Anne Ausdemore
SERV: Jesa Montgomery, Ty Montgomery,
Myles Lampman
OFF: Rick Jacobs
USHER: January Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts
Holy Cross—Jan. 7th, 2024

Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,355.00
Plate:	41.00
Children:	34.00
Tithe.ly Online:	150.00
Solemnity of Mary:	45.00
Christmas:	3,400.00
Total:	\$5,025.00

MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, January 14th—Team #1 Mary VonSeggern,
Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore
Sunday, January 21st—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane
Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder

MEN'S WORK GROUP—January 2024

Chair: Jeff Recker
Co-Chair: Dan Kane
Members: Terry Soden, Ron Machacek, Shawn Davie,
Doug Oertwich, Bernie Ruskamp, Adam Brahmer,
Tyler McBride, Preston Hansen, Andrew Hansen

COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS next week after Mass. If you wish to take a poinsettia, please do so after Mass today or next week.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP at Holy Cross will now meet 6-7 am on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. All men are welcome. No commitment.

Stewardship of God's Gifts
St. Joseph—Jan. 7th, 2024

Sunday Envelopes:	\$1270.00
Plate:	123.00
Children:	43.00
Tithely:	172.12
Heating/AC:	5,120.00
Maintenance:	5,000.00
Christmas:	20.00

PARISH COFFEE: The Parish Council will be hosting a coffee TODAY, January 14th, after Mass in the church basement. Join them for refreshments and fellowship!



Celebrations:

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

Birthdays

Susan Steffensmeier January 14
Shane Combs January 15
Jean Batenhorst January 16
Chris Black January 18

Anniversaries

Ron and Bev Francis January 14

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	15	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	16	9:30 AM	WCC	NO MASS
Wed	17	8:00 AM	HC	NO MASS
Thu	18	8:00 AM	SJ	NO MASS
Fri	19	9:00 AM	CHB	NO MASS
Sat	20	—	—	NO MASS
Sun	21	8:30 AM	HC	Lvng & Dec'd Mbrs of the Henry & Eleanor Spenner Fam.
Sun	21	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		

Ladies' Guild

THE NEXT LADIES GUILD meeting will be Tuesday, January 23rd, at 4:30 in the church basement. All ladies of the parish are encouraged to attend.

MUSIC BINGO NIGHT

Friday, February 9th
Get your tables signed up ASAP
Return your raffle tickets for a chance to win \$500



For more info, call Paige Godbersen 402-604-0406
All proceeds go to St. Josephs Endowment Fund

Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6
Grades K-6: The 2nd grade learned about the Works of Mercy and continued preparation for First Reconciliation which is January 31st. Parents, please help your child prepare for First Reconciliation by using the guide that was sent home in December.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS— GRADES 7-12
Grade 7-12: Class was cancelled due to weather.



..Let it snow, let it snow!!