

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 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 28th, 2024

Administrator: Rev. Vincent Sunguti
402-529-3531
Email: vsunguti2018@gmail.com

Holy Cross Parish
PO Box 212
517 N Fraasier
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 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark 1:21-28*. St. Mark makes it clear that, from the very first day of Christ's public ministry, his messianic power began to be manifested to those who saw and heard him. The Jews of Capernaum were "astonished" at his teaching and "amazed" at his power over the evil spirits. "What is this," they asked one another, "a new teaching and the unclean spirits obey

him!" But they were still a long way from recognizing him for what he was, the Messiah and Son of God. This is as might be expected, the astounding mystery of the incarnation was way beyond human expectation or human imagination. And it was our Lord's own plan to reveal this mystery, slowly and gradually, so that when the chain of evidence had been completed by his resurrection, his followers could look back and see each link in that chain. Then they would be ready to accept without hesitation the mystery of the incarnation and realize the infinite love and power of God that brought it about. We look back today through the eyes of the Evangelists, and, like them, know that Christ was God as well as man—two natures in one person. We should not therefore be "amazed" at the teaching of Jesus or at his power over the unclean spirits. What should amaze us really is the love that God showed mankind in becoming one of our races.

We are creatures with nothing of our own to boast of. We were created by God, and every talent or power we possess was given us by God. God's benevolence could have stopped there and we would have no right to complain. But when we recall the special gifts he gave man, which raise him above all other created things, we see that he could not, because of his own infinitely benevolent nature, leave us to an earthly fate. What thinking man could be content with a short span of life on earth? What real purpose in life could an intelligent being have who knew that nothing awaited him but eternal oblivion in the grave? What fulfillment would man's intellectual faculties find in a few years of what is for the majority of people perpetual struggle for earthly survival? No, God created us to elevate us, after our earthly sojourn, to an eternal existence where all our desires and potentialities would have their true fulfillment. Hence the incarnation, hence the life, death and resurrection of Christ, who was God's Son, as the central turning point of man's history.

Today, while amazed at God's love for us, let us also be justly amazed at the shabby and grudging return we make for love. Many amongst us even deny that act of God's infinite love, not from convincing historical and logical proofs, but in order to justify their own unwillingness to co-operate with the divine plan for their eternal future. This is not to say that their future, after death, does not concern them; it is a thought which time and again intrudes on all men, but they have allowed the affairs of this world which should be stepping stones to their future life, to become instead mill-stones which crush their spirits and their own true self-interests.

While we sincerely hope that we are not in that class, we can still find many facets in our daily Christian lives which can and should make us amazed at our lack of gratitude to God and to his incarnate Son. Leaving out serious sin which turns us away from God if not against him, how warm is our charity, our love of God and neighbor?

How much of our time do we give to the things of God and how much to the things of Caesar? How often does our daily struggle for earthly existence and the grumbles and grouses which it causes, blot out from our view the eternal purpose God had in giving us this earthly existence. How often during the past year have we said from our heart: "Thank you, God, for putting me in this world, and thank you a thousand times more, for giving me the opportunity and the means of reaching the next world where I shall live happily forevermore in your presence"? If the true answer for many of us is "not once," then begin today. Let us say it now with all sincerity, and say it often in the years that are left to us.

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



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:

Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Joseph's

As I did announce before, the sacrament of reconciliation will always be after Mass or by appointment. Call or email me any time. With regard to the venue, we have shifted to the church basement due to the bathroom construction work that is going on in the current confessional.

Sunday reflection – God's Spirit

Many times, we use this concept called "Spirit" in several ways. The meaning depends on the context in which it is used. Most of the time this term is used as a reference in a positive way. But what is really a deeper meaning of the word "Spirit"? Well, spirit is immaterial and sort of a power or motivating factor that each one of us has.

In Christianity, spirit is used to refer to the power that God infuses in us which motivates us to the good. We therefore talk of the good spirit and bad spirit. When we are guided by the good spirit, we do the good but evil spirit moves us to bad things. Any good is always accompanied by the good spirit.

In today's gospel, the good spirit enabled Jesus to teach with authority because he was one with the Father. He was sure of what he was talking about. His authority was in a positive sense of preserving and protecting human life while condemning evil powers of sickness and natural calamities. It was authority of protection that was full of wisdom, love, compassion and attracted many to listen to him and follow him. A good example would be that of where Parents show authority of love towards their children and will do anything to provide for their basic needs such as food, shelter and security.

God shares this good spirit of authority to each one of us through baptism. It is important to identify this spirit and name it by its name. For example, when we accomplish a certain task, how do we feel? Name the feeling and offer gratitude in words to those who helped. When we make bad decisions and commit sin or fail in a certain task, the evil spirit in use claims the victory. It is responsible of feeling bad about it and even feeling guilty that one has failed. It is important in my reflection to name these bad feelings and reflect how I got there. Naming or journaling the feelings if it suits you helps to lower the intensity of the hurt that is associated with the evil spirit. The good news is that such bad feelings and thoughts pass quickly when we do something about it. We are meant for the good spirit where we feel great and that is our nature as God intended.

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of February 4th

WORD: Renae Carlson
EMHC: Dennis Mostek
SERVER: Elijah & Easley Woodbury


Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of February 4th

LEC: Holly Schroeder
EMHC: Linda Hansen
EMHC 2: Steve Ausdemore
SERV: Leighton Porter, Cooper Schultz,
Aidan McBride
OFF: Richard Schultz
USHER: February Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts Holy Cross—Jan. 21st, 2024	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$786.00
Plate:	73.00
Children:	27.00
Tithe.ly Online:	200.00
HELP/Fuel:	10.00
Christmas:	100.00
GA/CC:	20.00
Total:	\$1,216.00

2023 DONATION STATEMENTS are available on the table at the entrance of church. There are also calendars and flyers along with prayer cards for those who have been affected by abortion.

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.



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

Birthdays
Bernie Oligmueller January 28
Asher Borgmann January 28



MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, January 28th—Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer
Sunday, February 4th—Team #4 AJ Burki, Lindsey Burki, Chris Liermann, Brenda Liermann

MEN'S WORK GROUP—February 2024

Chair: Fred Schultz
Co-Chair: Chris Ruskamp
Members: Richard Schultz, Jim Jensen, Willy May, Garrett Esau, Jesse Grenier, Jeremy Rehak, Logan Godbersen

Stewardship of God's Gifts St. Joseph—Jan. 21st, 2024	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$2,125.00
Plate:	81.00
Children:	12.50
Tithely:	393.34
Heating/AC:	200.00

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




MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	29	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	30	9:30 AM	WCC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Wed	31	8:00 AM	HC	Doris Troyer
Thu	01	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Herb Albers
Fri	02	9:00 AM	CHB	+ Fred & Rita McNamara
Sat	03	—	—	NO MASS
Sun	04	8:30 AM	HC	+ Doug Temple + Conrad & Mary Wordekemper
Sun	04	10:00 AM	SJ	+ Jayda Oligmueller
SJ—St. Joseph's		HC—Holy Cross		
WCC—Wisner Care Center		CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer		

ST. JOSEPH 2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS are completed and available in the back of church.

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



LET'S LIVE LENT TOGETHER!
Lent is right around the corner. Normally during Lent we think, what will I "give up"? This year let's also think where can I "add" to my relationship with Jesus? Can I find just ONE HOUR a week to invest in my spiritual growth?
You don't have to do it alone! Let's LIVE LENT TOGETHER! Get a small group of friends and family and we will give you all the materials for each week and show you how to use them. Pick a time and day that works for you and join in a simple conversation with scripture.
You do not need to be a Bible scholar or faith expert. This is for everyone!
Interested in joining a group but don't know anyone to join with? We can help you find a group.
Please reach if you would like to put a group together or join an existing group.
St. Joseph— Missy Johnson 402-690-8105
Holy Cross— Karen Spenner 402-372-8430



Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6
Grades K-6: The 4th graders learned about the second commandment, not taking the name of God in vain, and the third commandment - why we need to attend Mass every Sunday.
- **First Communion is April 7th:** 2nd grade took notes home with details about First Communion.
- All students took home prayers to learn to recite on February 7th.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS– GRADES 7-12
We started the evening with ice cream & brownies to celebrate Capri and Vickie's birthdays.
Grade 7-9 Girls: Class began with writing in our journals what our hopes are for the next year and how to achieve them. We continued our Lesson 5 on chastity and abstinence. We continue to pray, especially this month, for the unborn and the protection of all life from abortion.
Grade 7-9 Boys: Watched the video that discussed Love vs Lust and how to respect each other.
Grade 10-12: Lesson on hypocrisy, and we played 2 truths and a lie. Our word for this week was "Words". Discussed the affects of positive and negative words and challenged the kids to intentionally use positive words to make an impact.
Evening ended with closing prayer in church.