

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 Epiphany of the Lord January 7th, 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 Epiphany of the Lord



The feast of the Epiphany, which was kept in the East and in certain Western Churches before being observed in Rome, seems to have been originally a feast of the nativity; January 6, for those churches where it was kept, was the equivalent of Christmas (December 25) in the Roman Church. The feast was introduced at Rome in the

second half of the sixth century and became the complement and, so to say, the crown of the Christmas festival.

Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation. St. Leo brings out this point admirably in a sermon, read at Matins, in which he shows in the adoration of the Magi the beginnings of Christian faith, the time when the great mass of the heathen sets off to follow the star which summons it to seek its Savior.

That is the meaning, too, of the wonderful prophecy from Isaias which the liturgy appoints to be read in the first nocturn at Matins and at the Epistle of the Mass. This same thought of universal redemption the Church returns to as she sings, in the antiphon to the Magnificat at 2nd Vespers, applying the words to herself, of the union with Christ typified by the wedding feast at Cana, by the baptism of her children foreshadowed by that of Christ in the waters of the Jordan. Formerly the Epiphany was an additional day for solemn baptisms.



From Fr. Vincent's Desk: Happy New Year Blessings and Vision



As we start a new chapter

of 2024, it is my prayer and hope that God will carry us through successfully. We plan, but God decides what will be executed. We don't know what we have in the new year but we will continue to unwrap this gift together and know with time. We are entering this new year with so many dreams and visions at individual levels and as a church parish community.

Our focus in this new year is Faith and Evangelization. Let's enrich our faith by forming small groups in which we can share and strengthen each other. Each parish has a Faith and Evangelization coordinator and soon, we will reach out to you asking for these small groups to be inaugurated. The upcoming Lenten period sounds like a perfect time to inaugurate these groups, fostering a deeper sense of community and spiritual enrichment. Invitation of people into these groups is the key and considering of inclusivity which can truly enhance the richness of our small groups and allow a diverse range of perspectives and experiences shared.

Faith and evangelization are powerful focal points that can bring our communities together and strengthen our spiritual bonds. May this new chapter bring abundant blessings, growth, and unity within our church parish community as we journey together in faith.

PADRE'S PONDERINGS

SPIRITUAL INSIGHT—The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops called for a 3- year Eucharistic Revival which started June of 2022. You have not heard much about it because the Archdiocese has been going thru the Journey of Faith which ultimately is to lead to a deeper relationship with Christ. The greatest unity we can have with Christ is in the Eucharist. I bring this up because the Magi were some of the first to recognize Jesus and adore Him. We too must recognize that Jesus is in our midst and adore Him. A reflection from the series In Conversation with God by Francis Fernandez, inquires about our own adoration and reverence toward Jesus who is present in the Blessed Sacrament.

"They [the Magi] were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage (Jn 2:11)." They adored him. They knew that he was the Messiah, God made Man...Jesus present in the tabernacle is the same Jesus the wise men found in Mary's arms. Perhaps we should examine ourselves to see how we adore him when he is exposed in the monstrance or hidden in the tabernacle. With what devotion and reverence do we kneel in the moments indicated in the Holy Mass, or each time we pass by where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved?



West Point Parish Family Weekend Mass Schedule:

Weekend Mass	Sat.	Sun.
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



Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of January 14th

WORD: Marilyn Ortmeier
EMHC: Mary Mostek
SERVER: Ben Oligmueller, Stella Guenther

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of January 14th

LEC: Joyce Stalp
EMHC: Capri McGuire
EMHC 2: Tammie Batenhorst
SERV: Jerik Lueken, Giddean Andersen,
Chloe Schroetlin
OFF: Dave Oligmueller
USHER: January Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts
Holy Cross—Dec 31st, 2023

Sunday Envelopes:	\$326.00
Plate:	285.00
Children:	27.00
Tithe.ly Online:	146.00
Solemnity of Mary:	60.00
Christmas:	1,450.00
HELP/Fuel:	100.00
Total:	\$2,394.00

MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, January 7th—Team #4 A.J. Burki, Lindsey Burki, Chris Liermann, Brenda Liermann
Sunday, January 14th—Team #1 Mary VonSeggern, Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore

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 Brahmmer, Tyler McBride, Preston Hansen, Andrew Hansen


MANY THANKS to all who donated to the Christmas Flower Fund: Marjorie Gentrup in memory of Casper Gentrup, Jr., Adolph & Eunice Behrens, & Casper & Margaret Gentrup; Bernie Oligmueller in memory of Ben & Elizabeth Wordekemper, William & Johanna Oligmueller, & Jim Sapp; Karen Spenner in memory of Henry & Eleanor Spenner, & Barb Albers; Stan Ortmeier in memory of Alois & Anna Ortmeier Family; Brad & Anne Schulz in memory of Marilyn Schulz; Lavinna Mestle in memory of Eugene Mestl; Renae Carlson in memory of Brent Carlson & Robert & Violet Yosten; Doug Steffensmeier; Dave & Sue Steffensmeier; & Holy Cross Women's Fund.

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP at Holy Cross will now meet 6-7 am on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month beginning January 5. All men are welcome. No commitment.

Stewardship of God's Gifts
St. Joseph—Dec 31st, 2023

Sunday Envelopes:	\$800.00
Plate:	195.00
Children:	17.00
Tithely:	214.55
Heating/AC	2,000.00
Christmas:	1,000.00
Solemnity of Mary:	50.00

MINISTRY SCHEDULE: The 1st Quarter Ministry Schedule for St. Joseph has been completed and emailed. If you did not receive the email and would like to be added to the group, please contact Jacki Kalkowski or Sarah Jacobs. Additional copies of the schedule are also available on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

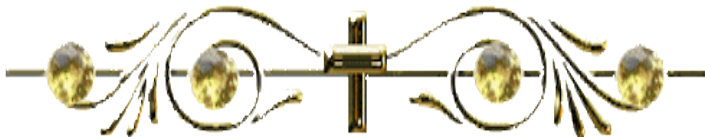
 **PARISH COFFEE:** The Parish Council will be hosting a coffee next Sunday, January 14th, after Mass in the church basement. Come join them and enjoy some refreshments and fellowship!!



Celebrations:

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

**No Birthdays
Or
Anniversaries**



**MASS INTENTION ENVELOPES:
St. Joseph and Holy Cross.**

There are envelopes available in the back of church. If you would like to have a Mass said for a loved one, complete the envelope and place in the collection basket or contact Sarah at the parish office 402-529-3891, or email the info to stjo68791@gmail.com. The suggested donation is \$10.00 per Mass.



Religious Education

January 10th -
Classes resume for all grades

**Welcome to St. Josephs Church
and Holy Cross Parish**

We welcome all our guests and new members to our parishes. There are many opportunities for experiencing the peace and joy of our loving God in liturgy, groups, committees and volunteer service to the church. If you would like to join our parish family, contact the parish office or send an email to:

For St. Joseph—stjo68791@gmail.com
For Holy Cross—renaecarlson@hotmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	08	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	09	9:30 AM	WCC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Wed	10	8:00 AM	HC	+ Theresa Funari
Thu	11	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Gerald Ruskamp
Fri	12	9:00 AM	CHB	+ Fred & Rita McNamara
Sat	13	—	—	NO MASS
Sun	14	8:30 AM	HC	+ Russell Gentrup + Jayda Oligmueller
Sun	14	10:00 AM	SJ	+ John Davies

SJ—St. Joseph's HC—Holy Cross
WCC—Wisner Care Center CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer

