

**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 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**February 11th, 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 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time



The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark 1:40-45*. We see both the divine power and the divine compassion of Jesus in this act of healing. The divine power was necessary in all instantaneous cures. Even if the diseases were curable, the ordinary process of nature took time to fight off the causes and to return to normality. Therefore, where there was an instantaneous recovery some power above nature, some supernatural cause brought it about. But where the disease was incurable, as real leprosy then was, to remove it by a simple word of command was more emphatically still the result of divine power. This divine power Jesus had, for he was himself divine, the Son of God.

His compassion for suffering humanity was, however, co-terminus with his power, it was also divine. It was out of compassion for the sad lot of the human race on earth that he descended to man's level, becoming man, equal to us in all things except sin, in order to suffer with us and for us. By his human sufferings he made an atonement, a satisfaction for all the sins of the world—a satisfaction which all mankind could never make—to his heavenly Father, and so obtained for us God's pardon.

Thanks be to God, for his infinite compassion! Thanks be to God, for Christ his Son, who came and dwelt amongst us! He put heaven and a share in the life of God within our reach; he has shown us how to attain them, giving in his Church and the sacraments, all the necessary aids. But we still need all of Christ's compassion if we are to get there. Because of our inclination to sin and because of the many times we unfortunately give in to that inclination, nothing but the mercy of God can save us from our own folly. However, that mercy is available, if only we ask for it. What we sinners need is the faith and confidence of the leper in today's gospel reading. He believed firmly in the power and the mercy of Jesus. "If you will, you can make me clean," was his approach to Jesus.

The fact that he left the power to forgive sins to his Church is another proof of both his will and desire to help us. Part of that power which he left to his Church is in the sacrament of penance where the leprosy of sin can be washed away and the sinner restored to new life.

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



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

I would like to share my perspective on the movie "Padre Pio" released on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023 by Gravititas Ventures. I have strong feelings about its portrayal and its potential impact on catholic viewers. While you can make your own decision on what to watch or not, it is my responsibility to inform you about certain contents that may conflict with our beliefs and values before deciding to engage with it.

This movie is an embarrassment to the church teachings and us Catholics. It is politically charged and spiritually bizarre. It is an abuse of the Theology of the Body with all the nudity and disrespectful to the man of God Padre Pio. It is up to you to make an informed decision as to whether to watch it or not, but my recommendation is that Catholics should not watch this movie.

**The start of Lenten season 2024**

Ash Wednesday Mass will be on Wednesday Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. It is a day of fasting & abstinence. Let us make use of this opportunity of this lent to renew our faith. Think of what you can do from week one of lent until Easter time. Some of my suggestions would be like making a resolution to attend at least one weekday Mass per week, join one of the groups we have on the Lenten program called Live Lent Together (*I will explain more below*), go for confession at least once in a month, do stations of the Cross on every Friday, or spend at least a couple of minutes in the Church before the blessed sacrament once per week. Lent is also a time to think of those who don't have the basics of life. We usually make sacrifices and give to the poor through rice bowls.

Lent doesn't have to be a solo effort! Our neighbors are thirsting for good news. What if we invited them to a deeper encounter with Jesus? We will have a 6-week prayer session that we recommend for small groups during Lent. They will help you witness the transforming power of the Gospel. Your small group could include friends, neighbors, co-workers, or even your children and their friends. See the Live Lent announcement on the other side.

**Eucharistic Revival – Exposition, Adoration & Stations of the Cross**

We have been asked by the archbishop to use this year as a moment for us to revive our faith practice in terms of Eucharist. The climax will be a national Eucharistic Congress of all Catholics in the US at Indianapolis during this summer. For our parishes of St. Joseph & Holy Cross, we will be having a moment of adoration of Eucharist on every Friday during Lent as from 5.30 pm – 6:00 pm (*Starting on Friday Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>*) It will be followed by the stations of the cross. This will be done in Beemer Church. Come and join us.



**SPIRITUAL INSIGHT—**Fr Walter The leper knelt down and begged Him to make him clean if He wished so. What humility and trust in Jesus' goodness, power and love. The leper knows that Jesus loves the brokenhearted: didn't He heal all those sick people, drive out demons, raise the dead to new life, console the sorrowing? Thus he counted on the Sacred Heart of Jesus Who displayed the Father's amazing love. Who would touch an outcast and risk being made unclean? Who loved the tax collectors, those caught in adultery, the sick, and lepers? Jesus did. Most people would avoid lepers, the unclean ones and would not dare touch them; they did not want to catch leprosy. But Jesus shows us that no matter how sick we are He comes and enters our world of sickness as the healer with unconditional love. Leprosy can stand for any sin, big or small. No matter how big our mistakes, how awful people think they are Jesus shows us that His merciful love is so much bigger, infinitely bigger than our worst sin. All we need to do is to imitate this wise leper, and humbly ask Him in faith: "Jesus please heal me." And He readily, happily, joyfully, immediately runs to our aid for He cannot resist the humble plea of love of His children and heals us. His precious blood cleanses us from every sin and makes us whole again. Thank you Jesus for Your merciful love. It reveals the depth of the love of the Father for all His children.

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer  
Weekend of February 18th

WORD: Marilyn Ortmeier  
 EMHC: Brenda Anderson  
 SERVER: Vanessa Praest & Preston Praest

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner  
Weekend of February 18th

LEC: Gayle Lampman  
 EMHC: Anne Ausdemore  
 EMHC 2: Capri McGuire  
 SERV: Jace Hansen, Abraham Millan Jr.,  
 Aubrianna Good  
 OFF: Dane Miller  
 USHER: February Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts Holy Cross—Feb. 4th, 2024	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$650.00
Plate:	90.00
Children:	17.00
Tithe.ly Online:	150.00
HELP/Fuel:	15.00
Total:	\$922.00

**MONEY COUNTERS**  
 Sunday, February 11th—Team #1 Mary VonSeggern,  
 Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore  
 Sunday, February 18th—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane  
 Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder

**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


**LIVE LENT TOGETHER** will meet on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM at the Dave Steffensmeier home and 5:00 PM at the rectory. Anyone is welcomed to attend.

**"SOUPER BOWL" COLLECTION** will be next Sunday. Donations are sent to area soup kitchens to provide food & needs in these winter days. Please be generous.

**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—Feb. 4th, 2024	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,905.00
Plate:	218.00
Children:	21.00
Tithely:	174.11
Heating/AC:	15.00
Insurance:	100.00

**PARISH COFFEE** will be hosted by the Ladies Guild, and will be held next Sunday, February 18th after Mass in the church basement. Join fellow parishioners for coffee and refreshments.



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

**Birthdays**  
 Winfred Batenhorst February 13  
 William Robertson February 14  
 Tim Oligmeuller February 16

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Mon	12	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	13	9:30 AM	WCC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Wed	14	8:00 AM	HC	<b>No Morning Mass</b>
Wed	14	12:00 PM	HC	+ Alvin Dinslage + Eric Wellman
Wed	14	7:00 PM	SJ	+ Norbert Oligmueller
Thu	15	8:00 AM	SJ	Lvng & Dec'd Mbrs of Ron & MaryAnn Wemhoff
Fri	16	9:00 AM	CHB	Lvng & Dec'd Mbrs of Ray & Odelia Steffensmeier
Sat	17	—	—	<b>NO MASS</b>
Sun	18	8:30 AM	HC	+William & Johanna Oligmueller + Duane Humlicek
Sun	18	10:00 AM	SJ	+ Ted, Louise, & Ron Esser
SJ—St. Joseph's		HC—Holy Cross		
WCC—Wisner Care Center		CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer		

**Men's Lenten Breakfast**  
 At the United Methodist Church of Christ

Men and boys of all ages are encouraged to attend this event each Thursday during Lent. Breakfast is served at 6:45 a.m. followed by a short message at 7:00. A free-will donation is accepted, and the proceeds go to the Wisner Ministerial Association to help members in our community who are in need. The St. Joseph's men are scheduled to serve on February 29th and March 14th.

**LENTEN SERVICES**

**Ash Wednesday, February 14th**  
 12:00 pm at Holy Cross Beemer  
 7:00 pm at St. Joseph Wisner

**Adoration 5:30pm followed by**  
**Stations of the Cross 6:00pm**

**At Holy Cross—Beemer**  
 Fridays, Feb. 16th— Mar. 22nd



**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 students recited prayers to the prayer personnel. The Circle of Grace is being taught during the month of February.

**ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS– GRADES 7-12**

**Grade 7-9 Girls:** We began with the prayer to the Holy Spirit and then had our Circle of Grace Lessons and discussions. We prayed the Magnificat and a prayer to St. Joseph at the end.

**Grade 7-9 Boys:** Finished the movie "When the Game Stands Tall" and discussed the study guides regarding it.

**Grade 10-12:** We watched a short video on the purpose of Lent and discussed their Lenten resolutions. Our word for the week is "Intentionality".