

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 Lent
February 18th, 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: stj068791@gmail.com

The First Sunday of Lent



The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark 1:12-15*. The very thought of our divine Lord's suffering hunger, loneliness, and humiliation at the hands of his enemy—and that all this was for us—should make us feel

ashamed at the little bits of suffering and humiliation we are willing to suffer for our own selves. He had no sin to atone for. He was making atonement for us and for our sins. He was the Son of God and his home was heaven, but he left it for a while to assume human nature, so that he could through his humiliations and sufferings bring us to share his eternal home with him. What is the thanks he gets from us? Ingratitude, forgetfulness, and even worse: insults and disobedience.

While the Church has eased the strict fasting and penances of Lent, we are still expected to do some private fasting and penance. It need not be fasting from food, but we can all do some daily penance which will help to keep our unruly minds and bodies in check while at the same time it will show that we are grateful to our loving Savior for all that he suffered for us. A few extra prayers each day, control of our temper in the home, less talk and especially less uncharitable talk among our neighbors, a little helping hand to a neighbor in need, a fervent prayer and where we can spare it (perhaps by doing without some luxury) a donation toward helping the starving millions in other lands. The sincere Christian will find a hundred such ways in which to thank and honor Christ during this holy season of Lent. We can all keep the last verse of today's reading before our minds with great profit

Now is the time to take these words of Christ to heart. He is asking each one of us today, to repent and to believe the gospel, that is, to act according to its teaching. Christ, in his mercy, will make this appeal to men again and again, but will we be here to hear it? If we answer his appeal now and start living our Christian faith in all sincerity, we need not care when death calls us. It will find us ready to pass over to the future, happy, unending life.

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



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:

Family of Faith Formation (CCD Parents) February session

Our next session will be on Wednesday Feb. 21st at 7 pm in the church here at St. Joseph. We will spend about an 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.

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

Unrecommended Movie

I would like to share my perspective on the movie "Padre Pio" released on June 2nd 2023 by Gravitas 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.

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 this summer. For our parishes of St. Joseph & Holy Cross, we started last week. There was a moment of adoration of Eucharist from 5.30 pm – 6:00 pm followed by the stations of the cross. This will continue every Friday during Lent at Holy Cross in Beemer. Come and join us. Also today, we will have Lenten talk and adoration of the Eucharist from 4-5 pm.



SPIRITUAL INSIGHT—

My brothers and sisters, Last Wednesday, we began our Lenten journey with a solemn reminder of human mortality and our need for repentance and reconciliation with God. And today, the First Sunday of Lent, the Liturgy of the Word invites us to join Jesus in the desert. In Christian Tradition, the Biblical image of the desert is a very eloquent metaphor for the human condition. It creates a space for soul-searching and serves as a mystical place of spiritual testing, refining, and yearning, where God finds us and calls us to life. As we walk through these days of Lent, we need to remember that we are not setting out on this journey on our own. The same Spirit that drove Jesus out into the desert continues to guide us into the desert of our hearts. Even greater, He leads us into the desert with the whole Church to find renewed intimacy with God through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. Brothers and sisters, Lent is both a journey into the heart of the desert and a work of the Holy Spirit. On this the first Sunday of Lent, let us pray for the discipline that will enable us to empty ourselves so that we may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit as Jesus was.

Lifting you up in prayer, Fr. Michel N'DO

LENT



Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of February 25th

WORD: Rita Eichelberger
 EMHC: Tom Peatrowsky
 SERVER: Kris & Kim Pena

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of February 25th

LEC: Alan Harms
 EMHC: Tammie Batenhorst
 EMHC 2: Shane Batenhorst
 SERV: Chloe Schroetlin, Jerik Lueken, Clair Flack
 OFF: Keith Schroetlin
 USHER: February Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—Feb. 11th, 2024	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$765.00
Plate:	60.00
Children:	22.00
Tithe.ly Online:	150.00
HELP/Fuel:	100.00
Total:	\$1,097.00

“SOUPER BOWL” COLLECTION will be taken up after Mass today. We send these donations to area shelter kitchens to help feed those in need. Please be generous. Thank You!


LENTEN PRAYER HOUR: Holy Cross welcomes everyone to get a start on your Lenten practices. On Sunday, February 18th, from 4:00-5:00 PM, we will gather for a Holy Hour that will consist of prayer, a brief talk on Lent, exposition of the Blessed sacrament, confession and Benediction. We encourage you to attend.

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.


MONEY COUNTERS
 Sunday, February 18th—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder
 Sunday, February 25th—Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer

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—Feb. 11th, 2024	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,045.00
Plate:	145.00
Children:	17.00
Tithely:	481.39
Insurance:	100.00



Celebrations:
 Holy Cross Parish wishes happiness and God's blessings to the following:
Birthdays
 Sam Steffensmeier February 18

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

THANK YOU to the following volunteers for delivering Meals on Wheels: Kari Moeller, Jeanette Marx, Helen Feller, Tammie Batenhorst, Carmen Godbersen, Kris Brahmer, Carol Oligmueller. The gift of your time is very much appreciated!



LENTEN SERVICES

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

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

*** Everyone is welcome to attend! ***

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.

MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	19	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	20	9:30 AM	WCC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Wed	21	8:00 AM	HC	Lvng & Dec'd Mbrs of the Leo & Hildegard Hunke Family
Thu	22	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Fran Kass
Fri	23	9:00 AM	CHB	Lvng & Dec'd Mbrs of Ray & Odelia Steffensmeier
Sat	24	—	—	NO MASS
Sun	25	8:30 AM	HC	+ Wayne Meier + Al Batenhorst
Sun	25	10:00 AM	SJ	+ John Davies

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



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: : Classes are doing the Circle of Grace Lessons during February. The day closed with the students attending an Ash Wednesday Prayer Service to receive ashes.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS– GRADES 7-12

Grade 7-12: Attended the Ash Wednesday Mass

