

**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 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**February 4th, 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 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time



The **Gospel** is from *St. Mark 1:29-39*. Surely the people of Capernaum saw enough that first day of Christ's public ministry among them to make them realize that this man from Nazareth who had come amongst them was no ordinary preacher, no ordinary rabbi, no ordinary man. They saw that he preached as one having authority; they saw that by a simple command he

cast out demons and removed all bodily ailments. Yet though they were astonished and amazed at his power, their worldly outlook did not let them rise above their own small interests.

When the four Apostles found him praying in a lonely place, they told him that all Capernaum was searching for him, but he knew why they were searching for him. They wanted to see more miracles and very likely they were hoping that he would stay on in Capernaum and the sick and the maimed from the whole of Galilee would be brought there for healing. This would increase their earthly business and prosperity. His answer to the Apostles, while not directly condemning this worldly outlook, shows that his mission had an entirely different objective. He had come on earth not to bring earthly prosperity to any town or country but to bring spiritual salvation and blessing on all people. That very morning, he began to carry out his mission and for the remaining two years or more he went from town to town preaching the kingdom of God.

We Christians of today have many advantages over the people of Capernaum of that day. They saw Christ with their bodily eyes as a man of power amongst them; we see him with the eyes of faith as he really was and is — the Son of God who came on earth as man in order to make us sons of God. We know who he really was and we know the full meaning of his mission. We have seen that mission completed amongst us by his death on the cross and his resurrection.

This is the good news Christ brought to our world. This is the meaning of Christianity; this is why we are Christians. We are members of Christ's kingdom on earth, so that when our life here ends, we shall be members of his everlasting heavenly kingdom. Yet, with all of this knowledge and with the example of the thousands and millions of saints who have lived according to this knowledge over the past nineteen hundred years and more, and who are now enjoying the reward Christianity promised them, how active and how effective is our Christian faith in our daily thoughts and deeds?

If I can say yes to these questions I am, thank God, on the right road. But if my answer is "no" then it is time I had another good look to see where I went off the road, and to find out that I can return to that right road once more.

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



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

**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**—Last week we heard Jesus choosing His disciples and this week He begins his public ministry by healing the sick and casting out demons. Notice that when Jesus was finished, He woke up early the next morning to pray. I can imagine that while He desired to and did heal the people that came to Him, in His humanity would have been exhausted by the end of the day. Thus, He goes to the Father to pray recognizing that in union with Him comes strength. However, Jesus does not go to the Father to pray merely for Himself, but also for us, to intercede and give example to what we are supposed to do. Often times we can become exhausted by our work, family responsibilities, and running from one event to another. When we, like Job, feel like —life on earth is a drudgeryll, do we like Jesus, go to the Father for strength and guidance?

In Christ, Fr. Weeder

**Hello**

**February**

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer  
Weekend of February 11th

WORD: Doris Guenther  
EMHC: Dawn Peatrowsky  
SERVER: Ben Oligmueller & Stella Guenther

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner  
Weekend of February 11th

LEC: Richard Schultz  
EMHC: Kathy Johnson  
EMHC 2: Sally Harms  
SERV: Annamae Bloedorn, Knoxyn Thies,  
Myles Lampman  
OFF: Eric VonSeggern  
USHER: February Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts Holy Cross—Jan. 28th, 2024	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$640.00
Plate:	172.00
Children:	30.00
Tithe.ly Online:	150.00
HELP/Fuel:	100.00
Sol. Of Mary:	50.00
GA/CC:	100.00
Total:	\$1,242.00


2023 DONATION STATEMENTS, 2024 Envelopes, Calendars, Baby items and Eye glass baskets are on the table at the entrance to church. These will be out only until Lent. After that, please see Renae.

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 4th—Team #4 AJ Burki, Lindsey Burki, Chris Liermann, Brenda Liermann  
Sunday, February 11th—Team #1 Mary VonSeggern, Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore

**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. 28th, 2024	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$555.00
Plate:	182.00
Children:	18.00
Tithely:	70.81
Heating/AC:	125.00



### Celebrations:

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

**Birthdays**  
Conner Robinson February 8

**Anniversaries**  
Brian and Mary Gentrup February 9

## MUSIC BINGO NIGHT

THIS Friday, February 9th



We hope everyone has sharpened up your music knowledge. It's almost time for Music Bingo, this Friday, February 9th, at the auditorium. Doors open at 6:00 pm and bingo starts at 7:00. Silent audition items as well as prizes for every bingo. It's not too late to sign up a team. Contact Carmen or Paige to get your table in!



MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	05	—	—	<b>NO MASS</b>
Tue	06	9:30 AM	WCC	<b>NO MASS—Clergy Conf.</b>
Wed	07	8:00 AM	HC	<b>NO MASS—Clergy Conf.</b>
Thu	08	8:00 AM	SJ	Lvng & Dec'd Mbrs of Ron & MaryAnn Wemhoff
Fri	09	9:00 AM	CHB	Dec'd Family & Friends of Duane Neesen
Sat	10	—	—	<b>NO MASS</b>
Sun	11	8:30 AM	HC	+ Brian & Eric McTaggart + Ray & Dee Steffensmeier
Sun	11	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



### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> grade celebrated their First Reconciliation with Fr. Vincent and he also blessed the rosaries that they made.

This week the students will recite prayers so please help your child learn their prayers.

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

Prior to class we again talked to students about attending Stuebenville in July and took the names of those interested.

We will be contacting parents for the deadline is February 8th.

**Grade 7-9 Girls:** We finished Lesson 5 learning more about modesty and concupiscence (our tendency toward sin). We are starting our Circle of Grace sessions to be complete next week.

**Grade 7-9 Boys:** Finished lesson 6 on how God made people to be loved and not used. Learned the terms agape and eros and how they need to be in proper balance. We should want what is best for the other person in our life.

**Grade 10-12:** Continued last weeks discussion, and touched on lent. Word for the week is "Discipline".

Evening ended with closing prayer in church.