

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 Fifth Sunday of Lent
March 17th, 2024**

Administrator: Rev. Vincent Sunguti
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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 5th Sunday of Lent



The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Jeremiah 31:31-34*. In today's extract, the prophet is foretelling the setting up of a New Covenant, to replace the Old Covenant made between God and his Chosen People on Mt. Sinai, a covenant which the Chosen People had not kept. The New Covenant would not be written on tablets of stone but on each individual's heart. It would be a covenant of love rather than one of obligation.

The **Gospel** is from *St. John 12:20-33*. On the first Palm Sunday, as Christ entered Jerusalem not as a conquering king on a charger but "riding on an ass" to show that he was the humble servant of all men, he clearly foresaw the sufferings and torments that would be his in that city, before the week was out. Among those who waved palm branches to honor him and who sang aloud: "Hosanna to the son of David, Hosanna in the highest," there were perhaps some who, urged on by the leaders, would be shouting the following Friday, "away with him, crucify him," and "we have no king but Caesar." Such was the fickleness of human nature then. Unfortunately, it has not changed much. We are still fickle when it comes to choosing between Christ and the things of this world.

"He who loves his life loses it," this is a truth stated by Christ at the solemn moment when he was speaking of the purpose of his own painful death. He died so that we might live, not for sixty or even a hundred years on earth, but forever in heaven. We can, we know, lose the eternal life Christ won for us if we are too attached to our transitory, earthly life. If we love our own comforts, pleasures, temporal gains, our own worldly will, more than we love our unending, happy future, then we are loving our earthly lives wrongly, and we are gravely risking the loss of the future, true life.

If, on the other hand, we do our best to be faithful servants of Christ, we shall always judge all our actions with eternity in view. We can use the things of this life which God gives us, and still be close followers of Christ. The lawful possession of the goods of this world, the enjoyment of the licit pleasures of life, are allowed to the fervent Christian. If these possessions and pleasures are accepted with Christian gratitude, they will become stepping-stones that will help us across the river of life to our everlasting home beyond.

Each one of us should look fervently and devoutly on the crucifix today, and try to compare our willingness to suffer those crosses sent to us by God, with the crushing cross and passion our Savior Jesus Christ gladly accepted for us and not for his own sake. Do not let the conclusion you draw stun you into inactivity, but rather let it shock you into a new outlook on life; a new resolve to serve, follow and imitate our loving Christ more closely in future. So may it be for all of us.

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



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:

Lent Sacraments of Reconciliation

We will have the sacrament of Reconciliation at Holy Cross Parish on Tuesday, March 19th at 7 pm. and at St. Joseph's Church in Wisner, on Thursday, March 21st at 7 pm.

2023-2024 RCIA 3rd Scrutiny on 5th Sunday of Lent

We will have the 3rd and last rite of scrutiny in today's Mass after the homily and the Nicene Creed.

Family of Faith Formation – March

This program is mainly for CCD parents, guardians and anyone who is interested.

The next gathering will be Wednesday, March 20th, at 7 pm at St. Joseph's Church, Wisner.

SPIRITUAL INSIGHT—

Brothers and sisters, The desire to see Jesus and be seen by him echoes down through the centuries to us today. It is a common yearning, a shared aspiration that transcends language, culture, time, and geography, a longing that unites us as believers, shapes us, and drives us. In today's Gospel reading, we find a group of Greeks who have traveled a great distance to attend the Passover Feast. However, a careful reading of the Johannine account allows us to notice that the purpose of these Greeks goes beyond mere attendance. They come with a specific request: "We would like to see Jesus." So, as Lent winds down and Holy Week approaches, we find ourselves standing shoulder to shoulder with the Greeks mentioned in today's Gospel narrative. They want to see Jesus, and so do we. But to truly encounter him, we must consider one significant step: dying to self for the sake of the Lord. Brothers and sisters, on this day, the fifth Sunday of Lent, we are reminded of the dramatic choice looming before Jesus: He must suffer and die for new life to happen. He is the grain of wheat that falls to the ground, splits open, and produces much fruit. And whenever we accept to follow him and become like a grain of wheat through detachment, self-denial, and self-sacrificing mission to others, new life emerges, and God is glorified. May the seed of the Gospel buried deep within us today yield a rich harvest of faith, prayer, and service.

Peace, Fr. Michel

HOLY WEEK MASS SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday

5:00 pm at St. Joseph—Wisner
7:00 pm at Holy Cross—Beemer

Good Friday

3:00 pm at Cross—Beemer
5:30 pm at St. Joseph—Wisner

Holy Saturday

8:00 pm at Holy Cross—Wisner

Easter Sunday

8:30 am Holy Cross—Beemer
10:00 am St. Joseph—Wisner



Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of March 24th—Palm Sunday

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


Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of March 24th—Palm Sunday

LEC: Tammie Batenhorst
LEC 2: Sally Harms
EMHC: Kathy Johnson
EMHC 2: Linda Hansen
SERV: Aubrianna Good, Jaylee Lueken, Ty Montgomery
OFF: Kelly Lueken
USHER: March Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
Holy Cross—March 10th, 2024	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$735.00
Plate:	144.00
Children:	6.00
Tithe.ly Online:	150.00
Easter Flowers:	180.00
Easter:	75.00
Total:	\$1,290.00

COFFEE & DONUTS at Holy Cross, TODAY, March 17th, after Mass in the church basement.

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
Ben Oligmueller March 17
Gerald Wellman March 21
Brach Schulz March 23

MONEY COUNTERS
Sunday, March 17th—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder
Sunday, March 24th—Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer

MEN'S WORK GROUP—March 2024
Chair: Tim Stalp
Co-Chair: Eric VonSeggern
Members: Jeff Phillips, Nathan Janke, Ken Knust, Mark Porter, Nate Phillips, Chuck Ross

Stewardship of God's Gifts	
St. Joseph—March 10th, 2024	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,375.00
Plate:	240.00
Children:	30.00
Tithe.ly:	481.39
Cemetery:	100.00

EASTER LILY DONATIONS: There is a sign up sheet in the back of church for Easter lilies and flowers in the remembrance of your loved ones. Suggested donation for lilies is \$20 each. Please complete the form as you would like to have the names listed. Thank you.

THE NEXT LADIES GUILD meeting is Tuesday, March 19 at 4:30 in the church basement. All ladies are encouraged to attend.

SERVICE PROJECT — It is time for the annual 4th Grade Rel Ed service project, putting together backpacks of necessities for kids caught up in domestic violence situations. Often those kids are escorted from a dangerous situation at home with nothing but what they are wearing. We will put together things that those kids will need the next morning. We are asking for donations of: full-size shampoo/conditioner and soap or body wash (there is a 3-in-1 bath product for kids), deodorant, hair brushes, socks, snacks, and toothpaste/toothbrushes. We also need 8-10 backpacks. Gift cards to local businesses that carry these items would also be appreciated. There is also a box at the entrance to church for your donations, or you can put gift cards or cash donations in the collection, marked "4th grade project." We would appreciate donations by Easter weekend.

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! ***

RECONCILIATION

Tuesday, March 19th, 7:00 PM—**Holy Cross**
Thursday, March 21st, 7:00 PM—**St. Joseph's**

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	18	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	19	9:30 AM	WCC	+ Lori Hollman Ruskamp
Wed	20	8:00 AM	HC	+ Alvin Dinslage
Thu	21	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Marie Nosal
Fri	22	9:00 AM	CHB	+ Tom & Catherine McTaggart
Sat	23	—	—	NO MASS
Sun	24	8:30 AM	HC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Sun	24	10:00 AM	SJ	+ Jayda Oligmueller

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 March 14th.

Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6

Grades K-6: The 2nd grade is preparing for First Communion which is April 7th. Notes were sent home with all students about the Youth Mass on Sunday, April 14th and all students are required to attend. We closed the afternoon with Stations of the Cross.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS– GRADES 7-12

Grade 7-9 Girls: We watched the first part of the movie "Risen" with the death and rising of Jesus from the viewpoint of a Roman soldier. Father came and talked to us about how the Jews and Romans felt about Jesus.

Grade 7-9 Boys: Started the movie "Glory Road" which is about a basketball team with the message that teamwork trumps selfishness. Respect for others is preached. Sacrifice and hard work, in the classroom, on the court and in life lead to rewards.

Grade 10-12: We did Circle of Grace, and an a Gratitude activity.

The evening closed with all in church for Stations of the Cross