

## **Saint Joseph's Church**

PO Box 623

1318 Ave G West

Wisner, NE 68791

Parish Office: 529-3891

[www.stjosephwisner.org](http://www.stjosephwisner.org)

Reconciliation: Sundays after Mass  
or by appointment

## ***Fourth Sunday of Easter*** ***April 21st, 2024***

**Administrator: Rev. Vincent Sunguti**

**402-529-3531**

**Email: [vsunguti2018@gmail.com](mailto:vsunguti2018@gmail.com)**

## **Holy Cross Parish**

PO Box 212

517 N Fraiser

Beemer, NE 68716

Phone: 528-3475

[www.holycrossbeemer.org](http://www.holycrossbeemer.org)

Reconciliation: Sundays  
8:00-8:20 am or by appt.

**Bulletin and Office Email: [stjo68791@gmail.com](mailto:stjo68791@gmail.com)**

### The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)



The **Gospel** is from *St. John 10:11-18*. The image of Christ as our Good Shepherd has always appealed to human nature. One of the earliest paintings of Christ in the Roman catacombs represents him as carrying an injured sheep on his shoulders. This is a manifestation of love which touches our innermost feelings. We do not mind being likened to sheep in this

context. There is something guileless about a sheep, and at the same time a lot of foolishness. Does not this describe the vast majority of men, even many of those who openly oppose Christ? Is there not something very sheeplike about the man who, because God gave him a limited intellect, thinks he knows all things and needs no further help from God? The sheep who thinks it knows as much, and even more, than the shepherd and sets out to fend for itself, is no more foolish than the man who thinks he can do without God's revelation and God's Church.

Indeed, we all act like sheep on many occasions, when it comes to the things that concern our spiritual welfare. We often ramble off from the flock to nibble at little bits of forbidden pasture. However, we have a Shepherd who understands us, one whose patience and love are infinite. He is always ready to go after us when we stray too far; his voice is constantly reaching out to us in missions, retreats, sicknesses, crosses and other various ways. How many times have we already felt his loving grace calling and helping us back to the safety of his fold?

There are many who are not so fortunate as we, who either through no fault of their own or through their own fault do not hear his voice and do not know or follow him. This is an opportunity he gives us to show how we appreciate all he has done for us. He died on the cross for all men. He wills all men to profit by his death, and his statement "them also I must bring" is a direct appeal to us to cooperate with him in this work. Every Christian is a missionary. The very fact of living the Christian life in its entirety, in the midst of our fellowmen, is of itself a powerful example to outsiders. It influences for good the lax Christian and the non-Christian. It makes them stop and think and look into their consciences. This is generally the first step on the road back to God.

The devout Christian will not stop at good example only. If he truly loves God, he must truly love his neighbor and must want him to have a share in his own good fortune. He knows there is welcome and room in heaven for all men, and he knows that the greater the number there the greater will be God's eternal glory. He will strive then by every available means to help his neighbor into Christ's fold.

After good example, prayer will be his most potent weapon. Day in, day out the devout Christian must pray for the conversion of his fellowmen who are wandering aimlessly in the barren desert of this life far from God. He must also learn all he can about the truths of his faith in order to be able to help honest enquirers. He must also cooperate with any parochial or diocesan societies for the propagation of the faith, insofar as his family and financial state allow him.

The sermon preached by our Savior nearly two thousand years ago is still echoing and re-echoing around

the world, calling on his faithful flock to do all in their power to help those other children of God who are still outside the fold. Do not shut your ears to this call of Christ today. Give him a helping hand by helping your fellowman to see the light of the true faith.

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

### **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](mailto:stjo68791@gmail.com)

For Holy Cross—[renaecarlson@hotmail.com](mailto:renaecarlson@hotmail.com)

### **SPIRITUAL INSIGHT—**

Brothers and sisters, What follows is a series of principles by Father Ron Rolheiser to help us discern the voice of the Good Shepherd among the multitude of voices that beckon us:

—The voice of God is recognized both in whispers and in soft tones, even as it is recognized in thunder and in storms.

—The voice of God is recognized wherever one sees life, joy, health, color, and humor, even as it is recognized wherever one sees dying, suffering, constrictive poverty, and a beaten-down spirit.

—The voice of God is recognized in what calls us to what's higher, sets us apart, and invites us to holiness, even as it is recognized in what calls us to humility, submergence into humanity, and in that which refuses to denigrate our humanity.

—The voice of God is recognized in what appears in our lives as "foreign," as other, as "stranger," even as it is recognized in the voice that beckons us home.

—The voice of God is the one that most challenges and stretches us, even as it is the only voice that ultimately soothes and comforts us.

—The voice of God enters our lives as the greatest of all powers, even as it forever lies in vulnerability, like a helpless baby in the straw.

—The voice of God is always heard in a privileged way in the poor, even as it beckons us through the voice of the artist and the intellectual.

—The voice of God always invites us to live beyond all fear, even as it inspires holy fear.

—The voice of God is heard inside the gifts of the Holy Spirit, even as it invites us never to deny the complexities of our world and our own lives.

—The voice of God is always heard wherever there is genuine enjoyment and gratitude, even as it asks us to deny ourselves, die to ourselves, and freely relativize all the things of this world. The voice of God, it would seem, is forever found in paradox."

So, on this Fourth Sunday of Easter, also known as Good Shepherd Sunday or Vocations Sunday, let us pray for the grace to cultivate attentiveness to the presence of God and to be taken into a deeper and more meaningful relationship with him, where we will grow in faith.

Peace, Father Michel N'DO

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer  
Weekend of April 28th

WORD: Tom Peatrowsky  
EMHC: Andy Guenther  
SERVER: Woodburys  
USHER: Scott Ortmeier

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner  
Weekend of April 28th

LEC: Bonnie Styskal  
EMHC: Martha Schweers  
EMHC 2: Linda Hansen  
SERV: Jerik Lueken, Annamae Bloedorn, Aidan McBride  
OFF: Rick Jacobs  
USHER: April Men's Group

Stewardship of God's Gifts Holy Cross—April 14th, 2024	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,240.00
Plate:	158.00
Children:	18.25
Tithe.ly Online:	150.00
Easter:	600.00
Works of Mercy:	600.00
Total:	\$2,766.25

**MONEY COUNTERS**  
Sunday, April 21st—Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer  
Sunday, April 28th—Team #4 AJ & Lindsey Burki and Chris & Brenda Liermann

**MEN'S WORK GROUP—April 2024**  
Chair: Austen Godbersen  
Co-Chair: Perry Albers  
Members: Roger Lampman, Todd Schroeder, Chad Ludwig, Lorin Batenhorst, Ray Johnson, Wade Over-turf, Nick Heller, Hayden Schroeder



**BREAKFAST:** Pancake, sausage & bake sale for Beemer Senior Center at Beemer Cafe on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:00am to 1:30pm



**Celebrations:**

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

**Birthdays**

Alan Batenhorst April 21  
Austin Peatrowsky April 23  
Robin Hansen April 27  
Oliver Peatrowsky April 27

Stewardship of God's Gifts St. Joseph—April 14th, 2024	
Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,028.00
Plate:	78.00
Children:	46.00
Tithe.ly Online:	380.08
Heating/AC:	100.00
Works of Mercy:	250.00



To all of the 2024 Jr. & Sr. Prom students and guests. May you celebrate this night with friends and enjoy lots of smiles and laughter. Lord please protect them from harm and guide them in all their actions this evening.

MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	22	—	—	<b>NO MASS</b>
Tue	23	9:30 AM	WCC	<b>NO MASS</b>
Wed	24	8:00 AM	HC	<b>NO MASS</b>
Thu	25	8:00 AM	SJ	<b>NO MASS</b>
Fri	26	9:00 AM	CHB	<b>NO MASS</b>
Sat	27	—	—	<b>NO MASS</b>
Sun	28	8:30 AM	HC	+ Wenzel Franzluebbers + Vern & Betty Preuss
Sun	28	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

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the seniors that were able to celebrate their Senior Sunday with our parish. Pictured are Bowdy Bird, Lucy Fazzini, Lainey Montgomery, and Austin Kluthe.

**From Fr. Vincent's Desk Continued:**  
*There is something Beyond*  
One day Columbus went westering on the shiny waters. He sailed off into the sunset as people waited expectantly, and finally after a long time the sails reappeared and the crowds were exultant. They shouted with joy, and Columbus announced that there was a land beyond the sea that was rich beyond their dreams. It was a glorious paradise. The king of Spain changed the motto of that land until it reads as it does today, Plus Ultra, meaning, "There is more beyond."  
For many centuries innumerable people stood beside the dark hole that we call a grave and watched the remains of their loved ones lowered into the earth, and they wondered: Beyond the dark waters of death, is there anything beyond?  
Then one day, a young explorer went westering into the setting sun and descended into the blackness of the pit. He sailed off the edge of the world and crashed into hell. People waited expectantly. Finally on this Resurrection morning, as the sun arose in the east, the Son of God stepped forth from a grave and declared, "There is something beyond. There is a paradise beyond your greatest expectations. And there awaits a heavenly Father, waiting with outstretched arms to wipe away every tear from your cheek." (A quote from the book: "Message from an Empty Tomb".)

**Religious Education**

**ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6**  
Grades K-6 The 4<sup>th</sup> grade had a field trip to West Point and took the backpacks they filled with necessary items to the Kids in Crisis and also got to visit the convent.  
Final class for elementary will be on May 1st.

**ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS– GRADES 7-12**  
**Grade 7-9 Girls:** We finished out our regular class with Lesson 8, a recap of what we have learned through Theology of the Body and talked about some situations we may have to deal with. We ended with prayer in church.  
**Grade 7-9 Boys:** Did the review of the Theology of the Body by looking at different scenarios and how they would handle each one.  
**Grade 10-12:** Our lesson this week was on listening, with our word for the week "silence". You'll find God when you listen for Him and sit in the silence.  
The evening concluded with all meeting in church for closing prayer  
Final Class for high school is this week - April 24th