

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

**Second Sunday of Easter—
Divine Mercy Sunday
April 7th, 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: stj68791@gmail.com

2nd Sunday of Easter -Divine Mercy Sunday



"I shall sing forever the Lord's mercy" (Ps 89)

Pope Saint John Paul II offers an extended meditation on the mystery of God's mercy, which he calls "the greatest of the attributes and perfections of God". He states:

"As a gift to humanity, which sometimes seems bewildered and overwhelmed by the

power of evil, selfishness, and fear, the Risen Lord offers His love that pardons, reconciles, and reopens hearts to love. It is a love that converts hearts and gives peace. How much the world needs to understand and accept Divine Mercy!

Lord, who reveals the Father's love by Your death and Resurrection, we believe in You and confidently repeat to You today: Jesus, I trust in You, have mercy upon us and upon the whole world. — (Pope John Paul II, message for Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3, 2005).

The **Gospel** is read for all years (Cycles A, B and C) and is taken from *John 20:19-31*. Last Sunday's gospel, also taken from St. John, described the first hint at the resurrection which the Apostles received. Peter and John, convinced that the body had not been taken away, because the winding sheets were left behind, were beginning to believe. But the others were skeptical, the two disciples on the way to Emmaus paid no heed to the women's story, and Thomas refused to believe the testimony of the other ten, even when this present appearance of our Lord had convinced them.

It may surprise and amaze us that the Apostles were so reluctant to believe that Christ had risen from the dead, to live forever in glory with his Father in heaven. But we must remember that during their two or three years with him they saw nothing in him but a mere man, one with divine powers, but yet a man; certain prophets of the old covenant had some such powers also. Christ had "emptied himself" of his divine nature, and he had foretold his resurrection many times. But that he could be really God, as well as man, was something they could not then grasp, and if he was a mere man death had to be the end.

Their slowness of faith had its value for the future Church and for all of us. If they had been expecting the resurrection, and anxiously looking forward to it, people could say that they imagined it, that they persuaded themselves it had happened. Indeed, there have been men proud of their acuteness of judgment, who have said that the story of the resurrection is a story of mass hallucination, although all the evidence proves the opposite. Their conviction that it could not happen, could not be removed from their minds except by impressive evidence that it had. Hallucination is born in a mind already expecting and hoping for the *imagined fact*.

We can thank the Apostles and especially Thomas, the last to give in, that our faith in the resurrection and divine glorification of Christ is that much the stronger. Our Christianity which would have ended before the first Easter week had passed, if Christ had not risen in glory, spread rapidly to the then known world and is still spreading because its author was none other than Christ "our Lord and our God."

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



From Fr. Vincent's Desk:

Who was St. Faustina Kowalska?

She was a Polish nun born in 1905, and died in 1938, then canonized by Pope John Paul the II in the year 2000.



St. Faustina is the saint behind the Divine Mercy Sunday. On February 22, 1931, Faustina was visited by Jesus, who presented himself as the "King of Divine Mercy" wearing a white garment with red and pale rays coming from his heart. She was asked to become the apostle and secretary of God's mercy, a model of how to be merciful to others, and an instrument for reemphasizing God's plan of mercy for the world.

In her diary, Faustina writes: *"In the evening, when I was in my cell, I became aware of the Lord Jesus clothed in a white garment. One hand was raised in blessing, the other was touching the garment at the breast. From the opening of the garment at the breast there came forth two large rays, one red and the other pale. In silence I gazed intently at the Lord; my soul was overwhelmed with fear, but also with great joy. After a while Jesus said to me, 'paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the inscription: Jesus, I trust in You.'"*

Faustina also describes during that same message, Jesus explained he wanted the Divine Mercy image to be *"solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy."* That is how this Sunday Divine Mercy Sunday started.

Great inspiring movie to watch: "Cabrini"

"Cabrini" sounds like an inspiring and captivating film! It's always fascinating to explore stories of individuals who dedicate their lives to helping others, especially against significant odds. The narrative of Sr. Francis Cabrini's journey and her unwavering commitment to making a difference seems like it would offer both emotional depth and a powerful message of hope. It is a newly released movie that I would highly recommend you to watch if you can.

SPIRITUAL INSIGHT—

Jesus breathed on [the Apostles] and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." These very words are the moment when Jesus instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation. He gave the Apostles the authority to forgive sins and this authority is passed down thru the bishops and given to priests today. Divine Mercy highlights the desire of Jesus for His people to receive His mercy thru the Sacrament of Reconciliation. May we fulfill His desire and receive His mercy thru this great sacrament of healing. —Fr Weeder

**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
For Holy Cross—renaecarlson@hotmail.com

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer
Weekend of April 14th

WORD: Renae Carlson
EMHC: Dennis Mostek
SERVER: Vanessa & Preston Praest
USHER: Gerald Gentrup

Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner
Weekend of April 14th

LEC: Youth
EMHC: Madonna Servi
EMHC 2: Kathy Johnson
SERV: Youth
OFF: Youth
USHER: Youth

Stewardship of God's Gifts

Holy Cross—March 31st, 2024

Sunday Envelopes:	\$986.00
Easter Envelopes:	4,071.00
Easter Plate:	485.00
Easter Children:	24.00
Tithe.ly Online:	150.00
Easter Flowers:	1,100.00
Works of Mercy:	151.00
Holy Thursday:	2,800.00
Building Fund:	60.00
Total:	\$9,827.00

MONEY COUNTERS

Sunday, April 7th—Team #1 Mary VonSeggern, Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore
Sunday, April 14th—Team #2 Norm Weber, Shane Batenhorst, Todd Schroeder

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

THANK YOU to all who helped with the ministries and décor during Holy Week. It was greatly appreciated and helped to make our services beautiful and meaningful.

HOLY CROSS ALTAR SOCIETY will meet Monday, April 8th, at 5:00 p.m. in the church basement.

Stewardship of God's Gifts

St. Joseph—March 31st, 2024

Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,275.00
Easter Envelopes:	5,160.00
Easter Plate:	649.00
Easter Children:	122.00
Tithe.ly Online:	70.81
Works of Mercy:	1,352.00
Heating/AC:	100.00



Celebrations:

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

Birthdays

Ann Ortmeier April 7
Bill McNamara April 9
Gauge Bramble April 13

Anniversaries

Josh and Sherron Bramble April 8



FIRST COMMUNION SUNDAY:

We'd like to welcome our First Communicants and their families. May His sacred Body and Blood strengthen them on their journey through life. Blessings to you all on this special day!

SENIOR SUNDAY: Senior Sunday is April 14, 2024. Please contact Rina McGuire at 402-649-7796 or Barb Deitloff at 402-380-1008 before April 8 with the number that will attend from your family. Please bring a senior picture with you to breakfast.

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP: St Joseph's Ladies Guild offers a scholarship to each senior. Senior Scholarship applications have been sent. Please return completed applications to Martha Schweers before April 24, 2024.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	08	—	—	NO MASS
Tue	09	9:30 AM	WCC	+ Gerald Ruskamp
Wed	10	8:00 AM	HC	+ Eugene Mestl
Thu	11	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Tim Svoboda
Fri	12	9:00 AM	CHB	+ George & Lucille Rejda
Sat	13	—	—	NO MASS
Sun	14	8:30 AM	HC	+ Francis Oligmueller + Ray Steffensmeier
Sun	14	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

YOUTH MASS & SENIOR SUNDAY

Mark you calendars!! April 14th at the 10:00 am Mass at St. Joseph.
Refreshments after with free will offering. Proceeds will go toward our Youth Group trip to Steubenville, which this year is being held in Springfield, MO.

Religious Education

ST. JOSEPH – GRADES K-6

Grades K-6: - 10 students finalized their preparation for First Communion which is today. If you see them, please congratulate them.

- All students have prayers this week so please help them learn their remaining prayers.

ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS— GRADES 7-12

Father compared the importance of both Christmas and Easter. Discerning that Easter is more important.

Grade 7-9 Girls: We finished our movie "Risen" as Jesus appeared to the Apostles, sent them to teach the world and then ascended to Heaven. As we continued our Vocations lesson, we learned how to discern and not to rush it. We ended with prayer.

Grade 7-9 Boys: They started the final lesson in Theology of the Body which is basically a recap of all they have learned. The Catholic E.R. is Eucharist and Reconciliation.

Grade 10-12: No Class was held due to State FFA.



Special Thanks to everyone who

donated lilies this Easter season! Dave & Barb Deitloff and Fred & Kay Schultz in memory of Francis Oligmueller and Jim Sapp; Chris & Brenda Liermann in memory of Brian Kuchar and Mia Bazata; Chris & Lori Ruskamp in memory of Alvin & Mary Joe Barent and Norbert Ruskamp; Mark & Martha Schweers in memory of Vincent & Catherine Ulrich; Steve & Anne Ausdemore in honor of Deceased Family Members; Dave & Carol Oligmueller in memory of Jayda Oligmueller, Norbert Ruskamp, and Norbert Oligmueller; Gary & Carmen Godbersen in memory of Wayne Godbersen; Bob & Judy Feller in honor of Leo & Delores Rief and Bill & Clara Feller; Matt Albers & Justin Reifert in memory of Herb Albers; Alan & Sally Harms in memory of William & Laura Winter and Rudolph & Donna Harms; Shane & Tammie Batenhorst in memory of Beata Batenhorst; Rick & Sarah Jacobs in memory of Ralph & Irma Donner and Tom Prussa.