

St. Michael's & St. Mary's

FR. JOHN B. BIRKEL, PASTOR

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Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

January 4, 2015



St. Michael's and St. Mary's Parishes would like to extend a warm welcome to all who are visiting us or are new to the area. If you are not currently registered at St. Michael's or St. Mary's and consider this your Parish, please call the Rectory at 729-2058.

St. Michael's	PO Box 406, Fairbury, NE 68352	Phone: 729-2058
St. Mary's	5th & Amanda Streets, Alexandria, NE	
St. Michael's Prayer Chain	Carmen Juarez: 729-3623	
St. Michael's/St. Mary's Secretary	Carolyn Osborne: 729-5387	Mobile: 300-0148

St. Mary's Parish Council: Peggy Niederklein, Rhonda Burkhart, Donna Rut, Daryl Anderson, Trish Endorf **Trustees:** Bob VanWesten and Bob Bachle

St. Mary's PCCW: Deb Vanwesten

St. Michael's Parish Council: Brenda Mannschresk, Doug Kapke, LeAnn Krause, Dave Panko, Dave Banahan, Bruce Busing, Chad Mans, Matt Umland, **Trustees:** Randy Prellwitz and Keith Mach

St. Michael's PCCW: Brenda Mannschreck

Knights of Columbus: Joshua Whitney

CCD Coordinator: Carolyn Whitney

Parish News & Upcoming Events

- **BULLETIN:** If you have news for the bulletin, please call the Rectory 729-2058 or contact Carolyn 729-5387 or email carolyn@stmichaelsfairbury.org News must be in Thursday by 10:00 AM to be in the week's bulletin.
- **ADOPT A PRIEST:** Our Deanery is taking part in the "Adopt a Priest" program. St. Michael's has adopted **Fr. Leo Seiker**; please keep him in your prayers.
- **SEMINARIAN'S OF THE WEEK:** Please keep our Seminarian's of the week, Rev. Mr. Denton Morris and Allan Phan, in your prayers.

Ministers' Schedules for Next Weekend

	5:30 PM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Acolyte	Bruce Busing	Jim VanWesten	James Huber
Lector	Randy Prellwitz	Rhonda Burkhart	Joshua Whitney
Server	Aldo Ramos		RJ Suey
Server	Ryan Umland		Braden Suey
Organ/Piano	Mary Prellwitz	Lorrie Hoffstetter	Mary Mach
Gifts/Greeters	Bob & Shirley Gibson		Jason, Megan and Simon Grant
Collection	LeAnn Krause and Dave Panko		

Our Offering to God Last Weekend	St. Michael's	\$ 1965.00
	St. Mary's	\$ 1910.00

Please pray for: Rosalie Hamm, Betty (Morgan) Brackle, Bob Seigel, Iola Busing, Rose O'Keefe, Vonja Scheer, Lorraine Callison, Doug Wiedel, Leona Gaydusek, Norma Bernasek, Jim Cortney, Rozella Prellwitz, Zachary Rowe, Bill Muller, Noelle Salazar, Bernie Boerner, Paul Prellwitz, Brad Eveleth, Kathy Blobaum, Bob McCord, Ed Lytle, LeRoy Prellwitz, Rita Stone, Lois Muller, Catherine Nutsch, Chase Guthals, Graysen Snyder, Brandi Warnke, Darren Martinez, Military Personnel, all the unborn children & their parents, pro-life legislation, and anyone else who maybe ailing. *If you or someone you know would like our parish family to join you in prayer for their special needs, please contact the parish office.*

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Monday	January 5	NO MASS	St. Michael's	NO MASS
Tuesday	January 6	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Salvador Aquilera+
Wednesday	January 7	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Steve Wilson+
Thursday	January 8	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	All Souls Day Intentions of Kenny & LeAnn Krause
Friday	January 9	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Dan Birkel+
Saturday	January 10	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	All Souls Day Intentions of Doug & Linda Kapke
Sunday	January 11	8:00 AM	St. Mary's	All Souls Day Intentions of Ritchie & Rhonda Burkhart
Sunday	January 11	10:00 AM	St. Michael's	The People of the Parishes

Confessions	St. Michael's	Saturday	4:45 PM to 5:15 PM
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Daily Mass: Please check Mass schedule carefully for Mass times this week!!!

NEW ITEMS

- **One Rose/One Life:** The Knights of Columbus will place donation envelopes for One Rose/One Life in the January 10-11 bulletin. Please bring the envelope and place in the collection basket during One Rose/One Life weekend, January 17-18. All money collected will be kept in the state and used to support over 50 pro-life organizations, events and initiatives.
- **St. Michael's Parish Council Meeting:** St. Michael's will have a brief parish council meeting, Sunday January 11th at the pancake feed.
- **Knights of Columbus Meeting:** The Knights of Columbus will have their monthly meeting January 12th starting with rosary at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the center.





- **Knights Pancake Feed:** The Knights of Columbus will be sponsoring a pancake feed, Sunday, January 11th following Mass in the parish center. Please join them for pancakes and sausage next weekend.
- **Un-decorate Church:** We will be taking down the decorations at St. Michael's on Monday, January 5th at 4:15 p.m. The more volunteers we can get to help, the less time it will take.
- **LDCCW Winter Symposium:** The 5th annual LDCCW Winter Symposium at Waverly Retreat House is for all ladies of the Diocese: Friday & Saturday, January 16th and 17th. Friday evening includes a Rosary Vigil for the Unborn and the Divine Mercy Chaplet sung by Ellen Soukup of Lincoln. Saturday will run from 8:30-3:00 with speakers from KVSS, the LDCCW, Marian Sisters and St. Gianna Home. Mass by Bishop Conley will be at 11:15 a.m. After lunch, a Priest-Moms' panel will tell how their sons followed God's call to vocation. Call or email the retreat House (402-786-2705 or goodcounsel@cdolinc.net) to sign up.
- **Spain, Fatima & Lourdes Pilgrimage:** Come along November 9-19, 2015 to some of the most sacred places in all of Europe. We'll visit Barcelona, Montserrat Monastery, Lourdes, Madrid, Avila, Fatima, Lisbon and so much more. Mass each day in great Churches and Cathedrals along the way. Cost is \$3279 with departure from Omaha. For a brochure and more information, contact Fr. Dan Guenther, Immaculate Conceptions Parish, P.O. Box 658, Cherokee, IA 51012 or call 712-225-4606 or email frdanquenther@gmail.com
- **CCD:** We will resume classes on January 7th. Classes are from 6:45p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please do not drop your children off before 6:35 p.m., because there will not be any adult supervision. ***Parents, please remember that if your child will be receiving one of the sacraments in the next two years, that they must be attending CCD classes to receive the sacraments.*** Please remember to enter the driveway on E street and exit on 8th street.
- **Word Among Us:** We have FREE copies of the Word Among Us for the month of ***January***. Please pick yours up today and take home for daily devotions.

- **Notice:** The Diocese of Lincoln requires that its employees and volunteers report any allegations of physical abuse or neglect of a minor or elder connected with church related activity to law enforcement, consistent with the requirements of Nebraska law. If anyone has information that a minor or elder is being or has been subjected to physical abuse or neglect please report it immediately to local law enforcement or to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services toll-free number 1-800-652-1999, and also to any Parish Pastor, School Administrator, Teacher, or to any Diocesan official at the Catholic Chancery (402-488-0921), so that immediate steps may be taken for the protection of the minor or elder.
- **Thought of the week:** When we hear the magi brought gifts to our Savior, how can we not think about the gifts we give to our Savior?
- **Diocese of Lincoln Natural Family Planning** Creighton Model Introductory Sessions for January 2015 will be held Thursday, January 8 and Tuesday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m. Pre-registration is required. For more information call 488-2040.
- **Catholic Divorced Survival Guide:** Millions of Catholics get civilly divorced, and it affects us all. Maybe you or someone you know has the breakdown of a marriage, and you know how painful it can be. No matter how long it's been, the Church IS HERE to help and heal. That's why a new, 12-week support group called the Catholic Divorce Survival Guide will begin February 2, 2015 from 7-9 p.m. at John XXIII Center in Lincoln. The cost is \$50 and space is limited so register soon by calling 402-488-2040 or email catholicflo@cdolinc.net
- **Theology of the Body:** Fr. Sean Kilcawley will offer a 12 week seminar starting February 4th on John Paul II's teaching on Human Love in the Divine plan in order to deepen our understanding of what it means to be created in God's image. This seminar is for single people who are looking for tools to help them to deepen their understanding of their identity as children of God, married couples who want to deepen their own relationship and learn how to pass on the truth about sex and sexuality to their children, teachers, catechists, and anyone involved in marriage ministries. To register, call 402-488-2040 or email catholicflo@cdolinc.net. Cost is \$50.00



- **2015 Calendars and Church Envelopes:** The 2015 Church calendars and Church Envelopes for next year are in the back of the church at St. Michael's and St. Mary's. Please pick yours up this weekend.
- **Census:** If you haven't returned your census slips, please do so as soon as possible. If you know your Sacrament information, please include that also. Please return them in the collection basket or drop off at the parish office.
- **College Students:** We are collecting college student's addresses so we can send them correspondence. Please email their addresses to carolyn@stmichaelsfairbury.org.
- **Website:** You can find St. Michael's/St. Mary's website at www.stmichaelsfairbury.org. You can view the weekly bulletins and monthly calendar.
- **Best Choice Labels:** Please continue to save you labels, and put them in the container at the back of the church. For every 1000 labels we collect, we receive \$30.00, so keep collecting the labels.
- **Guide to Planning a Catholic Funeral:** On the back table, are copies of "A Guide to Planning a Catholic Funeral. The booklets have Scripture readings, music selections and a planning guide to help you plan for funerals. **You may fill these out now, so your family will know what your wishes are, in the time of passing and it will be something they will not have to worry about.** You may turn them in to the office or you may keep at you home.

The Adoration of the Kings

excerpted from "In Conversation with God" by Francis Fernandez

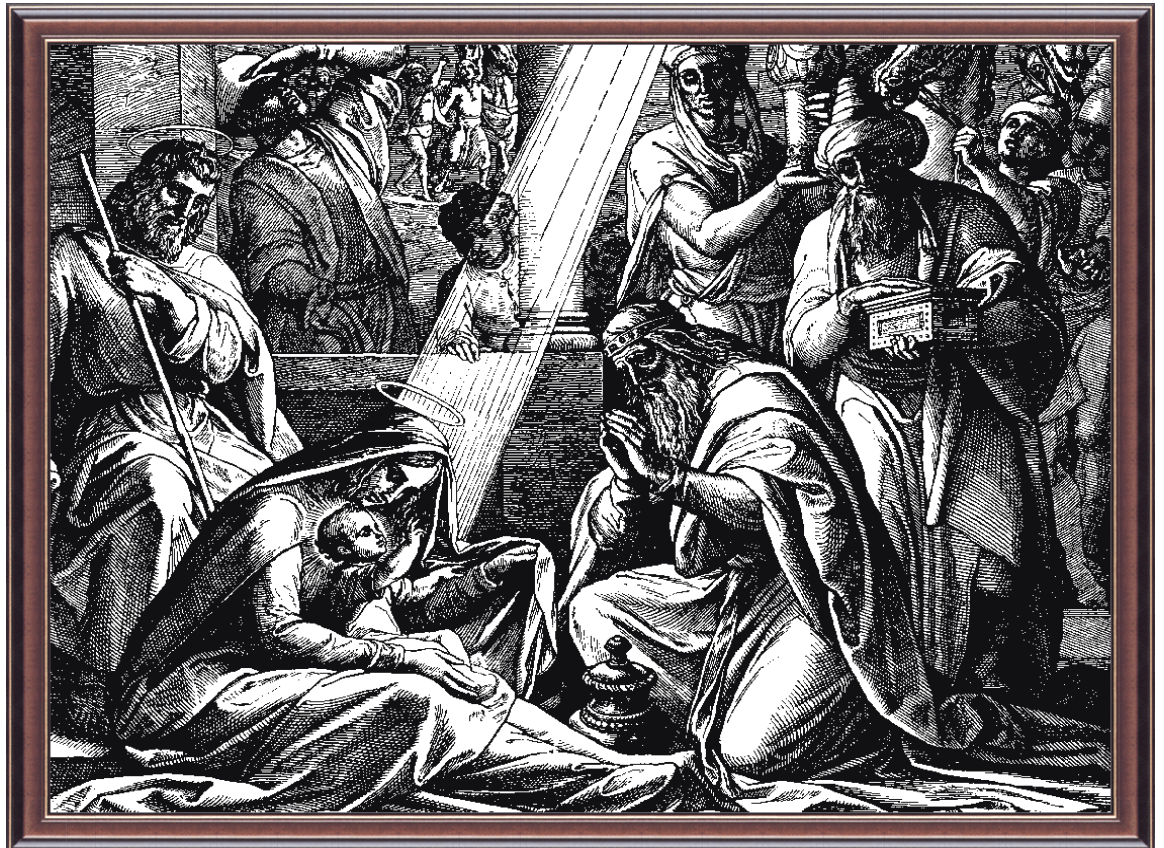
Today the Church celebrates Jesus being made known to the whole world. Epiphany means 'manifestation', and in the Kings are represented all peoples of every language and nation who set out, called by God, to adore Jesus.

How great is the joy of these wise men who have come from so far away to see a King and are led to a little house in a village! How much is there for us to learn here!

We are perhaps in danger of not realizing fully how close Our Lord is to our lives because God presents Himself to us under the insignificant appearance of a piece of bread, because He does not reveal Himself in His glory, because He does not impose Himself irresistibly, because He slips into our life like a shadow, instead of making His power resound at the summit of all things.

We have to be attentive, because Our Lord also shows Himself in the normal events of every day. May we know how to recover this interior light, which for us breaks through the monotony of days which are all the same, and find Jesus in our ordinary life!

The Kings opening their store of treasures, offered Him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. We also offer Him the precious gold we receive when in spirit we are detached from money and material goods. Let us not forget that these things are good, for they come from God. But the Lord has laid down that we should use them, without allowing our hearts to



become attached to them, by putting them to good use for the benefit of all mankind.

Incense is our desire to live a noble life which give off the 'aroma of Christ' (2 Cor 2:15). To impregnate our words and actions with His aroma is to sow understanding and friendship. We should accompany others so that no one is left, or can feel, abandoned.

The sweet fragrance of Christ noticed among men - not in a sudden burst of flame, but in the constant red-hot embers of virtues such as justice, loyalty, faithfulness, understanding and cheerfulness.

Myrrh is the spirit of sacrifice that can never be lacking in a Christian life. Myrrh reminds us of the Passion of Our Lord. Do not think that to meditate on the need for sacrifice and mortification means to add a note of sadness to this joyful feast we celebrate today.

Mortification is not pessimism or bitterness. Mortification, on the contrary is very closely related to joy, to charity, to making life pleasant for others. Mortification does not usually consist of great renunciations, for situations requiring great self-denial seldom occur. Mortification is made up of small conquests, such as smiling at those who annoy us, denying the body some superfluous fancy, getting accustomed to listening to others, making full use of the time God allots us...and so many other details. We find it in the apparently trifling problems, difficulties and worries which arise without our looking for them in the course of each day.

When we finish our prayer today we don't ask these holy Kings to give us gold, frankincense or myrrh. It seems more natural to ask them to teach us the way which leads to Christ, so that every day we can take Him our own gold, our own incense and our own myrrh.

The three Kings had their star. We have Mary, Stella Maris, Stella Orientis, Star of the Sea Star

