

St. Michael's & St. Mary's

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The Baptism of the Lord

January 11, 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, **Matthew Prochaska and Rev. Mr. Cyrus Rowan**, in your prayers.

Ministers' Schedules for Next Weekend

	5:30 PM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Acolyte	Joe Busing	Bob VanWesten	Randy Prellwitz
Lector	Keith Mach	Daryl Anderson	Charlie Barringer
Server	Connor Gerth		Joey Whitney
Server	Brock Beed		Devin Wanamaker
Organ/Piano	Carolyn Osborne	Lorrie Hoffstetter	Allen Scheer
Gifts/Greeters	LaRae Endorf	Jim & Ellen VanWesten	Linda Hermsmier and Deb Jones
Collection	LeAnn Krause and Dave Panko		

Our Offering to God Last Weekend	St. Michael's	\$ 1942.00
	St. Mary's	\$376.00

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, Noelle Salazar, Bernie Boerner, Paul Prellwitz, Brad Eveleth, Kathy Blobaum, Bob McCord, Ed Lytle, LeRoy Prellwitz, Rita Stone, 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 12	NO MASS	St. Michael's	NO MASS
Tuesday	January 13	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Carl & Alvina Birkel+
Wednesday	January 14	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Walter & Dorrine Milius+
Thursday	January 15	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	All Souls Day Intentions of Randy and Mary Prellwitz
Friday	January 16	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Rosa Juarez+
Saturday	January 17	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Bill and Lois Muller's 60 th Anniversary
Sunday	January 18	8:00 AM	St. Mary's	The People of the Parishes
Sunday	January 18	10:00 AM	St. Michael's	Henry Wiedel+

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

- **Thank you!** Thank you to the entire parish for all your support, cards and prayers before and after Don's death. Thanks to all who brought food to the house and the funeral dinner. It meant a lot to our family.
Bless you! Marjorie Gregory & family
- **Parish Financial Statements for 2014 Tax Year:** These statements are available for both parishes this weekend. Please check the back of the church for your envelope and pick them up as soon as possible.
- **PCCW Yearly Booklets:** The PCCW is working on the yearly booklets. If you would like to be put on or taken off a specific committee, please contact Sherrie Brandenburg at 729-5665. We will meet on January 19th at 5:30 p.m. in the center to put the booklets together. Everyone's help is appreciated.

- **Philosophy and Theology of the Angelic Doctor:** Dr. Theresa Farnan for this comprehensive overview of the philosophy and theology of the Angelic Doctor. Farnan presents a distinctive aspect of St. Thomas's philosophy and theology, followed by application of the Thomistic response to contemporary issues. The series provides practical wisdom amidst the many problems we face in today's society. Fr. John is getting the DVD's of this series & would run it as a course; 25 minute video, followed by discussion. Please let Fr. John know if you are interested.
- **Please join us for the Bishop Conley Lecture Series:** The Future of Marriage-Catholic and Civil, presented by Maggie Gallagher, Institute for Marriage and Public Policy, January 14th at 7:30 p.m. in the Pius X High School LPAC (auditorium). 6000 A Street, Lincoln.
- **Save the Date:** The annual Nebraska Walk for Life will be Saturday, January 31st starting at 10:00 a.m. at the State Capitol in Lincoln. A short program at the Capitol will be followed by the walk to the UN-L Student Union at 14th & R Street for our keynote speech from Mario St. Francis. Mario is a former model and actor and in now the Media Director for World Youth Day. His message of conversion will resonate with both young and old at the Walk! Activities will conclude by 1:00 p.m. at the Union. For more information contact Nebraska Right to Life at 402-438-4802.
- **Spaghetti Feed:** The Bank Girls-Relay for Life Team 6th Annual Spaghetti Feed, Sunday, January 25th from 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. at the VFW Hall in Fairbury. Spaghetti served with choice of topping, bread, dessert bar and drink. Free will donation, with all proceeds to the Jefferson County Relay for Life American Cancer Society.
- **One Rose/One Life:** The Knights of Columbus have placed 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. Mary's January Cleaning:** Donna Rut
- **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 this weekend.
- **Un-decorate Church:** THANK YOU!! We would like to thank everyone who helped un-decorate the church this last week. Your generosity is really appreciated.
- **LDCCW Winter Symposium:** The 5th annual LDCCW Winter Symposium for all ladies is at the Retreat House in Waverly, January 16-17. Come one or both days. After Friday evening chapel time and speaker, there will be a wine & cheese social while making Valentine's Day cards for residents of St. Gianna's. Saturday speakers include a Marian Sister novice, Greg Schleppebach & Fr. Kubat; Mass with Bishop Conley begins at 11:15 a.m. After lunch, a panel of Mothers of Priests featuring how they learned of their son's vocation in following God's call to the Priesthood, plus a Q & A session. The day ends with the vocation stories of our two Moderators. Fr. Lux and Fr. McGuire. See the Southern Nebraska Register for more information.
- **CCD:** Classes are from 6:45p.m. - 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:** Our Baptism calls each one of us to share in the work of Jesus.
- **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
- **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.
- **2015 Church Envelopes:** The 2015 Church Envelopes are in the back of the church at St. Michael's and St. Mary's. Please pick yours up this weekend.
- **Website:** You can find St. Michael's/St. Mary's website at www.stmichaelsfairbury.org. You can view the weekly bulletins and monthly calendar.

- **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
- **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 Baptism of the Lord

The feast of the Baptism of Christ is also known as the *Theophany* because it is the point at which Jesus begins His ministry of salvation. St. John Chrysostom tells us, "It is not the day when Christ was born that should be called Theophany, but the day when He was baptized. Not through His birth did he become known to all, but through His Baptism. Before the day of Baptism He was not known to the people."

The Baptism of Christ has two fundamental aspects: on this day, the full dogmatic truth of **God in three Persons** was revealed to men. This mystery of the three Persons in one Godhead, which is beyond all understanding, was here made manifest not spiritually but plainly, in sensory forms. John the Baptist (sometimes referred to as John the Forerunner) heard the voice of the Father and saw the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, confirming this voice - both of them testifying to the appearance among men of the Son of God in the Person of the Baptized. On the other hand, just as later Christ established the sacrament of the Eucharist while

celebrating the Old Testament Passover, so on that day, while performing the act of ablutions established by the prophets, he establishes the New Testament sacrament of Baptism

The Fathers of the Church explain the appearance of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove at the Lord's Baptism by analogy with the Flood: just as then the world was purified of its iniquities by the waters of the Flood and the dove brought an olive branch into Noah's Ark, announcing the end of the Flood and peace returned upon earth, so too now the Holy Spirit comes down in the form of a dove to announce the remission of sins and God's mercy to the world. (cf. St. John of Damascus, Exposition of the Orthodox Faith).

Jesus is shown standing in the waters because He allowed Himself to be washed in order to sanctify water for our purification. Fr. Alexander Schmemmann writes: "Water is undoubtedly one of the most ancient and universal of all religious symbols. From the Christian point of view three essential dimensions of this symbolism are important. The first one can be termed cosmical. There can be no life without water, and because of this the "primitive" man identifies water with the principle of life, sees in it the *prima essentia* of the world: '...and the Spirit of God was moving on the face of the waters'(Gen. 1:2). But if water reflects and symbolizes the world as cosmos and life, it is also the symbol of destruction and death. It is the mysterious depth which kills and annihilates the dark habitation of the demonic powers, the very image of the irrational, uncontrollable, and elemental in the world. The principle of life, a life-giving power, and the principle of death, the power of destruction: such is the essentially ambiguous intuition of water in man's religious worldview. And finally, water is the principle of purification, of cleanliness, and therefore of regeneration and renewal. It washes away stains; it re-creates the pristine purity of the earth. It is this fundamental religious symbolism of water - symbolism rooted in the self-evident and natural attributes of water - that permeates the Bible and the whole biblical story of creation, fall and salvation. (Of Water and the Spirit p. 39) Thus our Lord allows Himself to be cleansed in order to restore this fundamental element of the world, and to purge it of the demonic.

St. John the Baptist officiates, his right hand placed on the head of the Saviour. This sacramental gesture has always been part of the ritual of baptism. Angels take part in the holy ritual. They hold cloaks in their hands playing the role of attendants during Baptism in an attitude of reverence before him Whom they serve.

All that has been said above about the Baptism of Jesus relates to the sacramental reality of our own baptism. Baptism is understood as the Rite of entrance or initiation into the Body of Christ which is the Church. Sacraments are understood as those points where heaven and earth, time and eternity, God and His creation, meet. The Sacraments are symbolic not in the sense of "representing something else" but in the older and wider sense of being a point or place of union (from the Greek *sympallein* "to throw together, or unite). The waters of "this world" having been cleansed and purified by Christ's baptism are now the means by which He incorporates or grafts us into His life. Because Christ has sanctified the waters by His baptism, we may now be spiritually cleansed. The waters which are sanctified by His presence are death to the fallenness which has insinuated itself into human life. Thus in our baptism we die to the fallen sinfulness which has become a parasite on our humanness, and we rise in the new life of Christ's resurrection cleansed and purified in His body the Church. In baptism we take that first step from being merely human to being really human.