

# St. Michael's & St. Mary's

**FR. JOHN B. BIRKEL, PASTOR**

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Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 15, 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:** Lorraine Borch

**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](mailto: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, **James Winter** in your prayers.

## ***Ministers' Schedules for Next Weekend***

	<b>5:30 PM</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
<b>Acolyte</b>	Bruce Busing	Bob VanWesten	James Huber
<b>Lector</b>	Keith Mach	Scott DeWald	Joshua Whitney
<b>Server</b>	Ryan Umland		Brett Wanamaker
<b>Server</b>	Aldo Ramos		Devin Wanamaker
<b>Organ/Piano</b>	Mary Mach	Lorrie Hoffstetter	Allen Scheer
<b>Gifts/Greeters</b>	Carol Meyer	Jill & Jason Stewart & family	Ron & Shana Rickstrew
<b>Collection</b>		Matt Umland and Chad Mans	

<b>Our Offering to God Last Weekend</b>	St. Michael's	\$ 2686.00
	St. Mary's	\$ 817.00
	St. Michael's Debt	\$ 105.00

**Please pray for:** Betty (Morgan) Brackle, Bob Seigel, Iola Busing, Rose O'Keefe, Vonia 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, 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	February 16	<b>NO MASS</b>	St. Michael's	<b>NO MASS</b>
Tuesday	February 17	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Walter & Dorrine Milius+
Wednesday	February 18	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	The People of the Parishes
Wednesday	February 18	5:30 PM	St. Mary's	The People of the Parishes
Wednesday	February 18	7:00 PM	St. Michael's	Steve Wilson+
Thursday	February 19	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	All Souls Day Intentions of Kathleen Selig
Friday	February 20	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Bill & Arlene Wagner+
Saturday	February 21	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	All Souls Day Intentions of Angela Naiman
Sunday	February 22	8:00 AM	St. Mary's	All Souls Day Intentions of Jim & Ellen VanWesten
Sunday	February 22	10:00 AM	St. Michael's	The People of the Parishes

<b>Confessions</b>	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**



We hold in prayer those who have died:

**Rosalie Hamm**, May she know the joy of God's kingdom.

"Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let the perpetual light shine upon them. Funeral services are Monday at 10:00 a.m. at St. Joseph's in Tobias.

- **Lent will be upon us soon:** Lent begins Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> with the observance of Ash Wednesday. Masses for Ash Wednesday will be at 12:10 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at St. Michael's and 5:30 p.m. at St. Mary's. ***Ash Wednesday Masses will be held in the main body of the church.*** Please mark your calendars to attend one of the Masses.  

- **Ministries for Ash Wednesday Masses:** Please Volunteer for ministries of the Mass on Ash Wednesday. We will need servers, acolytes and lectors.
- **Lenten Regulations for the Diocese of Lincoln:**
  1. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence.
  2. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.
  3. Fasting means eating one full meal with two smaller meals, which together does not equal the full meal. No snacks or eating between meals is allowed. Fasting obliges Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59.
  4. Abstinence means eating no meat nor soup nor gravy made from meat. Abstinence obliges all Catholics over the age of 14.
  5. Sickness, hard manual labor, pregnancy, etc., automatically excuses a person from these obligations. Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that these are serious obligations. In case of doubt or question, the priest who hears a person's confession (or the person's parish priest in the event that one does not have a regular confessor) should be consulted.
- **The Holy Father wants to hear from you!** All Catholics in the Diocese of Lincoln are invited to participate in a survey, in order to assist the 2015 Synod on Marriage and Family Life. The results of our survey, along with similar surveys from around the world, will be discussed by Pope Francis and the bishops present at the synod. Your thoughts on marriage and family life will help the Universal Church to support families and to proclaim the gospel. The survey can be found at [www.lincolndiocese.org](http://www.lincolndiocese.org)<<http://www.lincolndiocese.org>.
- **Class on Saint Thomas Aquinas** will be Tuesday's during Lent at 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. There is no reading with this course! A 25 minute video & discussion.

- **Stations of the Cross:** Stations of the Cross will be Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.
- **Word Among Us:** We have FREE copies of the Word Among Us for Lent. Please pick yours up today and take home for daily devotions for the season of Lent.
- **PCCW Monthly Brunch:** The PCCW is planning to serve a light brunch next Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> in the parish center. Susan Hammer, Mary Prellwitz and Linda Hermsmeier are in charge of the brunch. A free will donation will be taken up.
- **Lenten Reflections:** Each day from Ash Wednesday (February 18) through Easter Sunday (April 5), Fr. Robert Barron will send you a short email with an uplifting spiritual reflection. The reflections will be available in both English and Spanish. In addition, you'll receive exclusive videos found nowhere else, free giveaways of his DVD's and books, and special discounts on new and exciting resources. The best part of all? It's totally FREE! Just head over to LentReflections.com and sign up.
- **Soup Supper:** Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 4:30-7:00 p.m. at the Steele City Presbyterian Church. Soup, sandwiches and pie will be served. Free will offering.
- **Palms:** We will be collecting the palms for last year. If you would like to bring them back, please lay them on the back table in the church.
- **Operation Rice Bowls:** This Lent we will participate in CRS Rice Bowl, a faith-in-action program that will help you experience Lenten spirituality by living in solidarity with people in need around the world. As we, the global Church, prepare for the World Meeting of Families 2015 in Philadelphia this fall, it is especially appropriate to come together in prayer as a family this lent. Your cardboard CRS Rice bowl and Lenten Calendar are great tools to guide your Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Read these materials together and consider what you will give up for Lent as a family or as individuals. Be sure to write your goals on the side of your CRS Rice Bowl. We will be collecting your CRS Rice Bowls at the end of Lent. Thank you for using CRS Rice Bowl with your family this Lent.



- **Knights Fish Fry:** With Lent, comes the Knights Fish Fry. Mark these dates on your calendar: February 20, March 6, and March 20. Serving from 5:30-7:00. Let's support the Knight's by attending!!!
- **St. Mary's-Wymore Soup & Pie Supper:** St. Mary's in Wymore is sponsoring their annual Soup Supper, Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> from 3:30-7:00 p.m. at the church hall (115 No. 11<sup>th</sup>). They will be serving vegetable, chili and ham and bean soup. Free will donation.
- **Discover the Mystery of the Feminine Genius!** Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the Dawson Hall, Blessed John XXIII Center, 3700 Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln and Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m., St. Cecilia Parish, Hastings. This is a Bishop Conley Lecture Series; Terry Polakovic, Co-Founder and President of Endow. The event is provided at no cost to attendees. For more information contact arjansky@gmail.com
- **Catholic Press Month:** February is Catholic Press month. We will take up our annual collection to pay for the cost (\$15.00) of the Southern Register. Please help us offset the cost that is charged to our church each year. ***Envelopes are inserted in your offering envelopes this year.*** These can be dropped in the collection basket anytime.
- **PCCW Meeting:** The PCCW will hold their monthly meeting, February 16<sup>th</sup> beginning with the Rosary at 6:30 p.m. immediately followed by the meeting in the center. Barb Arner and Carol Steele are in charge of refreshments.
- **Food Pantry:** During the month of February, we will be collecting food for the Blue Valley Food Pantry. Please give from you heart to help those in need!
- **Thought of the week:** Joyfully acknowledge the many good things God has done for us.
- **St. Michael's PCCW Booklets for 2015:** If you haven't received your new PCCW Booklet, please stop by the back of the church and pick yours today. Remember the annual dues of \$5.00 are due March 1<sup>st</sup>.



- **Pope Francis “Rediscovering the Heart of a Disciple”:** The PCCW will be sponsoring a 4-week study on Pope Francis “Rediscovering the Heart of a Disciple”. The cost of the book is \$10.00. The dates for the study are: February 16<sup>th</sup> @7:15 p.m.; February 23 @7:00 p.m.; March 2 @ 7:00 p.m. and March 10 @7:00 p.m. Please call Carolyn at 729-2058 to request your book. Also please read pages 1-39 before the first meeting so we can discuss the questions at the end of each chapter. If you have any questions about the study call Deborah at 402-424-3665. Everyone is welcome to join in the study group.
- **Handicapped Parking:** A request has been made for additional handicapped parking spaces in front of the Church. We are working towards that end; for now, if you are not in need, please try and leave the spaces near the front for those who are in need.
- **CCD:** NO Class this Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. Please come with your children to Mass at 7:00 p.m. to begin the Lenten season.
- **St. Michael’s Debt Reduction:** Our loan for the operation of the school is: \$191, 243.00 We took \$30,000.00 out of savings & added \$5,000.00 from checking to make an initial \$35,000.00 payment. We plan to make payments of \$17,360.33 each year for nine years to pay off the debt. The Bishop has made our loan so that it does not accrue interest.
- **St. Mary’s PCCW:** The annual dues of \$5.00 are due March 1 for the St. Mary’s PCCW and can be paid to Donna Rut. All ladies of St. Mary’s Parish are automatically a member of the PCCW. Any donations will gladly be accepted also. The dues and donations will be used to purchase supplies for the altar.
- **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.

- **St. Mary's February Cleaning:** Deb VanWesten
- **Our Lady of Good Counsel Lenten Retreats:** Don't be left out for the upcoming Lenten Retreats. Feb 27-March 1, Fr. Mark Cyza will speak on "Friends of the Cross" for men and women. March 13-15, Fr. Troy Schweiger will speak on "A man after God's own Heart" Man to Man, men only. March 27-29, Fr. Gary Coulter will speak on "Discipleship in Mark" for men and women. You can register at [www.goodcounselretreat.com](http://www.goodcounselretreat.com) or call 402-786-2705.
- **Census:** *If you haven't returned your census slips, please do so as soon as possible.* The census papers help us get an accurate count of the members of the churches. *If you have misplaced your copy, please call Carolyn at 729-2058 for a replacement.* If you know your Sacrament information, please include that also. Please return them in the collection basket or drop off at the parish office.
- **Best Choice Labels:** Please continue to save your labels and put them in the container at the back of the church. For every 1000 labels we collect, we receive \$30.00.
- **Website:** You can find St. Michael's/St. Mary's website at [www.stmichaelsfairbury.org](http://www.stmichaelsfairbury.org). You can view the weekly bulletins and monthly calendar.
- **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 your home.

# World Marriage Day

As we celebrate World Marriage Day, this weekend, we would like to honor the following parishioners who have been married for 50 years or more:

**Bill & Lois Muller  
Bob & Donna Milius  
Frank & Leona Gaydusek  
Phillip & Yvonne Brunow  
Lee & Betty Prellwitz  
Jerry & Sherrie Brandenburg**

**Jim & Elaine Cortney  
Pat & Betty L'Ecuyer  
Bob & Shirley Gibson  
Jim & Betty Williams  
Leonard & Patricia Stolzer**

World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as head of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life.

## Getting Ready For Lent

Every car or truck carries in the glove compartment a maintenance schedule. Having your oil changed, your tires rotated and balanced, and the rest of the engine checked keeps your vehicle in excellent shape.

This Wednesday, we begin one of the most practical times of the Catholic liturgical year. Lent provides us an opportunity to open our personal maintenance schedule and take a close look at ourselves as we journey towards eternal life.

The spiritual life is not an easy endeavor because of our wounded human nature. True, Baptism washes away original sin, but we do not have complete control over ourselves. St. Paul brilliantly describes this continual battle. He portrays this conflict as an inward struggle (Romans 7: 14-25), a treasure in a vessel of clay (2 Corinthians 4: 7-18), and a thorn in the flesh (2 Corinthians 12: 7-10).

Because of original sin, an inner force will always move us in the wrong direction. Continual effort is necessary to control the inner movement of our ego, and allow the presence of grace to take control of our thoughts, desires and actions. The battle of the spiritual life is like walking in a river against the current. If we do not continue to walk or grab on to a rock, the current will carry us in the opposite direction. Lent provides us with an excellent opportunity to strengthen ourselves so that we can keep walking against the current.

A successful Lent requires us to develop a serious plan of action. Our program should consist of both the general practices that the Catholic Church requires of everyone, and our own particular Lenten program.

As a general practice for all Catholics, the Church requires that we fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. We are also asked to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent.

Aside from what the Church law of fast and abstinence requires of us, we should come up with a personal program for spiritual growth. This is our personal maintenance program. I have always recommended that we come up with something negative and something positive.

By something negative, I mean that each person should commit themselves to giving up something or a number of things. This sacrifice should be serious and demanding. The self-control that we exercise in giving up a legitimate pleasure strengthens our will and curbs the inclinations of our passions.



By something positive, I mean that each one should also do some kind of act that we would not normally do on a regular basis. Attending daily Mass, visiting the sick, volunteering time at the parish or praying a Sunday evening Rosary with the entire family are positive acts of virtue that have helped many people progress in their relationship with God.

Lenten practices of penance have great benefits for our spiritual lives. A serious Lent will be like a spring cleaning which will purify the clutter that has accumulated in our souls. A serious commitment to penance will also help us to conquer addictions, obsessions and compulsive behavior. A serious Lent will purify our soul and allow us to experience a deeper interior freedom.

As we approach the beginning of another Lent, we should carefully examine our lives. Usually we focus on carefully examining our sins, but do we ever consider the sins of omission? Do we honestly consider what we are not doing?

One way to break the cycle of apathy is to bring into your Lent an apostolic dimension. This can be done by making two firm commitments: pray the Rosary at your local abortion clinic and target one person that does not have a church home. Invite that person to your parish.

Moreover, it would be very powerful if we would offer up our fast, abstinence, Lenten sacrifices and our weekly Stations of the Cross to the Lord as of way of ending abortion and bringing souls back to the Church.

Do not wait until Ash Wednesday to come up with your Lenten program. Decide today what you are going to do. Parents should sit down with their children and make sure that they too have come up with a serious plan of action. Have a family meeting tonight and decide together to make this Lent the best Lent ever. Meet as a family every Sunday during Lent and review your program. Be accountable to each other. If you make this a great Lent you will notice the difference on Easter Sunday.