

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

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

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Second Sunday of Lent

March 1, 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, **Dale Alder and Wade Bakhit** 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	Randy Prellwitz
<b>Lector</b>	Keith Mach	Daryl Anderson	Joshua Whitney
<b>Server</b>	Ryan Umland		Brett Wanamaker
<b>Server</b>	Aldo Ramos		Devin Wanamaker
<b>Organ/Piano</b>	Carolyn Osborne	Lorrie Hoffstetter	Allen Scheer
<b>Gifts/Greeters</b>	Jerry and Sherrie Brandenburg	Mark & Peggy Niederklien	Marge Gregory
<b>Collection</b>	Steve Graff and Carolyn Osborne		

<b>Our Offering to God Last Weekend</b>	St. Michael's	\$1140.00
	St. Mary's	\$ 229.00
	St. Michael's Debt	\$ 0.00

**Please pray for:** 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, 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	March 2	<b>NO MASS</b>	St. Michael's	<b>NO MASS</b>
Tuesday	March 3	<b>8:00 AM</b>	St. Michael's	Fr. Peter Gadiant
Wednesday	March 4	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Dan Birkel+
Thursday	March 5	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Jim Melcher+
Friday	March 6	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	All Souls Day Intentions of Randy & Mary Prellwitz
Saturday	March 7	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Charles & Anna Margaret Steele+
Sunday	March 8	8:00 AM	St. Mary's	The People of the Parishes
Sunday	March 8	10:00 AM	St. Michael's	Don Gregory+

<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**

- **Mass time:** Please note: Mass time for Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> is at 8:00 a.m.
- **First Penance:** Please keep in your prayers, the children who will be making their First Penance this Wednesday evening: Ashley Grubbs, Elizabeth Ohlde, Heidi Ramos, Lauren Wanamaker and Sophia Whitney.
- **Knights of Columbus Meeting:** The Knights of Columbus will have their monthly meeting March 9<sup>th</sup> starting with Rosary at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the center.

- **Campin' with the Marians:** The Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln are sponsoring their annual summer camp, Campin' with the Marians, at Camp Kateri. Camps for girls entering grades 6-9 will be held June 21-24 and June 25-28. If you are interested, registration fliers can be found at [www.mariansisters.org](http://www.mariansisters.org). This summer we are celebrating the year of consecrated life. Spaces are limited; please register ASAP as we fill up fast. If you have questions, you may contact Sr. Janelle at 402-440-9998. Counselors are also needed and the opportunity is open for girls who are entering 10<sup>th</sup> through college on an application basis. Please enquire about counseling positions at [marianscamping@gmail.com](mailto:marianscamping@gmail.com).
- **SKY Camp 2015 is almost here!** Sign up your 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders for an awesome camp experience at Camp Kateri Tekakwitha! Activities include archery, obstacle course, swimming, catechesis, campfires, and Mass! Space is limited for each camp, sign up at [www.lincolndiocese.org](http://www.lincolndiocese.org)!
- **2015 Blaze Retreat:** St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lincoln presents the 2015 BLAZE Junior High Youth Rally. This is open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the Diocese. Featuring Bishop Conley and Catholic speaker and recording artist, Chris Padgett. Blaze will take place on April 18<sup>th</sup> from 9-5 and will cost \$25.00. Register at [stjosephblaze.com](http://stjosephblaze.com). They will be raffling a mini iPod, a trip to Laser Quest and several other prizes.
- **Living the Discerning Life:** St. Ignatius assists us in understanding and responding to the daily experiences of the spiritual life. The times of joy and the times of more difficult discernment. Come join Fr. Gallagher as he presents the teaching of St. Ignatius and learn the joy and freedom found in living the Discerning Life. The seminar will consist of 6 talks as well as Mass, adoration and lunch/brunch each day. Seminar will be held March 7-8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-4:00 p.m. at the UNL Student Union & the New Newman Center at 320 N. 16<sup>th</sup> St., Lincoln. \$20 payable at the door (\$5 for students). To register call Keri at 402-474-7914 or email at [keri-timmerman@huskercatholic.org](mailto:keri-timmerman@huskercatholic.org)
- **The Fairbury Deanery Spring Open Meeting** will be held at St. Mary's, Odell, on Sunday, March 8. Registration (\$1) is from 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. with meeting starting at 2. Ann Jansky, LDCCW President, will be the speaker.

- **Pro-Life Legislative Day** will be Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at the State Capitol in Lincoln. Begin with coffee & rolls at 8:30 a.m. in the Wherry Rm., second floor. Hear from Senators about two pro-life bills being heard in Judiciary Committee that afternoon. Receive information packets & training to talk to your own State Senator that morning. Come for all or part of the day. All activities are free but please RSVP with number coming so we can plan. Contact Nebraska Right to Life @402-438-4802 or nebraskartl@gmail.com.
- **Picture:** Fr. John is looking for a picture of the inside of St. Mary's that shows the altar with the side decorations around the tabernacle. The original photo will be returned.
- **Spaghetti Dinner...** at St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Center in Beatrice, Sunday, March 1 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Dinner includes spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread and dessert. The parish center will be beautifully decorated to give you an Italian atmosphere while you enjoy your dinner. Advance tickets are \$9.00/Adults and \$3.00/Children 3-12. Tickets at the door are \$10/Adults and \$3.00/Children 3-12.
- **A Special Wedding Anniversary Mass** and reception for all married couples will be held Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln. Bishop James Conley will be the Main Celebrant and Homilist at the Mass for this "Joy and Hope" celebrations of Christian Marriage. Special recognition will be given to those couples married 10, 25, 40 and 50 years or more. Family guests are welcome. To register call the Family Life Office (402)488-2040.
- **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 on Wednesday (March 4) of this week (all other times 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, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.
- **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 week CRS Rice Bowl takes us to the coffee highlands of Nicaragua, where we're called to protect both the goodness of creation and the livelihoods of struggling families. How will this week's fast remind us of the sacredness of God's creation and our duty to protect it?



- **Knights Fish Fry:** With Lent, comes the Knights Fish Fry. Mark these dates on your calendar: March 6, and March 20. Serving from 5:30-7:00. Let's support the Knight's by attending!!!
- **Thought of the week:** Prayer, repentance, and almsgiving lead us to living as stewards.
- **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 remaining dates for the study are: March 2 @ 7:00 p.m. and March 10 @ 7:00 p.m. 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.
- **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.

- **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 8<sup>th</sup> street.
- **St. Michael's Debt Reduction:** Our loan for the operation of the school is: \$156,243.00. 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 March Cleaning:** Ellen VanWesten
- **Our Lady of Good Counsel Lenten Retreats:** Don't be left out for the upcoming Lenten Retreats. 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.
- **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.

A parishioner asked, if we restore the Communion rail, will we still be able to receive Holy Communion in the hand? Answer: Yes.

## **COMMUNION RAIL**

We are considering restoring the Communion Rail in Saint Michael's. First, the two main objections I've heard over the years about Communion rails are:

1. What about those who can't kneel? Answer: No one has to kneel. There have always been people who could not kneel.
2. It makes a barrier between the Priest and the people. Answer: No, it provides a place where people may meet and receive their Lord.

Here is a partial explanation of the purpose of a Communion rail: Denis McNamara, author of *Catholic Church Architecture and the Spirit of the Liturgy* (Hillenbrand Books, 2009) McNamara traces church architecture roots to the Temple of Solomon: The large room corresponded to the church nave; the Holy of Holies, an image of heaven, corresponded to today's sanctuary. They were separated visually by the great veil, which was torn when Christ died.

"[The altar rail] is still a marker of the place where heaven and earth meet, indicating that they are not yet completely united," McNamara explained.

"But, at the same time, the rail is low, very permeable, and has a gate, so it does not prevent us from participating in heaven. So we could say there is a theology of the rail, one which sees it as more than a fence, but as a marker where heaven and earth meet, where the priest, acting *in persona Christi*, reaches across from heaven to earth to give the Eucharist as the gift of divine life."

Please pray about this and, if you wish, let me know what you think. Please, also, feel free to ask me questions about it.



