

St. Michael's & St. Mary's

FR. JOHN B. BIRKEL, PASTOR

CELL PHONE: (308) 991-6893

EMAIL: frjohn@stmichaelsfairbury.org

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	

Palm Sunday

March 19/20, 2016



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. Mary's Parish Council: Duane Bartek, Ritchie Burkhart, Peggy Niederklein, Rhonda Burkhart and Donna Rut **Trustees:** Bob VanWesten and Bob Bachle

St. Mary's PCCW: Deb Vanwesten

St. Michael's Parish Council: Mary Mach, Eddie Lytle, Devin Lovgren, Doug Kapke, LeAnn Krause, Dave Panko, Dave Banahan and Bruce Busing

Trustees: Keith Mach and Randy Prellwitz

St. Michael's PCCW: Linda McMurphy

Knights of Columbus: Dan Arner

CCD Coordinator: Mary Mach

Ministers' Schedules for March 26/27, 2016			
	8:45 PM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Acolyte	Volunteers	Bob VanWesten	Volunteers
Lector		Scott DeWald	
Server		Volunteer	
Server			
Music		Lorrie Hofstetter	
Gifts/Greeters	Please Volunteer on sign-up sheets		
Collection	Mary Mach/Eddie Lytle		
Church Cleaning for March – Ellen VanWesten			

- **BULLETIN:** If you have news for the bulletin, please call the Rectory 729-2058 or or email info@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 OF THE WEEK:** Please keep our Seminarian of the week, James Morin in your prayers.

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE				
Monday	March 21	NO MASS		
Tuesday	March 22	NO MASS		
Wednesday	March 23	12:10PM	St. Michael's	William A Muller+
Thursday	March 24	7:00 PM	St. Michael's	Jim & Ellen VanWesten All Souls Day Int
Friday	March 25	5:30 PM 7:00 PM	St. Mary's St. Michael's	Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Saturday	March 26	8:45 PM	St. Michael's	Leonard Prellwitz+
Sunday	March 27	8:00 AM	St. Mary's	People of the Parishes
Sunday	March 28	10:00 AM	St. Michael's	Leonard Hammer+
Confessions	St. Michael's	Saturday	4:45 PM to 5:15 PM	
	St. Mary's	Sunday	7:45 AM	

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.

Please pray for:

Susan Hammer
Betty (Mrs. Morgan) Brackle
Eddie Lytle

Marie Kosmacek
Vonja Scheer
Rita Stone

Parish News & Upcoming Events

Parish collection data: 3/13/2016

	<u>St. Michael's</u>	<u>St. Mary's</u>
Adult	\$1,445.00	\$260.00
Plate	82.10	15.00
Register		15.00
Combined Collection	105.00	20.00
Building Upkeep	15.00	25.00
Debt Reduction	1,200.00	
Cemetery		75.00
Flowers	40.00	
Music Fund	200.00	
Total	\$3,087.10	\$410.00

St Michael's Debt Reduction current total \$2,610.00.

Thought of the Week: "Lent is a favorable time for conversion."
- Pope Francis

Confessions on Holy Thursday from 6:00-6:40PM.

We are currently taking donations for Easter flowers, simply mark them as such, Lilies are \$8.50 each but you may donate any amount.

Confessions in Beatrice & Fairbury on Sunday March 20th.
Beatrice 3:30-5:00PM & Fairbury 7:00-7:30PM. Hebron on Tuesday 7:00-7:30PM.

Good Friday is an unusual day. There is no Mass that day and it is the only day we are told to "depart in silence." It is awkward to announce that & even when I have, people often start talking as soon as they are out of their pew or outside. To depart in silence means to think about what we just encountered: The Passion and death of Christ. Please be silent at least until you are in your vehicle.

Sign-up sheets are out for ministries for Holy Week. Please sign-up. Thank you.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Good Friday at 12:00 Noon.

PCCW Meeting March 21, 2016. Rosary 6:30pm. Business meeting at 7:00pm.

Help the Hungry: The Knights of Columbus is offering their support to the parish youth's kid's collection. The Knights will match their donations in the amount of \$1.00 for each pound of food donated. This is part of the six pillars of support by the Knights: Youth, Community, Church, Council, Family, and Culture of Life.

We have about six five-gallon plastic buckets, if you want some, let me know.

When to sit after Communion??? In general you may sit when the doors of the tabernacle are closed. If you are still praying & would like to remain kneeling, that is, of course, perfectly fine.

Prayer Cards available: with a Prayer of Renunciation, Deliverance & Healing are on the back table.

FORMED.ORG: What do YOU need to find this material? First, an access code at the website www.formed.org. You should see the registration box. The Saint Michael and St. Mary's parish access code is **ZYD94C**. Now, you set up a username and password. That's it. You are now set up to use all the great programs on FORMED.org anytime by simply logging in.

CCD: Classes are from 6:45 p.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. **We are in need of substitute teachers, please contact Mary Mach (300-0321) or Fr. John (729-2058)**. Please remember to enter the driveway on E street and exit on 8th street.

Local and Area news

There is only 1 week left to sign up for the Women's Cursillo Weekend. Cursillo Weekends are scheduled at St. Mary Parish in Sutton, NE, on March 31–April 3, 2016. If you would like more information, about Cursillo or the Women's Weekend, call or email Kathy Springer, Coordinator for the Weekend (402-826-2699 or ks90710@windstream.net). Information is on the Lincoln Diocese Cursillo webpage: <http://www.seas-np.org/cursilloregistrations.html>.

Fairbury United Methodist Annual Garage Sale and Bake Sale is Friday April 1, 2016 from 2:00pm to 7:00pm and Saturday, April 2, 2016 from 8:00am to 1:00pm.

ATTENTION ALL CATHOLIC WOMEN: There is still time to register for the 60th Biennial Convention of the Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (LDCCW)! The theme for the convention is "The Francis Effect". Join Bishop Conley on Friday, April 15, in McCool Junction and Bishop Emeritus Bruskevitz on Saturday, April 16, in York for this great event. Register by April 1. Registration form is in the March 11 edition of the Southern Nebraska Register or you may register online at <http://form.jotform.com/60260925221143>.

Parents of Children with Special Needs of All Ages: You are invited to an introductory meeting of a **support group** for parents like yourselves, sponsored by Villa Marie School.

• **When:** Thursday, April 7th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

• **Where:** Dawson Hall at John XXIII Center, 3700 Sheridan Blvd., Lincoln

• Sisters and others will share their knowledge and experiences with special children

• There will be time for sharing with each other, as well as a question-and-answer period

• Refreshments will be provided

• Please R.S.V.P. Call Villa Marie School [402-786-3625](tel:402-786-3625) or email Sr. Jeanette

sr.jeanette-rerucha@cdolinc.net

Camp Villa Marie, Villa Marie's Summer Camp for Children with Special Needs, will be held June 6 – 10th, 2016 for children ages 7—

16. Enrollment is limited to 16 campers. The cost is \$225 for 5 days for boarders and \$175 for 5 days for day campers.

For more information, please call Sr. Jeanette at [402-786-3625](tel:402-786-3625) (weekdays) or [402-786-2750](tel:402-786-2750) (weekends) or email her at sr.jeanette-rerucha@cdolinc.net

Spaghetti Dinner at St. Joseph Catholic Church Parish Center in Beatrice, Sunday, April 10 2016 from 4:00pm-7:00pm.

Diocesan Youth Ministry Retreats 2016 High school students are invited to participate in retreat being held this school year. Quest retreats are for freshmen & sophomores TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) are for juniors & seniors. Questions? Contact Jess or Georgeanne at 402-488-2040 or email Georgeanne at Georgeanne-Rashilla@cdolinc.net. To register www.lincolndiocese.org/ministries-offices/youth-ministry.

TEC #95 April 9-11 Camp Kateri

TEC #96 April 23-25 Camp Kateri

Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Italy is November 7-17, 2016.

Includes: Rome and audience with Pope Francis, Vatican Art Museum and Sistine Chapel, Catacombs, Pompeii, Assisi, Monte Cassino, Florence, Sorrento, Amalfi Coast, daily Mass and much more. For more information contact Fr. John Vakulskas Jr. at (712)490-8047 or email at johnvakulskas@gmail.com.

Why Do Catholics Celebrate The Easter Vigil?

by Rev. Lawrence Rice, CSP

You may notice that many Christians observe Easter Sunday a little differently than Catholics do. For lots of churches, the peak celebration is Easter Sunday, maybe even a service at sunrise. Most Catholics will tell you that for us, Easter Sunday is almost anti-climactic. That's because for us, the most significant celebration was the night before, at the Easter Vigil.

We've been preparing for Easter through forty days of Lent, culminating in the Easter Triduum: Holy

Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter on Saturday night. All that waiting and preparation peaks when we gather on Saturday night for a solemn vigil.

We wait in darkness, bless a fire, process with candles, and hear re-told the stories of our salvation through the scriptures. The emphasis is on waiting for the culmination of the story: Christ's resurrection from the dead. Bells are rung, and alleluias are sung as we hear the gospel account of Christ's rising. Then, following this proclamation of the core of our beliefs, new members are brought into the Church through baptism and a profession of faith. The recounting of Christ's new life is closely connected to the Church's renewal through the reception of its new members.

This celebration as a vigil is important because it doesn't just commemorate something God did in the past; it celebrates something God is doing today.... (Christ's offering reached perfection on Calvary; we are challenged TODAY to place our lives on the altar and join in His self-offering to the Father. FJB) Because our past and our future are connected, through God's saving power, it wouldn't seem like enough for us to simply sit in our pews on Sunday morning, as we do every week.

The celebration of Easter, as a vigil, invites us to break out our most potent symbols of God's action, and our response. So, all the waiting, the readings, music, candles, procession, and initiation, all remind us that God has accomplished something amazing by loving us so much. And our vigil is a statement, individually and collectively, that we are ready to be renewed and to live out of the grace we've received.