



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

**FR. JOHN B. BIRKEL, PASTOR**  
**CELL PHONE: (308) 991-6893**  
**OFFICE PHONE 402-729-2058**  
**EMAIL: frjohn@stmichaelsfairbury.org**

**St. Michael's** PO Box 406, Fairbury, NE 68352

**St. Mary's** 5th & Amanda Streets, Alexandria, NE

**St. Michael's Prayer Chain** Carmen Juarez: 729-3623

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

April 1 /2, 2017

**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, Deb Jones, Megan Grant Trustees: Keith Mach and Randy Prellwitz

**St. Michael's PCCW:** Beth Hansmire

**Knights of Columbus:** Dan Arner

**CCD Coordinator:** Beth Hansmire

**Confession schedule:** Saturday 4:45 PM to 5:15 PM

## Ministers' Schedules for April 8/9, 2017

	5:30 PM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
<b>Acolyte</b>	Joe Busing	Bob VanWesten	James Huber
<b>Lector</b>	Randy Prellwitz	Rhonda Burkhart	Devin Lovgren
<b>Server</b>	Aldo Ramos		RJ Suey
<b>Server</b>	Salvador Chavez		Braden Suey
<b>Music</b>	Mary Prellwitz	Lorrie Hofstetter	LeAnn Krause
<b>Gifts/Greeters</b>	Mary Feldkamp	John & Donna Rut	Georgann Fredrichsen
<b>Collection</b>	Doug Kapke/Devin Lovgren		
<b>Church Cleaning for April – Donna Milius</b>			

## Mass intentions for the week of April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

<b>Monday</b>	No Mass	St. Michael's	No Mass
<b>Tuesday</b>	Noon	St. Michael's	Mr & Mrs Jay Kindler
<b>Wednesday</b>	Noon	St. Michael's	Special Intention
<b>Thursday</b>	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Evelyn Birkel
<b>Friday</b>	Noon	St. Michael's	Inez Vint+
<b>Saturday</b>	9:00 AM	St. Michael's	Special Intention
	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Charlie Barringer+
<b>Sunday</b>	8:00 AM	St. Mary's	Don Gregory+
<b>Sunday</b>	10:00 AM	St. Michael's	People of the Parishes

*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:**

Randy Wilhelm  
Vonia Scheer  
Evelyn Birkel

Frank Kosmacek  
Steve Graff

Eddie Lytle  
Tom Huber

- **BULLETIN:** If you have news for the bulletin, please call the Rectory 729-2058 or email [st.michael.fairbury@gmail.com](mailto:st.michael.fairbury@gmail.com). Deadline for additions - Thursday by 10:00 AM.
- **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.

# Parish News & Upcoming Events

## Parish collection data:

	<u>3/26/17</u>	<u>St. Michael's</u>	<u>St. Mary's</u>
<p><b>T</b><u>hought of the</u>  <b>W</b><u>eek:</u> Let us not forget that the Lord always watches over us with mercy. Let us not be afraid of approaching him! He has a merciful heart! If we show him our inner wounds, our inner sins, he will always forgive us. It is pure mercy. Let us go to Jesus!</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>-Pope Francis</i></p>	Adult	\$1,000.00	\$265.00
	Plate	130.00	39.57
	Children	6.00	
	Debt Reduction	445.00	
	Building Fund	.00	20.00
	Flowers	30.00	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,611.00</b>	<b>\$324.57</b>

<b>Debt Reduction Current Totals:</b>	<b>Loan Pmt - 12/17</b>
	<b>\$17,360.33</b>
Joy of the Gospel Rebates	4,327.38
Debt Reduction Envelopes	2,325.00
<b>Balance Needed to Pay loan</b>	<b>\$10,707.95</b>

**S**EMINARIAN OF THE WEEK: Liam Sebastian O'Shea-Creal is in his 3<sup>rd</sup> Year of College at St. Gregory seminary. He is from St. Teresa's in Lincoln, NE.

**P**alm Sunday 10:00AM Mass will begin in the **Parish Center**. We will bless the palms, and process to the Church.

**A**doration of the Most Blessed Sacrament on Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm-midnight. Please sign up.

**B**BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, we have several baptisms to announce:

Ciclali Rodriguez daughter of Jesus & Lorena Rodriguez was baptized on July 8, 2016.

Keaton Lyle Shirley son of Bradley & Andrea Shirley was baptized on August 27, 2016.

Delayna Craig daughter of Keith & Becky Craig was baptized on September 11, 2016.

Vivian June Meyer daughter of Ethan & Sarah Meyer was baptized on September 18, 2016.

Mila Goranson daughter of Justin & Cindy Goranson

was baptized on January 22, 2017.  
Ryan Grant son of Jason & Megan Grant  
was baptized on March 19, 2017.

**PCCW MET MARCH 20** with twelve members present. We voted to send \$50 to Catholic Spirit Radio. President Beth Hansmire has purchased children's pamphlet packets for her CCD class to use during Lent and for Stations of The Cross. She will distribute them to her class and also have them available in the literature rack in the church entryway. Janet Beranek, service commission, reported that she had delivered family meals to two families with newborns--The Goransen and Grant families. Congratulations to all on your blessed event. June 23 was set as the new parishioner welcome brunch date. The general church annual clean up date is set for Wednesday March 29. Please help, several hands make quick work. First Communion is scheduled for April 23. The Spring Buffet will also be held that day. The Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (LDCCW) will meet in Imperial on Saturday, April 8, beginning with Stations of the Cross at 8:30 a.m. Mountain Time, followed by registration at 9:00 a.m. MT with the LDCCW Spring Full Board Meeting convening at 9:20 a.m. MT. All women and priests of the Lincoln Diocese are invited and encouraged to attend.

**ATTENTION GRADUATING SENIORS:** The Knights of Columbus Council #4434 announces the Scholastic Achievement Award process to assist with college expenses. Graduating seniors of St. Michael's Parish can apply by sending a letter of request including your future plans and High School and Church activities to: Grand Knight Dan Arner, 70610 563<sup>rd</sup> ave, Fairbury, NE. 68352. Letters must be turned in by April 26th.

**CONFESIONS** on **Palm Sunday:**

St Joseph's in Beatrice, from **3:00PM-5:00PM**,  
St Michael's from **7:00PM - 7:45PM**.

Sacred Heart in Hebron on Tuesday April 18, 2017 from  
**7:00PM-**

**7:45PM.**

*Several Priests will be hearing confessions in each location.*

**P**lease sign-up for Holy Week ministries, sheets are on the back tables.

### **Holy Thursday | The Lord's Supper 7:00PM**

The Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, which commemorates when the Eucharist was instituted at the Last Supper by Jesus. The traditional English name for this day, "Maundy Thursday", comes from the Latin phrase *Mandatum novum* — "a new command" (or mandate) — which comes from Christ's words: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another" (Jn 13:34). The Gospel reading for the liturgy is from the first part of the same chapter and depicts Jesus washing the feet of the disciples, an act of servitude (commonly done by slaves or servants in ancient cultures) and great humility.

### **Good Friday | Veneration of the Cross 7:00PM**

This is the first full day of the Easter Triduum, a day commemorating the Passion, Cross, and death of Jesus Christ, and therefore a day of strict fasting. The liturgy is profoundly austere, perhaps the most simple and stark liturgy of the entire year. The liturgy of the Lord's Passion consists of three parts: the liturgy of the Word, the veneration of the Cross, and the reception of Communion. Although Communion is given and received, this liturgy is not a Mass; this practice dates back to the earliest years of the Church and is meant to emphasize the somber, mournful character of the day. The Body of Christ that is received by the faithful on Good Friday was consecrated the prior evening at the Mass of the Lord's Supper and, in most cases, was adored until midnight or another late hour.

### **Holy Saturday and Easter Vigil | The Mother of All Vigils 8:30PM**

The ancient Church celebrated Holy Saturday with strict fasting in preparation of the celebration of Easter. After sundown the Christians would hold an all-night vigil, which concluded with baptism and Eucharist at the break of dawn. The same idea (if not the identical timeline) is found in the Easter Vigil today, which is the high point of the Easter Triduum and is filled with an abundance of readings, symbols, ceremony, and sacraments.

The Easter Vigil, the Church states, ranks "the mother of all vigils" (General Norms, 21). Being a vigil — a time of anticipation and preparation — it takes place at night, starting after nightfall and finishing before daybreak on Easter, thus beginning and ending in darkness. It consists of four general parts: the Service of Light, the Liturgy of the Word, Christian Initiation, and Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The Service of Light begins outdoors (or in a space outside of the main sanctuary) and in darkness. A fire is lit and blessed, and then the Paschal candle, which symbolizes the light of Christ, is lit from the fire by the priest, who proclaims: "May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds." The biblical themes of light removing darkness and life overcoming death suffuse the entire Vigil. The Paschal candle will be placed in the sanctuary (usually by the altar) for the Easter season, then will be kept in the baptistery so that when the sacrament of baptism is administered the candles of the baptized can be lit from it.

The faithful then join in procession back to the main sanctuary. The deacon (or priest, if no deacon is present), carries the Paschal Candle, lifting it three different times and chanting: "Christ our Light!" The people respond by singing, "Thanks be to God!" Everyone's candles are lit from the Paschal candle and the faithful return in procession into the sanctuary. Then the Exultet is sung by the deacon (or priest or cantor). This is an ancient and beautiful poetic hymn of praise to God for the light of the Paschal candle. It may be as old as Saint Ambrose (d. 397) and has been part of the Roman tradition since the ninth century. In the darkness of the church, lit only by candles, the faithful listen to the song of light and glory:

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,  
radiant in the brightness of your King!  
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!  
Darkness vanishes for ever!

*And, concluding:*

May the Morning Star which never sets  
find this flame still burning:  
Christ, that Morning Star,  
who came back from the dead,  
and shed his peaceful light on all mankind,  
your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word follows, consisting of seven readings from the Old Testament and two from the New Testament. These readings include the story of creation (Genesis 1 and 2), Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 22), the crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 14 and 15), the prophet Isaiah proclaiming God's love (Isaiah 54), Isaiah's exhortation to seek God (Isaiah 55), a passage from Baruch about the glory of God (Baruch 3 and 4), a prophecy of Ezekiel (Ezekiel 36), Saint Paul on being baptized into Jesus Christ (Rom 6), and the Gospel of Luke about the empty tomb discovered on Easter morning (Luke 24:1-21).

These readings constitute an overview of salvation history and God's various interventions into time and space, beginning with Creation and concluding with the angel telling Mary Magdalene and others that Jesus is no longer dead; "You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here." Through these readings "the Lord 'beginning with Moses and all the prophets' (Lk 24.27, 44-45) meets us once again on our journey and, opening up our minds and hearts, prepares us to share in the breaking of the bread and the drinking of the cup" (General Norms, 11).

Some of the readings are focused on baptism, that sacrament which brings man into saving communion with God's divine life. Consider, for example, Saint Paul's remarks in Romans 6: "We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ

was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life." Easter is in many ways the season of baptism, the sacrament of Christian initiation, in which those who formally lived in darkness and death are buried and baptized in Christ, emerging filled with light and life.

From the early days of the ancient Church the Easter Vigil has been the time for adult converts to be baptized and enter the Church. After the conclusion of the Liturgy of the Word, catechumens (those who have never been baptized) and candidates (those who have been baptized in a non-Catholic Christian denomination) are initiated into the Church by (respectively) baptism and confirmation. The faithful are sprinkled with holy water and renew their baptismal vows. Then all adult candidates are confirmed and general intercessions are stated. The Easter Vigil concludes with the Liturgy of the Eucharist and the reception of the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of the Crucified and Risen Lord. For as Eastern Catholics sing hundreds of times during the Paschal season, "Christ is risen from the dead; by death He conquered death, and to those in the graves, He granted life!"

## **FAIRBURY DEANERY OFFICERS AND ALTAR SOCIETY**

### **OFFICERS:**

The Fairbury Deanery will be having their Spring Open Meeting on Sunday, April 30, 2017 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Beatrice. Registration will begin at 1:30 p.m., with the meeting starting at 2:00. Note: Registration is a \$1. There will also be a containers for donations to the Burse Fund (Priests) and Funds for Nuns.)

The program for that day will be by Mallory Einfalt. Mallory is the President of Pi Alpha Chi Sorority (Catholic woman's sorority) at the University of Nebraska. This is one of the programs that the LDCCW supports. I have heard their presentation and it is very informative and interesting.

## **STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Fridays of Lent at **5:00 PM.****