

St. Michael's & St. Mary's

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Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 14, 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 and Trish Endorf **Trustees:** Bob VanWesten and Bob Bachle

St. Mary's PCCW: Deb Vanwesten

St. Michael's Parish Council: Doug Kapke, LeAnn Krause, Dave Panko, Dave Banahan, Bruce Busing, Chad Mans, Matt Umland **Trustees:** Keith Mach and Randy Prellwitz

St. Michael's PCCW: Lorraine Borch

Knights of Columbus: Dan Arner

CCD Coordinator:

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.
- **SISTERS OF THE WEEK:** Please keep our Sisters of the week, **Sr. Conception of the Holy Angels** and **Sr. Mary Laetitia of the Sacred Heart** 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	Lorraine Borch
Server	Paul Mach		Devin Wanamaker
Server			Aldo Ramos
Organ/Piano	Carolyn Osborne	Lorrie Hofstetter	Mary Prellwitz
Gifts/Greeters		Bob & Marilyn Bachle	
Collection	Steve Graff and Carolyn Osborne		

Our Offering to God Last Weekend		Adult	Plate	Children
	St. Michael's	\$1988.00	\$230.00	\$7.00
	St. Mary's	\$795.00	\$19.00	
	St. Michael's Debt	Last Week	Total	
		\$0.00	\$4225.00	

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Monday	June 15	NO MASS	St. Michael's	NO MASS
Tuesday	June 16	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Bill & Arlene Wagner+
Wednesday	June 17	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Geraldine & Gary Hergott+
Thursday	June 18	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Steve Wilson+
Friday	June 19	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Doug Endorf+
Saturday	June 20	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Harold Birkel+
Sunday	June 21	8:00 AM	St. Mary's	The People of the Parishes
Sunday	June 21	10:00 AM	St. Michael's	Henry Wiedel+

Confessions	St. Michael's	Saturday	4:45 PM to 5:15 PM
	St. Mary's	Sunday	7:45 AM

Daily Mass: Please check Mass schedule carefully for Mass times this week!!!

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, Brad Eveleth, Kathy Blobaum, Bob McCord, Ed Lytle, Rita Stone, Catherine Nutsch, Graysen Snyder, Brandi Warnke, Darren Martinez, Marie Kosmacek, 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.*

NEW ITEMS

- **Thank you!!!** We would like to thank the people and organizations who helped with Totus Tuus this year. Randy & Mary Prellwitz , Jay and Raven Gerth, Tammi Mans, Sherrie Brandenburg, Betty L'Ecuyer, Deb Umland, Trudy Livingston, Carolyn Osborne, Katie Umland, Rosalie Tynan, Janice Bell, Donna Winslow, Lorraine Borch, Cathy Barringer and Steve Graff (for cooking hotdogs and hamburgers). We would like to thank the PCCW, Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Foundations for their donations to the Totus Tuus program, without their help, we would not be able to afford this program. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!
- **Joy of the Gospel update:** St. Michael's current total is \$217,150.00. St. Mary's current total: \$39,000.00. God bless you for your generosity and faith.
- **PCCW Brunch:** The PCCW will be sponsoring their monthly brunch, Sunday, June 22th following the Sunday Mass in the parish center. Diane Stone, Sue Rine, Mary McCord and Sherrie Morehead are in charge of the brunch. A free will donation will be taken up.
- **Make a pilgrimage to visit a Religious Community** in celebrations of the Year for Consecrated Life: Sunday, June 28, 9 am Mass and reception at School Sisters of Christ the King, Villa Regina, 4100 SW 56th St., Lincoln, NE; July 8-16, Novena to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 7 pm weekday Masses at Carmelite Sisters at Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, 9300 Agnew Rd, Valparaiso; Sunday, July 12 3-4 pm Open House & Vespers at School Sisters of Christ the Kings at Villa Regina, 4100 SW 56th St., Lincoln.
- **Salad Luncheon:** Endicott United Methodist's are having a Salad Luncheon, Sunday June 14th at noon. Join them for assorted salads, ice cream, cake and drinks. Free will offering.
- **PCCW Meeting and Carry In Dinner:** The St. Michael's PCCW meeting will be June 15th in the parish center. The carry in dinner will begin at **6:00 p.m.** Char Mees, Mary Mach, Kim Swanda, Tammi Mans, Tammy Suey, Mary McCord, Sue Rine, Sandra Phelps, Mary Feldkamp and Caryn Bales are in charge of the carry-in dinner. A short meeting will immediately follow.

- **Working on Ministries Schedule:** We are working on the new ministries schedule for the acolytes, lectors, keyboardist, and servers, for the month of July, August and September. If you have any request (gone on vacation, softball/baseball games, etc.) please call Carolyn at the parish office (729-2058), email her at carolyn@stmichaelsfairbury.org or leave a note in the collection marked “ministries”. Please have your request in by June 22nd.
- **Summer Food Service Program:** Fairbury Public Schools is providing a “Summer Lunch Program” in order to make sure that no children in the Fairbury School District goes hungry. The Program is available to any child ages 1-18 regardless of income or enrollment status. **Every child receives a free meal.** Food will be served at Central Elementary from June 1-July 31 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Activity Time 11:00-11:30 a.m.** Dress Code: Shoes and Shirts are required. Any questions, please call Jane Rhine at 402-729-6119.
- **Please note:** Summer vacation continues but there is never a vacation from God. Make sure to include Him in you travel plans. Bills still need to be paid, however, please remember to consistently contribute your parish offering during the summer months.
- **The I-80 Collar Series!** Spirit 102.7-FM presents the first ever I-80 Collar Series—a softball match between priests of the Diocese of Lincoln and the Archdiocese of Omaha on Father’s Day, Sunday, June 21st. Tailgating begins at 3:30 p.m. and the game begins at 5:00 p.m. at the Werner Park in Papillion. All proceeds from the I-80 Collar Series will go to vocations in the two dioceses. All proceeds from ticket sales will assist in promoting vocation to the priesthood, consecrated and religious life in the Archdiocese of Omaha and the Diocese of Lincoln. Tickets may be purchased at spiritcatholicradio.com, at the Spirit 102.7-FM studios in Lincoln, Gloria Deo in Lincoln, John XXIII Diocesan Center and UNL Newman Center.
- **Annual Charity and Stewardship (DDP) Appeal:** Thank you for your generosity and your support of the Charity and Stewardship (DDP) Appeal. St. Michael’s goal is \$11,246.00. **To date St. Michael’s has pledged \$9825.00.** St. Mary’s goal is \$2,176.00.



- **Word Among Us:** We have FREE copies of the Word Among Us for June. Please pick yours up today and take home for daily devotions.
- **Thought of the Week:** Give to others the gifts you have received.
- **St. Mary's Cemetery Fund:** The cemetery fund for St. Mary's Cemetery is in need of some new funds as the summer growing season draws near as does the need to pay for the mowing. If you would like to replenish the fund, please put your donations in your church support envelope that is marked "Cemetery Fund". Cemeteries require funds for maintenance purposes. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.
- **June Church Cleaning for St. Mary's:** Jill Stewart
- **Mass times when you are traveling:** Traveling?? There are web-sites to find the time of Masses at different locations. <http://masstimes.org>
- **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.
- **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 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.

Congratulations!



Ryan Umland completed his First Degree Exemplification on June 6 at St. Michael's joining the Knights of Columbus and Council 4434. With him are his brother Adam and his father Matt who are also Knights and members of the council. Congratulations Ryan and the Umland family for their support of the Knights.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF HOLY WATER

Question: A Protestant friend came with me to Mass last Sunday and asked about the holy water fonts and why we make the sign of the cross with it when we enter and leave the Church. What answer would you give to her?

Answer: Traditionally, we have placed fonts of holy water near the entrances of our Churches. This placement and usage corresponds actually to Old Testament Jewish practices of purification: The Book of Leviticus prescribed various ritual purifications using water to remove the "uncleanness" associated, for instance, with coming into contact with a dead body, menstruation, childbirth, or leprosy (cf. Lv 12-15). A person also purified himself with water before entering the Temple precincts, offering prayer and sacrifice, and eating. For this reason, in the Courtyard of the Priests (the area before the actual Temple building) was the Laver, an immense bronze basin filled with water. Here the priests purified their hands and feet before offering sacrifices at the nearby altar, bathed before

entering the Temple itself, and also drew water for other purifications prescribed in Jewish rituals. Interestingly, the Qumran community, located near the Dead Sea and responsible for producing the Dead Sea scrolls, also had purification pools for the cleansing not only of external "uncleanness" but also of sin.

We too have fonts filled with holy water for blessings for three reasons: as a sign of repentance of sin, for protection from evil, and as a reminder of our Baptism. The repentance of sin symbolized in the washing with water is reflected in Psalm 50: "Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me. Cleanse me of sin with hyssop that I may be purified; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" (3-4, 9). (Hyssop is a small bush used for sprinkling water). Remember too how St. John the Baptizer called all to conversion and used a ritual washing of water to signify the repentance of sin and purification.

These actions have been incorporated into our own Mass. In the Penitential Rite, one of the options is the *Asperges*, which includes the Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling with holy water. As the priest passes through the congregation sprinkling them with the holy water, they customarily chant the *Asperges Me*, which is based on Psalm 50. In all, each person again makes an act of repentance of sin.

Second, the holy water protects us against evil. In the prayer of blessing of water in the *Sacramentary*, we read: "Lord, God Almighty, creator of all life, of body and soul, we ask you to bless this water: as we use it in faith forgive our sins and save us from all illness and the power of evil. Lord, in your mercy give us living water, always springing up as a fountain of salvation; free us, body and soul, from every danger, and admit us to your presence in purity of heart."

Finally, holy water reminds us of our Baptism, when by the invocation of the Holy Trinity and the pouring of holy water, we were set free from original sin and all sin, infused with sanctifying grace, incorporated into the Church, and given the title Son or Daughter of God. In making the sign of the cross with the holy water, we are mindful that we are called to renew those baptismal promises of rejecting Satan, all His works, and all his empty promises, and to profess our credal faith. Once again, we repent of sin, so that we can offer our prayers and worship to God with pure and contrite hearts. Just as water and blood flowed from the Sacred Heart of our Lord as He hung upon the cross — signifying the great sacraments of baptism and holy Eucharist, the taking of holy water and making the sign of the cross remind us of our baptism in preparation for the reception of the holy Eucharist.

Never should we doubt the power of this great sacramental. St. Teresa of Avila in her autobiography, *The Book of Her Life*, wrote of the power of holy water: "I was once in an oratory, and [the devil] appeared to me in an abominable form at my left side. Because he spoke to me, I looked particularly at his mouth — which was most frightening. It seemed that a great flame, all bright without shadow, came forth from his body. He told me in a terrifying way that I had really feed myself from his hands but that he would catch me with them again. I was struck with great fear and blessed myself as best I could; he disappeared, but returned right away. This happened to me twice. I didn't know what to do. There was some holy water there, and I threw it in that direction; he never returned again. ...I often experience that there is nothing the devils flee from more-without returning-that holy water" (Chapter 31). Upon the testimony of such a great saint, we see the importance not only of pausing to bless ourselves with holy water as we enter and leave Church but also of having holy water available in our homes.

By Fr. William P. Saunders