

St. Michael's & St. Mary's

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Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 19, 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 **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 **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. Maria-Emmanuel of Merciful Love** and **Sr. Teresa Margaret of Sacred Heart of Jesus** in your prayers.

Ministers' Schedules for Next Weekend

	5:30 PM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Acolyte	Ronn Brackle	Jim VanWesten	James Huber
Lector	Keith Mach	Bob Bachle	Lorraine Borch
Server	Connor Gerth		Paul Mach
Server	Brock Beed		Salvador Chavez
Organ/Piano	Carolyn Osborne	Lorrie Hofstetter	Mary Mach
Gifts/Greeters		Daryl & Denise Anderson	
Collection	LeAnn Krause and Dave Panko		

Our Offering to God Last Weekend		Adult	Plate	Children
	St. Michael's	\$1580.00	\$68.00	\$0.00
	St. Mary's	\$175.00	\$61.00	
	St. Michael's Debt	Last Week	Total	
		\$330.00	\$5885.00	

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Monday	July 20	NO MASS	St. Michael's	NO MASS
Tuesday	July 21	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Jim Melcher+
Wednesday	July 22	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Norman Medina+
Thursday	July 23	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	All Souls Day Intentions of Bob & Donna Milius
Friday	July 24	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Bill & Arlene Wagner+
Saturday	July 25	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Doug Endorf+
Sunday	July 26	8:00 AM	St. Mary's	The People of the Parishes
Sunday	July 26	10:00 AM	St. Michael's	Sofia Ayala

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, Graysen Snyder, Brandi Warnke, Darren Martinez, Marie Kosmacek, Tatum Broeders, Robert Keith Guillory, 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

- **PCCW Brunch:** The PCCW will be sponsoring their monthly brunch, Sunday, July 26th following the Sunday Mass in the parish center. Mary Kay Bedlan, Cyndi Shinn and Georganne Friedrichsen are in charge of the brunch. A free will donation will be taken up.
- **Debt Reduction Envelopes:** Attached to this week's bulletin are the debt reduction envelopes for your donations.
- **Year for Consecrated Life:** All are invited to join Bishop Conley for a Sunday Mass in celebration of the Year for Consecrated Life, August 9th, 3 PM at St. Cecelia Church in Hastings. A 'Meet the Sisters' reception will follow the Mass.



- **Prayer Auxiliary of St. Monica:** The Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women participates in the prayer auxiliary of St. Monica which was established on April 4, 1978. The Fairbury Deanery has been assigned the week of July 15 through 21st to pray for the return of our youth to the church and for the works of the Council.

St. Monica, the mother of St. Augustine, is the patroness of Mothers. We are asked to pray daily the prayer to St. Monica.

Prayer to St. Monica

O God, You are the comfort of those who mourn and the Savior of all who trust in You. Blessed Monica's loving tears moved You to convert her son, Augustine. Help us who pray to You for the salvation of sons and daughters, too. May we also grieve for our own sins and win the grace of Your pardon through the intercession of this loving Saint, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saint Monica, pray for us!

- **Class on the Natural Law,** similar to the Saint Thomas Aquinas course. Each class consists of an approximately 30 minute video & discussion, **Wednesday at 12:40** in the center.

- **SAVE THE DATE:** Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (LDCCW) Fall Full Board meeting at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish hall, North Platte, on Saturday, August 22, 2015, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. More details to follow.
- **Thought of the Week:** Jesus' invitation to follow him is addressed to people of every time and condition.
- **Word Among Us:** We have FREE copies of the Word Among Us for the **month of July**. Please pick yours up today and take home for daily devotions.
- **Miniature Quilt Auction:** Sunday, August 23rd at 4-H building at Jefferson County Fairgrounds. 2:00 p.m. Quilt Preview & Treats; 2:30 p.m. Auction. Free Admission.
- **July Church Cleaning for St. Mary's:** Denise Anderson
- **Mass times when you are traveling:** Traveling?? There are web-sites to find the time of Masses at different locations. <http://masstimes.org>
- **Please note:** Summer vacation continues but there is never a vacation from God. Make sure to include Him in your travel plans. Bills still need to be paid, however, please remember to consistently contribute your parish offering during the summer months.
- **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.
- **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.



- **Prayer for Rain:** O God, heavenly Father, who by the Son Jesus Christ hast promised to all those who seek thy kingdom and its righteousness all things necessary to sustain their life: Send us, we entreat thee, in this time of need, such moderate rain and showers, that we may receive the fruits of the earth, to our comfort and to thy honor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Three Virtues of the Heart:

Kindheartedness, Lightheartedness, Warmheartedness

There are three theological virtues: faith, hope and charity. And there are four cardinal virtues: prudence, justice, temperance, and fortitude. This is only too well known. I would like to introduce what I call the three “infectious virtues:” kindheartedness, lightheartedness, and warmheartedness. They are infectious because they tend to reproduce themselves in the people they greet. They mirror themselves in other people’s souls. They have a directness and an amiability that cause their beneficiaries to want to reciprocate in kind. Kindheartedness engenders kindness, lightheartedness engenders cheerfulness, and warmheartedness engenders sympathy.

Kindheartedness

Kindheartedness is unique in that it is the one virtue that is most likely to reproduce its image in another person. In other words, it is the most infectious of the three, the one most likely to be imitated, the one most likely to be passed on.

Some time ago a UCLA drama student performed a scene from Annie Get Your Gun at a bon voyage party for one of her professors. After the performance she was standing at the buffet when a man, whom she did not know, approached her and told her how much he enjoyed her routine. He kindly asked her what she intended to do with the rest of her life. She said that she hoped someday to have a career on the stage as an actress.

The man smiled and offered to loan her \$1,000 to get her started. He insisted, however, on three conditions. First, if she met with success, she would repay the loan, without interest, in five years. Secondly, that she would never reveal his identity. And finally, that she would one day “pass the kindness along to help some other person in similar circumstances.”

The stranger’s kindheartedness was so striking that the young aspirant was convinced, as she put it, “that the good Lord was giving me a strong and unmistakable push.”

She accepted the money, went to New York, and became a success. Five years to the day, she paid her benefactor back. Nonetheless, the extraordinary kindness of this man, coupled with his expressed wish to remain anonymous, baffled her. Then one day, while looking for the Lord’s Prayer in a recently published translation of the Bible, the following words from Matthew 6:2-4 seemed to leap off the page: “When you give a gift to a beggar, don’t shout about it as the hypocrites do. . . When you do a kindness to someone, do it secretly. . . And your Father Who knows all secrets will reward you.”

A gift is marred when its giver seeks praise. The truly kindhearted person simply wants to give, and has absolutely no interest in being congratulated for his efforts. His gift is pure, unalloyed by the dross of egoism. As far as the third condition is concerned, the now successful entertainer admits to “passing the kindness along to others,” but secretly and anonymously, of course.

Oh yes, the name of the successful artist. She is none other than Carol Burnett!

Lightheartedness

Lightheartedness is a most suitable virtue for man since he is essentially a lighthearted being. He is a lighthearted being who has fallen from grace and aspires to rise again. He is caught between the elemental forces of grace and gravity, struggling to reclaim his lightness and overcome the heaviness of his existence and the world around him. This may be why G.K. Chesterton held that in the great triad of Christian virtues—humility, activity, and cheerfulness—cheerfulness is the most important of all. There is no more striking and startling a paradox concerning Chesterton, who is said to be the “master of the paradox,” than the fact that this man of conspicuous corpulence was also a man of cherubic cheerfulness. “Angels can fly,” he wrote, “because they take themselves lightly.”

Chesterton himself could soar because he did not take himself seriously. Too much concern for one’s ego, or pride, he once said, results in “the falsification of fact by the introduction of self.” Christian humility demands the “subtraction” of myself in order to see things as they are in themselves. The humble Christian is then free to undertake his appointed task of activity in a spirit of lighthearted cheerfulness. When Ebenezer Scrooge finally unburdened himself from his weighty ego, he could almost fly: “I am as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a schoolboy.”

The heart that is light defies gravity and flies on the wings of levity. Cheerfulness is the natural expression of a person’s lightheartedness. For John Ruskin, “Cheerfulness is as natural to the heart of a man in strong health, as color to his cheek; and wherever there is habitual gloom, there must be either bad air, unwholesome food, improperly severe labor, or erring habits.” “A light heart lives long,” adds Shakespeare.

Chesterton’s lightheartedness by no means was empty-headedness. He was not facetious. His cheerfulness never adumbrated his intelligence. It was his clear intelligence, in fact, that allowed him to see how reckless disregard could be so hilarious. Consider his rebuttal of socialism:

“There might be people who prefer to have their hats leased out to them every week. Or wear their neighbors’ hats in rotation to express the idea of comradeship. Or possibly to crowd under one very large hat to represent an even larger, cosmic conception. But most of them feel that something is added to the dignity of men when they put on their own hats.”

It is interesting to note that disciples of the socialist Saint-Simon wore a special waistcoat that could neither be put on nor taken off unassisted. In their zeal to express comradeship they lost sight of practical common sense. Chesterton could not be weighed down either by ego or by ideology. Nor was he weighted down by the realization that “The river of human nonsense flows on forever.” Nor was he daunted by the unfulfilled dreams of Christianity: “The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.”

Chesterton’s heart was light because his hopes were high. As a Christian, he has much to be cheerful about. “If there were no God,” he quipped, “there would be no atheists.” “The Bible tells us to love our neighbors and also our enemies; probably because generally they are the same people.”

“Adventure,” he once remarked, “is the voluntary acceptance of discomfort.” Life itself was the greatest of all adventures. But its discomforts were always less than its joys. For it set man on a search that led to a discovery that made everything worthwhile, like the journey to Bethlehem:

Divinity and infancy do definitely make a sort of epigram which a million repetitions cannot turn into a platitude. Bethlehem is emphatically a place where extremes meet. That tense sense of crisis which still tingles in the Christmas story and even in every Christmas celebration accentuates the idea of a search and discovery.

Warmheartedness

Warmheartedness embraces a multitude of virtues. To begin with: sympathy, kindness, congeniality, gentleness, and care. We do not expect young people to exhibit warmheartedness. It is a virtue for those who are seasoned in virtue. According to J.P. Marquard, “There is a certain phase in the life of the aged

when the warmth of the heart seems to increase in direct proportion with years.” Warmheartedness is the soft glow of love, winning over people’s trust and rendering them comfortable in an intimate, often domestic, environment.

On the other hand, we know only too well how age can harden people, turning them into cranky, crusty, crotchety, cantankerous, ‘grumpy old men.’ Life is a drama, ambiguous and uncertain. If we are fortunate and live long enough to enter our “Golden Years,” we have no assurance whatsoever that we will arrive at that noble estate without being cursed by cold-heartedness. The entire thrust of Charles Dickens’s classic, *A Christmas Carol*, is to warm up the frosty heart of Ebenezer Scrooge. Early in the story, Dickens describes his character as follows:

“The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shriveled his cheek, stiffened his gait, made his eyes red, his thin lips blue, and spoke shrewdly in his grating voice. A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always with him; he iced his office in the dog-days; and didn’t thaw it one degree at Christmas.”

Dante’s Ninth Circle of Hell is an icy lake. Scrooge was headed in that direction until his heart started to heat up. And when it did, it burst into a paroxysm of love and generosity. If warmheartedness is the channel, love is its furnace. Philosopher Dietrich von Hildebrand speaks of “the peculiar quality of expansive warmheartedness which belongs to pure love.” He also points out how easy it is for lust and any of the other Deadly Sins to cause the heart to atrophy and lose its warmth. A heart of vice is a heart of ice.

The warm heart has the capacity to warm others, just as a source of heat warms its immediate surrounding. A warm heart can touch other hearts and ignite them in the process. The Heart of Jesus not only warms, but burns. After talking with Jesus on the road to Emmaus, the two companions say to each other: “Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?” (Lk 24, 32).

One of the endearing features of the warmhearted person is that he manifests his virtue even prior to its enactment. The virtue of warm-heartedness, like modesty, is recognized apart from its being expressed in action. Its “temperature” alone is sufficient to make its presence felt. This is the case with any personal feature that has warmth, whether the warmth is in the heart, the eyes, the words, the smile, or the laughter.

Just as, according to the old saying, “Who splits wood warms twice,” the warmhearted person engenders warm-heartedness in others. Marriage is a relationship that demands that the spouses warm each other’s hearts.

When we warm up people’s drinks, we can be taking an important step in warming their hearts. We have house-warmings in the hope that these dwelling places will warm the hearts of all of its future inhabitants and guests. The physical closely neighbors the spiritual. This is “global warming” in the best sense of the expression. “Shall not my heart’s warmth not nurse thee into strength?” asks the poet, Browning.

Another character of Dickens, Jowl, in *The Old Curiosity Shop*, boasted that “Experience has never put a chill upon my warmheartedness.” It may have been an idle boast for Jowl, who was a rather vain fellow, but it remains an attainable ideal for the rest of us. To remain warm-hearted despite the surrounding chills is a most desirable and exalted virtue that can benefit us all. We can all grow warmer with age.
by Donald DeMarco, Ph.D.