

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

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

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Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 2, 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](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.
- **SISTERS OF THE WEEK:** Please pray for young women to discern a vocation to the sisterhood of our Diocese of Lincoln.

## Ministers' Schedules for Next Weekend

	5:30 PM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
<b>Acolyte</b>	Ronn Brackle	Jim VanWesten	Steve Graff
<b>Lector</b>	Randy Prellwitz	Rhonda Burkhart	Lorraine Borch
<b>Server</b>	Brock Beed		Salvador Chavez
<b>Server</b>	Connor Gerth		Aldo Ramos
<b>Organ/Piano</b>	Carolyn Osborne	Lorrie Hofstetter	Allen Scheer
<b>Gifts/Greeters</b>		Jill & Jason Stewart & Family	
<b>Collection</b>	Bruce Busing & Dave Banahan		

<b>Our Offering to God Last Weekend</b>		<b>Adult</b>	<b>Plate</b>	<b>Children</b>
	<b>St. Michael's</b>	\$1685.00	\$152.00	\$8.00
	<b>St. Mary's</b>	\$1202.06	\$12.00	
	<b>St. Michael's Debt</b>	<b>Last Week</b>	<b>Total</b>	
		\$325.00	\$6310.00	

## ***THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE***

Monday	August 3	<b>NO MASS</b>	St. Michael's	<b>NO MASS</b>
Tuesday	August 4	<b>NO MASS</b>	St. Michael's	<b>NO MASS</b>
Wednesday	August 5	<b>NO MASS</b>	St. Michael's	<b>NO MASS</b>
Thursday	August 6	<b>NO MASS</b>	St. Michael's	<b>NO MASS</b>
Friday	August 7	<b>5:30 PM</b>	St. Michael's	Lindsey Rickstrew+
Saturday	August 8	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Rosalie Hamm+
Sunday	August 9	8:00 AM	St. Mary's	All Souls Day Intentions of Jim & Ellen VanWesten
Sunday	August 9	10:00 AM	St. Michael's	The People of the Parishes

<b>Confessions</b>	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**

- **Fr. John on Retreat:** Fr. John will be on his annual retreat August 2 to August 6. If there is an emergency please contact Fr. Oborny at 768-6293.

- **Solemnity of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary:** The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven takes place on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Mass will take place at the following time: Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at St. Michael's.



- **Knights of Columbus:** The Knights of Columbus will have their monthly meeting, August 10<sup>th</sup> beginning with Rosary at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the parish center.

- **Pancakes:** Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, the Knights will be sponsoring Pancakes and Sausage in the center, immediately following Mass. A free will donation will be taken up.



- **Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (LDCCW) Full Board Meeting,** August 22 2015, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish hall, 3301 Echo Dr., North Platte, NE. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., Divine Mercy chaplet at 9:00 a.m. with meeting to follow. Mass with Most Reverend Bishop Conley will be celebrated at 2:30 p.m. with a reception to follow. Cost of meals for the day is \$10. Please contact Ann Jansky @ [arjansky@gmail.com](mailto:arjansky@gmail.com) or text/call 402-826-0219 to register.

- **Sole to Soul** will be held Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to noon at 10<sup>th</sup> and Grant Street in Beatrice. Anyone who is in need of gently used shoes is welcome and encouraged to come to this giveaway.
- **Thought of the Week:** Thank Jesus daily for the Eucharist, our spiritual food.
- **Word Among Us:** We have FREE copies of the Word Among Us for the **month of August**. Please pick yours up today and take home for daily devotions.

- **Miniature Quilt Auction:** Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4-H building at Jefferson County Fairgrounds. 2:00 p.m. Quilt Preview & Treats; 2:30 p.m. Auction. Free Admission.
- **August Church Cleaning for St. Mary's:** Rhonda Burkhart
- **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 you 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.



# THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

On our Church calendar, August 6 is the Memorial of the Transfiguration of Jesus. Nonetheless, the Transfiguration is an important event in the life of Jesus and merits some reflection (it's also the fourth of the new Luminous Mysteries of the rosary). The following is a description of the background of the event taken from the New Catholic Encyclopedia.

The Transfiguration of Christ is the culminating point of His public life, as His Baptism is its starting point, and His Ascension its end. Moreover, this glorious event has been related in detail by St. Matthew (17:1-6), St. Mark (9:1-8), and St. Luke (9:28-36), while St. Peter (II Peter 1:16-18) and St. John (1:14), two of the privileged witnesses, make allusion to it.

About a week after His sojourn in Cæsarea Philippi, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them to a high mountain apart, where He was transfigured before their ravished eyes. St. Matthew and St. Mark express this phenomenon by the word *metemorphothe*, which the Vulgate renders *transfiguratus est*. The Synoptics explain the true

meaning of the word by adding "his face did shine as the sun: and his garments became white as snow," according to the Vulgate, or "as light," according to the Greek text.

This dazzling brightness which emanated from His whole Body was produced by an interior shining of His Divinity. False Judaism had rejected the Messias,



and now true Judaism, represented by Moses and Elias, the Law and the Prophets, recognized and adored Him, while for the second time God the Father proclaimed Him His only-begotten and well-loved Son. By this glorious manifestation the Divine Master, who had just foretold His Passion to the Apostles (Matthew 16:21), and who spoke with Moses and Elias of the trials which awaited Him at Jerusalem, strengthened the faith of his three friends and prepared them for the terrible struggle of which they were to be witnesses in Gethsemani, by giving them a foretaste of the glory and heavenly delights to which we attain by suffering.

### **Significance of the Transfiguration:**

[Christian theology](#) assigns a great deal of significance to the Transfiguration, based on multiple elements of the narrative. In Christian teachings, the Transfiguration is a pivotal moment, and the setting on the mountain is presented as the point where human nature meets God: the meeting place for the temporal and the eternal, with Jesus himself as the connecting point, acting as the bridge between heaven and earth.<sup>[9]</sup> The Transfiguration not only supports the identity of Jesus as the [Son of God](#) (as in his [Baptism](#)), but the statement "listen to him", identifies him as the messenger and mouth-piece of God.<sup>[22]</sup> The significance of this identification is enhanced by the presence of Elijah and Moses, for it indicates to the apostles that Jesus is the voice of God "par excellence", and instead of Elijah or Moses, he should be listened to, surpassing the laws of Moses by virtue of his filial relationship with God.<sup>[22]</sup> [2 Peter 1:16–18](#), echoes the same message: at the Transfiguration God assigns to Jesus a special "honor and glory" and it is the turning point at which God exalts Jesus above all other powers in creation, and positions him as ruler and judge.<sup>[23]</sup>

The Transfiguration also echoes the teaching by Jesus (as in [Matthew 22:32](#)) that God is not "the God of the dead, but of the living". Although Moses had died and Elijah had been taken up to heaven centuries before

(as in [2 Kings 2:11](#)), they now live in the presence of the Son of God, implying that the same return to life can apply to all who face death and have faith. <sup>[24]</sup>

<sup>^</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> *Transfiguration* by Dorothy A. Lee 2005 [ISBN 978-0-8264-7595-4](#) page 2

<sup>b</sup> *Metamorphosis: the Transfiguration in Byzantine theology and iconography* by Andreas Andreopoulos 2005 [ISBN 0-88141-295-3](#) pages 47–49

*The Bible knowledge background commentary: John's Gospel, Hebrews-Revelation* by Craig A. Evans [ISBN 0-7814-4228-1](#) pages 319–320

<sup>^</sup> *The Gospel and Its Meaning* by Harry Lee Poe 1996 [ISBN 0-310-20172-1](#) page 166

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

### **Prayer:**

"O God, Who in the glorious transfiguration of Thine only-begotten Son didst strengthen the sacraments of faith by the testimony of the fathers, and Who didst wonderfully foreshow the perfect adoption of Thy children by a voice coming down in a shining cloud, mercifully grant that we be made co-heirs of the King of glory Himself, and grant us to be sharers in that very glory. Through the same Lord [Jesus Christ](#), Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the [Holy Ghost](#), God, world without end. Amen."