

St. Michael's & St. Mary's

FR. JOHN B. BIRKEL, PASTOR

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Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 13, 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: 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: 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.

Ministers' Schedules for Next Weekend

	5:30 PM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Acolyte	Bruce Busing	Bob VanWesten	James Huber
Lector	Randy Prellwitz	Rhonda Burkhart	Lorraine Borch
Server	Paul Mach		Devin Wanamaker
Server	Aldo Ramos		Aldo Ramos
Organ/Piano	Carolyn Osborne	Lorrie Hofstetter	Mary Mach
Gifts/Greeters	Dave & Mary Banahan	Mike Hofstetter Family	Ron & Shana Rickstrew
Collection	LeAnn Krause & Dave Panko		

Our Offering to God Last Weekend		Adult	Plate	Children
	St. Michael's	\$1985.00	\$153.00	\$4.00
	St. Mary's	\$415.00	\$51.00	
	St. Michael's Debt	Last Week	Total	
		\$0.00	\$8170.00	

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Monday	September 14	6:30 PM	St. Michael's	Special Intentions
Tuesday	September 15	8:00 AM	St. Michael's	Persecuted Christians
Wednesday	September 16	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Walter & Dorrine Milius+
Thursday	September 17	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Doug Endorf+
Friday	September 18	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Jim Melcher+
Saturday	September 19	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	The People of the Parishes
Sunday	September 20	8:00 AM	St. Mary's	Paul & Mary Kuehne
Sunday	September 20	10:00 AM	St. Michael's	Paul & Mary Kuehne

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, Viola Scheer, Robert Keith Guillory, Francis Nutsch, 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

- **Join EWTN for Pope Francis' Visit to the U.S. September 22-27!** EWTN will provide live coverage of the Holy Father's Masses, national addresses and the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, EWTN will be there every step of the way so you don't miss a moment! Visit www.ewtn.com for more information, up-to-date schedules and online streaming.
- **Julie's Hot Dog Sled** will be at St. Joseph's in Beatrice, Sunday, September 20th from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Hot dogs, chips, desserts and pop. Tickets \$7.00 (\$3.00 for dessert only). Raffle and door prizes.
- **PCCW:** The PCCW will hold their monthly meeting, September 21st beginning with the Rosary at 6:30 p.m. immediately followed by the meeting in the center. Gloria Trimm and Sherrill Goeking are in charge of refreshments.
- **Working on Ministries Schedule:** We are working on the new ministries schedule for the acolytes, lectors, keyboardist, and servers, for the month of October, November, and December. If you have any request 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 September 21st.
- **Diocesan Youth Ministry Retreats 2015-2016:** High school students are invited to participate in retreats being held this school year. Quest retreats are for freshman and sophomores. TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) are for juniors and seniors. Questions? Contact Jeff or Georgeanne at 402-488-2040 or email Georgeanne-Rashilla @cdolinc.net. To register, go to www.lincolndiocese.org/ministries-offices/youth-ministry. Quest, Oct. 24-25 at Holdrege; TEC, Oct. 10-12 at Hastings; TEC, Nov. 20-22 at McCook, TEC, Feb. 13-15 at Wahoo.
- **Pancakes:** Sunday, September 13th, the Knights will be sponsoring pancakes and sausage in the center, immediately following Mass. A free will donation will be taken up.



- **Knights of Columbus Installation of Officers:** The officers of Council 4434 will be installed by Joe Keaschall, District Deputy #39, on September 14. Mass will be held at 6:30 p.m. followed by the installation of officers. The monthly meeting will follow in the parish center. The families of all Knights are invited to share in this event as well as all members of the parish. Catholic men who wish to learn more about the Knights are invited to remain and attend the meeting.
- **Thought of the Week:** Take comfort in the love and mercy of our God.
- **National 54 Day Rosary Novena** begins, August 15th (Feast of the Assumption) and ends October 7th (Feast of the Holy Rosary). Join hundreds of thousands of people of all ages in prayer across America. Primary Intention: “For Family and Marriage” including for Peace, sanctity of Human Life & Religious Freedom.
- **The Year of Consecrated Life** continues until February 2, 2016. Make a pilgrimage, adopt a community, and find out more ways to celebrate our Religious at www.lincoln.diocese.org/ycl. **Saturday, September 19, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**, Father-Daughter Day at Marian Sisters at Marycrest Motherhouse, 6765 N 112 St, Waverly: **Sunday, September 20, 2:00-4:00 p.m.**, Open House at Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary at Cor Mariae Schoenstatt Center, 340 Hiway 103, Crete.
- **September Church Cleaning for St. Mary’s:** Peggy Niederklein
- **Mass times when you are traveling:** Traveling?? There are web-sites to find the time of Masses at different locations. <http://masstimes.org>
- **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 Day of the Lord

The word “day” and its meanings have a significant role in our lives. So often we look forward to the “Big Day” that is ahead of us – the day of our graduation, the day of our marriage, the day we have a child, the day we retire, and so forth. Now what’s the next Big Day to which you’re looking forward?

The bible speaks of the “Day of the Lord.” Our Church’s liturgical year is filled with many, many significant days, saints’ days, Christmas, Easter, holydays, and so forth. The Church divides them into seasons – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and even Ordinary Time.

You have a Big Day ahead of you, and so do I. It’s the day we will die. The whole world and all of humanity also have a big day that lies ahead, the Day of the Lord, that day in which the world as we know it will come to an end. Both our own Big Day and the world’s will each be a day of reckoning, that day in which we will account for all that we have done and all that we have not done through neglect, indifference and simply not caring.

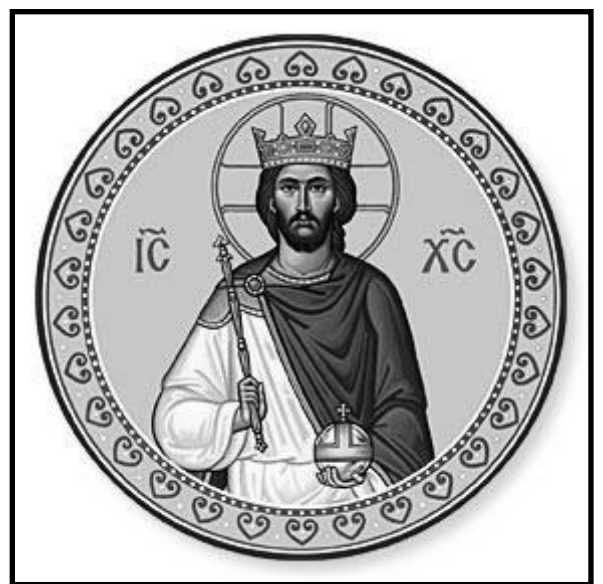
How does the Catholic Church want us to think of that Day of the Lord? What’s the right attitude and vision that we should have about that day, a day that we will all certainly face?

First of all, we need to recognize that every age in human history has had its doomsayers... those who keep telling us that the world is about to end along with preachers who love to whip up fear and anxiety in us. But we must also remember that even the Christians in the first years after Christ had to deal with the question about when the Day of the Lord would come.

Now the Catholic Church doesn’t ignore the fact that the world will come to an end and that Christ will come again in judgment on the Last Day. But our Church does ask us not to spend a lot of time and energy pondering over when He is coming. It does want us to pay attention to the fact that He will come again.

Why is this so important? Because death gives meaning to life. If we ignore the fact that we will die and give a reckoning to God, then we’ll forget about how we should be living here and now – today, tomorrow, the rest of the week, the rest of the year, and so forth. If we ignore that we are facing a Day of Judgment, both individually and collectively, we will ignore the way we treat others. We’ll forget about

accomplishing the tasks we all have here and now in revealing God’s presence in our own lives and in the lives of others. We’ll set aside the work God has given us to bring peace into our world, to establish justice among us, to lift the burdens of those who are oppressed, to care for the sick, and to assist the poor.



The Church puts the Last Days in front of our eyes so that we can judge what it is we're doing for Christ in these our days, here, right now. The most effective way to ensure the value of the future is to confront the present courageously and constructively. The Lord speaks to us of the End of the World because thinking about it puts our present day's values in proper perspective. The world will become more beautiful through our daily efforts, through what we do today and what we do tomorrow. The more beautiful we make our world during the days of our lives the more it will shine more gloriously in that Great Day of glory when Christ will come to us in glory surrounded by all of God's angels. Did it ever occur to you that the glory you will have in heaven might depend in good measure on how beautifully you live the days God gives you here on earth?

While it's quite true that you may die tomorrow in some sudden and unexpected accident, your value in death, the value of the days you have lived among us, will depend on what you have done with the days God has already given you as well as upon what you have done today. We should plan ahead and work as if we're going to live forever... and we should live like we're going to die tomorrow. Today is not only the first day of the rest of your life here on earth, it is the first day of your eternal life.

Many people in our world, people that we know, live without caring a bit about the end of their individual lives as well as about the end of our world. Sadly, many that do care, care more about it all being blown to smithereens, about it all being reduced by fire into ash, instead of caring about how beautiful it is and what our world is destined to become in God's love. If we don't care about the Final Day of Judgment, and if we don't care about our own particular day of judgment (the day we die) then we won't care about what we're doing today and tomorrow, about what's important in life, or about the way we treat other people, or the world's resources, or about making the world a more beautiful place. Ordinary life will become too ordinary, and we will gradually slip into moral decay, drugs, anarchy, and an attitude that life and the world is all about *me*, not you. We'll end up thinking that the idea of God is meaningless, that religion doesn't matter, and that morals are strictly a private matter. We will abandon this life, our world, and let the devil take it. Satan will have his day... and Satan will end up having our souls.

So today is the first day of the rest of your life – both your life here on earth as well as your eternal life. Each day remember that the more beautiful your soul becomes in the sight of God now, and the more beautiful a person you become in the sight of God, and the more beautiful person you are in your relationships with others, the more you will shine in glory on that great Day of the Lord when He comes to take us home in the fullness of His time, in His Day that will never end – eternal life.

by Fr. Charles Irvin

