

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

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Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 6, 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](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.

## Ministers' Schedules for Next Weekend

	5:30 PM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
<b>Acolyte</b>	Joe Busing	JimVanWesten	Randy Prellwitz
<b>Lector</b>	Keith Mach	Scott DeWald	Charlie Barringer
<b>Server</b>	Connor Gerth		RJ Suey
<b>Server</b>	Ryan Umland		Braden Suey
<b>Organ/Piano</b>	Carolyn Osborne	Lorrie Hofstetter	Allen Scheer
<b>Gifts/Greeters</b>	Tom & Twiyla L'Ecuyer & girls	Bob & Marilyn Bachle	Kenny & LeAnn Krause
<b>Collection</b>	Steve Graff & Carolyn Osborne		

<b>Our Offering to God Last Weekend</b>		<b>Adult</b>	<b>Plate</b>	<b>Children</b>
	<b>St. Michael's</b>	\$1791.00	\$110.00	\$15.00
	<b>St. Mary's</b>	\$210.00	\$27.00	
	<b>St. Michael's Debt</b>	<b>Last Week</b>	<b>Total</b>	
		\$50.00	\$8170.00	

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

Monday	September 7	<b>NO MASS</b>	St. Michael's	<b>NO MASS</b>
Tuesday	September 8	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Bill & Arlene Wagner+
Wednesday	September 9	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Leslie & Mary Naiman+
Thursday	September 10	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Marcellan Siegel+
Friday	September 11	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Norman Medina+
Saturday	September 12	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Rosalie Hamm+
Sunday	September 13	8:00 AM	St. Mary's	Carl & Alvina Birkel+
Sunday	September 13	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, 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**

- **PCCW:** The PCCW will hold their monthly meeting, September 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:carolyn@stmichaelsfairbury.org) or leave a note in the collection marked “ministries”. Please have your request in by September 21<sup>st</sup>.
- **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](http://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.
- **Change Your Money-Change Your Life:** Dave Ramsey’s Complete Guide to Money classes will begin September 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. at the Fairbury Presbyterian Church. If you would like to attend a free preview before class starts call Darcy @402-729-5005 or email @ debrown003@gmail.com
- **St. Peter & Paul-Morrowille** will have Mass on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Following Mass the Cemetery Directory board will be blessed. All are welcome to attend.
- **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.

- **Pancakes:** Sunday, September 13<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.



- **Thought of the Week:** All who follow the Lord as his disciples are welcome into his kingdom.
- **Annual Salad Luncheon & Card Party** at St. Joseph Catholic Church Basement, 5<sup>th</sup> & East Ave.-York, NE. Thursday, September 10 at 11:30 a.m. Bridge & Pitch following the lunch.
- **Word Among Us:** We have FREE copies of the Word Among Us for the **month of September**. Please pick yours up today and take home for daily devotions.
- **Twenty-Eighth Annual Marian Mass, Rosary & Candlelight Procession!** The twenty-eighth annual Marian Mass, Rosary and Candlelight Procession will take place on Wednesday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m. on the grounds of the Waverly Marian Center. In case of inclement weather, the Mass will be held at St. Teresa's Church at 7:00 p.m. Bishop Conley will be the main celebrant and homilist. The S.T.A.G.E. Fatima Play will NOT be performed this year. The Rosary will be prayed in English, Czech, Spanish, Vietnamese and German. Limited seating and handicap accessible restrooms will be provided
- **National 54 Day Rosary Novena** begins, August 15<sup>th</sup> (Feast of the Assumption) and ends October 7<sup>th</sup> (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](http://www.lincoln.diocese.org/ycl). **September 12**, 8:30 a.m. Carmel Walk, 11:00 a.m. Mass at Carmelite Sisters at Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, 9300 Agnew Road, Valparaiso; **September 12**, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Open House at Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters (Pink Sisters) at Christ the King Convent, 1040 South Cotner Blvd, Lincoln.; **September 13**, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Open House at Marian Sisters at Marycrest Motherhouse, 6765 N. 112 St. , Waverly.
- **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.



*From the Office of Evangelization. . .*

## **LEARNING THE FAITH**

### **SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION PART III**

#### *The Holy Eucharist: Food for the Journey*

Having been reborn with Jesus in the waters of the Jordan River, and having received the Gift of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Holy Confirmation, we stand this week with the disciples of Our Lord and listen as the Savior speaks the words of salvation, “I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give . . . is my flesh” (Jn 6:51). Why does Jesus offer us his flesh and blood to eat? Why is the Eucharist so central to our Christian life?

In order to understand the importance of the Eucharist to our lives as followers of Christ, it is necessary to consider this sacrament in light of Salvation History. Let us recall that in the beginning, God created man in his image and likeness, and offered him a share in the divine life. But man chose to seek life apart from God, and to his bitter dismay he discovered only death. Instead of freedom and power, mankind discovered bondage and exile; bondage to the Devil and exile from God. Throughout the Old Testament, we hear the story of mankind’s struggle to restore its relationship with the Creator, and find its way back to that Garden of Delight lost by our first parents. From the story of Cain and Abel, to that of the Maccabees, over and over again we read the sad tale of a wandering people trying to make their way home to God.

It was because of this exile from Paradise, the home of the Heavenly Father, that our loving God sent his only Son. The Word of God, born of the Father from all eternity, was born of the Virgin Mary to find the children of God, lost in a world of sin. Being God, Jesus knew where his lost children were to be found; being God, Jesus knew what his children would need for the journey home.

It was within this worldview, the view of a world stained by the sin of our first parents and estranged from its loving God, that Jesus delivered to us the mystery of his life-giving flesh. It is therefore necessary to gain a right understanding of this unfathomable gift by seeking insight into this mystery within its historical perspective.

It was not by chance that the night on which Jesus chose to communicate his Eucharistic flesh to mankind was that of the Jewish festival of Passover. Let us recall that, for Israel, the feast of Passover commemorated the night of deliverance

from the bondage of slavery in Egypt and from the death of the firstborn as the angel of God passed over the houses of Israel. At the first Passover, each family sacrificed an unblemished lamb, spread its blood upon the mantle of their door, and gathered together in the dark of night to prepare for their journey out of slavery in Egypt to the mountain of promise. To prepare for this long journey, the sacrificed lamb became their nourishment; it was upon the flesh of the Passover lamb that each family fed in order to strengthen them for the long journey ahead. It was this event which was commemorated by Israel each year at the feast of Passover, and it was this event that Jesus chose as the backdrop to his own passion; the Passover that would change the world forever.

As Jesus sat with his closest followers on the night of the festival meal, while all of Jerusalem ate the sacrificial Passover lamb, the words of John the Baptist must have rung in ears of the disciples, “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (Jn 1:29). If Jesus was the true Passover lamb, as John the Baptist had rightly proclaimed, then only one thing remained to be accomplished: he must be sacrificed, and his followers must eat his flesh as their nourishment for the journey of their lives. This journey would take them from the bondage of the world, to the Paradise of God. And the Lamb of God said, “Take, eat, this is my body” (Matt 26:26). With these words, the world was given what only God could provide: the Lamb of sacrifice that would be for the “healing of the nations” (Rev 22:2). With these words, mankind was given the nourishment for its journey back to Paradise.

Two thousand years later, we who worship the Lamb of God who was sacrificed for our salvation, gather at each Mass for the celebration of the Passover feast. This Passover frees us from the darkness of our spiritual Egypt, and brings us to the Light of the Garden of God. For the man who receives this great gift of God, life can never be the same. We come born again in Holy Baptism and Anointed for the Passover feast in Holy Confirmation. We come prepared for this great mystery as children on the pilgrimage of life. Let us come to the table of the Lamb, and eat the food of salvation, the Holy Eucharist, and let us never turn back to the land of bondage, but always journey toward the land of promise.



