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**St. Michael's**

 **St. Mary's**

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

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| **St. Michael's**  | PO Box 406, Fairbury, NE 68352 |
| **St. Mary's** | 5th & Amanda Streets, Alexandria, NE |
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 3rd Sunday of Lent March 3/4, 2018

***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 (402) 729-2058.*

**St. Mary’s Parish Council:** Duane Bartek & Ritchie Burkhart

*Trustees*: Bob VanWesten and Bob Bachle

**St. Mary’s PCCW:** Deb Vanwesten

**St. Michael’s Parish Council:** Mary Prellwitz, John Ragland, Deb Jones, Megan Grant, Mary Mach, Eddie Lytle.

*Trustees*: Keith Mach and Randy Prellwitz

**St. Michael’s PCCW:** Carmen Ragland

**Knights of Columbus:** Randy Prellwitz

**CCD Coordinator:** Beth Hansmire

**Confession schedule:** Saturday 4:45 PM to 5:15 PM

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| **Ministers' Schedules for March 10/11, 2018** |
|  | **5:30 PM** | **8:00 AM** | **10:00 AM** |
| **Acolyte** | Ronn Brackle | Bob VanWesten | James Huber |
| **Lector** | Chris Higgins | Scott DeWald | Lorraine Borch |
| **Server** | Aldo Ramos |  | CJ Goeking |
| **Server** |  |  | Devin Wanamaker |
| **Music** | Mary Prellwitz | Lorrie Hofstetter | LeAnn Krause |
| **Gifts/Greeters** | Lori Arnold | Mark & Peggy Niederklein | Barb Arner |
| **Collection** | Mary Mach/Eddie Lytle |
| **Church Cleaning for March – Ellen VanWesten** |
| **Mass intentions for the week of March 5th – 11th**  |
| ***Monday*** | Noon | St. Michael’s | Jerry Pugsley+ |
| ***Tuesday*** | 8:00 am | St. Michael’s | Special Intention |
| ***Wednesday*** | No Mass | St. Michael’s  | NO MASS |
| ***Thursday*** | No Mass | St. Michael’s | NO MASS |
| ***Friday*** | No Mass | St. Michael’s | NO MASS |
| ***Saturday*** | No Mass | St. Michael’s |  |
| 5:30 PM | St. Michael’s | Tucker Jaurez+ |
| ***Sunday*** | 8:00 AM | St. Mary’s | The People of the Parishes |
| 10:00 AM | St. Michael’s | Charlie Barringer+ |

*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.*

**Please pray for:**

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| Randy Wilhelm, Hospice | Frank Kosmacek | Eddie Lytle |
| Vonia Scheer | Steve Graff | Tom Huber |
| Evelyn Birkel | Bob Gibson | Rozella Prellwitz |

* **BULLETIN:** If you have news for the bulletin, please call the Rectory 729-2058 or email st.michael.fairbury@gmail.com.Deadline for additions - Thursday by 10:00 AM.
* **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.

Parish News & Upcoming Events

 **Parish collection data**:

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| **February 25, 2018** | ***St. Michael’s*** | ***St. Mary’s*** |
| Adult | $1,325.00 | $235.00  |
| Plate | 38.00 | 50.00 |
| Children | 4.00 |  |
| Catholic Press | 30.00 |  |
| Debt Reduction  | 430.00 |  |
| ***Total*** | $1,827.00  | $285.00 |

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| ***Debt Reduction Current Totals:*** | **Loan Pmt Due December 2018** |
|  | **$17,360.33** |
| Joy of the Gospel Rebates | 1,976.42 |
| Debt Reduction Envelopes | 1,790.00 |
| **Amount needed for Loan Payment** | **$14,023.91** |

***Thought of the Week:***

Forgiveness, dialogue & reconciliation. These are the words of peace.

-Pope Francis

 **PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION** It takes $2,089.36 a week to run St. Michael’s Parish.

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| *Operation Cost*   | $2,089.36  |
| This week’s collection  | $1,397.00 |
| SHORTAGE!!!!... | $692.36 |

That does NOT include the money needed to make our loan payment, $333.85 per week but Joy of the Gospel rebates also go towards that.

**SEMINARIAN of the WEEK**

**Robert William Johnson** son of Jimmy & Teresa Johnson of St. Thomas Parish in Lincoln, NE is in his 2nd year of Theology at Mt. St. Mary Seminary.

**Stations of the Cross** No Stations this Friday.

**The Knights of Columbus** Council #4434 will be having their meeting on March12 in the parish center at 7:00. Rosary will be prior to the meeting in the basement chapel at 6:30.

**The Next Knights of Columbus fish fry** will be March 16 in the school gym from 5:30 to 7:00.

**The Knights of Columbus** Council #4434 would like to welcome 2 new members Dave Banahan and Chris Higgins. Give a welcome to these brother Knights.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** Are you thinking of doing almsgiving during Lent? The Knights of Columbus has an opportunity for you. We will be setting the cart in back church and we ask each person of the parish to donate 40 cans of canned goods for the 40 days of lent. These canned goods will then be given to the local food bank.

**ST PATRICK’S DAY DINNER** Saturday March 17th in the parish Center following the 5:30 Mass. The menu: Corned beef, cabbage, Irish soda bread & dessert. Sign up on the sheet in the back of church.

**FOR LENT, FOR LIFE** https://avemariaradio.net/

**A unique set of eyewear** was found outside church.

**Mothers of girls age 10-13!** Please join us for the upcoming "Fearfully & Wonderfully Made Mother-Daughter Program" Saturday, March 24th, 9-12 Noon. Cost is $20/girl or $30 family. Registration and payment are required by March 17th. To register or ask questions, please call or email Jennifer Davis @ 402-261-6375 or jmdavis17@gmail.com or you may find a registration form in your school office.

**You’re invited to the next Quest Retreat!** Quest is a retreat for freshmen and sophomores in high school. Quest #34 will be March 17-18 at Aquinas High School in David City, NE. For information:

[www.lincolndiocese.org/retreats/quest](http://www.lincolndiocese.org/retreats/quest)

**READINGS**

*FIRST READING*

From the book of Exodus

12:37-49; 13:11-16

The Hebrews depart. The law of the Passover and of the firstborn

The Israelites set out from Rameses for Succoth, about six hundred thousand men on foot, not counting the children. A crowd of mixed ancestry also went up with them, besides their livestock, very numerous flocks and herds. Since the dough they had brought out of Egypt was not leavened, they baked it into unleavened loaves. They had been rushed out of Egypt and had no opportunity even to prepare food for the journey.

The time the Israelites had stayed in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. At the end of four hundred and thirty years, all the hosts of the Lord left the land of Egypt on this very date. This was a night of vigil for the Lord, as he led them out of the land of Egypt; so on this same night all the Israelites must keep a vigil for the Lord throughout their generations.

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “These are the regulations for the Passover. No foreigner may partake of it. However, any slave who has been bought for money may partake of it, provided you have first circumcised him. But no transient alien or hired servant may partake of it. It must be eaten in one and the same house; you may not take any of its flesh outside the house. You shall not break any of its bones. The whole community of Israel must keep this feast. If any aliens living among you wish to celebrate the Passover of the Lord, all the males among them must first be circumcised, and then they may join in its observance just like the natives. But no man who is uncircumcised may partake of it. The law shall be the same for the resident alien as for the native.

“When the Lord, your God, has brought you into the land of the Canaanites, which he swore to you and your fathers he would give you, you shall dedicate to the Lord every son that opens the womb; and all the male firstlings of your animals shall belong to the Lord. Every first-born of an ass you shall redeem with a sheep. If you do not redeem it, you shall break its neck. Every first-born son you must redeem.

“If your son should ask you later on, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall tell him, ‘With a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, that place of slavery. When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed every first-born in the land of Egypt, every first-born of man and of beast. That is why I sacrifice to the Lord everything of the male sex that opens the womb, and why I redeem every first-born of my sons.’ Let this, then, be as a sign on your hand and as a pendant on your forehead: with a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt.”

*RESPONSORY*

See Luke 2:22, 23, 24

The parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord,

– because the law of the Lord prescribed that every firstborn male had to be consecrated to him.

They offered to the Lord on his behalf

a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

– Because the law of the Lord prescribed that every firstborn male had to be consecrated to him.

*SECOND READING*

From the pastoral constitution on the Church in the modern world of the Second Vatican Council

(Gaudium et spes, Nn. 9-10)

Man’s deeper questionings

The world of today reveals itself as at once powerful and weak, capable of achieving the best or the worst. There lies open before it the way to freedom or slavery, progress or regression, brotherhood or hatred. In addition, man is becoming aware that it is for himself to give the right direction to forces that he himself has awakened, forces that can be his master or his servant. He therefore puts questions to himself.

The tensions disturbing the world of today are in fact related to a more fundamental tension rooted in the human heart. In man himself many elements are in conflict with each other. On one side, he has experience of his many limitations as a creature. On the other, he knows that there is no limit to his aspirations, and that he is called to a higher kind of life.

Many things compete for his attention, but he is always compelled to make a choice among them, and to renounce some. What is more, in his weakness and sinfulness he often does what he does not want to do, and fails to do what he would like to do. In consequence, he suffers from a conflict within himself, and this in turn gives rise to so many great tensions in society.

Very many people, infected as they are with a materialistic way of life, cannot see this dramatic state of affairs in all its clarity, or at least are prevented from giving thought to it because of the unhappiness that they themselves experience.

Many think that they can find peace in the different philosophies that are proposed.

Some look for complete and genuine liberation for man from man’s efforts alone. They are convinced that the coming kingdom of man on earth will satisfy all the desires of his heart.

There are those who despair of finding any meaning in life: they commend the boldness of those who deny all significance to human existence in itself, and seek to impose a total meaning on it only from within themselves.

But in the face of the way the world is developing today, there is an ever increasing number of people who are asking the most fundamental questions or are seeing them with a keener awareness: What is man? What is the meaning of pain, of evil, of death, which still persist in spite of such great progress? What is the use of those successes, achieved at such a cost? What can man contribute to society, what can he expect from society? What will come after this life on earth?

The Church believes that Christ died and rose for all, and can give man light and strength through his Spirit to fulfill his highest calling; his is the only name under heaven in which men can be saved.

So too the Church believes that the center and goal of all human history is found in her Lord and Master.

The Church also affirms that underlying all changes there are many things that do not change; they have their ultimate foundation in Christ, who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

*RESPONSORY*

1 Corinthians 15:55-56, 57; Lamentations 3:25

Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? It is sin that gives death its sting.

– But thanks be to God, who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord is good to those who trust him, to all who search for him.

– But thanks be to God, who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.