

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

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

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First Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2014



*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, Daryl Anderson, Trish Endorf **Trustees:** Bob VanWesten and Bob Bachle

**St. Mary's PCCW:** Deb Vanwesten

**St. Michael's Parish Council:** Brenda Mannschresk, Doug Kapke, LeAnn Krause, Dave Panko, Dave Banahan, Bruce Busing, Chad Mans, Matt Umland, **Trustees:** Randy Prellwitz and Keith Mach

**St. Michael's PCCW:** Brenda Mannschreck

**Knights of Columbus:** Joshua Whitney

**CCD Coordinator:** Carolyn Whitney

# 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.
- **SEMINARIAN'S OF THE WEEK:** Please keep our Seminarian's of the week, **Rev. Mr. Ryan Kaup and Timothy Kennett**, in your prayers.

## Ministers' Schedules for Next Weekend

	5:30 PM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
<b>Acolyte</b>	Joe Busing	Jim VanWesten	Randy Prellwitz
<b>Lector</b>	Keith Mach	Rhonda Burkhart	Joshua Whitney
<b>Server</b>	Ryan Umland		Brett Wanamaker
<b>Server</b>	Connor Gerth		Devin Wanamaker
<b>Organ/Piano</b>	Carolyn Osborne	Lorrie Hoffstetter	Allen Scheer
<b>Gifts/Greeters</b>	Janice Olberding	Duane and Nancy Bartek	Sherill Goeking
<b>Collection</b>	Doug Kapke and Brenda Mannschreck		

<b>Our Offering to God Last Weekend</b>	St. Michael's	\$ 1580.00
	St. Mary's	\$ 374.00

**Please pray for:** Rosalie Hamm, 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, Bill Muller, Noelle Salazar, Bernie Boerner, Paul Prellwitz, Brad Eveleth, Kathy Blobaum, Bob McCord, Ed Lytle, LeRoy Prellwitz, Rita Stone, Lois Muller, Catherine Nutsch, Chase Guthals, Don Gregory, 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.*

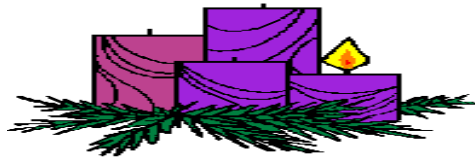
## ***THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE***

Monday	December 1	<b>NO MASS</b>	St. Michael's	<b>NO MASS</b>
Tuesday	December 2	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Walter & Dorrine Milius+
Wednesday	December 3	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Ray Roskilly+
Thursday	December 4	<b>5:30 PM</b>	St. Michael's	Jim Melcher+
Friday	December 5	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Al Bongers+
Saturday	December 6	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Velma Hammer+
Sunday	December 7	8:00 AM	St. Mary's	All Souls Day Intentions of John & Donna Rut
Sunday	December 7	10:00 AM	St. Michael's	The People of the Parishes
Sunday	December 7	<b>4:00 PM</b>	St. Michael's	The People of the Parishes <b>*Immaculate Conception Mass*</b>

<b>Confessions</b>	St. Michael's	Saturday	4:45 PM to 5:15 PM
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**Daily Mass:** Please check Mass schedule carefully for Mass times this week!!!

## **FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT**



- **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** will take place on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Mass times for this **Holy Day** will be as follows: Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at **4:00 p.m.** at St. Michael's; Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at **5:30 p.m.** at St. Michael's and Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at **7:00 p.m.** at St Mary's.
- **Help!!!** We will need help with the ministries for the Immaculate Conception Masses at St. Michael's. If you will be available, please volunteer so Mass will run smoothly.



- **Christmas Mass Times:** The Mass times for the Celebration of Christmas are as follows: *December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at St. Michael's; December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at St. Mary's, and December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at St. Michael's.*

- **Christmas Flowers:** If you would like to donate money to purchase Christmas Flowers this year, please place your money in an envelope marked "Christmas Flowers" and drop in the collection basket.



- **Knights Pancake Feed:** Next Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, the Knights will be having their pancake feed before the PCCW raffle drawing. Please join the Knights for pancakes and see if you won a raffle prize.

- **General Church Cleaning:** There will be a general church cleaning, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Please bring your own cleaning equipment (buckets, vacuum cleaners, dusters, rags, etc.) Everyone's help is appreciated.

- **St Michael's PCCW Meeting & Carry-in Dinner:** St. Michael's PCCW will convene on Monday evening, December 8<sup>th</sup> following the Immaculate Conception Mass at 5:30 p.m. with a joint carry-in meal with the Knights of Columbus and spouses. Monica Cervantes and Diane Stone are co-chairs for this event. Everyone is asked to provide a side dish or dessert.



- **Knights of Columbus:** The Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly meeting, December 8<sup>th</sup> following the Immaculate Conception Mass at 5:30 p.m. with a joint carry-in meal with the PCCW and spouses in the center. Please bring a side dish or dessert to the meal.

- **Decorating the Church for Christmas at St. Michael's:** We will decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, **December 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.** A lot of volunteers are needed. Please help if you can.



- **Tree of Memories:** As in years past, St. Michael's will have our Christmas tree decorated with ornaments in memory of our loved ones who have passed on. If you would like to have an ornament placed on the tree in memory of your loved one, please bring an ornament to St. Michael's with your loved one's name on it. Please drop your ornament off at the parish office. We have the memory ornaments from years past that we will again put on this year's Christmas tree.



- **Bowls for Backpacks:** Please plan to attend the Bowls for Backpacks fundraiser event held in the support of the Fairbury Community Backpack Program and the efforts to provide meals to hungry children and families. Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 P.M -7:30 P.M. at the Fairbury Jr./Sr. High School Commons. Tickets available at the door, Adult (13 & up) \$7.00, Child (5-12) \$5.00, Children 4 and under Free
- **CCD:** Classes are from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please do not drop your children off before 6:20 p.m., because there will not be any adult supervision. ***Parents, please remember that if your child will be receiving one of the sacraments in the next two years, that they must be attending CCD classes to receive the sacraments.*** Please remember to enter the driveway on E street and exit on 8<sup>th</sup> street.
- **Working on Ministries Schedule:** We are working on the new ministries schedule for acolytes, lectors, keyboardist and servers for the months of January, February and March. If you have any special requests, please call Carolyn at the parish office, e-mail her at [carolyn@stmichaelsfairbury.org](mailto:carolyn@stmichaelsfairbury.org) or leave a note in the collection marked "Ministries".

- **First Friday Adoration in December:** First Friday Adoration will be held on ***Thursday, December 4th***, in anticipation of First Friday. The Knights are asking for parish participation and support. Please sign-up for December in the back of the Church. Please commit to at least one hour (if not more). Each hour has two time lots, but there is no limit to the number of people who may be present.



- **College Students:** We are collecting college student's addresses so we can send them correspondence. Please email their addresses to [carolyn@stmichaelsfairbury.org](mailto:carolyn@stmichaelsfairbury.org).

- **St. Michael's Christmas Bazaar:** On December 6th, St. Michael's PCCW will host their Christmas Bazaar (Cookies & Candy Purchase) in the school gym. As usual we are depending on the generosity of our parishioners to make this event a success. This year, we are asking parishioners to bring 3 dozen of their Favorite Homemade Holiday Cookies and Candies. Cookies, candy, "white elephant" items, and homemade crafts can be dropped off in the school gym from 4:00-6:00 p.m. on December 5<sup>th</sup>, or by 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance for giving of your time and talents to make our Christmas Bazaar a success!



- **Calendars:** The 2015 Church calendars are in the back of the church at St. Michael's and St. Mary's. Please pick yours up this weekend.
- **Christmas Bakery and Boutique** sponsored by the United Methodist Women at the United Methodist Fellowship Hall 605 E Street. Friday, December 5 from 5:00-9:00 pm, Saturday, December 6 from 9:00-4:00 pm and Sunday, December 7 from 11:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Homemade bakery items and Christmas gift items.
- **Word Among Us:** We have FREE copies of the Word Among Us for the month of **December**. Please pick yours up today and take home for daily devotions.
- **St. Mary's Church Cleaning for December:** Deb VanWesten
- **Website:** You can find St. Michael's/St. Mary's website at [www.stmichaelsfairbury.org](http://www.stmichaelsfairbury.org). You can view the weekly bulletins and monthly calendar.
- **Penny Harvest:** This is the last week to donate to the Blue Valley Giving Tree Project. Thank you very much for your donations to this project.



- **Thought of the week:** Fellowship with Jesus Christ strengthens us.
- **St. Mary's Cemetery Fence:** St. Mary's is collecting funds for a new iron fence on the east and south sides of the cemetery. The cost of the project is \$30,000.00. Donations can be dropped in the collection basket marked "Cemetery Fence" or mailed to St. Mary's, P.O. Box 406, Fairbury, NE. 68352. Any size of donation will be greatly appreciated. ***To date \$25920.00 has been donated.***
- **Best Choice Labels:** Please continue to save you labels, and put them in the container at the back of the church.
- **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 and it will be something they will not have to worry about.** You may turn them in to the office or you may keep at you home.



## ST. MICHAEL'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

December 6, 2014

8:00a.m.-12:00 p.m.

St. Michaels School Gym

## Celebrating the Mass *Ad Orientem* (Towards the East), Part 1

Early churches were normally built with an orientation towards directional east. Over time it was not always possible to build every church with this easterly orientation and the Cross became the focal point of a common orientation in prayer. Orientation toward the Cross became “liturgical east” and Mass was celebrated with priest and people all facing the image of the Cross.

As Advent is the liturgical season in which we celebrate with hope and anticipation the coming of the Messiah, celebrating Mass *ad orientem* is a good visible reminder of the desire of the whole people of God looking to the east, vigilant and waiting for His return. We will continue to explore this ancient liturgical practice of the Church in the next couple of weeks.

During the upcoming Sundays of Advent, the priests at the Cathedral ( & we will join them in this ) will be celebrating Mass at the altar according to the ancient practice *ad orientem* (towards the east). The emphasis in this ancient liturgical practice is that the priest and people all “face in the same direction” in a common act of worship to the Triune God.

The Christian practice of praying in a common orientation developed out of our Jewish roots. A standard practice of our Jewish forefathers was to pray facing towards Jerusalem and when in Jerusalem to pray facing towards the Temple. Christians developed the practice of praying, not toward the earthly Jerusalem, but towards the new, heavenly Jerusalem, which was manifested in their orientation toward the rising sun (the east) in the expectation that when Christ returns to us, He will return “from the east” (Mt. 24:27, 30). Praying in a common orientation facing east toward the rising sun was naturally both a symbol of the Resurrection and a presentation of the hope of the Parousia (see side bar).

For the early Church Fathers, the Cross became the sign associated with the second coming of Christ. It became a general custom to mark the direction of prayer with a cross on the east wall of a church as well as in private rooms.