

St. Michael's & St. Mary's

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Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 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 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, **Tanner Lockhorn and James Morin**, in your prayers.

Ministers' Schedules for Next Weekend

	5:30 PM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Acolyte	Joe Busing	Bob VanWesten	Steve Graff
Lector	Keith Mach	Scott DeWald	Joshua Whitney
Server	Ryan Umland		Paul Mach
Server	Connor Gerth		Joey Whitney
Organ/Piano	Mary Mach	Lorrie Hoffstetter	Allen Scheer
Gifts/Greeters	Kellene Polson	Jim & Ellen VanWesten	Lorraine Borch
Collection	Bruce Busing and Dave Banahan		

Our Offering to God Last Weekend	St. Michael's	\$ 2211.00
	St. Mary's	\$ 389.00

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, Graysen Snyder, 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 15	NO MASS	St. Michael's	NO MASS
Tuesday	December 16	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Peter Brahm+
Wednesday	December 17	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Mary Naiman+
Thursday	December 18	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Harry & Marie DeWispeleare+
Friday	December 19	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	All Souls Day Intentions of Alice McPherson
Saturday	December 20	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	All Souls Day Intentions of Patricia Stolzer
Sunday	December 21	8:00 AM	St. Mary's	All Souls Day Intentions of Jim & Ellen VanWesten
Sunday	December 21	10:00 AM	St. Michael's	The People of the Parishes

Confessions	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!!!

THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT



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

- **Mass Time Change:** Thursday, December 18th Mass will be at **12:10 p.m.** due to the Penance Service in Hebron.

- **St. Mary's Cemetery Fence:** *We have reached the goal of \$30,000.00. Thank you to everyone who donated to the project.*
- **Advent Penance Service:** Every year during Advent the Catholic churches in the area have Penance services. As we begin our new church year with the season of Advent, it is a good idea to go to confession if you haven't gone for a while. The penance services for the area churches are as follows: **Thursday , December 18th at Sacred Heart in Hebron@ 7:00 PM; Sunday, December 21st @3:00 p.m. at St. Joseph's in Beatrice; Sunday, December 21st @7:00 p.m. at St. Michael's in Fairbury.** Plan ahead as to which of these you will attend, and always keep in mind that you can go to confession during the regularly scheduled times on the weekends.
- **Out of Office:** Carolyn will be out of the office from December 17th thru December 24th. Please have information for next week's bulletin in by December 16th.

- **Decorating the Church for Christmas at St. Michael's:** We would like to thank everyone who helped with the church decorations at St. Michael's. All your help was greatly appreciated.



- **Christmas Bazaar Raffle Prizes**

Knitted Afgan—Jim Cortney	\$100 Cash—Linda Kapke
\$100 Mary Kay Cert.—Lori Gaydusek	\$75 Cash-Allen Scheer
\$100 Cash-Troy Selig	
Sofa Mate—Margret Brahm	Ham—Francis Nutsch
\$50 Walmart Gift Cert.—Fr. John Birkel	Oil Change—Linda Kapke
FJN Subscription—Linda Stolzer	FJN Sub.—Miranda Barber
Garden Flag & Stand-Lorraine Borch	Bamboo Sheet Set-Twila Bray
Candy Bar Bouquet-Leroy Vetch	Candy Bar Bouquet-Bob McCord

- **Thanks to those who helped with the PCCW Christmas Bazaar:** Thanks to everyone who helped with raffle tickets, decorations, and bringing cookies and candy to the PCCW Christmas Bazaar. The event was a great success.
- **Nativity Set:** We would like to thank everyone who helped build and install the new manger scene for our new Nativity Set!

- **Thank you:** We would like to thank everyone from the parish (CCD Students, Knights of Columbus, PCCW and parishioners) who supported the Blue Valley Giving Tree Project. We were able to purchase gifts for 9 families (25 kids) in need. Thank you for giving 25 kids in our community a Very Merry Christmas!
- **JOY TO THE WORLD - WATCH SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMMING ON EWTN!** EWTN is proud to take you to Rome to celebrate Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses with Pope Francis, and to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. to enjoy its magnificent choir. Throughout this Christmas season, enjoy inspiring musical performances, animated features, children's specials, movies and new holiday presentations perfect for the entire family. Find all the ways you can view EWTN by going to www.ewtn.com/channelfinder and typing in your zip code!
- **St. Thomas Aquinas Church – Newman Center** is now seeking a full-time **Maintenance Supervisor**. As we near completion of several phases of our exciting, comprehensive expansion plan, we are looking for the right candidate to join our team. Ideal candidate has a baccalaureate degree or higher, three to five years of building maintenance experience, with hands-on supervisory skills. If you would like to become part of a faith-centered organization, anchored in the heart of the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, and make a positive impact on the college community, please send your resume to pmontgomery001@gmail.com . See full job posting on our website <http://newmancenter.unl.edu/job-opportunities>.
- **Tree of Memories:** You may still place ornaments on the Tree of Memories or you may drop them off at the parish office.
- **St. Mary's Christmas Breakfast:** St. Mary's will have their Annual Christmas breakfast following Mass on Sunday, December 21st. **Everyone is to bring rolls.** Coffee and juice will be provided.



- **2015 Calendars and Church Envelopes:** The 2015 Church calendar's and Church Envelopes for next year are in the back of the church at St. Michael's and St. Mary's. Please pick yours up this weekend.

- **Census:** We are updating our census records. These are included with your church envelopes. Please check over the following information and make any additions or corrections. If you know your Sacrament information, please include that also. Please return them in the collection basket or drop off at the parish office.
- **End of Year Close of Financial Books for Both Parishes:** As we are in the final month of the year, we need to plan ahead for certain things. December closes out the year on our calendars, and it closes out the year on how our taxes are figured as well. If there are any donations you want to make to your parish so that those donations will count for the 2014 tax year, they will need to be in no later than December 26th. Please note this as you make your final financial decisions for 2014.
- **Thought of the week:** Respond in gratitude for the tremendous gift-our life in Christ Jesus.
- **Christmas Ministries:** For each of the Christmas Masses we will need an acolyte, lector, keyboardist and two servers. If you will be in town and can help, your assistance will be greatly appreciated. This weekend there will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church with all the available slots for these Masses. Let's get these slots filled as soon as possible.
- **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.
- **CCD:** December 17th will be our last CCD Class for this year. Please have a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! We resume classes on January 7th.
- **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 or leave a note in the collection marked "Ministries". Please have your request in by December 15th.



- **College Students:** We are collecting college student's addresses so we can send them correspondence. Please email their addresses to carolyn@stmichaelsfairbury.org.
- **St. Mary's Church Cleaning for December:** Deb VanWesten
- **Website:** You can find St. Michael's/St. Mary's website at www.stmichaelsfairbury.org. You can view the weekly bulletins and monthly calendar.
- **Best Choice Labels:** Please continue to save you labels, and put them in the container at the back of the church. For every 1000 labels we collect, we receive \$30.00, so keep collecting the labels.
- **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.

Celebrating the Mass *Ad Orientem* (Towards the East), Part 3

Last Sunday the priests at the Cathedral (& we here, too) celebrated Mass at the altar according to the ancient practice *ad orientem* (towards the east), that is, with both the priest and the congregation facing in the same direction. We are restoring this ancient practice during Advent, culminating with Bishop Conley's celebration of Midnight Mass at Christmas. In the past forty plus years, this ancient tradition has fallen out of practice in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite, but the possibility of celebrating Mass *ad orientem* or *versus populum* (towards the people) are both acceptable positions under the current rubrics of the Roman Missal.

Why restore the ancient practice? First of all, because there is a rich symbolism in bodily gesture that represents what the Mass is all about. Mass celebrated *ad orientem* more visibly highlights the sacrificial nature of the Mass. It shows, quite visibly, that the people and the priest are united in a single action, offering one sacrifice, but offering it in their proper roles, the people joined to Christ as his Body and the priest configured to Christ as the Head of the Body. In the Mass we are called to offer ourselves in union with the perfect sacrifice of Christ on Calvary. We can only make this offering on earth because the Mass makes present on the altar the one, eternal sacrifice of Jesus that He is eternally offering to the Father in Heaven.

Secondly, this ancient practice avoids the impression that the priest and the congregation are engaged in a conversation *about* God, rather than the worship *of* God. When the priest and people face each other, it gives the impression of a dialogue relationship. As Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, stated, "The danger is that it [priest and people facing each other] can make the congregation into a closed circle which is no longer aware of the explosive Trinitarian dynamism which gives the Eucharist its greatness... The community does not carry on a dialogue with itself; it is engaged on a common journey toward the returning Lord" (*The Feast of Faith*, pp. 142-143).

The usual experience of the priest facing the people (in the Ordinary Form) is retained when the priest is at the chair. However, when the priest is at the altar during the Mass, the majority of the time he is speaking in prayer to God the Father – speaking on behalf of the people to God, not to the people – in offering to the Father the one, eternal sacrifice of Christ. In celebrating *ad orientem* the distinction is made clearer. When the priest is speaking to God, the priest and people all face together in a common orientation toward the Cross and when the priest enters into dialogue with the congregation, he turns and faces the congregation.

Thirdly, the celebration of the Mass *ad orientem* reduces the temptation to put undue emphasis on the personality of the priest, since the celebrant is unavoidably the point of reference for the celebration. There is a danger of reducing the role of the priest as a kind of actor playing a sacred role on a liturgical stage. Instead the priest is the one who stands in the person of Christ in the offering of Our Lord's Body and Blood to the Father.

It is our hope that the celebration of the Mass *ad orientem* during the Sunday's of Advent will enkindle a deeper appreciation for what transpires at each and every Mass. It is our hope that this experience will do more than simply turn the priest around, but turn us all together toward the Lord.

