

St. Michael's & St. Mary's

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Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 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, **Anthony Kohel and Andrew Litt**, in your prayers.

Ministers' Schedules for Next Weekend

	5:30 PM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Acolyte	Bruce Busing	Jim VanWesten	James Huber
Lector	Randy Prellwitz	Bob Bachle	Charlie Barringer
Server	Paul Mach		RJ Suey
Server	Peyton Grubbs		Braden Suey
Organ/Piano	Mary Mach	Lorrie Hoffstetter	Mary Prellwitz
Gifts/Greeters	Dave and Aleece Panko	Bob & Marilyn Bachle	Rod & Janet Beranek
Collection	Matt Umland and Chad Mans		

Our Offering to God Last Weekend	St. Michael's	\$ 1713.25
	St. Mary's	\$ 287.00

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 8	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Marcellan Siegel+ *Immaculate Conception Mass*
Monday	December 8	7:00 PM	St. Mary's	The People of the Parishes *Immaculate Conception Mass*
Tuesday	December 9	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	All Souls Day Intentions of Kathleen Selig
Wednesday	December 10	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	All Souls Day Intentions of Jim & Elaine Cortney
Thursday	December 11	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	All Souls Day Intentions of Kenny and LeAnn Krause
Friday	December 12	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Bill & Arlene Wagner+
Saturday	December 13	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Carl & Alvina Birkel+
Sunday	December 14	8:00 AM	St. Mary's	The People of the Parishes
Sunday	December 14	10:00 AM	St. Michael's	George & Eleanore Schaefer

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!!!

SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT



- **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.
- **Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House:** Do you truly want to prepare for the coming of Our Lord this Christmas? There is no better way to allow the Baby Jesus to softly rest in your heart than an Advent Retreat in the silence of the Retreat House. Men and Women Retreat, December 12-14. Fr. James Meysenburg will give the Retreat on "Is there room in YOUR Inn?" You can register at www.goodcounselretreat.com and receive immediate confirmation or call Good Counsel Retreat House at 402-768-2705 to register now.
- **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.



- **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.**

- **Thought of the week:** Accept the challenge to embrace simplicity this Advent.

- **Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** will take place on December 8th. Mass times for this **Holy Day** will be as follows: Sunday, December 7th at **4:00 p.m.** at St. Michael's; Monday, December 8th at **5:30 p.m.** at St. Michael's and Monday, December 8th at **7:00 p.m.** at St Mary's.
- **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.
- **Knights Pancake Feed:** This Sunday, December 7th, 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 10th 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 8th following the Immaculate Conception Mass with a joint carry-in meal with the Knights of Columbus and spouses. The meal will start around 6:30 p.m. ***Everyone is asked to provide a side dish or dessert.***



- **Knights of Columbus:** The Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly meeting, December 8th following the Immaculate Conception Mass 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 13th at 8:30 a.m.** A lot of volunteers are needed. Please help if you can.



- **CCD:** Classes are from 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please do not drop your children off before 6:30 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 8th street.

- **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 13th 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
- **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.

- **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. You can view the weekly bulletins and monthly calendar.
- **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. 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.

Ad Orientem

Starting last Sunday and continuing through the Sundays of Advent & into Christmas, the priests at the Cathedral will celebrate Mass at the altar according to the ancient practice of *ad orientem*.

The priest will pray at the altar facing the same direction as you do, that is directed to the figure of Christ on the Cross. This change should not be misunderstood as the priest “turning his back on the people.” Rather the emphasis in this ancient liturgical practice is that the priest is leading the people in prayer as all face the same direction in a common act of worship toward God. As was mentioned in last week’s bulletin insert, the ancient tradition of the Church was to pray in a common direction toward the east, in the expectation that when Christ returns to us again He will come from the east (Mt. 24:27). This practice is particularly appropriate for the season of Advent as one of the emphases of Advent is the longing and anticipation of Christ’s second coming in glory at the end of time.

Until recent times, the Church maintained the ancient tradition of priest and people all facing the same direction, either to the directional east or to a liturgical east, which is represented by all facing in the direction of the Cross on the altar.

The point of facing east is to emphasize an essential character of the liturgy: that of a procession out of time and into eternity in Heaven. We see and taste this procession in the course of the liturgy. The celebrant, standing in the person of Christ, leads the way, but we are all moving together in the same direction, as a community and as the people of God, as part of the same procession that begins at the Entrance hymn or antiphon, continues through the Offertory, and culminates with our reception of Holy Communion.

The practice of the priest celebrating Mass *versus populum* (facing the people) became widespread in the time period after the Second Vatican Council, but it is important to keep in mind that the Council did not mandate this practice. In fact, The Second Vatican Council said nothing about the direction of the celebrant during Mass. It was only later liturgical documents that spoke of a free standing altar in order to permit the priest to walk around it and to permit the possibility of celebrating Mass facing the people.

It is interesting that the rubrics of the Roman Missal (official liturgical book from which Mass is celebrated) still presuppose Mass celebrated *ad orientem*. For example, while the priest is at the altar, there are three occasions when the priest is directed to speak “facing the people” or “turned towards the people.” The first example is when he says “Pray brethren that my sacrifice and yours and made acceptable to God the Father almighty.” If the priest was already facing the people, then this rubric becomes redundant.

Our goal as a parish community is, in the course of offering praise and worship to the Triune God, to introduce the Faithful to the richness of the Roman liturgical tradition. The practice of the priest facing the people will, in general, return after Advent. However, priests always have the option to offer Mass *ad orientem* to help us all discover what underlies this ancient tradition: priest and people in solidarity, joined in common worship all turned together toward the Lord.

