

St. Michael's & St. Mary's

FR. JOHN B. BIRKEL, PASTOR

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Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 25, 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: Bob VanWesten, Daryl Anderson, Trish Endorf, Bob Bachle

Trustees: Donna Rut and Doris DeWald

St. Mary's PCCW: Deb Vanwesten

St. Michael's Parish Council: LeAnn Krause, Dave Panko, Dave Banahan, Bruce Busing, Chad Mans, Matt Umland, **Trustees:** Bob Gibson and Randy Prellwitz

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.
- **SISTER OF THE WEEK:** Pray for young women to discern a vocation to the Sisterhood of our Diocese of Lincoln.

Ministers' Schedules for Next Weekend

	5:30 PM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Acolyte	Bruce Busing	Bob VanWesten	Randy Prellwitz
Lector	Keith Mach	Daryl Anderson	Charlie Barringer
Server	Ryan Umland		Brett Wanamaker
Server	Peyton Grubbs		Devin Wanamaker
Organ/Piano	Carolyn Osborne	Lorrie Hoffstetter	Mary Prellwitz
Gifts/Greeters	Mary Kay Bedlan	Gary & Bonna Richard	Char Mees
Collection	Steve Graff & Carolyn Osborne		

Our Offering to God Last Weekend	St. Michael's	\$ 1313.02
	St. Mary's	\$ 247.00

Please pray for: Velma Hammer, Rosalie Hamm, Betty Brackle, Linda Lytle, Bob Seigel, Donna Vetch, Iola Busing, Rose O'Keefe, Vonja Scheer, Marcellan Siegel, Lorraine Callison, Doug Wiedel, Leona Gaydusek, Norma Bernasek, Jim Cortney, Rozella Prellwitz, Zachary Rowe, Bill Muller, Tom Huber, Doug Endorf, Noelle Salazar, Bernie Boerner, Paul Prellwitz, Brad Eveleth, Kathy Blobaum, Bob McCord, Shirley Sweetser, Ed Lytle, LeRoy Prellwitz, Rita Stone, 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	May 26	8:00 AM	St. Mary's	David DeWald+
Tuesday	May 27	NO MASS	St. Michael's	NO MASS
Wednesday	May 28	5:30 PM	St. Mary's	The People of the Parishes
Wednesday	May 28	7:00 PM	St. Michael's	Ray & Inez Vint+
Thursday	May 29	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Sig Quam+
Friday	May 30	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Richard Johnson+
Saturday	May 31	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Bret Hackbarth+
Sunday	June 1	8:00 AM	St. Mary's	All Souls Day Intentions of Jim & Ellen VanWesten
Sunday	June 1	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!!!

NEW ITEMS

- **First Friday Adoration in June:** First Friday Adoration will be held on ***Thursday, June 5***, in anticipation of First Friday. The Knights are asking for parish participation and support. Please sign-up for June 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.



- **Memorial Day Mass** will be held at the ***St. Mary's Church***, Monday, May 26th at **8:00 a.m.** Everyone is welcome to attend.

- **Summer Food Service Program:** Fairbury Public Schools is providing a “Summer Lunch Program” in order to make sure that no children in the Fairbury School District goes hungry. The Program is available to any child ages 1-18 regardless of income or enrollment status. **Every child receives a free meal.** Food will be served at Central Elementary from June 2-July 25 and Jefferson North (Armory) from June 2 thru June 6th from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Dress Code: Shoes and Shirts are required. Any questions, please call Jane Rhine at 402-729-6119.



- **Please note:** Summer vacation continues but there is never a vacation from God. Make sure to include Him in you travel plans. Bills still need to be paid, however, please remember to consistently contribute your parish offering during the summer months.

- **Ascension Thursday:** Ascension Thursday is a Holy Day of Obligation. This year it will take place on May 29th. Mass will take place in the main body of the church. The schedule of Masses for that day will be as follows:

May 28, Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. at St. Mary's
 May 28, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. at St. Michael's
 May 29, Thursday, 5:30 p.m. at St. Michael's
 followed by Holy Hour



- **Tornado:** Catholic [Social Services](#) is responding to the Mother's Day tornadoes that hit southern Nebraska. CSS staff was on the ground the Monday after the storm in Cordova, Sutton and Beaver Crossing providing assistance to those communities. As time moves on, more assistance will be needed. Families will need [cash assistance](#) to pay for [basic](#) needs while they recover from the storm. In addition, housewares, [furniture](#), clothing, food and water will be needed as families begin to put their lives back together again. Please consider helping Catholic Social Services [continue](#) to assist those communities hit by this natural disaster. Any assistance you can offer will be greatly appreciated by Catholic Social Services and those affected by this terrible storm.

- **Can Care-a-van:** KOLN-KGIN 10/11 Can Care-a-van is coming to town, June 2 from 10-3 p.m. at the Wal-Mart parking lot. All donations will go to the local food pantry at Blue Valley Community Action. You can drop donations in the back of the church until June 1.
- **Parish Council Elections:** We will take nominations for parish council elections *next weekend*. Please start praying and thinking about who may be good candidates for these positions.
- **Annual Charity and Stewardship (DDP) Appeal:** Thank you for your generosity and your support of the Charity and Stewardship (DDP) Appeal. St. Michael's goal is \$11,577.00. ***To date St. Michael's has pledged \$8530.00.*** St. Mary's goal is \$2,155.00. If you haven't made your pledge, stop at the table in the back of the church, or contact Randy Prellwitz or Bob Bachle.
- **Eucharistic Holy Hour:** I have changed the Eucharistic Holy Hour and evening Holy Mass to Thursday. This is to imitate Holy Thursday and our Blessed Lord's request that we watch one hour with Him on a Thursday evening. Holy Mass usually lasts about 20 minutes. The holy hour ends with Benediction about 6:50 p.m. Holy Mass on Fridays will be at 12:10 p.m.
- **St. Mary's Church Cleaning for May:** Donna Milius
- **St. Mary's Cemetery Fund:** The cemetery fund for St. Mary's Cemetery is in need of some new funds as the summer growing season draws near as does the need to pay for the mowing. If you would like to replenish the fund, please put your donations in your church support envelope that is marked "Cemetery Fund". Cemeteries require funds for maintenance purposes. Any help you can give will be greatly appreciated.
- **Totus Tuus:** Mark your calendars for the week of June 8-13th. The youth-led Totus Tuus group will conduct our Summer CCD week for Kindergarten-8th grade students in the daytime and in the evenings for high school youth. Grandparents-if you have grandchildren that would like to attend, they are very welcome. Contact Carolyn at 729-2058 for more information.

- **Host Families for TOTUS TUUS Teachers:** We are in need of **2 host families** for the teachers of TOTUS TUUS. This would require sleeping arrangements, and a morning continental breakfast (cereal, fruit or toast is sufficient). If you have any questions, or would be interested in helping out our summer CCD program, please give Carolyn a call at the parish office (729-2058) or her cell at (300-0148).
- **Website:** You can find St. Michael's/St. Mary's website at www.stmichaelsfairbury.org. You can view the weekly bulletins and monthly calendar.
- **Word Among Us:** We have FREE copies of the Word Among Us for the **month of June**. Please pick yours up today and take home for daily devotions.
- **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.
- **Mass times when you are traveling:** Traveling?? There are web-sites to find the time of Masses at different locations. <http://masstimes.org>
- **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. Amen.



What is the purpose of Memorial Day?

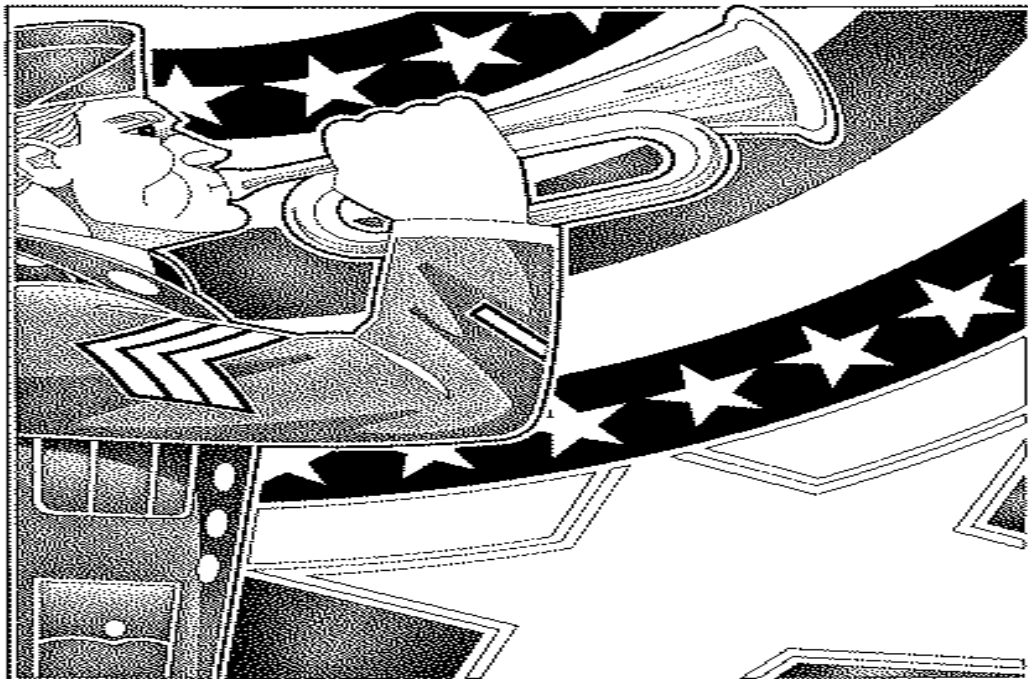
In the United States, Memorial Day is on the last Monday in May and honors Americans who gave their lives for their country in wars. Formerly called “Decoration Day”, Memorial Day honors members of the United States armed forces who have died in wars.

The custom began soon after the Civil War. In 1868 Gen. John A. Logan, commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, named May 30 for decorating the graves of Union soldiers. The date of May 30 may have been chosen because that was the date of discharge of the last Union volunteers.

As years have gone by, Memorial Day has become a day to honor and “memorialize” all the dead. We acknowledge the good deeds they have done, and are given a somber reminder that we will not be living on this earth forever.

If you are traveling this weekend, please reach your destination safely, and enjoy the time spent with family and loved ones.

Don't forget to pray for deceased veterans and loved ones. If you are not traveling far on that day, make it a point to pray for the souls of those who have served us in the past.



NO Vacation From God

By Russell Shaw

With vacation season hard upon us, a question comes to mind: Did the Holy Family take vacations? Surprisingly enough, I think the answer is yes. Or at least Jesus, Mary and Joseph took what were the equivalents of family vacations in their time and place. These were the pilgrimages to Jerusalem that pious Jews made at the time of great religious feasts. We get a glimpse of one of these in St. Luke's account of the finding of Jesus in the temple: "His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. ... Supposing him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought him among their kinsfolk" (Lk 2:41-44).

The pilgrimages had a serious religious purpose, but they were fun. Families, neighbors and friends traveled together. "There was a continual singing, the sound of innumerable voices chanting the famous psalms of pilgrimage to the tune of popular songs," says historian Henri Daniel-Rops. "The Passover was a very cheerful feast."

There's a lesson here. The philosopher Joseph Pieper points out (in his book *Leisure: The Basis of Culture*) that ever since the French Revolution secularizers have labored to turn our public celebrations — and our vacations — into exclusively secular events. And they've had much success.

But it doesn't work in the long run. True leisure is intimately linked to celebration, and at the heart of any celebration worth the name is something religious. "There is no feast that does not draw its vitality from worship and that has not become a feast by virtue of its origins in worship. ... A feast 'without gods,' and unrelated to worship, is quite simply unknown," Pieper remarks.

This isn't just a pious thought. Many people have trouble enjoying their vacations. Look around you at any amusement park or boardwalk — not to speak of any singles bar — and you'll see what I mean. At least some of the people you see will probably be making themselves visibly wretched trying to have a good time.

Two vacation-related mistakes are typical.

Busy-ness is one — the rat race of frenzied activities that leave people exhausted in body and soul. The other is idleness, a condition frequently terminating in boredom, drinking, quarreling and other ugly behavior. (As St. Josemaria Escriva shrewdly remarked, "even to rest is not to do nothing: it is to relax with activities that require less effort.")



At the heart of this problem, I suspect, lies the error of seeing a vacation as an occasion for time off from God. That frustrates the purpose of the vacation by severing its link to authentic leisure grounded in contemplation and prayer. And then? "The vacancy left by absence of worship is filled by mere killing of time and boredom," Pieper remarks.

The point isn't that in planning a vacation you count on spending all your time in church. There's no reason to think the Holy Family did that. The suggestion is simply that, for the sake of the vacation itself — and for the sake of leisure — you find time, in a way that is natural and spontaneous, to stay in touch with God.

But let Joseph Pieper have the last word:

"Leisure is not simply the result of external factors, it not the inevitable result of spare time, a holiday, a weekend or a vacation. It is an attitude of the mind, a condition of the soul. Leisure implies an attitude of non-activity, of inward calm, of silence; it means not being 'busy,' but letting things happen."

Another name for that is prayer.

