

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

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Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2015



*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 and Trish Endorf **Trustees:** Bob VanWesten and Bob Bachle

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

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

**St. Michael's PCCW:** Lorraine Borch

**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.
- **SISTERS OF THE WEEK:** Please keep our Sisters of the week, **Emily Kopff**, **Sister Marie Amata** in your prayers.

## Ministers' Schedules for Next Weekend

	5:30 PM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
<b>Acolyte</b>	Joe Busing	Bob VanWesten	Steve Graff
<b>Lector</b>	Keith Mach	Scott DeWald	Lorraine Borch
<b>Server</b>	Brock Beed		Joey Whitney
<b>Server</b>	Connor Gerth		Aldo Ramos
<b>Organ/Piano</b>	Mary Mach	Lorrie Hofstetter	Allen Scheer
<b>Gifts/Greeters</b>	Carol Meyer	Mr. & Mrs. Ken Milius	Char Mees
<b>Collection</b>	Bruce Busing and Dave Banahan		

<b>Our Offering to God Last Weekend</b>	St. Michael's	\$1375.00
	St. Mary's	\$ 291.00
	St. Michael's Debt	\$3135.00

**Please pray for:** 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, Noelle Salazar, Bernie Boerner, Brad Eveleth, Kathy Blobaum, Bob McCord, Ed Lytle, Rita Stone, Catherine Nutsch, Graysen Snyder, Brandi Warnke, Darren Martinez, Marie Kosmacek, 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 4	<b>NO MASS</b>	St. Michael's	<b>NO MASS</b>
Tuesday	May 5	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Walter & Dorrine Milius+
Wednesday	May 6	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Bill & Arlene Wagner+
Thursday	May 7	<b>12:10 PM</b>	St. Michael's	Donna Vetch+
Friday	May 8	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Living Members of Daniel Phelan Family
Saturday	May 9	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Doug Endorf+
Sunday	May 10	8:00 AM	St. Mary's	All Souls Day Intentions of Robert & Donna Milius
Sunday	May 10	10:00 AM	St. Michael's	The People of the Parishes

<b>Confessions</b>	St. Michael's	Saturday	4:45 PM to 5:15 PM
	St. Mary's	Sunday	7:45 AM

**Daily Mass:** Please check Mass schedule carefully for Mass times this week!!!

## **NEW ITEMS**



- **Congratulations and Welcome** into the family of God of St. Michael's Parish to Calliope Ward, daughter of Joseph and Krystal Ward. Calliope is being baptized this Sunday.
- **Graduates Breakfast:** Sunday, May 10, St. Mary's will honor their graduating senior with a breakfast following Mass. Everyone is to bring rolls.
- **Knights Meeting:** The Knights of Columbus will have their monthly meeting May 11<sup>th</sup>, Rosary beginning at 6:30 p.m. with the meeting immediately following in the center.

- **Ascension Thursday:** Ascension Thursday is a Holy Day of Obligation. This year it will take place on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Mass will take place in the main body of the church. The schedule of Masses for that day will be as follows:

**May 13, Wednesday, 5:30 p.m. at St. Mary's**

**May 13, Wednesday, 7:00 p.m. at St. Michael's**

**May 14, Thursday, 5:30 p.m. at St. Michael's**



- **Spring Buffet:** The Spring Buffet Committee would like to thank everyone for their donations and coming to support the buffet. Your containers are on the back counters of the church. Please pick them up as soon as possible. Thank you!
- **Annual Charity and Stewardship (DDP) Appeal:** The annual diocesan Charity and Stewardship (DDP) Appeal will be conducted the next two weekends. Just as we are one in the body of Christ, we remember that we are one with other parishes in our diocese. Once a year, our bishop asks each of us to make a commitment to support the work of our diocesan programs and ministries that provide services that no one parish could provide on its own. This effort is a means by which we can all work together to care for the Church by sharing the gifts God has granted us. Our parish goal is 100% participation. Please experience the joy of giving and join us as we work to continue God's work of spirituality, charity and education. St. Michael's goal is \$11246.00 and St. Mary's goal is \$2176.00.
- **"Blue Mass":** All are invited to join Bishop James Conley at a "Blue Mass" honoring Law Enforcement, Fire & Rescue, Dept. of Corrections, Emergency First Responders, civilian employees, family members and retirees on May 15, 2105 (National Peace Officer Memorial Day) at 9:45 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 1420 K Street in Lincoln. Bishop Conley will have a special blessing following the Mass of Emergency Vehicles.
- **Nepal Earthquake:** Catholic Social Services is accepting cash donations for victims of the earthquake in Nepal. All money collected will be forwarded to those impacted by this terrible disaster. Please keep all the victims and their families in your prayers. Please send donations to Catholic Social Services, 2241 O Street, Lincoln, NE. 68510.

- **Graduates Mass at St. Michael's:** The Mass for graduates of St. Michael's Catholic Church will take place on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Any graduating senior who wants to be involved in this should RSVP Carolyn at the church office at 729-2058 or [carolyn@stmichaelsfairbury.org](mailto:carolyn@stmichaelsfairbury.org).



Please wear your graduation gowns. The junior parents will provide a brunch for all parishioners following Mass in the center.

- **May 31 Mass Time:** Please note: Mass on **Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>** will be at **9:45 a.m.** at St. Michael's.
- **Totus Tuus:** Mark your calendars for the week of June 7-12<sup>th</sup>. The youth-led Totus Tuus group will conduct our Summer CCD week for Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup> 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 and Meals 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). We are also in need of volunteers to provide meals twice daily for the teachers. 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 email [carolyn@stmichaelsfairbury.org](mailto:carolyn@stmichaelsfairbury.org)
- **CCD:** ***The last CCD will be May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m. with a picnic at the Fun Park.*** The Knights will provide hot dogs and hamburgers. ***We would like to invite the parents to attend this year. We ask that they bring a salad, dessert or chips.***
- **Mother's Retreat :** All women, especially mothers, are invited to an overnight Retreat May 8-9 with Teresa Monaghan on the "Gospel of Joy for Women-In the Spirit of Pope Francis and Our Lady!" held at Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly. Register at [www.goodcounselretreat.com](http://www.goodcounselretreat.com) or call 402-786-2705.



- **Rosary during the Month of May:** There is a sign-up sheet on the back table to volunteer to lead the Rosary before Mass during the month of May. You will need to start 20 minutes before Mass begins. Please consider volunteering.
- **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.
- **Word Among Us:** We have FREE copies of the Word Among Us. Please pick yours up today and take home for daily devotions.
- **Thought of the Week:** Generous support of the Church is an essential element of living as a steward.
- **May Church Cleaning for St. Mary's:** Trish Endorf
- **Mass times when you are traveling:** Traveling?? There are web-sites to find the time of Masses at different locations. <http://masstimes.org>
- **Best Choice Labels:** Please continue to save your labels and put them in the container at the back of the church. For every 1000 labels we collect, we receive \$30.00.
- **St. Michael's & St. Mary's Website:** You can find St. Michael's and St. Mary's website at [www.stmichaelsfairbury.org](http://www.stmichaelsfairbury.org). You can view the weekly bulletins and monthly calendar.
- **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 it will be something they will not have to worry about.** You may turn them in to the office or you may keep at your home.

- **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.



## *Y*oung *P*arishioner *P*rom *A*ttendees 2015



# Saints and Angels

**Q. Why do you pray to saints?**

**Q. My friends don't understand praying to Saints. Why not pray directly to God?**

**Q. If Jesus said "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.", why then do we pray to Mary and the Saints?**

**Q. Why pray to angels?**

First of all, we don't pray to saints but through them. Catholics can and do pray directly to God; the prayers of the Mass are directed to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Prayer to God is the most important thing we can do, but there is nothing wrong with asking the angels and saints to intercede with God in our behalf. After all, the angels witnessed the fall of one of their own (Satan) while they remained obedient to God and the saints faced the same problems and temptations that confront us, and overcame them with lives of holiness. No Christian hesitates to ask their friends and neighbors to pray for their intentions and needs. The greatest friends we have are those who are in heaven cheering us on as we struggle to overcome our sinful nature and live the Christian life.

All through the Old Testament there are examples of people (Abraham, Moses, the prophets) praying for the benefit of others; and of honor given to angels (Joshua 5:14; Daniel 8:17). In the New Testament we read "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16, NIV). Who is more righteous than one who has achieved their place in heaven? Just because someone has ceased his or her earthly life doesn't mean that they are beyond our reach, or that they have ceased caring for us. The saints are alive in heaven as 1 Corinthians 15:22 tells us and Revelation 5:8 tells us that the prayers of the saints are offered to God. The saints are God's masterpieces and what artist would say "Don't look at my works, pay attention only to me?" We give honor to God by praising His accomplishments.

When Jesus established his Church, He didn't establish one Church on earth and another unrelated Church in heaven. This is why, when we recite the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed (the Profession of Faith in Mass), we say that "we believe in the communion of saints"; we are all part of one spiritual community, God's family. As family, we care about what happens to one another. When Jesus was asked what was the greatest commandment, He replied that the first was to love God, and the second was to love our neighbor. The saints in heaven keep this second commandment by interceding for us and helping us to love God. We are all alive in Christ (1 Corinthians 15:22) and since we affirm the resurrection of the dead, asking the saints for assistance should pose no problem.

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the only pathway linking heaven and earth. The saints are ones who have lived the Christian life and received their eternal reward; they have walked in Jesus' footsteps. We ask that by their example and assistance, that we may walk in those footsteps as well. We do not pray to the saints to avoid Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life, but we do ask for additional assistance in directing our needs through Jesus to God the Father.





