

St. Michael's & St. Mary's

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Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 30, 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: Duane Bartek , Ritchie Burkhart, Peggy Niederklein, Rhonda Burkhart and Donna Rut **Trustees:** Bob VanWesten and Bob Bachle

St. Mary's PCCW: Deb Vanwesten

St. Michael's Parish Council: Mary Mach, Eddie Lytle, Devin Lovgren, Doug Kapke, LeAnn Krause, Dave Panko, Dave Banahan and Bruce Busing **Trustees:** Keith Mach and Randy Prellwitz

St. Michael's PCCW: Lorraine Borch

Knights of Columbus: Dan Arner

CCD Coordinator:

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.

Ministers' Schedules for Next Weekend

	5:30 PM	8:00 AM	10:00 AM
Acolyte	Bruce Busing	Bob VanWesten	Steve Graff
Lector	Randy Prellwitz	Daryl Anderson	Lorraine Borch
Server	Paul Mach		Devin Wanamaker
Server	Aldo Ramos		Salvador Chavez
Organ/Piano	Mary Prellwitz	Lorrie Hofstetter	Mary Mach
Gifts/Greeters	Bob & Shirley Gibson	Doris DeWald & Brent Bachle	Sherrill Goeking
Collection	Bruce Busing & Dave Banahan		

Our Offering to God Last Weekend		Adult	Plate	Children
	St. Michael's	\$1956.00	\$60.00	\$2.00
	St. Mary's	\$285.00	\$17.00	
	St. Michael's Debt	Last Week	Total	
		\$790.00	\$8120.00	

THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE



Monday	August 31	NO MASS	St. Michael's	NO MASS
Tuesday	September 1	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Walter & Dorrine Milius+
Wednesday	September 2	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Bill & Arlene Wagner+
Thursday	September 3	6:30 PM	St. Michael's	Living Members of Daniel Phelan Family
Friday	September 4	12:10 PM	St. Michael's	Jim Melcher+
Saturday	September 5	5:30 PM	St. Michael's	Catherine Nutsch+
Sunday	September 6	8:00 AM	St. Mary's	The People of the Parishes
Sunday	September 6	10:00 AM	St. Michael's	Steve Wilson+

Confessions	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!!!

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, Graysen Snyder, Brandi Warnke, Darren Martinez, Marie Kosmacek, Viola Scheer, Robert Keith Guillory, Francis Nutsch, 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.*

NEW ITEMS

- **Bishop Bruskewitz Birthday:** The Lincoln Diocesan Council of Catholic Women encourage all parishioners in the Lincoln Diocese to send Bishop Bruskewitz a Birthday card for his 80th Birthday on September 6th.
Send to: The Most Reverend Fabian W. Bruskewitz, P.O. Box 80328, Lincoln, NE 68501-0328.
- **St. Peter & Paul-Morrowille** will have Mass on Monday, September 7th at 9:00 a.m. Following Mass the Cemetery Directory board will be blessed. All are welcome to attend.
- **Knights of Columbus:** The Knights of Columbus will hold their monthly meeting, September 14th, beginning with Rosary at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the center.
- **Pancakes:** Sunday, September 13th, the Knights will be sponsoring pancakes and sausage in the center, immediately following Mass. A free will donation will be taken up. 
- **The Society of Saint Vincent DePaul** is a need-based organization here to aid the most vulnerable members of our community, regardless of religious affiliation. Through our person-to person service, we reach out to those in need. They provide: Food, assistance in finances, medications and minor treatments, car repairs, emotional support. If you need assistance, please contact them to schedule a person-to-person visit. Call 402-806-1508.
- **First Friday Adoration in September:** First Friday Adoration will be held on **Thursday, September 3rd**, (following 6:30 pm Mass) in anticipation of First Friday. The Knights are asking for parish participation and support. Please sign-up for September 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. 

- **Thought of the Week:** Mature disciples make a conscious decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ.
- **Annual Salad Luncheon & Card Party** at St. Joseph Catholic Church Basement, 5th & East Ave.-York, NE. Thursday, September 10 at 11:30 a.m. Bridge & Pitch following the lunch.
- **Word Among Us:** We have FREE copies of the Word Among Us for the **month of September**. Please pick yours up today and take home for daily devotions.
- **Twenty-Eighth Annual Marian Mass, Rosary & Candlelight Procession!** The twenty-eighth annual Marian Mass, Rosary and Candlelight Procession will take place on Wednesday, September 9, at 7:00 p.m. on the grounds of the Waverly Marian Center. In case of inclement weather, the Mass will be held at St. Teresa's Church at 7:00 p.m. Bishop Conley will be the main celebrant and homilist. The S.T.A.G.E. Fatima Play will NOT be performed this year. The Rosary will be prayed in English, Czech, Spanish, Vietnamese and German. Limited seating and handicap accessible restrooms will be provided
- **Sexual Addiction & Betrayal Trauma Seminar,** September 4th at St. Thomas Aquinas (Newman Center)-Downtown Lincoln, 320 N. 16th St. from 8:30-4:00 p.m. The training is open to all mental Health Professionals in the State of Nebraska. For more information, call the Family Life Office at 402-488-2040.
- **Poland & Eastern Europe Pilgrimage:** Come along, April 11-22, 2016 to some of the most historical places in all of Europe. We'll see the home of John Paul II, visit the Shrine of Divine Mercy, walk through Auschwitz Concentrations Camp and so much more! We'll have Mass each day in great Churches and Cathedrals along the way. Cost is \$3,799 with departure from Omaha. For a brochure and more information, contact Fr. Dan Guenther, P.O. Box 658, Cherokee, Iowa 51012 or call 712-225-4606 or email frdanquenther@gmail.com
- **National 54 Day Rosary Novena** begins, August 15th (Feast of the Assumption) and ends October 7th (Feast of the Holy Rosary). Join hundreds of thousands of people of all ages in prayer across America. Primary Intention: "For Family and Marriage" including for Peace, sanctity of Human Life & Religious Freedom.

- **The Year of Consecrated Life** continues until February 2, 2016. Make a pilgrimage, adopt a community, and find out more ways to celebrate our Religious at www.lincoln.diocese.org/ycl. **September 12**, 8:30 a.m. Carmel Walk, 11:00 a.m. Mass at Carmelite Sisters at Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, 9300 Agnew Road, Valparaiso; **September 12**, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Open House at Holy Spirit Adoration Sisters (Pink Sisters) at Christ the King Convent, 1040 South Cotner Blvd, Lincoln.; **September 13**, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Open House at Marian Sisters at Marycrest Motherhouse, 6765 N. 112 St. , Waverly.
- **September Church Cleaning for St. Mary's:** Peggy Niederklein
- **Mass times when you are traveling:** Traveling?? There are web-sites to find the time of Masses at different locations. <http://masstimes.org>
- **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.



The Four Marks of the Church

In the Nicene Creed, we profess, "We believe in *one, holy, catholic, and apostolic* Church": these are the four marks of the Church. They are inseparable and intrinsically linked to each other. Our Lord Himself in founding the Church marked it with these characteristics, which reflect its essential features and mission. Through the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Church fulfills these marks.

First, the Church is *one*. The *Catechism* notes that the Church is one for three reasons: first, because of its source, which is the Holy Trinity, a perfect unity of three divine persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; second, because of its founder, Jesus Christ, who came to reconcile all mankind through the blood of the cross; and third, because of its "soul," the Holy Spirit, who dwells in the souls of the faithful, who unites all of the faithful into one communion of believers, and who guides the Church (#813).

The "oneness" of the Church is also visible. As Catholics, we are united in our Creed and our other teachings, the celebration of the sacraments, and the hierarchical structure based on the apostolic succession preserved and handed on through the Sacrament of Holy Orders. For example, whether one attends Mass in Alexandria, San Francisco, Moscow, Mexico City, or wherever, the Mass is the same – the same readings, structure, prayers, and the like except for a difference in language – celebrated by the faithful who share the same Catholic beliefs, and offered by a priest who is united to his bishop who is united to the Holy Father, the pope, the successor of St. Peter.

In our oneness, we do find diversity: The faithful bear witness to many different vocations and many different gifts, but work together to continue the mission of our Lord. The various cultures and traditions enrich our Church in their expressions of one faith. In all, charity must permeate the Church, for it is through charity that the members are bound together and work together in harmonious unity.

The Church is also *holy*. Our Lord Himself is the source of all holiness: "The one Christ is mediator and the way of salvation; he is present to us in His body which is the Church" (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, #14). Christ sanctifies the Church, and in turn, through Him and with Him, the Church is His agent of sanctification. Through the ministry of the Church and the power of the Holy Spirit, our Lord pours forth abundant graces, especially through the sacraments. Therefore, through its teaching, prayer and worship, and good works, the Church is a visible sign of holiness.

Nevertheless, we must not forget that each of us as a member of the Church has been called to holiness. Through baptism, we have been freed from original sin, filled with sanctifying grace, plunged into the mystery of our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection, and incorporated into the Church, "the holy people of God." By God's grace, we strive for holiness. The Second Vatican Council exhorted, "Every Catholic must therefore aim at Christian perfection and, each according to his station, play his part, that the Church, which bears in her own body the humility and dying of Jesus, may daily be more purified and renewed, against the day when Christ will present her to Himself in all her glory without spot or wrinkle" (*Decree on Ecumenism*, #4).

Our Church has been marked by outstanding examples of holiness in the lives of the saints of every age. No matter how dark the times may have been for our Church, there have always been those great saints through whom the light of Christ radiated. Yes, we are frail human beings, and at times we sin; yet, we

repent of that sin and continue once again on the path of holiness. In a sense, our Church is a Church of sinners, not of the self-righteous or self-assured saved. One of the beautiful prayers of the Mass occurs before the Sign of Peace: "Lord, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church." Even though poor frail individual members of the Church fail and sin, the Church continues to be the sign and instrument of holiness.

The Church is also *catholic*. St. Ignatius of Antioch (c. 100) used this word meaning "universal" to describe the Church (*Letter to the Smyrnaens*). The Church is indeed Catholic in that Christ is universally present in the Church and that He has commissioned the Church to evangelize the world – "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Moreover, we must not forget that the Church here on earth – what we call the Church militant – is united to the Church triumphant in Heaven and the Church suffering in Purgatory. Here is the understanding of the communion of saints – the union of the faithful in Heaven, in Purgatory, and on earth.

Finally, the Church is *apostolic*. Christ founded the Church and entrusted His authority to His apostles, the first bishops. He entrusted a special authority to St. Peter, the first Pope and Bishop of Rome, to act as His vicar here on earth. This authority has been handed down through the Sacrament of Holy Orders in what we call apostolic succession from bishop to bishop, and then by extension to priests and deacons. If possible, Bishop Loverde could trace his apostolic succession as a bishop back to one of the apostles. When Bishop Loverde ordained seven men as priests for our diocese on May 15, he did so with the authority of apostolic succession, and those men in turn share in the priesthood of our Lord Jesus Christ. No bishop, priest, or deacon in our Church is self-ordained or self-proclaimed; rather, he is called by the Church and ordained into the apostolic ministry given by our Lord to His Church to be exercised in union with the Pope.

The Church is also apostolic in that the deposit of faith found in both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition was preserved, taught, and handed on by the apostles. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, the Magisterium (the teaching authority entrusted to the apostles and their successors) has the duty to preserve, teach, defend, and hand on the deposit of faith. Moreover, the Holy Spirit protects the Church from error in its teaching authority. While over the course of time, the Magisterium has had to address current issues, such as nuclear war, euthanasia, in vitro fertilization, the same truth principles exercised under the guidance of the Holy Spirit prevail.

These four marks of the Church – one, holy, catholic, and apostolic – are fully realized in the Catholic Church. While other Christian Churches accept and profess the Creed, and possess elements of truth and sanctification, only the Roman Catholic Church reflects the fullness of these marks. The Second Vatican Council taught, "This Church [which Christ founded], constituted and organized as a society in the present world, subsists in the Catholic Church, which is governed by the successor of Peter and by the bishops in communion with him" (*Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*, #8), and "For it is through Christ's Catholic Church alone, which is the universal help towards salvation, that the fullness of the means of salvation can be obtained" (*Decree on Ecumenism*, #3). Our duty then is to make these four marks visible in our daily lives.

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