



# St. Michael's / St. Mary's

FR. JOHN B. BIRKEL, PASTOR

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St. Michael's PO Box 406, Fairbury, NE 68352

St. Mary's 5th & Amanda Streets, Alexandria, NE

Confession schedule: Saturday 4:45 PM to 5:15 PM

**8th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**February 27, 2022**

**BULLETIN:** If you have news for the bulletin, please call the Rectory 402-729-2058 or email st.michael.fairbury@gmail.com. Deadline for additions -Wednesday by 9:00 AM.

**ADOPT A PRIEST:** Our Deanery is taking part in the "Adopt a Priest" program. St. Michael's has adopted Fr. Leo Seiker; Please pray for him.

**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 (402) 729-2058.

**St. Mary's Parish Council:** Duane Bartek & Ritchie Burkhart *Trustees:* Bob VanWesten and Bob Bachle

**St. Michael's Parish Council:** Chris Higgins, Bethany Hansmire, LeAnn Krause, Mary Prellwitz and John Ragland.

*Trustees:* Chris Goeking and Randy Prellwitz

**St. Michael's PCCW:** Mary Prellwitz

**Knights of Columbus:** Randy Prellwitz

**CCD Coordinator:** Georgann Friedrichsen

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

Parish collection data: February 20, 2022		
Adult	\$1,405.00	\$350.00
Loose Plate	61.00	20.00
Online Giving	57.00	
Building	30.00	
Catholic Press	30.00	20.00
Cemetery		20.00
Debt Reduction	300.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,883.00</b>	<b>\$410.00</b>

## Debt Reduction

Loan Total as of January 2022

Joy of the Gospel Rebates

Debt Reduction Envelopes

**Due Dec. 31, 2022**

**AMOUNT TOWARDS DECEMBER 2022 PAYMENT**

## Loan Payment

\$34,720.69

\$4,386.07

\$1,205.00

**\$17,360.33**

**\$5,591.07**

## PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION

It takes \$2,039.84 a week to run St. Michael's Parish.

Operation Cost per week

\$2,039.84

This Week's Collection

\$1,583.00

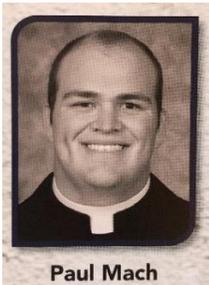
**Shortage**

**\$456.84**

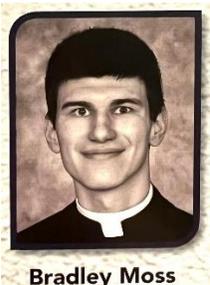
## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Jo Nease \* Mary Kay Bedlan \* Derek Lempka  
Jeanette Steele \* Cynthia Navarro

## PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



Paul Mach



Bradley Moss

**BRADLEY MOSS** is the son of Paul Moss & Mary Schiltz of St. John/St. Joseph Parishes in Lincoln, NE. He is in his 4th Year of College St. Gregory the Great Seminary.

## Mass Intentions for Feb. 28th - Mar. 6th

Monday	No Mass	No Mass
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:45am	Larry Hauschel+
<b>Wednesday</b>	5:30pm	Alexandria: Special Intention
<b>Ash Wednesday</b>	7:00pm	Fairbury: Mike Steele
<b>Thursday</b>	9:00am	Evelyn Birkel+ by Ronn & Betty Brackle
<b>Friday</b>	9:00am	Special intention of G.G.
<b>Saturday</b>	9:00am	Alexandria: Special Intention
	5:30pm	All Souls Intention of Sacha Lempke
<b>Sunday</b>	8:00am	Loretta Hiebert+
	10:00am	People of the Parishes
	Noon	Latin: Special Intention
St. Michael's Minister's Schedule for Mar 5/6		
	5:30pm	10:00am
<b>Acolyte</b>	Ronn Brackle	Randy Prellwitz
<b>Lector</b>	Ronn Brackle	Randy Prellwitz
<b>Server</b>	Aldo Ramos	
<b>Music</b>	Mary Prellwitz	LeAnne Krause

**ST MICHAEL'S** has a chapel. We have daily Mass in this chapel. It is located under the church. It is accessed through doors on the west end of the church.

## I SEND OUT MY HOMILIES

Daily via email. If you would like to receive them, please email me at

[frbirkl@hotmail.com](mailto:frbirkl@hotmail.com)

## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven  
is at hand.

**CARD SHOWER** We are having a card shower for Carmen Juarez for her 55 years of service to our parish. She is retiring February 28th.

A basket will be in the back of church on the south side. Carmen thank you for all that you have done for us.

**PAPER MISSALS** If anyone wants a paper missal for the year there are several available that we will give away.

**MASSES FOR RAIN & EMBER DAYS** March 9, 11 & 12 are upcoming ember days. As of now all weekday Masses will be Masses for rain, that is the Mass itself will pray for rain. The Masses will still be offered for the listed intentions. Ember Days are special days when we pray for rain, safety & our Priests.

## SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

*There's a powerful spiritual discipline recommended by Our Lord Jesus Christ in Scripture and practiced by all the saints, but that seems to have been mostly forgotten in our day: **FASTING***

*Fasting, or the intentional abstinence of food for a period of time, is hugely counter cultural. In a culture where physical pleasure is the highest good, why would we intentionally withhold something as good, satisfying, and necessary as food?*

*The fact we need food so much is actually precisely why fasting is so powerful. To temporarily withhold something so necessary for life forces us to focus on spiritual things that are even more important. As Christ himself says in Scripture, "One does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matthew 4.4)*

*Here are 10 quotes from the saints on why this is such an important spiritual practice:*

### 1) **St. Augustine**

*"Fasting cleanses the soul, raises the mind, subjects one's flesh to the spirit, renders the heart contrite and humble, scatters the clouds of concupiscence, quenches the fire of*

*lust, and kindles the true light of chastity. Enter again into yourself."*

### 2) **St. Peter Chrysologus**

*"Fasting is the soul of prayer, mercy is the lifeblood of fasting. So if you pray, fast; if you fast, show mercy; if you want your petition to be heard, hear the petition of others. If you do not close your ear to others, you open God's ear to yourself."*

### 3) **St. Jane Frances Chantal**

*"God hides the prize of eternal glory in our mortifications and in the victory of ourselves, which we always strive for with great gentleness."*

### 4) **St. Isaac the Syrian**

*"When a man begins to fast, he straightway yearns in his mind to enter into converse with God."*

### 5) **St. Gregory the Great**

*"It is impossible to engage in spiritual conflict, without the previous subjugation of the appetite."*

### 6) **St. John Chrysostom**

*"Fasting is the support of our soul: it gives us wings to ascend on high, and to enjoy the highest contemplation! [...] God, like an indulgent father, offers us a cure by fasting."*

### 7) **St. Francis De Sales**

*"Besides the ordinary effect of fasting in raising the mind, subduing the flesh, confirming goodness, and obtaining a heavenly reward, it is also a great matter to be able to control greediness, and to keep the sensual appetites and the whole body subject to the law of the Spirit; and although we may be able to do but little, the enemy nevertheless stands more in awe of those whom he knows can fast."*

### 8) **St. Catharine of Sienna**

*"Without mortifying the taste, it is impossible to preserve innocence, since it was by the indulgence of his appetite that Adam fell."*

### 9) **St. Basil**

*"Penance without fasting is useless and vain; by fasting [we] satisfy God."*

### 10) **St. Alphonsus De Ligouri**

*"He that gratifies the taste will readily indulge the other senses; for, having lost the spirit of recollection, he will easily commit faults, by indecent words and by unbecoming gestures. But the greatest evil of intemperance, is that it exposes chastity to great danger."*