



St. Michael's / St. Mary's

FR. JOHN B. BIRKEL, PASTOR

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www.stmichaelsfairbury.org

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

19th Sunday of Ordinary Time

August 7, 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: July 31, 2022 | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Adult Loose Plate | \$ | \$ |
| Online Giving | 57.00 | |
| Cemetery Collections | to be reported next week. | Collections to be reported next week. |
| Holy Day Building | | |
| Debt Reduction | | |
| Total | \$ | \$ |

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

\$7,162.00

\$17,360.33

\$11,548.07

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

\$

Overage

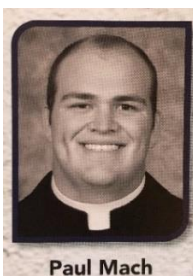
\$

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Jo Nease * Mary Kay Bedlan
Derek Lempka * Jeanette Steele
Helen Koll

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

SR. MEGAN THERESE from Elkhorn, NE, who is a Jr. Sister and SR. GUADALUPE from David City, NE who is a Postulant both with the School Sisters of Christ the King Religious Order.



Paul Mach

PAUL MACH is the son of Keith & Mary Mach of St. Teresa Parish in Lincoln, NE but grew up here at St. Michael's Parish in Fairbury, NE. He is in his 1st Year of Theology at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia.

Mass Intentions for August 8th - 14th

| | | |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| Monday | 9:00am | Joe Hergott+ |
| Tuesday | 9:00am | Carmen Juarez+ |
| Wednesday | No Mass | No Mass |
| Thursday | 9:00am | Jim Williams+ |
| Friday | 9:00am | St. John Vianney Association Members |
| Saturday | 9:00am 5:30pm | Alexandria: Special Intention William & Anna Kaiser |
| Sunday | 8:00am 10:00am Noon | People of the Parishes Babies Born & Unborn Spanish: Special Intention |
| St. Michael's Minister's Schedule for Aug 13/14 | | |
| | 5:30pm | 10:00am |
| Acolyte | Bruce Busing | Randy Prellwitz |
| Lector | Ronn Brackle | Randy Prellwitz |
| Server | Aldo Ramos | |
| Music | Mary Prellwitz | LeAnne Krause |
| St. Mary's Church Cleaning for August Rhonda Burkhart | | |

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

frbirk@hotmai.com

THE 8TH ANNUAL Knights of Columbus Chicken Dinner will be Saturday, August 20th at the Odell Community Building. Serving from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Meal includes chicken, au gratin potatoes, coleslaw, baked beans & dinner roll for \$12 a meal.

KNIGHT'S WILL BE resuming their monthly meetings starting in August. The meeting will be Monday August 8th with Rosary at 6.30 in the lower chapel, with meeting to follow in the center at 7.00

THE EMMAUS INSTITUTE for Biblical Studies will host a 24-hour scriptural retreat, "Following the Way: A Biblical Retreat on Discipleship" Aug. 19-20 at Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly. Read more and register at www.goodcounselretreat.org, email office@goodcounselretreat.org or call 402-786-2705.

THE CHANCERY OFFICE has an opening for a Director of the Office of Discipleship & Mission. This position is responsible for all diocesan programming involving discipleship, evangelical efforts, marriage, and family life. This includes the evaluation, development, oversight, and administration of diocesan programming concerning evangelization and faith formation. Please send resume and cover letter to Marsha Bartek at marsha-bartek@lincolndiocese.org or 3400 Sheridan Boulevard, Lincoln, NE 68506.

DON'T BE FOOLED BY "NICE" LEILA MILLER CONT. FROM LAST WEEK Even strong Christians can be snowed when personally confronted with a known adversary who is "nice" to them. I argue against LGBTQ activist Fr. James Martin on the regular, calling him a Pied Piper of souls. But would I be moved to soften toward his slick "ministry" if he were to greet me with a warm smile and tell me he admires my work? Bill Clinton fought against God's moral law from the highest position of power, and yet he has a natural affability, is warm and likeable from most accounts, and appears sincere. Would I grab a beer with him and call him friend if he sought me out with kindness and a listening ear?

The most damage has come within the Church, where we give the "nice" priests and prelates a pass for the evil they promulgate because they smile, listen intently, and seem to care. We should prefer a gruff and even harsh St. Padre Pio to the glad-handing clergy who lead us astray, but we are fickle, weak, and spiritually soft—and the enemy knows it. We disorder our emotions, letting them rule over our intellect and will, and we barely perceive the seduction. I sure didn't notice the devil's whisper

back in high school; or maybe I was just so comfortable that I didn't care.

I cannot blame any other person for my own wicked choices. I am a free moral agent who chose the sins I committed in high school and beyond, and for those I must account. But we forget (or were never taught) that there are nine different ways to be an accessory to another's sin: By counsel. By command. By consent. By provocation.

By praise or flattery. By concealment. By partaking. By silence. By defense of the ill done.

Marianne's "nice" covered the evil of a couple of those.

What ever happened to Marianne after that high school conversation? Well, we kept in touch after graduation and into college, but I eventually lost track of her. However, I do remember our last substantive discussion. It took place one summer when I still thought her the most holy of Catholics. Her congenial nature and pleasing smile were still warm and inviting as she told me a story of a dear Christian friend of hers who had become pregnant unexpectedly.

She spoke proudly of this friend, describing the young woman's choice to abort her child nearly halfway through the pregnancy. "She was so prayerful, Leila. It was so beautiful. She waited patiently, doing nothing in haste, because it was such an important decision. She prayed for months to make extra sure that she would choose the best and loving option. She finally did discern God's will—that terminating the pregnancy was the right thing to do. It was just not the right time for her to have a baby."

While her eyes glowed with admiration, I remember that my blood ran cold. For all my sins of scarlet, I knew that abortion was the murder of an unborn child. Marianne had just told me that God affirmed the second-trimester killing of a child created in His own image. Her "nice" demeanor in describing a pre-meditated child murder was the same as it had been with me on that fateful high school day.

But this time I challenged her. I told her that we were Catholic, that she knew better, and that I thought she was pro-life! She assured me with no sense of irony that she was completely pro-life but that she could not interfere with others' choices and where God led them. My eyes were opened to the evil, and I was horrified. Marianne fell off her pedestal that day, shattering into a thousand pieces. Though there was minimal contact going forward, I did learn that she began living with a man, smoking weed, and embracing leftist causes. We eventually never spoke again.

"Nice" tripped me up in high school and for a decade after. "Nice" took my friend down a dark path of deadly sin and apostasy. "Nice" still threatens every one of us, our children, and even our good priests and bishops. The devil comes as an angel of light, wolves come in sheep's (and shepherds') clothing, and the con man is short for "confidence" man. Not every deceiver has malicious intent, but he deceives, nonetheless. To counter the deceptions of "nice," let us always look for true. The truth may often hurt—but, unlike "nice," it can never harm.