

Dear Padre:

I was at a mass recently and I couldn't hear the words of the Eucharistic prayer. Is that OK?

It is a good question, and it led me to do some research, some reflection, and some prayer. And so I add the following.

From the General Instruction of the Roman Missal (The directions for celebrating Mass) And the Council declared worthy of censure anyone maintaining that "the rite of the Roman Church, in which part of the Canon and the words of consecration are pronounced in a low voice, is to be condemned, or that the Mass must be celebrated only in the vernacular."

It's pretty clear from that that the only one who needs to hear the words of the Canon is God the Father. What would make a Priest want to say them quietly?

The devotion of the priest. Prayer is an intimate conversation. As such it is appropriate to speak quietly. This prayer is also liturgical and while the Priest may speak quietly to foster the intimacy of the conversation/prayer, we are privileged to also follow along silently.

It is likely, that when we pray silently, and are silently following along (in the missal) it is possible that we will pay more attention than if we are simply listening, or listening, and reading along in the book while someone is" reading".

The value of silence is often under, looked in our day. Consider the following.:

The first reading. God spoke in a tiny whispering sound.

Also:

From a Treatise on the Lord's Prayer by St. Cyprian of Carthage, bishop and martyr

(Nn. 4-6: CSEL 3, 268-270)

*Let your prayer come from a humble heart*

When we pray, our words should be calm, modest and disciplined. Let us reflect that we are standing before God. We should please him both by our bodily posture and the manner of our speech. It is characteristic of the vulgar to shout and make a noise, not those who are modest. On the contrary, they should employ a quiet tone in their prayer.

Moreover, in the course of his teaching, the Lord instructed us to pray in secret. Hidden and secluded places, even our own rooms, give witness to our belief that God is present everywhere; that he sees and hears all; that in the fullness of his majesty, he penetrates hidden and secret places. This is the teaching of Jeremiah: Am I God when I am near, and not God when I am far away? Can anyone hide in a dark corner without my seeing him? Do I not fill heaven and earth? Another passage of Scripture says: The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, observing both good and wicked men.



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

FR. JOHN B. BIRKEL, PASTOR

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CONFESSIO SCHEDULE: Saturday 4:45 PM to 5:15 PM

*Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time August 13, 2023*

**BULLETIN:** If you have news for the bulletin, please call the Rectory 402-729-2058 or email [st.michael.fairbury@gmail.com](mailto: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:** Ritchie Burkhart Trustees: Bob VanWesten and Bob Bachle

**St. Michael's Parish Council,** LeAnn Krause, and Mary Prellwitz. Georgann Friedrichsen, Daryl Banahan, Gina Gifford Trustees: Chris Goeking and Randy Prellwitz

**St. Michael's PCCW:** Vickie Banahan

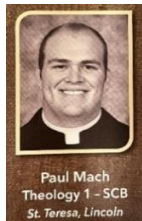
**St. Mary's PCCW:** Deb Vanwesten

**CCD Coordinator:** Georgann Friedrichsen

**Knights of Columbus:** Randy Prellwitz

<b>Parish collection data: August 6, 2023</b>			<b>Debt Reduction</b>		<b>Loan Payment</b>	
Adult	\$1,130.37	\$555.00	<i>Loan Total as of Today</i>		\$17,360.36	
Loose Plate	109.00	5.00	<b>AMOUNT TOWARDS DECEMBER 2023 PAYMENT</b>		<b>\$9,790.39</b>	
Online Giving	115.00		<b>Due Dec. 31, 2023</b>			
Children	8.75		<b>AMOUNT TOWARDS DECEMBER 2023 PAYMENT</b>		<b>\$17,360.36</b>	
Building			<i>To be collected throughout the year</i>		<b>-\$9,790.39</b>	
Cemetery					<b>\$7,569.97</b>	
Holy Day			<b>PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION</b>			
Debt Reduction	15.00					
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,378.12</b>	<b>\$560.00</b>	Operation Cost per week		\$2,039.84	
			This Week's Collection		\$1,363.12	
					<b>Shortage \$676.72</b>	

## PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



**PAUL MACH** is the son of Keith & Mary Mach of St. Teresa Parish in Lincoln, NE. He is in second Theology at St Charles Borromeo seminary in Philadelphia.

**MATTHEW DAVIS** is the son of Joachim & Vicki Davis. He is in his third year (of 7) at Our Lady of Guadalupe seminary in Denton.

**THOMAS MATYA** is the son of John & Lisa Matya of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Omaha.

**SR. FAUSTINA** of Shenandoah, IA a Jr. Sister with the Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln.

<b>Mass Intentions for Aug 14<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup></b>		
<b>Monday</b>	5:30pm 7:00pm	Fairbury John Mourgos Alexandria People of the Parishes
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:00am	Fairbury Bernadette Rehbein+
<b>Wednesday</b>	No Mass	No Mass
<b>Thursday</b>	9:00am Cedarwood	Special Intention of Genie Cuba
<b>Friday</b>	5:30pm	Rev. Joseph Micek+
<b>Saturday</b>	9:00am 5:30pm	Special Intention Leonard & Pat Stolzer
<b>Sunday</b>	8:00am 10:00am Noon	For the people of the parishes Sheila Higgins+ Spanish Noon Mass
<b>St. Mary's Church Cleaning for August Rhonda Burkhart</b>		

## PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Jo Nease \* Joe Hynek \* Colleen Fyfe  
Char Mees \* Mary Prellwitz

**ST MICHAEL'S** has a daily Mass chapel. It is accessed through doors on the west end of the church.

### THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

“Whatever you are doing, that which makes you feel the most alive...that is where God is.”

-St. Ignatius of Loyola

### ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED

**VIRGIN MARY** Tuesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in Fairbury, 7:00pm in Alexandria and Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00am in Fairbury.

**PLEASE JOIN US** for Thursday Mass at Cedarwood 9:00am.

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** will resume their monthly meetings on Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. Rosary at 6:30pm in the lower chapel with meeting to follow in the center at 7:00pm.

### ***Eucharistic Miracle***

#### ***Santarém, Portugal (13th Century)***

There was a woman in Santarém whose husband was being unfaithful to her. She was distressed by this and decided to enlist a sorceress for help. The sorceress's fee was a consecrated host, so the woman went to Mass at the Church of St. Stephen. When she received the Eucharist on her tongue, she removed it and wrapped it in her veil to bring to the sorceress.

Before the woman had even left the church, the host started bleeding. Instead of returning to the sorceress, she went home and placed the host in a trunk. During the night, light emanated from the trunk. She repented for what she had done and confessed to her priest the next morning. The priest retrieved the host and brought it back to the church, which is now called the Church of the Holy Miracle, where it remains to this day.

**THANK YOU** for the great welcoming gift and card that I received upon arrival at retreat!!! You are all very kind.

### **STEP UP TO THE PLATE; AND HIT A HOME RUN!**

Volunteer to teach a CCD class. The Holy Spirit will guide you, you will receive no pay, but the rewards and blessings are priceless♡. CCD needs 2 teachers, 1 for 3rd and 4th grade and the other for our confirmation class. Classes will be starting soon contact Georgann Friedrichsen at 402-300-0937.

**GREEN SCAPULARS** Are in the back of the Church. The Green Scapular is associated with miraculous conversions and healings. It is the only scapular that doesn't require formal enrollment. All the scapulars have already been blessed so please help yourself.

**ST. GIANNA'S HOUSE:** the Fairbury Knights are asking for your help again this year. During your summer travels please collect unopened or unwrapped bottles of shampoo, lotion, and soap from motel/hotels you stay at. The Knights will place a collection box in the back of the church on August 12/13. Last year 118 items were collected. Additional hygiene products will be appreciated.

**OPPORTUNITY                      SCHOLARSHIPS**  
**EMPOWER                      PARENTS                      AND**  
**STUDENTS:**                      See  
www.lincolndiocese.org/opportunity for more details.

**NEEDING TO RE-IGNITE YOUR FLAME OF LOVE FOR CHRIST?** Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House, Waverly has several upcoming retreats. For more information go to [www.goodcounselretreat.org](http://www.goodcounselretreat.org),

The same modesty and discipline should characterize our liturgical prayer as well. When we gather to celebrate the divine mysteries with God's priest, we should not express our prayer in unruly words; the petition that should be made to God with moderation is not to be shouted out noisily and verbosely. For God hears our heart not our voice. He sees our thoughts; he is not to be shouted at. The Lord showed us this when he asked: Why do you think evil in your hearts? The book of Revelation testifies to this also: And all the churches shall know that I am the one who searches the heart and the desires.

Anna maintained this rule; in her observance of it she is an image of the Church. In the First Book of Kings we are told that she prayed quietly and modestly to God in the recesses of her heart. Her prayer was secret but her faith was evident. She did not pray with her voice, but with her heart, for she knew that in this way the Lord would hear her. She prayed with faith and obtained what she sought. Scripture makes this clear in the words: She was speaking in her heart; her lips were moving but her voice could not be heard; and the Lord heard her prayer. The psalmist also reminds us: Commune within your own hearts, and in the privacy of your room express your remorse. This is the teaching of the Holy Spirit. Through Jeremiah he suggests this: Say in your hearts: Lord, it is you that we have to worship.

My friends, anyone who worships should remember the way in which the tax-collector prayed in the temple alongside the Pharisee. He did not raise his eyes immodestly to heaven or lift up his hands arrogantly. Instead he struck his breast and confessing the sins hidden within his heart he implored the assistance of God's mercy. While the Pharisee was pleased with himself, the tax-collector deserved to be cleansed much more because of the manner in which he prayed. For he did not place his hope of salvation in the certainty of his own innocence; indeed, no one is innocent. Rather he prayed humbly, confessing his sins. And the Lord who forgives the lowly heard his prayer.

In light of all this, I am going to have some Masses where the Eucharistic Prayer is fairly quiet.

The purpose of this would be to give everyone a chance to reflect on what is happening, and to encounter the mass in a new light.