



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

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

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

**CONFESSION SCHEDULE:** Saturday 3:15 PM to 3:45 PM

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent

February 18, 2024

**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: Feb. 11, 2024</b>		
Adult	\$1,223.62	\$375.00
Loose Plate	183.91	
Online Giving	75.00	
Children		
Building		
Catholic Press	150.00	60.00
Cemetery	10.00	75.00
Debt Reduction	5.00	5.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,647.53</b>	<b>\$515.00</b>
<b>PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION</b>		
Operation Cost per week		\$2,039.84
This Week's Collection		\$1,632.53
<b>Shortage</b>		<b>\$407.31</b>

<b>Mass Intentions for Feb 19<sup>th</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup></b>		
<b>Monday</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00am	Special Intention of S.H.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Noon	Deceased members of the Charles & Fern Votipka family
<b>Thursday</b>	9:00am	Gina Gifford
<b>Friday</b>	9:00am	Edoardo Santini
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>	Huber & Weeks Families
<b>Sunday</b>	8:00am 10:00am <b>Noon</b>	Albert & Margaret Fink+ The People of the parishes Missa Español
<b>St. Mary's Church Cleaning for February</b> <b>Deb VanWesten</b>		

**PLEASE SIGN UP FOR FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION MARCH 1ST.**

## LOCAL FISH FRIES

St. Michael's, Fairbury - February 23, March 8 & March 22 at 5:30pm-7:00pm

Washington, Kansas - February 16, March 1 & March 15.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** Fridays at 5:00pm through Lent.

**THE RESCUE PROJECT** is a compelling nine part video study by Fr John Riccardo that dives into why Jesus' entrance into humanity was so earth-shattering but necessary. All are welcome to join us in the St Michael's parish

center, Saturday evenings 6:00pm from January 20 through March 16.

**GOOD COUNCIL RETREAT HOUSE** in Waverly, NE Saturday March 9 - 10. Couples of all ages are invited to the Love and Life weekend workshop. The Program 1 couples workshop will be held at Good Counsel Retreat House beginning Saturday March 9 with 8am Mass and ending Sunday March 10 with 3pm Mass. Register at: <https://goodcounselretreat.org/our-retreats/>

**PILGRIMAGE** Join Fr. Coulter for an Easter Monday Pilgrimage to Gower, MO and incorrupt Sr Wilhelmina on Mon. Apr. 1. Begin at St. Michael, Lincoln with 7:00 AM Mass, return by 6:15 PM. \$70 includes a charter bus and lunch. [frcoulter.com/EasterMonday](http://frcoulter.com/EasterMonday) or call 402-786-2705.

## 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.

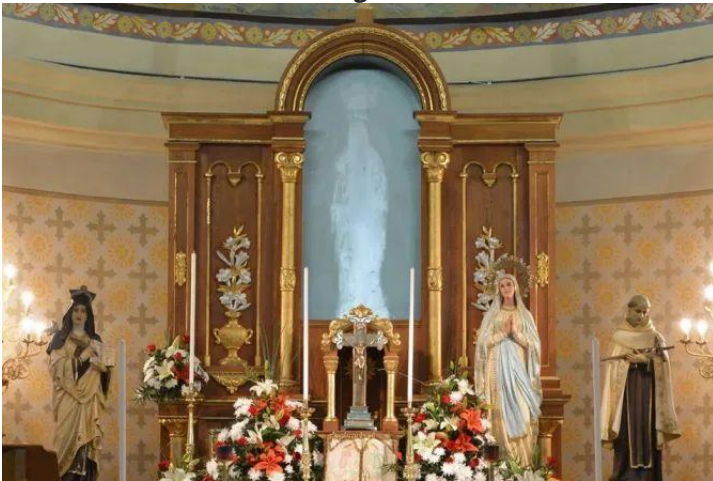
**MATTHEW DAVIS** is the son of Joachim & Vicki Davis. He is in his third year (of 7) at Our Lady of Guadalupe seminary in Denton.

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

**REV. MR. RANIL WEERACKOON** is the son of Richard & Roseanne Weerackoon of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Lincoln, NE. He is in Theology 4 at Mt. St. Mary Seminary.

**SR. JAUNITA MARIE** of the Philippines is Professed with the Holy Spirit Adoration (Pink) Sisters.

### *The image of Our Lady of Lourdes that's not there but everyone sees it*



Our Lady of Lourdes Alta Gracia Argentina

Our Lady of Lourdes shrine in the city of Alta Gracia in Córdoba province, Argentina, displays an image of Our Lady of Lourdes of Altargracia that is not there — but everyone sees it. | Credit:

Facebook Virgen de Altargracia

Walter Sanchez Silva

By Walter Sanchez Silva

Those who visit the chapel of the Our Lady of Lourdes shrine in the city of Alta Gracia in Córdoba province, Argentina, witness a phenomenon that has no explanation: In the niche that is part of the altarpiece above the altar, an image of the Virgin Mary can be seen although without a doubt the space is empty — there is nothing there.

According to the Argentine news agency AICA, what is seen is not a flat image but rather a relief, a three-dimensional image with folds in the garment. It is also not a psychological illusion resulting from the exaggerated devotion of some pilgrims.

Everyone — believers or not — sees it. Additionally, the image appears in photos taken there. A curious fact is that the image is clearly seen from the front door of the church and then fades as one slowly approaches the altar.

Sources from Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine in Alta Gracia told ACI Prensa, CNA's Spanish-language news partner, that although there is no specific statement from the Archdiocese of Córdoba, where the shrine is located, "everything is still the same. The image can be seen just as on the first day or more, a little more."

"As for the image in the niche, everything remains the same and intact," the statement said.

Since it was built at the beginning of the 20th century, the shrine has been an important pilgrimage site. In 2023, about 30,000 pilgrims came from the city of Córdoba, 22 miles away.

In the Mass he offered there last year on Feb. 11 for the World Day of the Sick, Cardinal Ángel Sixto Rossi, the archbishop of Córdoba, pointed out that "the experience of weakness and illness are part of our path; they don't exclude us from the people of God, but they take us to the center of the attention of the Lord, who is Father and does not want to lose any of his children along the way."

How did the phenomenon originate?

The chapel of the Virgin of Alta Gracia is located on a large property where in 1916 a replica was dedicated of the Massabielle grotto in Lourdes, France, where the Virgin appeared in 1858 to St. Bernadette Soubirous.

In 1922 a commission was formed to build a chapel near the grotto. The first stone was laid in 1924 and in 1927 the bishop of Córdoba blessed the chapel. For many years there was a statue of Our Lady Lourdes of Córdoba in the center of the church's altarpiece.

In mid-2011 it was removed from its niche or base to be restored and is currently located at the foot of the niche that was left empty.

One day one of the priests in charge of the shrine was going to close the chapel and from the main door he saw an image that looked like it was made of plaster in the empty space.

He approached several times, and each time he did so he noticed that the image he saw from a certain distance faded. The truth was that there was actually no image, but he saw it.

Because of the phenomenon, visible to anyone, the discalced Carmelite friars of the shrine issued a statement in 2011 noting that "the manifestation of the image of the most holy Virgin Mary has no explanation at the moment."

"It must be interpreted by the people of God as a sign to increase and deepen the Christian faith and to inspire in the hearts of men conversion to the love of God and their participation in the life of the Church," they said.

"The only message of the Virgin is none other than that which she has manifested in her life among men and is recorded in the Gospel as a divine revelation and kept in the deposit of the Catholic faith," the priests stated.

Originally published in 2015 by ACI Prensa, CNA's Spanish-language news partner, the article has been updated by ACI Prensa with new information and has been translated and adapted by CNA.

Tags: Catholic News, Argentina, Our Lady of Lourdes, Catholic Church in Argentina, Shrines, Marian shrines, extraordinary mystical phenomena