



St. Michael's / St. Mary's

FR. JOHN B. BIRKEL, PASTOR

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

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

11th Sunday of Ordinary Time

June 16, 2024

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: 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

Parish collection data: June 9, 2024		
Adult	\$965.00	\$425.00
Loose Plate	95.00	35.00
Online Giving	125.00	
Children		
Building		
Cemetery	100.00	100.00
Donation		
Debt Reduction		
Total	\$1,285.00	\$560.00
PARISH FINANCIAL INFORMATION		
Operation Cost per week		\$2,039.84
This Week's Collection		\$1,185.00
	Shortage	\$854.84

Mass Intentions for June 17 th - 23 rd		
Monday	9:00am	Cameron Connelly
Tuesday	9:00am	Cedarwood: Living & Deceased Members of the Cold Family
Wednesday	9:00am	Jack Cornett+
Thursday	9:00am	Maureen Neville+
Friday	9:00am	Gina Gifford
Saturday	4:00pm	Special Intention of P.S.
Sunday	8:00am	For the liberation of those in most need of prayers in purgatory
	10:00am <i>Noon</i>	<i>The People of the parishes</i> Missa Español
St. Mary's Church Cleaning for June - Jill Stewart		

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
Cordelia Mumm * Jo Nease



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. JUANITA MARIE from the Philippines is a Professed Sister at Holy Spirit Adoration (Pink) Sisters.

PCCW: Reminder: June 17th is the next PCCW Meeting - Potluck Meal at 6:30 p.m. All women of the church are invited.

A WELCOMING PICNIC FOR FATHER JUSTIN FULTON will be held Saturday, June 29th - following the 4:00 o'clock Mass -at 5:00 p.m. Hamburgers and Hotdogs will be provided - Family Games will be available - Bring a salad/dessert and join us in welcoming Father Fulton to our parish. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church.

THE BABY BOTTLES we handed out on Mother's Day weekend should be brought back on Father's Day weekend with your donations inside the bottles. We will have a crib or something in back of the church to put them in. This will greatly help out the Willow Center, which is a pregnancy resource center that serves our area, located in Beatrice.

Devotion to the sacred Heart of Jesus

What is the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus?

The Heart is the symbol of human love. This Catholic devotion honors the Sacred Heart of Our Lord, through which was manifested to us God's eternal love for everyone. "God is Love" (1 John 4:8), and so in honoring the human expression of that Love, especially on the Cross, we honor Its Divine Source.

Why is the Sacred Heart important?

St. John Paul II said, "The Sacred Heart has given us everything — redemption, salvation, sanctification."

The Sacred Heart is the actual heart of Christ and also indicates His love for humanity. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "The prayer of the Church venerates and honors the Heart of Jesus just as it invokes his most holy name. It adores the incarnate Word and his Heart which, out of love for men, he allowed to be pierced by our sins." (CCC 2669)

"If I cannot see the brilliance of your Face or hear your sweet voice, O my God, I can live by your grace, I can rest on your Sacred Heart!" — St. Thérèse of Lisieux

What is the history of the Sacred Heart devotion?

The foundation for the Sacred Heart devotion began in early Christianity. Sacred Scripture, particularly the New Testament, mentions the love of God many times, and the Church Fathers discuss God's love as well.

In the eleventh century, Christians often meditated on the Five Wounds of Jesus, and the specific devotion to the Sacred Heart came from this meditation. St. Gertrude the Great, who had private revelations regarding the Sacred Heart, helped further the understanding of Jesus' Sacred Heart in the late 13th-century.

Several centuries later, in 1670, St. John Eudes celebrated the first Feast of the Sacred Heart. In 1673, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a French Visitation nun, received her own revelations, in which Jesus explained His love for all people, even allowing St. Margaret to lay her head on His Heart, as He had also allowed St. Gertrude to do. He asked that Catholics receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays of the month and adore Him in the Holy Eucharist.

In 1675, Jesus told St. Margaret that He wanted an annual feast in honor of His Sacred Heart. In 1856, Blessed Pope Pius IX designated that the Feast of the Sacred Heart would be celebrated universally on the Friday after the Corpus Christi octave each year.

"In the Sacred Heart every treasure of wisdom and knowledge is hidden. In that Divine Heart beats God's infinite love for everyone, for each one of us individually." — St. John Paul II

Why is Jesus' Heart on fire?

Jesus told St. Margaret Mary, "My Sacred Heart is so intense in its love for men, and for you in particular, that not being able to contain within it the flames of its ardent charity, they must be transmitted through all means."

St. Gertrude the Great said, "O Sacred Heart of Jesus, fountain of eternal life, Your Heart is a glowing furnace of Love. You are my refuge and my sanctuary. O my adorable and loving Savior, consume my heart with the burning fire with which Yours is aflame. Pour down on my soul those graces which flow from Your love. Let my heart be united with Yours. Let my will be conformed to Yours in all things. May Your Will be the rule of all my desires and actions. Amen."

Why does Jesus point to His Heart?

In Sacred Heart imagery, Jesus usually points to His Heart. This is to indicate His eternal love for each one of us.

What is the First Friday devotion?

Jesus Himself started the First Friday devotion. The last of twelve Sacred Heart Promises, He said, "I promise you in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not

die in my disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment."

Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

What does the Immaculate Heart of Mary mean?

The Immaculate Heart of Mary signifies, first of all, the great purity and love of the heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary for God. This purity is manifested in her "Yes" to the Father at the Incarnation, Her love for, and cooperation with, the Incarnate Son in His redemptive mission, and her docility to the Holy Spirit, enabling her to remain free of the stain of personal sin throughout her life. Mary's Immaculate Heart, therefore, points us to her profound interior life, where she experienced both joys and sorrows, yet remained faithful, as we, too, are called to do. In 2023, we celebrate the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on June 17.

Why do we honor Mary's Immaculate Heart?

St. John Paul II said, "From Mary we learn to love Christ, her Son and the Son of God.... Learn from her to be always faithful, to trust that God's Word to you will be fulfilled, and that nothing is impossible with God."

When we honor the Immaculate Heart, we give ultimate honor to Jesus. As we honor the Mother, we honor the Son. In addition, the Blessed Virgin is our mother as well (see Revelation 12:17), and her mother's heart is incomparable. St. Louis de Montfort said, "If you put all the love of all the mothers into one heart, it still would not equal the love of the heart of Mary for her children."

What is the history of the Immaculate Heart of Mary?

The Immaculate Heart of Mary was honored to some degree prior to the 17th century, but St. John Eudes, a 17th-century French priest, popularized this devotion with his great love of the Blessed Mother.

What is the First Saturday devotion?

Part of the Fátima message is that God is asking us to make reparation for the sins of the world. The Angel in 1916 taught the children prayers of reparation and asked them to do penance. The Blessed Virgin also called for prayers and acts of reparation, and, on July 13, 1917, she promised that she would return to request a special kind of reparation. She did this in 1929, appearing to Lucia, now a novice in a Spanish community.

"Look, my daughter, at my Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce me every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console me and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me."

This is a request that is ongoing, and one as needed today, if not more so, than in 1929. It is also one within the reach of every Catholic. And in fulfilling it, we please Our Lord, who like any son is pleased by others coming to the defense of his mother's honor.

How do the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary relate to each other?

The Servant of God Lúcia de Jesus Rosa dos Santos, one of the Fátima visionaries, said, "The work of our redemption began at the moment when the Word descended from Heaven in order to assume a human body in the womb of Mary. From that moment, and for the next nine months, the Blood of Christ was the Blood of Mary, taken from Her Immaculate Heart; the Heart of Christ was beating in unison with the Heart of Mary."

Also, Jesus Himself appeared to Sr. Lucia, saying, "I want My Church to . . . put the devotion to this Immaculate Heart beside the devotion to My Sacred Heart."