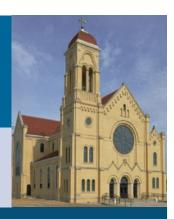


St. Michael's & St. Anthony's Parishes

St. Michael's Parish 524 W. Church Street Albion, NE 68620

St. Anthony's Parish 508 W. Main Street/P.O. Box 56 Cedar Rapids, NE 68627



December 19, 2021

St. Michael's

Fr. Mark Tomasiewicz, Pastor Rectory: 402-395-2393

Jeni Porter, Business Manager Parish Office: 402-395-2332 Email: jlporter@archomaha.org

Deacon Tim Preister 402-741-9296 Deacon James Schindel 402-741-1255 Deacon Paul Weeder 402-395-6105

Lisa Wagner, Director of Religious Ed Cell phone: 308-750-0423

Kathy Salber, School Office Manager Tina Thiele-Blecher, Principal School Office: 402-395-2926

Parish web site: stmichaelalbion.com



St. Anthony's

Fr. Mark Tomasiewicz, Pastor St. Michael's rectory: 402-395-2393

Linda Braun, Business Manager Parish Office: 308-358-0773 Email: lmbraun@archomaha.org

To rent St. Anthony's Parish Center contact: Leona VanDeWalle 308-750-6569 or 308-358-0394

Andi Moseman, Director of Religious Ed 308-550-1549

Tracy Paulsen, Director of Religious Ed 308-550-0097

To schedule Masses at either parish: Contact Fr. Mark by phone, 402-395-2393, or mail to the rectory.

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.

-Tracy Earl Welliver

Sacrament of Penance: St. Michael's 4:30-5:00 p.m. on Saturday; St. Anthony's 10:00-10:20 a.m. on Sunday. Sacrament of Baptism: First-time parents are required to attend a baptism preparation class. Please contact Fr. Mark or Deacon Tim Preister to arrange for the class and for the baptism. Sacrament of Marriage: Archdiocesan policy requires an 8-12 month preparation. Please make arrangements by contacting Fr. Mark. Holy Communion for the Homebound: Communion is taken to the shut-ins at both parishes. Please contact Jodi Krohn in Albion, 402-741-9161, or Linda Braun in Cedar Rapids, 308-358-0554, to get put on the list. Sick Call: Please call Fr. Mark if you or someone in your family is sick or in the hospital and would like a visit. Praver Chain at St. Michael's: Please call Nancy Morton, 402-395-6294.

Prayer Chain at St. Anthony's: Please call Betty Nelson, 402-805-0393.

FROM THE PASTOR

Wow, it's hard to believe that the holy and prayerful season of preparation is drawing to an end as we anticipate the birth of Jesus. Are all your plans in place and who will you visit or who will you host for the Christmas celebration? Family gatherings and being together with friends or neighbors are magnificent opportunities to celebrate life and the gift of God's love and to encourage one another with hope, faith, joy and grace. On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the gospel of Luke presents the second joyful mystery of the rosary, the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. Listening to the account, Mary, upon her arrival, hears her cousin's praises for trusting in God's word and plan to bring Jesus into the world, for she said: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb....Blessed are you who believed that what was spoke to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." It's amazing to think that Elizabeth had insight of the gift of Jesus in the womb of Mary, and how John the Baptist leaped in her womb, indicating awareness of the Son of God. This marvelous exchange of greetings and visit between the two women continues to unfold further as we joyfully celebrate Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ. The hospitality of Elizabeth might be a lesson to welcome others, even the unexpected visitor, the outsider and the poor. With intention, St. Benedict instructed his monks that guests ought to have a place at the monastic table because they take the place of Christ, so in serving those in need, we honor and serve Christ. As we receive cards, prepare and share lavish food at gatherings, and exchange presents at Christmas, we are challenged to think about the larger picture of faith: Is there room in your inn for Jesus, Mary and Joseph? The marvelous celebration of Christmas invites us to reflect more deeply on God's tremendous gifts of mercy, healing, consolation, comfort, love and peace, revealed by the innocent and humble child, Son of God, born for us. May this saving mystery of our redemption enable us to acknowledge our need for the Savior and Messiah, who will redeem all People. Fr. Henri Nouwen shared this reflection on the birth of Christ by writing, "God does not want us to be afraid, distant, or envious. God wants to come close, very close, so close that we can rest in the intimacy of God as children in their mother's arms. Therefore, God became a little baby. A tiny baby is completely dependent on its parents, nurses, and caregivers. Yes, indeed, God chose to become so powerless that the realization of God's own mission among us became completely dependent on us. That's the mystery of the Incarnation. God became human, in no way different from other human beings, to break through the walls of power in total weakness. That is the story of Jesus."

I pray that everyone will be blessed by the Christmas celebrations and that the love, joy and peace of the Christ child will renew our faith and gratitude for God's infinite goodness. *Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

Last chance for Reconciliation/Confession: December 21st (Tues.) 5:30-6:30 p.m. at St. Michael.

Fr. Mark

One Church: Encountering Jesus, Equipping Disciples and Living Mercy

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK			
Monday, December 20	(SM)		NO MASS (Pastor's day off)
Tuesday, December 21	(SM)	8:00 a.m.	† Jerry & Jim Beierman
Wednesday, December 22	(SM)	8:10 a.m.	† Louis & June Orleans
	(SA)	10:30 a.m.	For All the Sick, Infirmed & Grieving
Thursday, December 23	(SM)	8:00 a.m.	† Margaret Kelley
Friday, December 24	(SM)	5:00 p.m.	† Ellen & Randy Stuhr
	(SM)	Midnight	† Felix & Maxine Tomasiewicz
Christmas, The Nativity of the Lord			
Saturday, December 25	(SA)	9:00 a.m.	† Anna Lee Parker
	(SM)	5:30 p.m.	NO MASS
Sunday, December 26	(SM)	8:30 a.m.	Parishioners of St. Michael's & St. Anthony's
	(SA)	10:30 a.m.	† Bob McGuire

Please note place designations: (SM) = St. Michael's in Albion, (SA) = St. Anthony's in Cedar Rapids, (SE) = Samaritan Estates Assisted Living in Albion, (WM) = Wolf Memorial in Albion

St. Michael's Parish

Liturgical Ministries Next Week

Altar Servers

Fri., Dec. 24 5:00 p.m. Sat., Dec. 25 Midnight Sun., December 26 Fri., Dec. 31 5:30 p.m. Sun., January 2

<u>Ushers</u>

Fri., Dec. 24 5:00 p.m.	Dave Olson, Kevin Nelson, Tom Ketteler	
Sat., Dec. 25 Midnight	Jack Dailey, Pat Schmitz, Randy Hedlund	
Sun., December 26	Steve VonBonn, Larry Krings, Jerry Niewohner	
Fri., Dec. 31 5:30 p.m.	Brian Liss, Don Salber, Rusty Bruland	
Sun., January 2	Ken Iwan, Dave Mohr, Jim Carder	

Lectors

Fri., Dec. 24 5:00 p.m. Sat., Dec. 25 Midnight Sun., December 26 Fri., Dec. 31 5:30 p.m. Sun., January 2

Barb Olson Denise Cook Bev Dailey Jacquie Brugman Jordan Classen

Jacob & Kaden Miller

Brogan & Brielle Benes

Grant Kuta & Daron Dozler

William Roberts & Reed Reinhart

Myah Rankin & Leah Erickson

Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion

Fri., Dec. 24	5:00 p.m.	Lonnie Smith	
Sat., Dec. 25	Midnight	Patrick Kratochvil	
Sun., December 26		Joel Travis	
Fri., Dec. 31	5:30 p.m.	Valorie Slizoski	
Sun., January 2		Lisa Hamling	

<u>Music</u>

Fri., Dec. 24 5:00	p.m.	Musical Vibes
Sat., Dec. 25 Midr	night	Special Choir
Sun., December 26		Kay Nelson/Tonia McGill
Fri., Dec. 31 5:30	p.m.	Jill Nore
Sun., January 2		Dawn Smith

Collection Recorders

Sat., December 25	Kevin Gragert, John Morrow, Dawn Smith, Marge Devine
Sun., December 26	Kevin Gragert & John Morrow
Sun., January 2	Andy Roberts & Dawn Smith

If you can not fulfill your ministry assignment, please find a replacement!

This Week at St. Michael's:

		<u>,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,</u>
Sun., I	Dec. 19	*Choir practice for Midnight Mass 9:30 a.m.
Wed.,	Dec. 22	*Musical Vibes practice/pizza party, 12-2 p.m.
		*No PRE
Thurs.,	Dec. 23	*Advent Adoration Hour 6:30-7:30 p.m.
		*Choir practice for Midnight Mass 7:30 p.m.
Sat., D	ec. 25	*Merry Christmas!
		*No 5:30 p.m. Mass this evening!

This Week at St. Michael's School:

Parish Religious Education Calendar:

Wed., Dec. 22 *No PRE

Please remember our parishioners in prayer:

Myron Benes, Pauline Pelster, Tiffany Preister & baby Elijah, John & Joan Smith, Scott Nelson (Mitch Nelson's brother), Audrey Sueper, Adalynn Bouska (daughter of Jeff & Alex)

(If there is someone that you want to remember in prayer on this bulletin list, please call or email Jeni Porter at 395-2332 or jlporter@archomaha.org.)

St. Michael's Parish welcomes Josephine Clare and Jerome Charles, twins of Bill & Katie Score. They were baptized on November 28.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP

Regular Collection December 12, 2021			
Envelopes	\$6,900.00		
Children	0		
Plate	531.00		
TOTAL STEWARDSHIP	\$7,431.00		
Retirement for Religious	\$2,131.00		
Christmas flowers	870.00		
Immaculate Conception	1,020.00		

Advent Adoration Hour

Thursday, December 23 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Come to Adoration for a few minutes or the whole hour to get your heart prepared for Christmas and to pray for your parish family members. In the church basement there will be hot chocolate & cookies,

coloring activities for the kids (supervision provided), and "The Shepherd: A Story of the First Christmas" (from the creators of The Chosen) will be shown at 6:35 & 7:05. Sponsored by St. Michael's Evangelization Committee

Choir Practices for Midnight Mass Sunday, December 19 after Mass Thursday, December 23, 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to join this special choir! Please contact Jill Nore, 402-741-1302, with questions.

Liturgical Ministries Next Week

<u>Altar Servers</u>

Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion

Lane Swerczek & Max Sears	Sat., Dec. 25 9:00 a.m.	Bonnie McPhillips
Ted Hemmingsen & Brigham Loeffler	Sun., December 26	Linda Braun
Whalen Rother & Coy Paulsen	Sat., Jan. 1 9:00 a.m.	Ann Rother
Kayce Martinsen & Kennedy Dobson	Sun., January 2	Melissa VanDeWalle
	<u>Music</u>	
Steve Karmann & Gene Karmann	Sat., Dec. 25 9:00 a.m.	Becky Scott
Steve Karmann & Gene Karmann	Sun., December 26	Kate Sullivan
Steve Karmann & Gene Karmann	Sat., Jan. 1 9:00 a.m.	Kate Sullivan
Bill Armatys & Tom Schuele	Sun., January 2	Bonnie McPhillips
	Collection Recorders	1
Andi Moseman	Sat., Dec. 25 9:00 a.m.	Jim Langan & Rich McPhillips
Kelly Gilroy	Sun., December 26	Jim Langan & Rich McPhillips
Clay Moseman	Sat., Jan. 1 9:00 a.m.	Jim Langan & Rich McPhillips
Dori Kennedy	Sun., January 2	Bill Armatys & Tom Schuele
	Ted Hemmingsen & Brigham Loeffler Whalen Rother & Coy Paulsen Kayce Martinsen & Kennedy Dobson Steve Karmann & Gene Karmann Steve Karmann & Gene Karmann Bill Armatys & Tom Schuele Andi Moseman Kelly Gilroy Clay Moseman	Ted Hemmingsen & Brigham Loeffler Whalen Rother & Coy Paulsen Kayce Martinsen & Kennedy DobsonSun., December 26 Sat., Jan. 1 9:00 a.m. Sun., January 2Steve Karmann & Gene Karmann Steve Karmann & Gene Karmann Bill Armatys & Tom SchueleSat., Dec. 25 9:00 a.m. Sun., December 26 Sat., Jan. 1 9:00 a.m. Sun., January 2Andi Moseman Kelly Gilroy Clay MosemanSat., Dec. 25 9:00 a.m. Sun., January 2

"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." Luke 1:44

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel readying at Mass, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lector or priest, rather look inside yourself. What are you doing to grow in friendship with Jesus? How do you prepare for Mass each week? Or, do you just show up and expect to be entertained? As the Body of Christ, we are called to be active participants, not just passive observers.

This Week at St. Anthony's:

Sun., Dec. 19*Parish Christmas Party, 11:30 a.m., Parish CenterWed., Nov. 22*No PRESat., Dec. 25*Merry Christmas! Mass at 9:00 a.m.

Parish Religious Education Calendar:

Wed., Dec. 22 *No PRE

Please remember our parishioners in prayer:

Mike Sullivan, Ted Sauser, Rosella Braun

(If there is someone that you want to remember in prayer on this bulletin list, please call or email Jeni Porter at 395-2332 or jlporter@archomaha.org.)

Parish Christmas Party

Sunday, December 19 after 10:30 a.m. Mass At the Parish Center Program by PRE, lunch, Bingo & games, door prizes, & drawings for bazaar prizes!

Advent Baby Shower

November 28 - January 6 You are all invited to participate in the Baby Shower. Please place your items in the church before the Feast of Epiphany. Norfolk Birthright appreciates our help!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP

Regular Collection December 12, 2021		
Envelopes	\$1,005.00	
Children	0	
Plate	199.00	
TOTAL STEWARDSHIP	\$1,204.00	
God's Gift	\$35.00	
Retirement for Religious	\$1,069.00	
Christmas flowers	422.00	
Utilities	100.00	
Immaculate Conception	208.00	

To rent St. Anthony's Parish Center, please contact Leona VanDeWalle, 308-750-6569 or 308-358-0394.

If you are new to our parish or you have never registered to be members of St. Anthony's, please see Fr. Mark to register.

Volunteers are needed for Altar Society chairladies! Please donate your time to help with funeral dinners, church cleaning, alumni meal, and making phone calls. Please contact Leona VanDeWalle, 358-0394, Diane Buettner, 358-0192, or Linda Braun, 358-0554, to volunteer.

Your help is greatly needed and appreciated.

St. Michael's & St. Anthony's Parish Vision

One family as God's people, centered on Word and Sacrament, blessed by baptismal grace and Christ's love, called to serve as disciples.

Our Parishes' Mission

We exist to build a faith community, empowered by the Holy Spirit to live our Catholic identity and gospel values, to engage others to be intentional disciples who share their gifts for the glory of God.

Donations were given for Christmas flowers at St. Michael's Parish in memory of ... Roman & Margie Baum, Vincent Vacha, and Chris Hansen from Pat & Bonnie Baum Noah Liss from Kyle & Sarah Liss Kay Schafer, Betty Hawthorne, and Dick Krohn from Steve & Kendra Krohn Crystal Ranslem from Duane & Karen Ranslem Darwin Bremer from Teresa Bremer Jim & Charlotte O'Brien, Dick Michael, and Caitria Struebing from Randy & Kim Michael All of our loved ones who went before us from Kevin & Traci Gragert Kim Bader, Richard & Eileen Ketteler, and Robert & June Nelson from Tom & Connie Ketteler Stephanie Eischeid and Mary Eischeid from Tammy Seier Ray Prothman, Gina Cook Hanlon, Ed & Molly Prothman, Raymond Labenz, Joe & Harold Prothman, and Roger Kotas from Dave & Jane Prothman Deceased members of the Hoppe & Hagemann families from Lyle & Judy Hoppe Bob Shaw from Mary & Judy Shaw Helen & Cliff Langel and Dick Michael from Anthony & Nikki Michael Mike Redler and Andrew Redler from Mary Redler Danny Berney and John & Martha Collen from Joan Berney Jerry Rotherham from Ladd & Diane Krings Mark & Joan Knust, Al & Millie Luettel, and Donna Packard from Bob & Nancy Luettel Gary & Julie Krohn, Ed & Thelma Krohn, Wayne & Sylvia Mignery, Gerry & Leona Eischeid, and John & Doris Dailey from Matt & Emily Krohn Living & deceased members of the John & Joan Smith family from John & Joan Smith Kim Smith, Jeff Bussey, and living & deceased members of Lonnie & Dawn Smith families from Lonnie & Dawn Smith Jane Hamling and Jerry Brockhaus from Alvin & Alice Hamling Jack & Elaine Leifeld and Kathy Palmer from James & Connie Schindel Janet Kuta from Mike & Jacque Kuta David Sueper from Richard & Audrey Sueper Morrie & Dolly Henn, Elvin & Marilyn Beierman, and Mary Kay Beierman from Keith & Diane Beierman

Other monetary donations were given by Steve & Valorie Slizoski and Laura & Brett Nelson.

Donations were given for Christmas flowers at St. Anthony's Parish in memory of . . . Patricia Beister, Edward Beister, and Lucille Beister from James Beister Bourn & Roan families from Doris Bourn Merlin Buettner and Jim Buettner from Mary Ann Buettner Walt & Viola Buettner, Jim Hutchison, and Ben & Rose Buechter from Ron & Diane Buettner Mary & Jim Vanderloop and Patricia Vanderloop from Elizabeth French Harold & Frances Ridder from Paul & Janet Groeteke Mac & Marion McPhillips from Rich & Karen Hargadine Living & deceased members of Jarosz & Reeder families from Tony & Sue Jarosz Ambrose & Helen Wlaschin, Stanley & Irene Loeffler, and Mick Lieffler from Bill & Emma Loeffler Mac & Marion McPhillips from Rich & Bonnie McPhillips Mary Ellen Miller, George D. Zabka Sr., Josie Zabka, and Helen Morris from Jim & Betty Miller Alfred & Dorothy Rutten, and Stanley & Irene Loeffler from Ron & Renie Rutten Gerald Towey from Jim & Carol Towey John & Clara Kokes, Mattie Black, and Mary Sullivan from Mike & Kate Sullivan

Other monetary donations were given by Joel & Brandi Hemmingsen, John & Susie Jarosz, Tyler Kennedy, Alfons & Natalie Maria Kesseler, Jack & Marilyn Roan, Leo & Jane Rutten, and Leo & Leona VanDeWalle.

Readings for the week of December 19, 2021

Monday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38 Tuesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45 Wednesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd [cf. 1a]/Lk 1:46-56 Thursday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66 Friday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79 Saturday: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

