



# 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 25, 2022

## St. Michael's

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

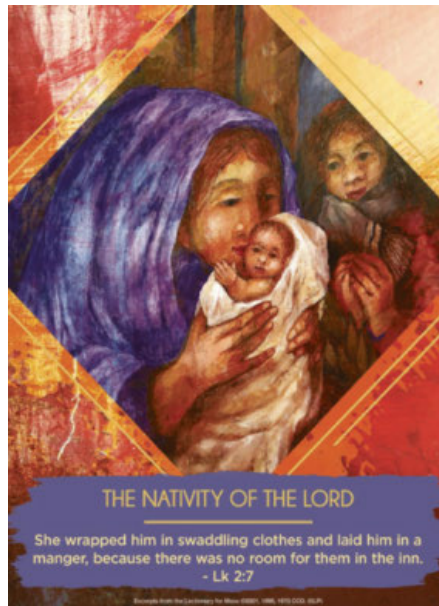
**Jeni Porter, Business Manager**  
Parish Office: 402-395-2332  
Email: [jlporter@archomaha.org](mailto:jlporter@archomaha.org)

**Deacon Tim Preister** 402-741-9296  
**Deacon James Schindel** 402-910-8912  
**Deacon Paul Weeder** 402-395-6105

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

**Roberta Marisch, School Secretary**  
**Tina Thiele-Blecher, Principal**  
School Office: 402-395-2926

**Parish web site:** [stmichaelalbion.com](http://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: [imb Braun@archomaha.org](mailto:imb Braun@archomaha.org)

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

**Amber Armatys, Director of Religious Ed**  
308-7504585

**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.

I think the real challenge of evangelization in the modern age is the reality that pretty much everyone has already heard of Jesus Christ — or, at least, they think they have.

To our 21st-century eyes, the angel who shared news of the birth of Jesus with the shepherds had an easy job. All he had to do was announce it.

Our baptism compels us to do the same — to announce the coming of Christ over and over again, always and everywhere. But our audience is not a group of illiterate shepherds in ancient Judea. Our audience is a world that has heard so much about Jesus they often claim weariness of his name. So how do we do it? If we walk into a crowd of strangers and tell them we want to talk about Jesus, their reaction will probably be either “I already know about Jesus, thanks,” or “I’ve heard of him, and based on the behavior of those who claim to follow him, I’m really not interested in hearing more.”

Because in the end, our very lives are how we “announce his salvation” in the present day. We announce it in our actions to strangers. We announce it in our treatment of people who have wronged us. We announce it in our interactions with those who disagree with us.

How long had the coming of the Messiah been foretold to the Israelites? So long that, no doubt, many of them despaired of his coming altogether. So, God had to give them a sign: “You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”

Now we are the sign.

The world has heard of Christ by now. But have they all seen him? It’s our job to show them.

— 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.

**Prayer Chain at St. Michael's:** Please call Nancy Morton, 402-395-6294.

**Prayer Chain at St. Anthony's:** Please call Emma Loeffler, 402-447-4074 (cell) or 308-358-0451 (home).

## FROM THE PASTOR

Finally, after four weeks of waiting and preparation, the festive season of Christmas and celebrating the birth of God's Son has arrived. God's Word on **Christmas** accents various themes and here are few examples: joy, redemption, light, grace, mercy, discoveries, rejoicing, silence, peace, beauty, love and salvation. Many greetings from cards and songs describe similar perspectives. At the Masses, the Scriptures are different in comparison from the vigil Mass, Midnight and even on Christmas day, yet God's plan to save humanity is evident and mysterious. How could an infant child born in a manger of a young virgin be the Savior of the world? Why do foreigners or the most insignificant also want to see this child with their own very eyes? One possibility might be articulated in this long sentence from St. Paul to Titus on Christmas morning, for we read: **"Beloved: When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, who he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life."** Furthermore, we might wonder why a baby gets all the attention. With Jesus Christ, it is no different. Pope Francis offers this explanation: *"A great joy in life is the birth of a child. It is something extraordinary and changes everything. It brings an excitement that makes us think nothing of weariness, discomfort and sleepless nights, for it fills us with a great, incomparable happiness. That is what Christmas is: Jesus' birth is the "newness" enabling us to be reborn each year and to find in him the strength needed to face every trial. Why? Because his birth is for us—for me, for you, for all of us. "For" is a word that appears again and again in our readings: "For us a child is born" (Isaiah 9:5), Jesus "gave himself for us" (Titus 2:14), and "For to you is born this day a Savior." (Luke 2:11) For you, for me for everyone!"* It is my hope that Christmas fills your life with upmost grace, joy and peace as you gather with family or friends. Recalling that Mary treasured all the events in her heart, think about what God wants you to treasure as you honor the "Newborn King." In prayer, where might the Lord Jesus free you from any burdens so that darkness does not overwhelm you? How might I express gratitude for God's gift of his Son to the world? Lastly, remember that Christmas is more than a day, so rejoice and find ways to open up presents and God's love in surprising ways!

**Thank you to all our great volunteers** who helped decorate our churches for the glorious celebration of Christmas and to all our liturgical ministers, servers, singers and musicians who assisted us to worship with faith, hope and grace! I am also very **grateful** for your financial support to the parishes and your prayers, gifts and kindness!

*Have a blessed and joyous Christmas and Happy New Year!*

Fr. Mark

**One Church: Encountering Jesus, Equipping Disciples and Living Mercy**

## MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Monday, December 26	(SM)	NO MASS (Pastor's day off)
Tuesday, December 27	(SM) 8:00 a.m.	NO MASS
Wednesday, December 28	(SM) 8:10 a.m.	NO MASS
	(SA) 10:30 a.m.	† Clem Buhrman & † Ed & Karen Miller
Thursday, December 29	(SM) 8:00 a.m.	† Janet Kuta & † Sharon Reichmuth
Friday, December 30	(SM) 8:00 a.m.	† Don Merten & † Rita Bialas
Saturday, December 31	(SM) 5:30 p.m.	Living & deceased John & Joan Smith family
Sunday, January 1	(SM) <b>8:30 a.m.</b>	Parishioners of St. Michael's & St. Anthony's
	(SA) <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	† Eleanor Buhrman & † Steven & Jeffrey Roan

Please note place designations: (SM) = St. Michael's in Albion, (SA) = St. Anthony's in Cedar Rapids

# St. Michael's Parish

## Liturgical Ministries Next Week

### Altar Servers

Sat., December 31      Grace & Hope Nore  
Sun., January 1      Kate Maricle & Madeline Kuta

### Ushers

Sat., December 31      Pat Baum, Steve Johnson, Brent Lipker  
Sun., January 1      Ken Iwan, Dave Olson, Jerry Niewohner

### Lectors

Sat., December 31      Ruth Hagemann  
Sun., January 1      Jordan Classen

### Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion

Sat., December 31      Lisa Hamling  
Sun., January 1      Mike Kuta

### Music

Sat., December 31      Kim Michael  
Sun., January 1      Tonia McGill/Bridget Wiese

### Collection Recorders

Sun., January 1      John Morrow & Rachelle Spence

### This Week at St. Michael's:

Sun., Dec. 25      \*Merry Christmas!  
Sun., Jan. 1      \*Happy New Year!

### This Week at St. Michael's School:

Wed., Jan. 4      \*Classes resume

### Parish Religious Education Calendar:

Wed., Jan. 4      \*Classes resume

### Please remember our parishioners in prayer:

Grace Perone, Arthur Struebing,  
Shawna Ranslem, Tracy Hedlund,  
Tiffany & Elijah Preister, 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.)

Please contact Jeni Porter at the parish office, 395-2332, if you wish to use any of the parish or school facilities for any reason. The church's main calendar is kept in the parish office.

**We ask that parishioners do not remove anything from the church, church basement, or school without permission (tables, chairs, kitchen items, etc.).**

### **Amazon shoppers. . . Earn 0.5% for St. Michael's Parish!**

You can earn money for St. Michael's Parish & School on your Amazon purchase simply by going to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Log in as usual and then you will be asked to select your organization. Please select "St. Michael's Church & School" - you will only have to do this once. From then on, simply log into your Amazon account from [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and 0.5% will be donated to our general fund!

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP**

Regular Collection December 18, 2022	
Envelopes	\$3,650.00
Children	35.51
December Auto. Deposits	4,996.00
Plate	1,679.00
<b>TOTAL STEWARDSHIP</b>	<b>\$10,360.51</b>
Christmas flowers	972.00

St. Michael's Parish offer the convenience of bimonthly or monthly **AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWALS** for your parish donations. There is no monthly fee for parishioners to use the automatic withdrawal feature! If you are interested, please contact the parish office, 395-2332.

We also offer **ONLINE GIVING** with a debit or credit card. Visit our web site, [stmichaelalbion.com](http://stmichaelalbion.com), and click on the icon.

**"THE WORD AMONG US,"** daily devotional will be available for parishioners during December, January, and February. St. Michael's purchased the December/Advent books and received the other months at a great rate, so all three monthly devotionals will be available to parishioners for free! Help yourself from the table in the back of church!

When lighting 7-day candles, St. Michael's requests a \$3 donation per candle and small votive candles are 50¢. A donation of \$1 per "Living Faith" devotional would be appreciated.

# St. Anthony's Parish

## Liturgical Ministries Next Week

### Altar Servers

Sun., January 1 Ted & Nathan Hemmingsen

### Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion

Sun., January 1 Linda Braun

### Ushers

Sun., January 1 Bill Armatys & Tom Schuele

### Music

Sun., January 1 Becky Scott

### Lector

Sun., January 1 Amber Armatys

### Collection Recorders

Sun., January 1 Bill Armatys & Tom Schuele

*And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..." John 1:14*

God made us to be in relationship with Him. He loves each of us individually. Through sin, our relationship with God was broken. He gave us Jesus to restore our relationship. Being a disciple of Jesus, we are given the model to obtain eternal life in Heaven. Christmas isn't about the material gifts we receive, it's about the love that God, Our Father, gave us by giving us His Son, Jesus - the best gift we could ever receive.

### This Week at St. Anthony's:

Sun., Dec. 25 \*Merry Christmas!  
Sun., Jan. 1 \*Happy New Year!

### Parish Religious Education Calendar:

Wed., Dec. 21 \*No PRE. Classes resume January 11

### Please remember our parishioners in prayer:

Liz Carder

(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.)

**Calling on cooks:** If you are interested in donating food or money for the high school PRE program, we could use your help to serve a meal to the high school students on Wednesday evenings from 6:40-7:00 p.m. We plan on serving approximately 15 students each week. Please contact Amber Armatys, 308-750-4585, if you are willing to donate food, money or your time. Thank you!

**There are still many St. Anthony Church plates available for people to take as a gift from the parish!**

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR STEWARDSHIP

Regular Collection December 18, 2022	
Envelopes	\$1,149.00
Children	0
Plate	221.00
<b>TOTAL STEWARDSHIP</b>	<b>\$1,370.00</b>
God's Gift	\$345.00
Immaculate Conception	35.00
Religious Retirement	105.00

The Boone County Food Pantry is always in need of monetary assistance. Donations can be left for the Food Pantry account at Bethscheider's Market or any of the five grocery stores in Boone County or at Cornerstone Bank in Albion. Checks can be sent to 1690 290th Ave, Albion, NE 68620 or grain can be donated at Country Partners or Cargill in the Food Pantry's name. The Boone County Food Pantry is open every Thursday from 2-4 p.m. at 1106 W State Street in Albion.

### **Advent Baby Shower**

Collecting until January 8

Bring your infant clothing, diapers, blankets, etc. and they will be donated to the Norfolk Area Right to Life.

## 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. Anthony's Parish in memory of. . .

Patricia Beister, Edward Beister, Lucille Beister, Francis Beister, and Howard Remm from Jim Beister  
Jim & Mary Ellen Hutchison and Walt & Viola Buettner from Ron & Diane Buettner  
Eugene DeMuth, Ronald DeMuth, and Kathy DeMuth Fisher from Mary Jane DeMuth  
Lavern & Theresa Goering and Jerry Towey and in honor of Philamae Towey from Jim & Janet Goering  
Harold & Frances Ridder from Paul & Janet Groeteke  
The Jarosz families from Jim & Rose Jarosz  
Carroll Kennedy and Bud & Micky Zabka from Jim & Lisa Kennedy  
The deceased members of the Loeffler & Wlashin families from Bill & Emma Loeffler  
Mick Loeffler from Cheryl Loeffler  
George Zabka, Sr., Josie Zabka, Mary Ellen Miller, Josephine Homolka, and Helen Morris from Jim & Betty Miller  
Deceased family members from Ron & Renie Rutten  
John & Clara Kokes, Mattie Black, and Mary Sullivan from Mike & Kate Sullivan  
Richard & Marion McPhillips from Rich & Karen Hargadine  
Ed & Karen Miller, Rich & Pat Miller, and Jacob & Adola Miller from Linda Doughty

Other donations were given by Elizabeth French, Alfons & Maria Kessler, Jim & Diane Langan, Bob & Sue Malander, Rich & Bonnie McPhillips, Larry & Mary Jo Miller, Betty Nelson, Jack & Marilyn Roan, Jim & Carol Towey, and Kate Mahoney.

### Donations were given for Christmas flowers at St. Michael's Parish in memory of. . .

The Starman & Luettel families from Henry & Mary Starman  
Roman & Margie Baum and Rudy Starman from Pat & Bonnie Baum  
Bob Shaw from Mary & Judy Shaw  
LeRoy & Kristine Dozler, A.J. & Clara Dozler, and Don & Ella Mae Dozler from Mary Dozler  
Crystal Ranslem from Duane & Karen Ranslem  
George Schmitz from Betty Schmitz  
Ray Prothman & siblings, Ray Labenz & siblings, and Gina (Cook) Hanlon from Dave & Jane Prothman  
Elizabeth Weidner from Dave & Kristi Weidner  
Kim Bader, Richard & Eileen Ketteler, and Robert & June Nelson from Tom & Connie Ketteler  
Al & Millie Luettel, Mark & Joan Knust, and Donna Packard from Bob & Nancy Luettel  
Karen Rotherham from Ladd & Diane Krings  
The Hoppe and Hagemann families from Lyle & Judy Hoppe  
Ardis Sullivan, and Frank & Margaret Sullivan from Gene Sullivan  
Dick Simons from Jeanette Simons  
Agnes Kuta and Francis & Lillian Ternus from Roger & Mary Kay Ternus  
Danny Berney and John & Martha Collen from Joan Berney  
Katherine Nan Koinzan from Brian & Hilary Maricle  
Darwin Bremer, Terry & Pauline McManaman, and Elmer & Josephine Bremer from Teresa Bremer  
Leo, Helen, Dave, Pat, Jeremy, & Jason Eller and Herman & Mary Fisher from Dave & Jean Fisher  
Jack & Elaine Leifeld and Kathy Palmer from James & Connie Schindel  
Jane Hamling and Jerry Brockhaus from Alvin & Alice Hamling  
Noah Liss, Jerry Beierman, Mark & Joan Knust, and Tom & Doris Johnson from Kyle & Sarah Liss  
Kim Smith, Jeff Bussey, and families of Lonnie & Dawn Smith from Lonnie & Dawn  
The family of John & Joan Smith from John & Joan  
The family members who went before us from Kevin & Traci Gragert  
Gary & Julie Krohn, Wayne & Sylvia Mignery, John & Dorris Dailey, Gerry & Leona Eischeid, and  
Ed & Thelma Krohn from Matt & Emily Krohn  
Mary Eischeid and Stephanie Eischeid from Tammy Seier  
Agnes Kuta from Mike & Jacque Kuta  
Jim & Charlotte O'Brien, Dick Michael, and Caitria Struebing from Randy & Kim Michael  
Mark & Joan Knust and Noah Liss from Brian & Rita Liss  
Dick Michael, Cliff & Helen Langel, and Kirk Langel from Dennis & Nicki Michael  
Bernard, Carolyn and Jerry Seier from Leona Seier

A donation was given by Grant & Alysa Krebs.

### Readings for the week of December 25, 2022

**Monday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22  
**Tuesday:** 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8  
**Wednesday:** 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 2:13-18  
**Thursday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35  
**Friday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23  
**Saturday:** 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18



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Nikki Michael, Insurance & Real Estate Agent

**Bev Dailey Realty & Insurance**  
Bev Dailey, Owner & Parishioner  
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