

St. Michael Catholic Church

106 N. Western Ave.
Girard, KS 66743
(620)724-8717



From the Pastor,

More than a couple of years ago I had a sailboat. It was of the unsinkable kind so I felt safe in being a real sailor. At least I learned how to actually sail it even though I did not consider myself real good at it. I have forgotten some of what I learned, especially the terminology, although if given a chance I think I could probably put up the sails again. One time I had taken the sailboat out on Cheney Lake west of Wichita with a small group of religious sisters. It was a lovely day with a nice breeze to keep us moving and sun to keep us warm. It was a little later in the afternoon when I noticed the cloud in the western sky. It was not long before the wind started to 'pick up', but by then I knew what was happening and had started heading for the marina. It is a long way across the lake and of course the storm was faster than my little boat motor could push us so there were some tense moments as the boat was tossed by the waves. Remember I said the boat was unsinkable so at least I had that on my side; and we made it back to the boat slip without incident.

Of course, this came to mind with the Gospel story, but also it is easy to compare to our present situation in our country and world. A lot of people think that we are being tossed by the current virus and also by politics and the media. The good news is that we have the good news of the Gospel, which is the words of Jesus, to give us support when we have fears that cause us to wonder what is happening to us. Just as Jesus came to the Apostles in the boat, so too do we have Jesus with us in today's world. No, Jesus is not visible to us and we cannot physically hear his voice, however in our prayer life we have a way to listen and capture what can be our way to move forward. Just as Jesus calmed the fears of the Apostles, in our time we can be calmed knowing that tomorrow will come. Whether it is 'more of the same' or something that we did not expect, God is with us to guide our decisions and help us through the expectations of our decisions. There is always a tomorrow, and there is always God, with us.

Mass Schedule and Intentions for August 8-16

Date	Time	Intention	Parish
Aug 08 Saturday	4:00pm	Dan Black	Arma
	5:30pm	Mary Davied	Girard
09 Sunday	8:00am	Pro Populo	Arma
	10:00am	Bernadine Shively	Girard
10 Monday	NO MASS		
11 Tuesday	5:30pm	No Intention	Arma
12 Wednesday	6:30pm	Geneva McGown	Girard
13 Thursday	8:00am	No Intention	Arma
	8:30am-12:30pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Arma
14 Friday	7:00am	Ed Perrin	Girard
	8:00am-6:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Girard
15 Saturday	4:00pm	Fr. Kent Hemberger	Arma
	5:30pm	Joe George	Girard
16 Sunday	8:00am	Bill Harman Family	Arma
	10:00am	Pro Populo	Girard

PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

Please pray for Audrey Casassa, Nancy Church, Allie Davied, Gerald Davied, Mary Davied, Cheryl Francis Greer (Fr. Greer's mom), Jerry Hanson, Tom Kovach, Herman Masser, David McGowan, Bob Moore, Samuel Bradshaw Morris, John Oplotnik, Frank Purdon, Sheila Reif, Tina Ruma, Janel Scales, Edward Luke Walsh, and Dan Wendt who are ill or in need of prayers. Please note that individuals on our prayer list are left on until a request is made to remove them. Requests to be added or removed can be sent to jmscales414@gmail.com.

Thank you!

COLLECTIONS

	Last Week	July 2020 to Date
Contributions	\$ 2,075.38	\$ 9,932.78
Children's Offering	\$ -	\$ -
Expenses	\$ -	\$ -
Over/(Under)		\$ 9,932.78
Building Fund Contributions	\$ -	

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

Tossed Around

1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a / Rom 9:1-5 / Mt 14:22-33

The boat "was being tossed about by waves, for the wind was against it." How often do we feel like this little fishing boat, being tossed around by the angst in our culture? As missionary disciples, we can easily feel overcome by the storms around us! Notice, though, that Jesus was there to reassure the disciples, and He does the same for us. The disciples did not call out for Jesus, but He recognized their need and he met them in their moment of distress. He told them, "Do not be afraid." Jesus calmed the winds and he brought peace to their hearts. We must have faith that Jesus watches over us as we cooperate with Him to do the work of our Heavenly Father.

myEoffering

Just a friendly reminder...myEoffering is a service we've teamed up with to give you the ability to send your offerings online in the same way that many of you already pay bills and purchase products. We chose to use myEoffering because they are part of a trusted, Christian family-owned company, who have been serving the needs of churches for nearly 100 years. Their product is solid, secure, easy, and convenient. If you have already signed up for myEoffering or do in the future and would like to cancel your stewardship envelopes that are currently mailed to your home, please email Janel at jmscales414@gmail.com or call the office and let us know.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Red Cross Blood Drive is Tuesday, August 11th from 11:30am-5:30pm in the St. Michael Catholic Hall. There is an urgent need, so if you would like to donate and help save lives, please schedule an appointment or just show up, as they take walk-ins.

BY EVE WE FELL; BY MARY WE STAND!

Those words that form the TITLE of this article were written by the great Saint Ambrose, who went on, "By Eve reduced to slavery; by Mary made free." and he continued with ten more such lines, making us understand the great sacredness of her body. The Assumption teaches us the holiness and dignity of OUR bodies. "The Lord has taken her to live with Him—His loved one from the beginning," a line from the Divine Office. St. Alphonsus Ligouri once declared that Mary was the best example of FAITH. How so? He continued: "Mary's faith surpassed that of all men and angels. She saw her Son in the stable at Bethlehem and she believed that He was the Creator of the world. She saw Him being born and believed that He was from everlasting. She saw Him poor and believed Him to be the Master of the Universe. She saw Him speak not a word, yet she believed that He was the eternal Wisdom itself. And, at the end, she saw Him dying, exposed to all manner of insult, affixed to a Cross, and though the faith of many others was shaken, Mary persevered in her unhesitating belief that He was God."

In 1950, Pope Pius XII defined the dogma of Mary's Assumption: "The Immaculate Mother of God, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory," and with that, he wrote the final chapter of the centuries-long tradition of belief in this mystery. But conjecture and discussion continue to this day as to whether Mary was only 'assumed' without dying or did she die first, then assumed. The Pope didn't flatly settle this in his Dogma on Mary, simply stating that she was 'assumed body and soul into heaven' and for many that is enough. However, humans that we are can speculate as to what he meant. I asked Fr. John Reinkemeyer about this question: Did Mary die or was she just 'assumed' into Heaven. His answer: "The church left it open. When the Pope defined the Assumption as a truth all Catholics must believe, he simply stated that it happened at the END OF HER LIFE. Some theologians believe she did die, the argument being: Her Son died and it was fitting, therefore, that she should also die, especially since among the faithful, it is commonly held that Mary is Co-Redemptrix of the human race. As Catholics, we believe the Pope and if it is left open to interpretation, you would be on your own to defend it."

Remember, Mary was free of all sin and could not suffer corruption. My own personal feeling on this is that because she was free from sin, the grave couldn't hold her. She died in imitation of and in participation with her Son. But, then she was resurrected and taken to heaven body and soul. This may not be in the Bible, but I believe that many in our Church have felt it to be close to the truth as we human beings can see it. As we celebrate Mary's Assumption into heaven, we should realize that we, too, are destined for a resurrection to heavenly glory. Remember the holy day for the Assumption is Sat. Aug 15.

-----Marcel Normand

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