

St. Michael Catholic Church

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



MASS SCHEDULE	GIRARD	ARMA
Saturday	5:30pm	4:00pm
Sunday	10:00am	8:00am

CONFESSION	GIRARD	ARMA
Saturday	2:00-2:30pm	3:15-3:45pm
Weekdays before Mass, anytime by appointment		

RECTORY HOURS

Tuesday-Friday 9:00am-Noon
Rectory: (620)724-8717
In Case of Emergency: (785)917-1828

PARISH WEBSITE:

www.stmichaelgirard.com

STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Floyd McKinney
Secretary: Faith Paoni
Bookkeeper: Janel Scales
Bulletin Editor: Janel Scales
jmscales414@gmail.com

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:

Fridays from 8:00am to 6:00pm

PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

Please pray for Audrey Casassa, Nancy Church, Allie Davied, Gerald Davied, Mary Davied, Rosemary Gardner, Lisa Goff, Tom Kovach, Mary Ann Lepoglow, Marita Lopeman, Herman Masser, Bob Moore, Samuel Bradshaw Morris, John Oplotnik, David Peak, 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!

From the Pastor,

One Holy Family

“Pray to God that I truly be the brother (and sister) of all.” Blessed Charles de Foucauld God so loved the world. What greater love than to be one with us down to the tight fist of a newborn child. You too entered history helpless and dependent on the care of others. We are first loved through bloody tissue, feedings, soothing words, the warmth of bodies bringing comfort and delight. How did love so embodied produce beings who are tempted by fantastic notions like the self-made man?

In Hebrews, Paul calls faith “the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen”. Abram hears words in a vision. He pleads for a child and God listens. Simeon and Anna beg God for a glimpse or sign. God responds to the yearning of these righteous elders. In the temple they encounter the child and realize that God’s promise is kept.

To modern ears, faith suggests a plunge into darkness. A loss of friction with what is real. We know that words are cheap. Threats and ridicule stream in from all sides. What words do we heed? Whom do we trust? We know that what is holy is not for sale. Faith moves quietly. First we hear “fear not.” Like Abram we learn to listen. In the concrete realities of daily life God’s spirit is felt. We are not alone. To trust God is no leap into the abyss. In ordinary ways You are already present. When we call, You answer.

In family we learn our worth. Some must search for the family that knows how to love. In being loved we heal, face our demons, and are set free. We uncover the beauty that dwells within imperfection. How we are not measured by our achievements. How each catches the light in her own irreplaceable way. How God finds us in our struggles to be faithful and forgiving.

Mass Schedule and Intentions for December 26-January 3

Dec 26	Saturday	4:00pm	Ursula Sue Parsons	Arma
		5:30pm	Karen Davied	Girard
27	Sunday	8:00am	Jack & Jean McClaskey	Arma
		10:00am	Pro Populo	Girard
28	Monday	NO MASS		
29	Tuesday	5:30pm	No Intention	Arma
30	Wednesday	6:30pm	JB Smith	Girard
31	Thursday	4:00pm	Ursula Sue Parsons	Arma
		5:30pm	Betty Jo Peak	Girard
Jan 01	Friday	8:00am	Ursula Sue Parsons	Arma
		10:00am	Jim O’Toole	Girard
02	Saturday	4:00pm	Barbara Unrein	Arma
		5:30pm	Tom Weston	Girard
03	Sunday	8:00am	Pro Populo	Arma
		10:00am	Betty Jo Peak	Girard



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COLLECTIONS

	Last Week	July 2020 to Date
Contributions	\$ 12,571.20	\$ 73,845.74
Children's Offering	\$ -	\$ -
Expenses	\$ -	\$ 58,889.99
Over/(Under)		\$ 14,955.75
Building Fund Contributions	\$ -	

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

Stewardship of the Family

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21/Lk 2:22-40

At the center of today's readings is the family. St. John Paul II said, "As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live." It is no wonder Satan works so hard to destroy our understanding of family! While we tend to look at stewardship in regards to time, talent, and treasure, it is vital that we understand that stewardship also relates to how we receive and care for other people, in particular, our family members! In today's first and second readings, we see words such as "subordinate," "honor," and "considerate." Sadly, these traits are becoming difficult to find anywhere, let alone in families that are so wounded by sin. Our stewardship must extend to those around us, and we must be willing to make sacrifices for those people. As we approach the new year, make it a goal to pray as a family, surround your family with God's protection, and consecrate yourselves to the members of the Holy Family.

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

New Year's Eve 4:00pm Arma 5:30pm Girard
 New Year's Day 8:00am Arma 10:00am Girard

ADORATION

There will be no Adoration on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day.



CHRISTMAS SEASON CAN BE SAD

For years, I'm sure that many of you have heard the old refrain from some that 'Christmas is the loneliest time of the year', or 'I get so depressed at Christmas'. When we're young, we think this is 'old peoples' talk', for Christmas is exciting and fun. As we age, life happens and a beautiful time such as Christmas may take 2nd place due to a death, divorce, loss of a job, or extreme poverty. There are many reasons one could be sad at Christmas. Just watching others have a wonderful time can bring it on. I've thought a lot about it and having lived a long time, I've come to believe that something bad in their past isn't the main reason for such desolation. I've also noticed that people with faith seem to get through the holidays better than those who do not have it. Could it be that when someone is 'down' or 'sad' at Christmas, it may not be due to loneliness for a mother or grandfather who have passed. Sure, they focus on that loss but there is something larger that converges on their thinking. They may not realize it, but their loneliness centers on their lack of faith---they don't have God. We were made to be with God and to have a close relationship with Him. When that is missing, it triggers other factors that bring on the sadness.

The good news is that mankind need not be lonely because GOD CAME TO US in the person of JESUS CHRIST, whose birth we celebrate at this time. We're familiar with the name given to God, "Immanuel", which means 'God with us'. When we form a personal relationship with Jesus, fulfillment increases and loneliness decreases as we get our lives focused on God. The word, 'Behold' is used often in the Bible. In Hebrew, it means 'to fix your gaze'. Try to fix your full attention on God. If your life is going in the wrong direction, it could be because your life is not sufficiently fixed upon Jesus Christ. Keep in mind that the God who made the earth and all that is in it actually came here to be WITH US! You need not be lonely at this time of the year or any time of the year. God is with us. He walked among us and is still living in our heart today. If you are a firm believer in God, 'you'll never walk alone.' Now where have I heard that phrase before? If your life is centered on Jesus, then every step you take, you'll have Him with you. You will never be alone---Christmas or anytime.

Fr. John Reinkemeyer, my mentor, described Jesus thus to his parishioners: "AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US'. We have seen Him often during our lives, not in pictures, not in statues, not in buildings, BUT IN YOU! And we thank you for showing Him to us in your beautiful, holy, lives of prayer, sacrifice, generosity, and concern for one another. Jesus put on humanity that we might put on divinity!" How could we ever be lonely?

With this article, I must close my series of weekly stories on religion. Helen requires more of my time at this juncture and I cannot pen a story without doing a good amount of research on the topic. I enjoy sharing information with you and regret this move, but at this time, I see no other alternative. ---Marcel Normand

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