

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

EUCCHARISTIC 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, Mary Kay Mason, Herman Masser, Bob Moore, Maggie C. Bradshaw Morris, John Oplotnik, David Peak, Frank Purdon, Sheila Reif, Tina Ruma, Dwight Sauer, 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,

This Sunday gives us the opportunity to reflect on the Light in the midst of our darkness, in the midst of all darkness. John came to testify to the Light. The world did not receive it. To us who receive this gift, there is not only comfort and consolation, but salvation and eternal life.

In these days before Epiphany, we can each ask ourselves about two things. First of all, what has felt like darkness for us this past year? We may count many things. Secondly, we can reflect upon how the Light of Jesus can dispel that darkness, and offer us hope and peace, courage and direction and mission for this coming year.

In the midst of it all, we can count the blessings that have come to us through our faith in the one who has been with us through it all. Our faith has offered us perspective and vision to see what others can't see. Our faith, and the support of other believers, has been a gift for many of us. We may discover in this reflection the marvelous ways we have experienced and witnessed the power of self-sacrificing love in ourselves and in others. We may have experienced how we have treasured family and friends we might have taken for granted before.

Jesus became one of us. He entered our world in a most lowly place. He lived a hidden life for 30 years in a small town. When he began his public ministry, announcing that the Spirit was upon him and that he'd come to bring liberty to captives and sight to the blind and set the downtrodden free, and to proclaim good news to the poor, he was rejected. He became one of us and identified with our life. No one can say "He wouldn't understand what I've gone through." He has been with us, in it all, every moment, with his compassionate love and grace-filled support.

Mass Schedule and Intentions for January 2-10

Date	Time	Intention	Minister
Jan 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
04 Monday	NO MASS		
05 Tuesday	5:30pm	No Intention	Arma
06 Wednesday	6:30pm	Janel Scales	Girard
07 Thursday	8:00am	No Intention	Arma
	8:30am-12:30pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Arma
08 Friday	7:00am	Altar Society	Girard
	8:00am-6:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Girard
09 Saturday	4:00pm	George Stonerock	Arma
	5:30pm	Tom Weston	Girard
10 Sunday	8:00am	Pro Populo	Arma
	10:00am	Barbara Unrein	Girard

COLLECTIONS

	Last Week	July 2020 to Date
Contributions	\$ 1,924.00	\$ 75,769.74
Children's Offering	\$ -	\$ -
Expenses	\$ -	\$ 58,889.99
Over/(Under)		\$ 16,879.75
Building Fund Contributions	\$ -	

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

Blind Faith

Is 60:1-6 / Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 / Mt 2:1-12

An act of FIAT requires more than just a bit of blind faith. We have many examples in Sacred Scripture of people who do not hesitate to respond to God's call, no matter how intimidating that call may be! Today we look to the magi from the east, who followed a star in the night sky to the crib of the newborn King. On the way, they encountered Herod, whose reaction to Jesus was one of jealousy and fear. They also encountered the chief priests and the scribes, who were fairly indifferent to the news of Jesus' birth. Yet these wise men persisted on, keeping their gazes on the star that led them to the Holy Family, where they paid homage to the Christ child. In your own efforts to grow in discipleship you may encounter similar difficulties. There will be people who react to you with hostility, trying to steer you off course. There will be people who are completely unconcerned with your efforts. They don't interfere, but they certainly don't help. Like the magi, you must lift your eyes to heaven and trust God to guide you to the exact place He intends you to be.

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 are interested, you can find instructions on how to get set up on the parish website.

FOOD PANTRY

There is a basket in the entrance of the Church for any food donations you would like to donate to the Community Food Pantry. This is an ongoing project in conjunction with the Ministerial Alliance. Monetary Donations are accepted as well, by placing an envelope in the collection basket marked "Food Pantry". Thank you for supporting this need.

HOLY INNOCENTS

Last Monday we celebrated the Holy Innocents. It involves King Herod who was one of the cruelest dictators of his time. When he heard of the birth of an infant savior who threatened his reign, power, pride, and fear, conspired within his darkened heart to produce an unthinkable act of evil: When Herod realized that he had been deceived by the magi, he became furious. He ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had ascertained from the magi. The Church calls these slain infants the Holy Innocents, seeing them as martyrs for Christ, not by will but by blood. The number of victims does not seem to be known. On the higher end, estimates put it at 14,000 while numbers as low as a dozen or less have also been postulated. Regardless of the number, the innocence of the victims and the senselessness of the violence continue to shock us today as they must have then. We usually think of the Advent and Christmas seasons in terms of happy beginnings, the heavenly joy of the Incarnation itself, and the sense of hope fulfilled and renewed—leaving all the sadness, the suffering, and the darkness for Lent, so it seems.

The murder of the Holy Innocents, celebrated within the octave of Christmas, punctuates what is normally thought of as a cheerful season with a particular note of deep sadness (even considering the other martyrs celebrated during this period).

However, the Feast of the Holy Innocents adds a sense of urgency to the coming of Christ Himself. Jesus was born in what was supposed to be a time of great peace. If the Gospel of Luke contrasts this worldly peace with the true heavenly peace, then Matthew reminds us that the ancient world was still a place where a rogue king could summarily order the slaughter of thousands of babies. Matthew first chooses to give us an image of absolutely abject grief, taken from Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children, and she would not be consoled, since they were no more." And it is with that wailing lament that Matthew ends his account of the Holy Innocents.

As people of faith, children of God, the account of the Innocents and their families should remind us to be aware of the innocent unborn of our own day who are having their lives stopped by those who apparently do not understand or refuse to admit that life is ending when and abortive procedure is performed. All across our world people are suffering, not only the lives of the unborn but also those who are injured psychologically because they have taken the life of their own child. In the moment they may not think much of what they are doing except that they are being relieved of something that is bothering their present plan for the future. They may not realize that the memory of the life they are getting rid of will stay with them. As we remember the Holy Innocents of the time of Christ's birth, let us also remember and pray for the people in our own time who, like King Herod, are misguided in thinking that the innocents of our day are going to ruin our life.

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