

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: 316-619-5095

PARISH WEBSITE:
www.stmichaelgirard.com

STAFF Pastor: Fr. Mike Klag
Secretary: Faith Paoni
Bookkeeper: Janel Scales
Bulletin Editor: Janel Scales
jmscales414@gmail.com

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:
Fridays from 8:00am to 6:00pm

**Bulletins are being posted on the website once again.

**Quarterly Mass Duty schedule is also posted on the website.

WITHIN THE WORD

Leaping for Joy

"For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy." (Luke 1:44)

There are certain persons in our lives who, when we see them or hear their voices, make our hearts skip a beat with delight. They are the ones who can make us laugh when everything seems gray. They are the ones who have strong arms and soft hearts, who wrap us in a smothering bear hug that makes everything seem alright. They are the wise ones who have weathered many a storm and whose assurances that all will be well can be trusted absolutely. Such is the meeting of Mary and Elizabeth in the Visitation scene (Luke 1:39-45, Sunday and Tuesday). The moment Elizabeth heard Mary's voice, both her own heart and the babe in her womb leaped for joy. Mary undoubtedly felt the same.

Often times we imagine Mary, the younger of the two, hastening from Galilee to Judea out of concern and generosity to help her older relative, who is coping with pregnancy at an advanced age. Without discounting this aspect of their encounter, we may also envision Elizabeth as the wise figure of an elder mentor, who wraps the bewildered teenage mother-to-be in her strong embrace, offering her wisdom and strength in a difficult time. God's timing is difficult for both women. How much easier it would have been for Elizabeth had her child come when her body was more limber and supple. How much easier it would have been for Mary had her child arrived after her marriage to Joseph.

COLLECTIONS

	Last Week	July 2021 to Date
Contributions	\$ 3,075.70	\$ 76,032.40
Expenses	\$ -	\$ 73,298.21
Over/(Under)		\$ 2,734.19
Building Fund Contributions	\$ -	

PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

Please pray for Audrey Casassa, Jerry Davenport, Mary Davied, Gary Dowling, Rosemary Gardner, Fred & Marjorie Giefer, Jessica Goff, Lisa Goff, Waylon Humble, Tom Kovach, Marita Lopeman, Mary Kay Mason, Herman Masser, Ronnie Michael, Bob Moore, Joseph Muia, John Oplotnik, David Peak, Betty Purdon, Frank Purdon, Sheila Reif, Tina Ruma, Dan Wendt, and David Westhoff 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!

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

Leap With Joy

Mi 5:1-4a / Heb 10:5-10 / Lk 1:39-45

The astonishment of Elizabeth in today's Gospel is easily understood when we know that the visitor in Mary's womb was the Son of God Incarnate. So great was Elizabeth's joy that the child in her own womb, John the Baptist, leaped at the sound of Mary's voice. Our own hearts should be aflutter as the Nativity of Our Lord approaches. Just as Elizabeth and the infant John were blessed by the visit of their Lord and Redeemer, we too have been blessed by the gift of Our Savior. Let us leap with joy and receive Him.

PREGNANT, STRONG, AND FAITHFUL

I love the meeting of Mary and Elizabeth, a rare depiction of pregnant women in Scripture. Both pregnancies defy social norms: Elizabeth is too old, and Mary is a young virgin. Salvation history depends on them, for each bears a miracle within her: John, the last of the prophets foretelling the Messiah, and Jesus the Savior, the Son of God.

Although art often shows Mary as fragile, she must have been sturdy and strong to climb those steep Judean hills. Then as now, pregnancy and childbirth are messy and dangerous, and these women are risking their lives to give birth to John and Jesus. We need to see them as pregnant for that reason, even though their state points to "the scandal" of the incarnation.

That scandal, that God relied on female flesh to come into the world, is often revealed in a paradox. We gladly celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas, but images of Mary depicting her "baby bump" can be criticized as sacrilegious. Contemporary women, too, experience a dichotomy. As recently as forty years ago, married women teaching in Christian schools—both Protestant and Roman Catholic—were expected (and sometimes forced) to leave once their pregnancy became visible.

So let's celebrate Mary and Elizabeth—pregnant women, greeting each other with the words God gave them. Both are blessed because, against all odds, they believed that what God promised them would be fulfilled. Let us be willing to use the bodies God gave us to help bring Christ into the world.

Kathleen Norris

Kathleen Norris is an oblate of St. Benedict and the author of many books, including The Cloister Walk and Acedia and Me.

Mass Schedule and Intentions for December 18-26

Date	Time	Intention	Minister
Dec 18 Sat	4:00pm	Violet Pazzie	Arma
	5:30pm	Pat Jr. & Vera Diskin	Girard
19 Sun	8:00am	Dan Black	Arma
	10:00am	Pro Populo	Girard
20 Mon		NO MASS	Girard
21 Tues	8:00am	Ted Yoakam	Arma
22 Wed	8:00am	Regina Butler	Girard
23 Thurs	8:00am	Fr. Emil Kapaun	Arma
	8:30am-12:30pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Arma
24 Fri	5:30pm	Ted Yoakam	Arma
	8:00pm	Donna Little	Girard
25 Sat	8:00am	John Schaub	Arma
	10:00am	George Stonerock	Girard
	5:30pm	Mary Ann Lepoglow	Girard
26 Sun	8:00am	Pro Populo	Arma
	10:00am	Charles Snow	Girard

Altar Ministers for Next Weekend

Saturday (12/25/21)	Sunday (12/26/21)
5:30pm	10:00am
Altar Servers: Volunteers	Evan & Quin Sisney
E.M.E.: Volunteer	Austin Smith
Lector: Volunteer	Ryan Severt
Gifts: Volunteers	Volunteers

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th

5:30pm—Arma

8:00pm—Girard

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25th

8:00am—Arma

10:00am—Girard

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 25th

No 4:00pm Mass—Arma

5:30pm—Girard

Sunday, December 26th

8:00am—Arma

10:00am—Girard

The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

Saturday, January 1st

9:00am—Girard

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