

# 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.

## Octave of Christmas *Within the Word* Suffering of the Innocents

It is December, a month filled with Scripture readings that anticipate the coming Messiah, tell of angels announcing news of his birth, and describe heartwarming visits from shepherds and magi. It is December, a time for gift-giving and celebrations, candlelight and sumptuous foods. It is December, and the celebrations are marred by another kind of feast, one commemorating the tragic massacre of the holy innocents. Couldn't we have just this one month without grim news, without the stain of sadness?

The early Church seems to show little interest in sanitizing the narratives it preserved or in presenting the life of Jesus in storybook fashion. The Gospel writers were interested in proclaiming the impact of Jesus in the world in which they lived and died, knowing that even the accounts of his birth must carry in them the realities of an imperfect world. In this world, new life sidles right up next to tragedy, and good news is most often a counterbalance to the news that can break our hearts.

The Church echoes this reality-soaked sensibility in its placement of liturgical feasts and seasons. Originally believed to be commemorated as part of the feast of the Epiphany (as would seem natural in the context of the story in Matthew), the feast of the Holy Innocents was moved into late December by the late fifth century and has stood on its own since then.

The Gospel of Matthew (2:13-18) is the sole source of the story of the holy family's flight into Egypt and the massacre of innocent children in the region of Bethlehem. King Herod is portrayed as jealously paranoid after

### COLLECTIONS

	Last Week	July 2021 to Date
Contributions	\$ 2,452.20	\$ 78,484.60
Expenses	\$ -	\$ 73,298.21
Over/(Under)		\$ 5,186.39
Building Fund Contributions	\$ 250.00	

hearing rumors of a child born to rule Israel. Historical records indicate that this portrayal would be consistent with Herod's record of cruelty and murder of his own family members.

In Matthew, the adult Jesus is often portrayed as a new Moses, interpreting and teaching the law of God, liberating God's people. This Mosaic role begins to emerge even in the account of the magi and the aftermath of their visit. Like the baby Moses, Jesus' family protects him from a ruler drunk with power. The holy family's stay in Egypt is without doubt a way to connect Jesus to the struggle of God's people oppressed by slavery. Jesus' ancestors eventually entered into the Promised Land, just as he and his parents would do after the death of Herod. While both Moses and Jesus are protected, other children lose their lives.

Commenting on the massacre of innocent children, the Gospel writer invokes a passage from the prophet Jeremiah, recalling the inconsolable Rachel weeping for her children, a reference to Israel being carried away into exile seven centuries prior to the birth of Jesus. Across the generations life and death are so intimately connected.

The suffering of the innocent children in Bethlehem is not far removed from the suffering of starving children today, or children separated from their families, or children who die in violence, or children who never see the light of day. The evangelists who proclaimed in writing the Good News of Jesus knew that joy and grief would always walk hand in hand. Violence would not magically disappear in the coming of Jesus, but they knew his very presence in the midst of it would begin to transform the world.

- Catherine Upchurch

*Catherine (Cackie) Upchurch is the former director of Little Rock Scripture Study, general editor of the Little Rock Catholic Study Bible, and the author of several volumes of the Alive in the Word series, including the forthcoming Easter, Season of Realized Hope.*

### HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

The Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God  
Saturday, January 1st  
9:00am—Girard

### PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

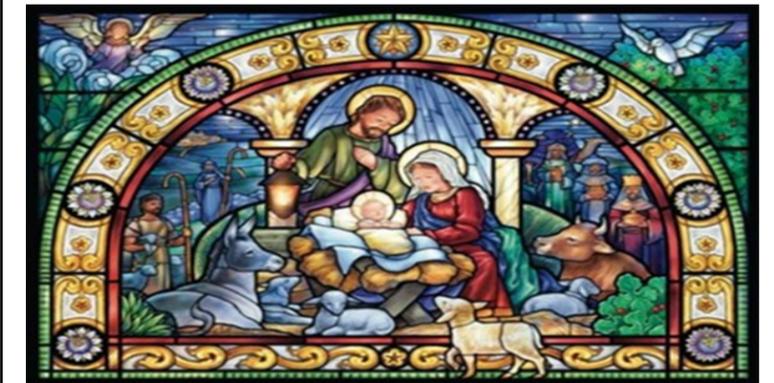
Please pray for Audrey Casassa, Jerry Davenport, Mary Davied, Gary Dowling, Rosemary Gardner, Fred & Marjorie Giefer, Jessica Goff, Lisa Goff, Waylon Humble, Tom Kovach, Marita Lopeman, Mary Kay Mason, Herman Masser, Ronnie Michael, Bob Moore, Joseph Muia, John Oplotnik, David Peak, Betty Purdon, Frank 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](mailto:jmscales414@gmail.com). Thank you!

### STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

#### My Father's House

*Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Col 3:12-21/ Lk 2:41-52*

Notice the slight shift created in today's Gospel, stemming from the use of one capital letter. We can only imagine the fear and frustration Mary must have felt when she finally found Jesus after being separated from Him for three days. She says: "Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." The 12-year-old Jesus responds with: "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" The slight shift from *father* to *Father* speaks volumes here. Jesus acknowledges Joseph and Mary as His earthly parents, and He is obedient to them. However, He seems quite aware that He is not "of this world" and must make His way to His Father's house. May we all remember that we should not allow ourselves to get lost or attached to things in this world and that we should, instead, make our way to our Father's house. Like the child Jesus, we are called to obedience in this temporary world, but we were created for holiness in the Kingdom of God!



### Mass Schedule and Intentions for December 25-January 2

Dec	Day	Time	Intention	Minister
25	Sat	4:00pm	NO MASS	Arma
		5:30pm	Mary Ann Lepoglow	Girard
26	Sun	8:00am	Pro Populo	Arma
		10:00am	Charles Snow	Girard
27	Mon		NO MASS	Girard
28	Tues	8:00am	Ted Yoakam	Arma
29	Wed	8:00am	Regina Butler	Girard
30	Thurs	8:00am	John Schaub	Arma
		8:30am-12:30pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Arma
31	Fri	7:00am	Regina Butler	Girard
		8:00am-6:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Girard
01	Sat	9:00am	Regina Butler	Girard
		4:00pm	Ted Yoakam	Arma
		5:30pm	Charles Snow	Girard
02	Sun	8:00am	John Schaub	Arma
		10:00am	Pro Populo	Girard

### Altar Ministers for Next Weekend

Saturday (01/01/22)	Sunday (01/02/22)
5:30pm	10:00am
Altar Servers: Aiden Ashbacher & Jaxton Smith	Sara Goble & Kaila Karhoff
E.M.E.: Carrie Smith	Anna Goble
Lector: Teresa Davenport	Ruth Duling
Gifts: Tony & Rhonda Stonerock	Missy Sisney Family

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