

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.

BEFORE WE WERE FORMED IN THE WOMB . . .

I'd never put a Bible verse on a bumper sticker. Ever.
Case in point: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you" (Jeremiah 1:5). It's a beautiful verse, replete with comfort, affirmation, and love. The problem: it's not the end of the story. Taking this verse out of context and slapping it on a bumper sticker, stationery, or poster ignores what follows in the 52 chapters of Jeremiah.

Early on God gives Jeremiah a scary vision: a boiling pot at the tipping point, a sign of the impending evil that will pour out over Israel (1:13). Then God says that Jeremiah will be like an iron pillar and a bronze wall, suggesting he will need great strength and courage for what is to come (1:18). Because God chose Jeremiah in the womb, the prophet is destined to "uproot and to tear down, to destroy and to demolish, to build and to plant" (1:10). God's choice of Jeremiah is the prerequisite for the death and rebirth of an entire society.

But the story is still not finished. As the book of Jeremiah progresses, things get worse for the prophet. He becomes a pariah because the people don't like his message of imminent judgment. Long before the people imprison Jeremiah and throw him in a muddy cistern (chaps. 37 and 38), he had reinterpreted God's call: "You seduced me, Lord, and I let myself be seduced; you were too strong for me, and you prevailed . . . everyone mocks me" (20:7). Some translations here used the word "duped." You duped me, Lord.

Later in chapter 20, Jeremiah repudiates God choosing him before birth: Cursed be the day / on which I was born! . . . / Cursed be the one who brought the news / to my father, / "A Child, a son, has been born to you!" . . . /

COLLECTIONS

	Last Week	July 2021 to Date
Contributions	\$ 1,814.00	\$ 93,117.78
Expenses	\$ -	\$ 82,815.07
Over/(Under)		\$ 10,302.71
Building Fund Contributions	\$ -	

Let him hear war cries . . . / because he did not kill me in the womb! / Then my mother would have been my grave, / her womb confining me forever. (20:14-17)

Jeremiah curses the day of his birth and wishes he'd been killed before he saw the light of day. We never see this verse on a bumper sticker.

I'm sure you can see the irony. The memorable early verse in Jeremiah gets subverted later in the book. Placing Jeremiah's call in the broader context of the whole book should cause us to reflect on what sort of life lies ahead for those whom God chooses. Such a life will not be so easy to capture on a bumper sticker or frameable poster.

Jeremiah 1:5 testifies that a life chosen by and lived for God may be one of disruption, rejection, and suffering. We should not go looking for suffering, but if we live and advocate for a world in which all creation thrives—where the unborn, the environment, prisoners, refugees, immigrants, and people of every color are honored and respected—we will find ourselves at odds with the power structures of our world. At times we might feel duped.

Amazingly, even in the midst of his lament rejecting God's call, Jeremiah shines a ray of hope: "Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he has rescued the life of the poor" (20:13). Here could be our mantra. But I still don't recommend putting it on a bumper sticker.

-Micah D. Kiel

Micah D. Kiel is professor of theology at St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa. He is the author of Apocalyptic Ecology and Reading the Bible in the Age of Francis.

FATHER'S SCHEDULE

Father Mike will be on retreat from Sunday, January 30th through Friday, February 4th. There will be no weekday Mass or Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at either parish while he is gone.

PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

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

We Are Still Called

Jer 1:4-5, 17-19 / 1 Cor 12:31-13:13 / Lk 4:21-30

When we think about how the crowds often reacted to Jesus's teachings as they did in today's Gospel, perhaps we find it difficult to comprehend how so many could reject him. Especially when we consider that he not only proclaimed the Word of God—he was himself the Living Word of God. And to think that Jesus was rejected mostly by those who thought they knew him best—those from his own native place—might seem all the more confounding and incomprehensible to us. Yet, today we are still called to hear his message, in the words of Scripture and those who God has called to proclaim the Gospels. May we be as receptive of His gifts today as much as we would have expected ourselves to be over two-thousand years ago.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The Red Cross is experiencing the worst blood shortage in over a decade. The dangerously low blood supply levels have forced some hospitals to defer patients from major surgery, including organ transplants. Your donation is desperately needed. The next blood drive to be held at St. Michael's Catholic Hall will be on Tuesday, February 8th from 11:30am to 5:30pm. If you are willing and able to donate, please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) today to schedule your appointment.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus will meet this Tuesday at 7:00pm in the St. Michael Hall.

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA

The Daughters of Isabella will meet Tuesday, February 8th at the St. Francis Parish Hall in St. Paul at 6:30pm. All ladies of St. Michael's and St. Joseph's parishes are invited. Daughters of Isabella is an International Organization of Catholic Women.

Mass Schedule and Intentions for January 29-February 6

Jan	29 Sat	4:00pm	Pro Populo	Arma
		5:30pm	Loretta (Butler) Vice	Girard
	30 Sun	8:00am	Violet Pazzie	Arma
		10:00am	Regina Butler	Girard
	31 Mon		NO MASS	Girard
Feb	01 Tues	8:00am	NO MASS	Arma
	02 Wed	8:00am	NO MASS	Girard
	03 Thurs	8:00am	NO MASS	Arma
			NO Eucharistic Adoration	Arma
	04 Fri	7:00am	NO MASS	Girard
			NO Eucharistic Adoration	Girard
	05 Sat	4:00pm	Father Emil Kapaun	Arma
		5:30pm	Charley Lanzrath	Girard
	06 Sun	8:00am	Pro Populo	Arma
		10:00am	Regina Butler	Girard

Altar Ministers for Next Weekend

Saturday (02/05/22)	Sunday (02/06/22)
5:30pm	10:00am

Altar Servers: Trevor & August Amershek	Isabella & Elijah Walsh
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E.M.E.: Linda DeGarmo	Chris Sponsel
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Lector: Mary Twarog	Connie Sponsel
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Gifts: Amanda Blythe Family	Scott & Beth Wilson Family
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