

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.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND IN OUR WORDS

We often hear, "It isn't what you say, but how you say it that matters." I suggest that what is said also matters. Together, the *what* and the *how* of speech form a package that has the potential to create and build up or to tear down and destroy. The author of Sirach would agree.

Sirach, also known as *Ben Sira*, *Wisdom of Ben Sira*, or *Ecclesiasticus*, may be somewhat unfamiliar, but the book is filled with wisdom. It was written in Hebrew two centuries filled with wisdom. It was written in Hebrew two centuries before Christ and subsequently translated to Greek. In the fourth century, when the Christian Bible—Old and New Testaments—was translated into Latin, only the Greek version of Sirach had been found.

In Sunday's brief passage from Sirach, the Greek term translated as speech has also been translated as thoughts, both in modern languages and in Latin. This invites us to reflect on the relationship between ideas and words, thoughts and speech. Words and speech are ways to communicate ideas and thoughts. Whether our thoughts shape our speech or vice versa, the relationship between what we think and how we express those thoughts is undeniable. Furthermore, the chain of relationality continues, as thoughts and beliefs shape our actions.

This relationship is palpable for the author of Sirach, who affirms that speech functions as a measure of one's character. As husks strained in a filter, our faults appear when we speak (27:4). Some other translations use harsher language to communicate this reality: "When a sieve is shaken, the refuse remains; so a man's filth remains in his thoughts." Another verse presents our speech as the fruit by which we can be known: "The fruit of a tree shows the care it has had; so too does one's speech disclose the bent of one's

COLLECTIONS		
	Last Week	July 2021 to Date
Contributions	\$ 2,239.75	\$ 105,235.48
Expenses	\$ -	\$ 98,970.61
Over/(Under)		\$ 6,264.87
Building Fund Contributions	\$ -	

mind" (27:6). This is sometimes translated as, "The fruit discloses the cultivation of a tree; so the expression of a thought discloses the cultivation of a man's mind" (or lack of cultivation, as the case may be!).

Also using an agrarian theme, Jesus tells a parable in Luke's Gospel that makes the same point: our speech functions as a mirror of our inner person. Good or evil, whatever resides in our hearts is communicated in our speech and expressed in our actions.

These messages concerning speech—along with many other similar biblical references—are as relevant today as they were in times past. While the internet makes it possible for us to communicate in unprecedented ways, social media has also created many other challenges to respectful discourse. Speech is as powerful as an arrow fired from a bow, and it can cause great harm. Once released, our words cannot be retrieved.

Bearing this in mind, Sunday's Scriptures are an invitation and a challenge. They call us to examine whether our actions, our thoughts, and our words reflect our identity as Christians. What would it be like if we intentionally used our speech—both spoken and written—to give thanks to God and to reflect God's kindness?

What we say and how we say it truly does matter.

-Ximena DeBroeck

Ximena DeBroeck, STL, PhD, is Director of Pastoral Formation at Mount St. Mary's Seminary and Academic Director of Camino—Spanish online theology courses—at the University of Notre Dame's McGrath Institute for Church Life.

MARCH 8 & 9 MASS SCHEDULE

There will be no 8am Mass on Tuesday, March 8th or Wednesday, March 9th.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Tuesday during Lent, starting March 8th and ending on April 12th, there will be three activities offered at St. Joseph in Arma to help nourish our souls and bodies. Please see the enclosed flyer for more details.

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, Richard Mason, Herman Masser, Ronnie Michael, Bob Moore, Joseph Muia, John Oplotnik, Josie Oplotnik, David Peak, Betty Purdon, Frank Purdon, Tina Ruma, Anna Snow, 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!

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

Use Words If Necessary

Sir 27:4-7/ 1 Cor 15:54-58/ Lk 6:39-45

It is said, "Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words if necessary." While there is some debate over *who* said these words, it doesn't really matter. The point is, in our discipleship, our actions certainly preach louder than our words. In fact, it may be best if we don't open our mouths at all! Today's reading from Sirach certainly suggests this truth: "one's faults [appear] when one speaks." What if Jesus never spoke a word? Would people have gotten His message of love by simply watching His actions? The obvious answer is yes! But what about you and I? Would people recognize our Christian discipleship by simply watching our actions? And What about when we *do* speak? Do our words align with our professed love for Jesus, or do they more often cause our faults to appear? Here is something to reflect upon this week!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The next Knights of Columbus meeting will be this Tuesday at 7:00pm in St. Michael Hall.

ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

8:00am - St. Michael
3:15pm - St. Michael (Liturgy of the Word with Ashes)
5:30pm - St. Joseph
7:00pm - St. Michael

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA

The next D of I meeting will be on Tuesday, March 8th at St. Francis Parish Hall, St. Paul, KS at 6:30pm. All ladies from St. Michael and St. Joseph parishes are invited. Hostesses are Marlene Clark, Frances Bohrer, and Tammy Goodyear.

Mass Schedule and Intentions for February 26-March 6

Feb 26 Sat	4:00pm	Ted Yoakam	Arma
	5:30pm	Verl Diskin	Girard
27 Sun	8:00am	Jean Wilson	Arma
	10:00am	Pro Populo	Girard
28 Mon		NO MASS	Girard
Mar 01 Tues	8:00am	Ted Yoakam	Arma
02 Wed	8:00am	Mary Davied	Girard
	5:30pm	Violet Pazzie	Arma
	7:00pm	Ned Sauer	Girard
03 Thurs	8:00am	John Schaub	Arma
	8:30am-12:30pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Arma
04 Fri	7:00am	Mary Lepoglow	Girard
	8:00am-6:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Girard
05 Sat	4:00pm	Ursula Sue Parsons	Arma
	5:30pm	Regina Butler	Girard
06 Sun	8:00am	Pro Populo	Arma
	10:00am	Pat Jr & Vera Diskin	Girard

Altar Ministers for Next Weekend

Saturday (03/05/22)	Sunday (03/06/22)
5:30pm	10:00am
Altar Servers: Trevor & August Amershek	Evan & Quin Sisney & Aiden Ashbacher
E.M.E.: Macy Reif	Jerry Hanson
Lector: Butch Reif	Michelle Puckett
Gifts: Dean & Tonya Davied	Robert & Alice Davied

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