

St. Michael Catholic Church

106 N. Western Ave. Girard, KS 66743
 (620)724-8717
 www.stmichaelgirard.com



Pastor: Fr. Mike Klag In Case of Emergency: 316-619-5095
Secretary: Faith Paoni **Bookkeeper/Bulletin Editor:** Janel Scales jmscales414@gmail.com

COLLECTIONS		
	Last Week	July 2022 to Date
Contributions	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 40,352.68
Expenses	\$ -	\$ 32,507.51
Over/(Under)		\$ 7,845.17
Building Fund Contributions	\$ -	

Mass Schedule & Intentions for October 8-16			
10/08 Sat	4:00pm	Jay & Mary McMillon	Arma
	5:30pm	Mary Ann Lepoglow	Girard
10/09 Sun	8:00am	Joe Jackson	Arma
	10:00am	Pro Populo	Girard
10/10 Mon		NO MASS	
10/11 Tues	8:00am	Donna Little	Arma
10/12 Wed	8:00am	Donna Little	Girard
10/13 Thurs	8:00am	Gerald Davied	Arma
	8:30am-12:30pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Arma
10/14 Fri	7:30am	Bernie O'Brien	Girard
	8:00am-5:00pm	Eucharistic Adoration	Girard
10/15 Sat	4:00pm	Wally Rons	Arma
	5:30pm	Verl Diskin	Girard
10/16 Sun	8:00am	Pro Populo	Arma
	10:00am	Mary Ann Lepoglow	Girard

Altar Ministers for Next Weekend		
	Saturday (10/15) 5:30pm	Sunday (10/16) 10:00am
Altar Servers	Kaleb Scales & Nolan Leonard	Trevor & August Amershek
EME	Janel Scales	Austin Smith
Lector	Donna Martin	Ryan Severt
Gifts	Denny & Mary Ann Heidrick	Trisha Humble Family

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

Our Leprosy

2 Kgs 5:14-17 / Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 / 2 Tm 2:8-13 / Lk 17:11-19
 Imagine yourself as one of the lepers in today's Gospel. Undesirable. Excluded. Unwelcome. Despite being lepers, they had a community. They could relate to one another's disposition. There had to be some comfort in each other's struggle. Yet, they surely longed for a different community and a life that didn't include leprosy. Sometimes, as Catholics, when we live out our faith, we are excluded, unwelcome—maybe even undesirable? We may want to respond as the lepers did, "Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!" Even worse, we might see others outside our circles as lepers—the lukewarm, the non-practicing, or "cafeteria" Catholics, just to name a few. How are we to RESPOND to the undesirables in our life? As though we have been RESCUED! Look how Naaman responded in today's first reading after he was cleansed of his leprosy—so grateful, giving thanks to Elisha and committing all sacrifice to the one true God. We have this opportunity every time we go to the Sacrament of Penance. We are cleansed! We may not walk away disease free, but we can be assured of God's mercy, and always being welcome in the Communion of Saints for all eternity.

ST. MICHAEL TURKEY BAZAAR

After much consideration the annual Turkey Bazaar will not be held this year. In order for this event to happen, turkeys would have needed to be ordered several months in advance. A lot of the food is prepared at parishioners' homes, which Health departments are advising against. The suggestion was made to possibly hold an event in the spring. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

2022 PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY CRUSADE

Join us for the 2022 Public Square Rosary Crusade at St. Francis Catholic Church Parking Lot, 208 Washington, St. Paul, KS on Saturday, October 15 at 12:00 Noon. For more information, please contact: Mary Jane Gouvion at 620-449-2654.

PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

Please pray for Audrey Casassa, Jerry Davenport, Mary Davied, Gary Dowling, Rosemary Gardner, Fred & Marjorie Giefer, Tom Kovach, Marita Lopeman, Mary Kay Mason, Richard Mason, Herman Masser, Bob Moore, Joseph Muia, John Oplotnik, Josie Oplotnik, Betty Purdon, Frank Purdon, Tina Ruma, Mary Sayre, Anna Snow, Dan Wendt, and Judy Widner 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!

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA

Daughters of Isabella St. Luke's Circle will meet October 11th at St. Francis Parish Hall, St. Paul, KS at 6:30pm. Trustee's meeting will begin at 5:45pm. Our State Regent Jeanette Gunkel will be present for the audit and meeting. Hostesses for October are Marilyn Bradshaw, Lois Corn, and Mary Alice Diskin. There will be Halloween games and prizes. Halloween for all! All ladies from St. Michael's and St. Joseph's parishes are invited and encouraged to attend. Daughters of Isabella is an International Organization of Catholic Women.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

The next blood drive will be on October 11th from 11:30am-5:30pm at St. Michael Parish Hall. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS. There is an URGENT need for blood donors, please consider this rewarding gift!!

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE

The Knights of Columbus will be passing out tootsie rolls after each Mass this weekend, October 15th & 16th. Donations will be accepted and appreciated!

CLOTHES CLOSET

We are looking for volunteers to work at the Clothes Closet in Girard. You would only have to volunteer once every 6-8 weeks on a Friday from 8:00am-1:00pm. The more volunteers we have, the less you have to work, so grab a friend and volunteer. It's a great way to add stewardship to your life! Please call Barb Mikrut at 620-249-9505 if you are interested or have any questions.

The Fruits of the Spirit and the Age to Come

St. Paul thought apocalyptically. This meant he saw the gospel of Christ as a shifting of ages, as one period of history giving way to another. He announced that an age dominated by violence, greed, hatred, and other forms of evil had been brought to an end by the death and resurrection of Jesus. The world was now headed to the age of God's kingdom, a time when all evil would be eliminated and God's will would rule over all. But Paul knew we were not there yet.

Evil continues in the world. That is why Christians wait for Christ's return. Only then will every evil be destroyed. Paul's apocalyptic worldview positions believers between the two ages of his gospel—the one dominated by evil has been dealt a fatal blow by Christ's resurrection, but the complete victory still lies ahead. We stand "between the ages." Our salvation is "already but not yet."

It is only when we appreciate this worldview that we can understand Paul's words in Galatians 5:18-25 (Wednesday). Paul shows us how to live moral lives in this in-between time. He describes an opposition between "the flesh" and "the Spirit." The opposition is not between the material and the spiritual. Flesh and Spirit refer to the two ages of Paul's gospel. Flesh is the human person insofar as that person still participates in a world dominated by evil. Spirit is God's Spirit who rules the age to come. We participate in both. We already possess God's Spirit as a "first installment" of the age to come (2 Cor 1:21-22). But we are still influenced by the evil age which has not yet been completely defeated.

Paul calls us to trust the Spirit of the age to come as our guide for moral choices: "If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit" (Gal 5:25). We will know we are living in the Spirit when the fruits of the Spirit (5:22-23) are present in our lives. This list of fruits is not meant to be comprehensive. It is only a sampling of what the Spirit can accomplish in us. Conversely, the list of the works of the flesh (5:19-21) is a reminder of what our lives will be like if we choose to remain in the age that is coming to an end.

Paul's apocalyptic gospel reminds us that our moral choices are not simply about our individual lives. When we sacrifice for our children, forgive an enemy, serve the poor, or work to protect our planet, we are not only accumulating good deeds to reach the joys of heaven. We are cooperating with the action of the Spirit in our world, the Spirit who is bringing about God's kingdom. As Christians we do not simply collect virtues. We participate in a shift of ages. Every good moral choice brings our world closer to the new creation. And if you want to see what our world will look like if we instead turn our back on the Spirit's power, slowly read Paul's list of the works of the flesh and weep. - Father George M. Smiga

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