

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	\$ 3,363.00	\$ 92,898.29
Expenses	\$ -	\$ 72,042.37
Over/(Under)		\$ 20,855.92
Building Fund Contributions	\$ 20.00	

Mass Schedule & Intentions for Jan 14-22			
01/14 Sat	4:00pm	Linda Carpino	Arma
	5:30pm	Bernard O'Brien	Girard
01/15 Sun	8:00am	Rev Pat Larkin	Arma
	10:00am	Pro Populo	Girard
01/16 Mon		NO MASS	
01/17 Tues	8:00am	Virginia Buche	Arma
01/18 Wed	8:00am	Gerald Davied	Girard
01/19 Thurs	8:00am	Rosemary O'Toole	Arma
	8:30am-12:30pm Eucharistic Adoration		Arma
01/20 Fri	7:30am	Donna Little	Girard
	8:00am-5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration		Girard
01/21 Sat	4:00pm	Verle & Ursula Parsons	Arma
	5:30pm	Melissa Grant	Girard
01/22 Sun	8:00am	Pro Populo	Arma
	10:00am	Rosemary O'Toole	Girard

Altar Ministers for Next Weekend		
	Saturday (01/21) 5:30pm	Sunday (01/22) 10:00am
Altar Servers	Volunteers	Sara Goble & Volunteer
EME	Rachel Ausemus	Anna Goble
Lector	Mary Twarog	Beth Wilson
Gifts	Dave & Linda Garrett	Steven & Jeanne Davied

PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

Please pray for Liv Anderson, Audrey Casassa, Jerry Davenport, Tyler Edwards, Rosemary Gardner, Fred & Marjorie Giefer, Ron Gray, Tom Kovach, Marita Lopeman, Mary Kay Mason, Richard Mason, Kevin Mikrut, Joseph Muia, John Oplotnik, Josie Oplotnik, Mary Sayre, Anna Snow, Carly Twarog-Carnes, Dan Wendt, and Grant Wilks 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

Tag Team

Is 49:3, 5-6 / Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 / 1 Cor 1:1-3 / Jn 1:29-34
 Professional wrestling is a sight to see. The tag team matches are especially fun to watch. Each team of course has one man in the ring doing their thing. Meanwhile, sitting to the side is his teammate chomping at the bit to get in the ring. Each wrestler has his own style and technique. In order for teammates to swap roles they have to slap hands. Sometimes it's not so easy. Either the man in the ring can't reach his teammate, or he is in control and is not ready to come out. When they do "tag" hands, the teammate entering is full of vim and vigor as he assumes his role. Cha cha cha! The match is reinvigorated with fresh energy. Stewardship is a tag team endeavor. It takes the right person with the right gifts at the right time. John the Baptist knew it was time to tag out. Even Pope Emeritus Benedict felt called to step aside. Is there a role in your life where God is calling you to tag out? "Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will!"

OUT OF HIS MIND?

The movie *Babe* (yes, the one about a pig) portrays a tension between the status quo and something new. On Hoggett farm, a duck has decided to act like a rooster, and the pig tries to do the work of a sheepdog. This flies in the face of tradition. It breaks the rules of how things have always been done. The cow attempts to restore order and authoritatively declares: "The way things are is the way things are."

The world allegorized in *Babe* reminds me of the Gospel of Mark. Jesus bursts onto the scene with no introduction (Mark has no birth story or explanation of Jesus' origin). He immediately declares the coming of God's kingdom, and then the action starts. God's action, through Jesus, is directed at the infirm, the outcasts, and the demon-possessed. Jesus upsets the status quo. He swells the throng, calls the disciples, and disgruntles the authorities. This sets the stage for Saturday's terse Gospel:

Jesus came with his disciples into the house. Again the crowd gathered, making it impossible for them even to eat. When his relatives heard of this they set out to seize him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." (Mark 3:20-21)

Why do they think he is out of his mind? The Greek word used for "out of his mind" means to "stand outside oneself." We will use the expression today: "He was beside himself." Mark uses this word three other times, and it always refers to the crowd who observes one of Jesus' miracles. Mark loves irony, and what could be more ironic than a crowd who is constantly "beside himself" at Jesus' audacity, here accusing him of being "beside himself"?

I can't but help think about the ending of the movie *Babe*. Farmer Hoggett has entered Babe the pig into a sheepdog competition. When Babe makes his way to the center of the arena, the officials running the competitions apoplectic with anger. The crowd is "beside itself" in hysterical laughter. Nothing makes sense anymore.

The reaction to Jesus is similar. The sick and infirm have been healed. Demons are being cast out. Jesus is teaching with a new authority. The crowds and the authorities can't make sense of what is happening. Even the disciples, hand-picked by Jesus, are completely flummoxed and ask, "Who is this?" (4:41).

Out of context, the idea of Jesus being "out of his mind" seems sacrilegious. But in the context of Mark's full narrative, it makes sense. Each of our four Gospels has a unique story to tell. Mark's main goal is to profile the ways in which God's kingdom is incongruent with the world we have built for ourselves.

Just like Hoggett farm, our world has rules and traditions so deeply engrained that any jolt to the system produces spasms of rejection. Pope Francis repeatedly identifies the danger of calcified traditions even within the Church: "Are we anchored in an artificial pond made by ourselves, with our own rules, our own activities? . . . Are we anchored there where everything is safe and comfy?" Mark's gospel profiles a Jesus who calls believers to leave behind the sinful structures of the world, to see a world painted with new colors.

A kingdom ushered in by Jesus is bound to clash with "the way things are." For Mark, "the way things are" is not "the way things should be." Anyone who begins the work of creating God's new world might well seem as crazy as a sheep-herding pig.

-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.

PSR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

St. Michael's Church is in great need of substitute teachers for our Elementary School PSR program from 2-3:30pm on Wednesdays when USD 248 is in session. Lessons will be provided and no class is larger than 9 students. Substitute teachers are contacted as soon as we know a teacher isn't able to teach and they are able to say if they can help for that date or not. If you are interested please message St. Michael's Church on Facebook or call Kristen Graham at 620-875-6133.

PRINCIPAL OPENING

St. Mary's Colgan Catholic High School, Pittsburg, Kansas, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish is seeking a dynamic building principal for grades 7-12 for approximately 220 students. St. Mary's Colgan Catholic High School is Catholic school dedicated to providing a quality Christian education driven by faith, excellence, and tradition.

Interested applicants should submit online application by accessing www.catholicdioceseofwichita.org/careers
 Deadline for applications is January 27, 2023

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