

St. Michael Catholic Church

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 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	\$ 2,050.00	\$ 97,469.49
Expenses	\$ -	\$ 72,042.37
Over/(Under)		\$ 25,427.12
Building Fund Contributions	\$ 250.00	

Mass Schedule & Intentions for Jan 28-Feb 5			
01/28 Sat	4:00pm	Margaret Ann Dorio	Arma
	5:30pm	Bud Azember	Girard
01/29 Sun	8:00am	Wally & Betty Rons	Arma
	10:00am	Pro Populo	Girard
01/30 Mon		NO MASS	
01/31 Tues	8:00am	Virginia Buche	Arma
02/01 Wed	8:00am	Gerald Davied	Girard
02/02 Thurs	8:00am	Virginia Buche	Arma
	8:30am-12:30pm Eucharistic Adoration		Arma
02/03 Fri	7:30am	Rosemary O'Toole	Girard
	8:00am-5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration		Girard
02/04 Sat	4:00pm	Linda Carpino	Arma
	5:30pm	Bernard O'Brien	Girard
02/05 Sun	8:00am	Wally Rons	Arma
	10:00am	Pro Populo	Girard

Altar Ministers for Next Weekend		
	Saturday (02/04) 5:30pm	Sunday (02/05) 10:00am
Altar Servers	Carly Reif & Aydin Sisney	Volunteers
EME	Macy Reif	Jerry Hanson
Lector	Butch Reif	Ryan Severt
Gifts	Chris & Mary Leritz Family	David & Anna Goble Family

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, Bob Moore, 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

Rescued, Responded, Rejoiced!

Zep 2:3, 3:12-13 / Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 / 1 Cor 1:26-31 / Mt 5:1-12a
 This year's artwork for Stewardship beautifully captures the Beatitudes in so many ways. Mary Magdalen appears meek, poor in spirit, merciful, pure, persecuted, comforted, childlike, satisfied...blessed! The artist seizes Mary's response to the rescue and rewards her with Jesus' outstretched hand. Mary is seeing God the Son. How will she respond? Her response is her reward! There are so many Mary Magdalens that need rescuing—what is our response to this need? Can you imagine how it would make you feel to rescue? Paint that picture in your mind. To quote Audrey Ronnfeldt, the director of Stewardship of the diocese of Wichita, "rescued people, rescue people." Have you been rescued? Then rescue, and "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven!"

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA

The D of I, St. Luke's Circle, will not meet during the month of February. Our next meeting will be in March.

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.

BY WHAT SPIRIT?

The Gospels are full of stories of Jesus confronting and besting evil spirits. Modern psychology assumes that behavior comes from inner motives and ways of thinking and feeling. With due consideration for the power of past experiences and memories, we tend to consider the forces behind our actions as arising from within the person. Much ancient Mediterranean psychology believed these forces were personified spirits (in Greek, *diamones*) who came from outside to enter and inhabit the person, sometimes by invitation, sometimes involuntarily.

It is a mistranslation to see all these spirits as evil, as *demons* (e.g., in 1 Cor 10:20-21). Some of them were benevolent and beneficial ones could prompt positive attitudes and behavior, for example, the list of "fruits of the Spirit" that Paul lays out in Galatians 5:22. The malevolent ones could prompt not only bad behavior but physical and mental disease. Thus in the Gospel narratives, there is a fine line between exorcism and healing. In the case of exorcisms, the question is sometimes posed: does this person derive his power from the spirit of God or the spirit of evil (see Mark 3: 22-30)? This is fundamentally where the "discernment of spirits," a process with a long history, begins.

The spirit inhabiting the man in Mark 5:1-20 (Monday) is "unclean" and clearly malevolent, producing in him behavior that we would call severe mental illness, including self-mutilation. Narrative details enhance the drama. The setting is the "other side" of the lake, thought by the Jews of Galilee to be strange and contaminated territory. Jesus no sooner has a leg out of the boat than he is vehemently accosted by the unclean spirit inhabiting this unfortunate man. The possessing spirit recognizes Jesus for who he is—and wants him to go away. Jesus, however, draws on his own authority and commands the spirit to leave the man. He invokes the power of naming, the first step to asserting control. The possessing spirit turns out to be not one but many and has a name that it/they admit: *legion*. The appearance of this Latin word in the Greek text is odd. It may just be a loanword incorporated into the Greek of Mark's milieu to mean "many". But commentators often think it is a swipe at the Roman army, organized in legions, a jab appropriate to Mark's context, which may be even Rome itself.

The ultimate swipe, however, is where the now-homeless unclean spirits are willing to go: into a herd of pigs! The pigs, like the formerly possessed man, are driven to irrational and self-destructive behavior and commit suicide. We can almost hear the Jewish listeners to the story say, *Of course, where else? They had it coming! Good riddance!* The bad news is that spirits don't die when their hosts do, so they will be free to go bother someone else—but not is Jesus has anything to say about it.

We will miss the point of this story if we get sidetracked into animal rights or economic justice for the pig herders. The narrative is meant to convey in sweeping terms the power of Jesus over evil spirits. We must keep in mind, however, that Jesus is not "spiritless." He too is possessed—by the ultimate good spirit, the one we call the Holy Spirit. We have already been told this at the beginning of the story, when this Spirit descends upon Jesus at baptism and then *drives* (not *leads*) him into the wilderness (Mark 1:10-12). Jesus knows by what Spirit he is possessed—the one that can be trusted to bring about the kingdom of God, and whom we invoke in prayer: "Come, Holy Spirit!"

-Sr. Carolyn Osiek

Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ, is Charles Fischer Professor of New Testament Emerita at Brite Divinity School And archivist for the Society of the Sacred Heart, United States—Canada Province.

2022 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Your 2022 contribution statements were mailed to your home this past week. If you don't receive it within the next week or have questions, please reach out to Janel at jmscales414@gmail.com or 620-724-0032. Thank you for your 2022 financial support!

SEK SERRA CLUB

The SEK Serra Club (in-formation) will be hosting the Southeast Kansas 6th Grade Vocations Day on Thursday February 23rd from 9:30am to 2pm at St Francis Parish in St Paul Kansas. Activities for this day will include Mass with Bishop Carl A. Kemme, as well as presentations from priests of the Wichita Diocese and the sisters from the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters. We'll also have the musical talent of Dustin Treiber for Mass and as entertainment for the students. This is an event that helps the students be around priests and sisters in a fun setting. These priests and sisters will be able to answer tough religious questions and to tell the students their own discernment stories. All area 6th grade students are welcome to attend, but we **MUST have an RSVP by February 11th at sekserraclub@gmail.com**

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