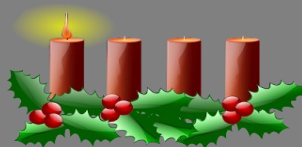


St. Michael Church
106 N. Western
Girard, Ks. 66743
724-8717
www.stmichaelgirard.com

Sunday, Dec. 3rd, 2023



St. Joseph Church
100 S. 8th –PO Box 948
Arma, Ks. 66712
347-4525
www.stjosepharma.com



St. Michael Mass Times:

Saturday: 5:30 P.M.
Sunday: 10:00 A.M.

Confessions:

Saturday: 2:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

Adoration: Friday 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

St. Joseph Mass Times:

Saturday: 4:00 P.M.
Sunday: 8:00 A.M.

Confessions:

Saturday: 3:15 P.M. - 3:45 P.M.

Adoration: Thursday 8:30AM -12:30 P.M.

St. Michael

Pastoral Council:

Carrie Smith - Chair

Finance Council:

Tony Stonerock - Chair

DRE:

Kristen Graham
kristen.j.graham@gmail.com

Prayer Squad

Nancy Bauer
bauerbackes@yahoo.com
724-2051

Staff:

Pastor: Fr. Vacca
Email:
fathervacca@gmail.com

Secretary: Barb Duling
Email:
dulingbarb@gmail.com

Bookkeeper: Janel Scales
Email:
jmscales414@gmail.com

St. Joseph

Pastoral Council:

Pat Westhoff - Chair

Finance Council:

Linda Broyles - Chair

Hall Rent Manager:

Linda Broyles
lkbroyles3445@gmail.com

Prayer Chain:

Bev Presley
bevpresley18@gmail.com
620-704-7693

Welcome Newcomers

With great joy, we welcome you to our parish family. We invite you to call the Rectory to register.

Baptism

Please call the Rectory to make arrangements.
Baptismal preparation is required before
your first baby is baptized in the parish.

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
is a process for those interested in
becoming Catholic or those
inquiring about the Church.
Please call the rectory.

Bulletin

Please have all bulletin items in the
parish rectory by Noon on Wednesday.

Matrimony

Make an appointment with Father before setting your date
of marriage at least six months in advance.

Anointing of the Sick

If you're approaching surgery or facing significant illness,
connect with Father to receive the Anointing of the Sick.
(a source of comfort and Spiritual renewal.)

Mass Schedule & Intentions Dec. 2– Dec. 10, 2023

Saturday	12/2	4:00 PM (Arma) 5:30 PM (Girard)	† Sharon Cizerle Pro Populo
Sunday	12/3	8:00 AM (Arma) 10:00 AM (Girard)	† Pro Populo Kevin O'Brien
Monday	12/4	No Mass	No Mass
Tuesday	12/5	5:30 PM (Arma)	† Barbara Doue
Wednesday	12/6	6:30 PM (Girard)	† Terry Azember
Thursday	12/7	8:00 AM (Arma) 6:30 PM (Girard)	† Helen Normand Bernadette Coomes
Friday	12/8	7:30 AM (Girard) 12:00 PM (Arma)	† Pat Jr. & Vera Diskin Pro Populo
Saturday	12/9	4:00 PM (Arma) 5:30 PM (Girard)	† Pro Populo Bill O'Toole
Sunday	12/10	8:00 AM (Arma) 10:00 AM (Girard)	† Helen Normand Scott & Beth Wilson Family

Dates of Importance

Dec. 3: Arma Cantata
Dec. 5: Bible Study
Dec. 5: Knights of Columbus
Dec. 7: RCIA
Dec. 7: Holy Day Mass (Girard)
Dec. 8: Holy Day Mass (Girard & Arma)
Dec. 12: D of I, St. Luke Circle Christmas

Holy Day Mass Schedule

The Immaculate Conception
of The Blessed Virgin Mary

Thursday, December 7 - 6:30 PM in Girard
Friday, December 8 - 7:30 AM in Girard
Friday, December 8 - 12:00 PM in Arma

Liturgical Calendars

The 2024 liturgical calendars
are available in the back of the church.
Please take one per household.

Altar Ministers for Next Weekend

Saturday (12/9)

4:00 PM

Altar Servers Volunteers

EME Sharon Giacometti

Lector Anna Meyer

Gifts Georganne Galichia
Anna Meyer

Ushers Mark VanLeeuwen
Don Zornes

5:30 PM

Volunteers

Linda Garrett

Donna Martin

Bob &
Linda Moore

Dave Garrett
(Lead usher)

Sunday (12/10)

8:00AM

Cody & Tyler Burns
Zen Davied

Joan Black

Joe Broyles

Mary Sayre
Joyce Klinkon

Ron Black
Greg Bogina

10:00 AM

Gabby Graham
Seth Wilson

Marilyn McCracken

Beth Wilson

Rick & Barb Duling

Bob Davied
(Lead usher)

Bible Study

Father offers a Bible Study for anyone that would like to attend.
They are being offered in both parishes on Tuesdays.

10:00 A.M. in St. Michael Hall

4:15 P.M. in St. Joseph Rectory

We hope to see you there!



Scan this QR code,
for todays Sunday Gospel
activities for children.

**St. Michael Collections:**

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>July 2023 to Date</u>
Contributions:	\$2,320	\$80,177.26
Expenses:	\$ -	\$ -
Over/(Under)		\$80,177.26

**St. Joseph Collections:**

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>July 2023 to Date</u>
Contributions:	\$1,169.00	\$29,186.25
Expenses:	\$ -	\$ -
Over/(Under)		\$29,186.25

Arma Community Choir Christmas Cantata

"Silent Night" by Sally DeFord
 Sunday, December 3, 3 PM
 Arma United Methodist Church

The St Joe Altar Society uses this as an annual fundraiser to assist families in need during the holidays with food baskets and other essential needs. We are thrilled to have Fr. Vacca join us this year!

Christmas Food Baskets

The Arma Cantata Fund is preparing food baskets for local families and gifts for children, to be distributed before Christmas.
 We welcome donations of non-perishable foods, which may be left at the entry of St. Joseph Church until Dec. 3, (day of the Cantata).

Thank you for your generosity.

ST. MICHAEL'S ANGELS

If you would like to donate to the St. Michael's Angels for this coming Christmas, please use the "St. Michael's Angels" envelopes that are located on the religious articles glass case in the entrance of the Church.

POINSETTIAS

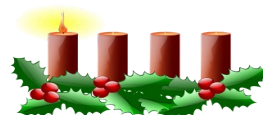
If you would like to reserve a Poinsettia in memory of a loved one, please use the "Poinsettia" envelopes that are located on the religious articles glass case in the entrance of the Church. Please make sure to include your loved one's name(s) and \$10 for each poinsettia you wish to reserve.

Christmas Call to Sharing 2023

Priests play an essential role of sanctifying, teaching and leading. They are servants to all. Very soon, you will be receiving an invitation from Bishop Kemme asking you to consider a gift to the Christmas Call to Sharing. Your gift is used to benefit the 43 men currently studying for the priesthood in the Wichita Diocese and the 20 priests in retirement. I would ask you to prayerfully consider a special gift this year to support our priest.

Daughters of Isabella St. Luke's Circle

D of I (St. Luke's Circle) will meet for a Christmas Party on **Tuesday, December 12, at 12:00 pm** at St. Ambrose Church Hall, Erie, Kansas. All members are asked to bring Finger Food, with a \$15 wrapped Exchange Gift for your Secret Prayer Partner. Your Secret Prayer Partner will be revealed. Please bring 3 or 4, \$1 or \$2 wrapped gifts for Bingo Prizes. *Daughters of Isabella is an International Organization of Catholic Women.

**Blessing of the Advent Wreath*****First Sunday of Advent***

Stir up thy power, O Lord, and come, that by thy protection we may be rescued from the dangers that beset us through our sins; and be a Redeemer to deliver us; Who lives and reigns with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.
Amen.

**Knights of Columbus Meeting**

The next K of C meeting will be held on
 December 5th at 7:00 PM
 At the St. Michael Church Hall

**Understanding the Mass (by Father Vacca)**

#12 Besides the Gospels, the New Testament is composed of the Acts of the Apostles, letters of St. Paul given from longest to shortest, letters of Peter, James, John and Jude, and the Book of Revelation.

For someone wanting to begin regular reading of the Bible, the New Testament is a good place to start, especially the letters of St. Paul. He is giving wisdom and advice to various Christian communities; even after two thousand years communities today struggle with the same sort of issues. Some of his letters are very short and can easily be read in one sitting. Just as those early Christian communities cherished those letters, we continue to look to them for guidance in how we live our faith today.

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WHAT IS IT ABOUT MARY?

Next week, we will celebrate the holy day, the Immaculate Conception, where the Church has declared Mary, the Mother of God, to have been conceived without sin. As practicing Catholics, we are to accept the decision of the Magisterium (teaching authority of the Church). The Immaculate Conception was officially declared in a church document in 1854. Most Christians and some Catholics find this difficult to honor. Often those who carry such positions think of Mary as Jesus' mother and she appears each Christmas in the manger, in art or in music to play the role given her.

Mary, Mother of Christ, is the most perfect mother because she was conceived without sin. We all know the meaning of motherhood, having felt the soft love of a mother which makes it difficult to say 'goodbye' or to leave home. A real mother always finds a place for the children the Lord sends her. A child may make his mother's heart ache because of his sinful ways, yet when the wayward child comes home, her face brightens! He still has a friend as long as his mother lives because the door of her heart remains wide open to him no matter what happens.

Four years after the doctrine of Her Immaculate Conception, she appeared to Bernadette, a poor French girl, at Lourdes. When asked, she replied, "I am the Immaculate Conception", which Bernadette did not understand, but repeated it to her parents. This is actual history and was recorded by witnesses. However, many remain skeptical and confused. What is it about Mary? Are we envious because God is so generous? Is she too pure for us? Perhaps too holy? Too much like we were called to be? The gospel, on this December 8 feast for Mary, recalls when the Angel Gabriel came to her, announcing her coming motherhood: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee." We understand 'full of grace' to mean that she was without sin. She was born without Original Sin. God interrupted the process when He created Mary and I don't believe the angel would have described her as 'full of grace' if God didn't approve.

Mary's faith was tested in the Seven Sorrows described in the Bible. She treasured all these things in her heart. Our earthly mothers have done the same during their lifetimes. Back to Lourdes: The greater miracle there is not that some people are physically healed thru Lourdes' healing waters; it is the fact that, though more than a century and a half has passed since Mary's appearance, over three million pilgrims come there yearly seeking spiritual strength. "For he who finds Me, finds life, and wins salvation from the Lord." Proverbs 8

Mary, the virgin maiden from Nazareth, is the Mother of God. How so? She is Christ's Mother and He is God. She is the Mother of God as He became 'Man in Time'. She prepared the human body of Christ. It was from her that the Second Divine Person took his human nature. It is described beautifully in Luke 1:26-35. Just think of the Grace that Our Lord gave each one of us--then stop to think of HOW MUCH He gave her! Think of the 'Fullness of God's favor' to ONE PERSON! God gave her virginity and motherhood at the same time--no other woman can make such a statement. This is why the "faithful" pay tribute to her. Remember, Catholics do NOT worship her, nor make a Goddess of her. They do NOT replace God or Christ with her. She is considered the holiest of all God's creatures who was sinless throughout life. Yet, she is not considered by the Church to be Divine. We 'honor' her. God, Himself, set the precedent to honor her by giving her the FIRST human knowledge of the coming of Salvation when she learned that 'Divinity' would take residence in her body for nine months. For her, Our Lord performed His first public miracle--that of changing water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana. For her, He gave His last thought as He hung dying on the Cross--He looked at her and the beloved disciple, John, and said to her: "Woman, behold your son". John 19 26-27. As the Mother of Christ, Mary is the mother of the Mystical Body of Christ, her Son's Church. If people really knew, they could understand our reverence to her. Therefore, don't let anyone mess with your Mother! Always honor her. Consider it a privilege to come Dec 8 to honor her at Holy Mass.

----Marcel Normand



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