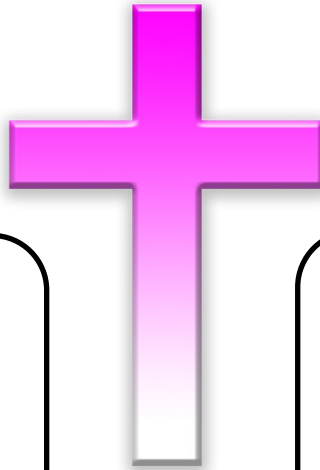


St. Michael Church
106 N. Western
Girard, Ks. 66743
724-8717
www.stmichaelgirard.com

Sunday, Dec. 17th, 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. Daniel 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.

Bulletin

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

OCIA

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

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. 16– Dec. 24, 2023

Saturday	12/16	4:00 PM (Arma) 5:30 PM (Girard)	† Pro Populo Daniel Wendt
Sunday	12/17	8:00 AM (Arma) 10:00 AM (Girard)	† Geneva McGown Alice Davied
Monday	12/18	No Mass	No Mass
Tuesday	12/19	5:30 PM (Arma)	† Bill Harman & Linda Davied
Wednesday	12/20	6:30 PM (Girard)	† Steve VanLeeuwen
Thursday	12/21	8:00 AM (Arma)	† Bryce Reese
Friday	12/22	7:30 AM (Girard)	† Bill O'Toole
Saturday	12/23	4:00 PM (Arma) 5:30 PM (Girard)	† Pro Populo Daughters of Isabella
Sunday	12/24	8:00 AM (Arma) 10:00 AM (Girard)	† Helen Normand Joe & Mary Jean Martin
Sunday <i>Christmas Eve</i>	12/24	4:00 PM (Arma) 8:00 PM (Girard)	† Pro Populo Carly Carnes Twarog
Monday <i>Christmas Day</i>	12/25	8:00 AM (Arma) 10:00 PM (Girard)	† Verl & Ursula Parsons Pauline (Pat) Davied

Dates of Importance

Dec. 17 St. Joseph Christmas decorating
Dec. 19 Bible Study
Dec. 30 PSR Christmas Play
Jan. 4 OCIA
Jan. 10 PSR resumes

Mass and Adoration

There will be no Mass and Adoration for the following dates.

Thursday, Dec. 21 - Arma
Friday, Dec. 22 - Girard

Thursday, Dec. 28 - Arma
Friday, Dec. 29 - Girard

There will not be weekday masses from Tues, Dec. 26 - Fri, Dec. 29.

Bible Study

Bible Study will be canceled for Tues Dec. 26th and will resume Jan. 2nd.

OCIA

OCIA will continue on January 4th.

Altar Ministers for Next Weekend

	<u>Saturday</u> <u>(12/23)</u>	<u>Saturday</u> <u>(12/23)</u>	<u>Sunday (12/24)</u>	<u>Sunday</u> <u>(12/24)</u>	<u>Christmas</u> <u>Eve 12/24</u>	<u>Christmas</u> <u>Eve 12/24</u>
	<u>4:00 PM</u>	<u>5:30 PM</u>	<u>8:00AM</u>	<u>10:00 AM</u>	<u>4:00 PM</u>	<u>8:00 PM</u>
<u>Altar Servers</u>	Volunteers	Jaxton Smith Volunteer	Volunteers	Shelby Humble Marli Sisney Quin Sisney	Cody & Tyler Burns	Volunteers
<u>EME</u>	Volunteer	Josh Smith	Terry Cleland	Anna Goble	Sharon Giacometti	Jerry Hanson
<u>Lector</u>	Anna Meyer	Austin Smith	Linda Broyles	Ruth Duling	Barry Bedene	Volunteers
<u>Gifts</u>	Volunteers	Mike & Donna Martin	Scott & Susie Aldrighetti	Jim & Michelle Puckett	Volunteers	Volunteers
<u>Ushers</u>	Pat Westhoff Volunteer	Dave Garrett (Lead usher)	Ron Black Joyce Klinkon	Bob Davied (Lead usher)	Volunteers	Volunteers

Christmas Day (8:00 Arma)

Altar Servers: Volunteers
EME: Joan Black
Lector: Pat Westhoff
Gifts: Volunteers
Ushers: Volunteers

Christmas Day (10:00 AM Girard)

Altar Servers: Volunteers
EME: Volunteers
Lector: Nancy Bauer
Gifts: Volunteers
Ushers: Volunteers



**St. Michael Collections:**

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>July 2023 to Date</u>
Contributions:	\$4,289.20	\$90,830.46
Expenses:	\$ -	\$ -
Over/(Under)		\$90,830.46

**St. Joseph Collections:**

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>July 2023 to Date</u>
Contributions:	\$1,133.00	\$31,894.36
Expenses:	\$ -	\$ -
Over/(Under)		\$31,894.36

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.

Christmas Decorating (St. Joseph)

St. Joseph's parish will be decorating the altar Christmas trees and hanging the perimeter garland after the 8:00 AM mass on Sunday, December 17. All volunteers are appreciated.

POINSETTIAS (St. Michael)

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 names and \$10 for each poinsettia you wish to reserve.

**Visiting Priest**

Please Welcome Fr. Chrys this weekend.
Fr. Chrys is a retired priest from Piqua.
We are lucky to have him covering for Fr. Vacca this weekend.
Thank You Fr. Chrys!

Christmas Call to Sharing 2023

One of the greatest blessings in the Diocese of Wichita is that a young man is free to enter seminary without worrying about the cost of his private education.

Please consider a gift this year for Christmas Call to Sharing to support our 43 seminarians and 20 retired priests.

Understanding the Mass (by Father Vacca)

#14 Special honor and reverence is given to the Gospels. Since they are directly about what Jesus said and did, we stand during the Gospel proclamation. The priest kisses the Gospels; they can be incensed and carried in procession.

At the beginning of the Gospel, the priest or deacon makes the sign of the cross on the book and then on his forehead, lips and heart. The congregation also makes the sign of the cross on forehead, lips and over the heart. This is symbolic of our desire to have the Word of God remain on our minds, on our lips and in our hearts.

Before Vatican II, only the Gospel of Matthew was normally heard at Sunday Mass. But the Second Vatican Council, increased the amount of the Bible used at Mass, so that over a three-year cycle Matthew is heard one year, Mark the second year and Luke the third year. John's Gospel is used each year during Easter season and to fill in Mark's year because Mark's Gospel is so short.

Extra Confessions

There will be additional Confessions offered for Christmas for the following dates and times.

St. Joseph Parish

Wednesday, Dec. 20th from 12:00 - 12:30

St. Michael Parish

Wednesday, Dec. 20th from 6:00 PM - 6:20 PM
Friday, Dec. 22nd from 12:00 - 12:30

**Blessing of the Advent Wreath*****Third Sunday of Advent***

(Light the 2 previously lit candles then light the rose candle)

*Prayer: We beseech you to listen to our prayers, O Lord,
and by the grace of thy coming enlighten our darkened
minds: You who lives and reigns with God the Father in
the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.
Amen*

ST. Michael PSR Christmas Play

Our PSR Children will be putting on a
Christmas Play for our parish on;
Saturday, December 30th
The program will be at 2:30 PM in the Church.
Snacks and drinks will be served in the hall
following the program.
Everyone is invited to attend.

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Girard, Ks. 66743
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Advent: A Season of Promise and Waiting

Advent guides us through Mass prayers & Readings in order to reflect on the 2nd Coming of Christ and the fullness of life & salvation that He promised the faithful. Though a short season, Advent is one of the most important for it reminds us of where we are heading and who we will see, hopefully Heaven & Jesus. We know that God the Father appointed Jesus to be our Savior & our Judge. Advent is a time of 'waiting'. If that's true, then our entire lives must be an 'advent', for we spend much of our lives 'waiting'. At one time, we waited for Santa, we wait for summertime, for when we can get our driver's license, for when we graduate from school, get a job, fall in love, children, the empty nest time, and retirement.

Our parents told us not to 'wish our lives away', yet we still do, just waiting for life to be more than what it seems to be. Last weekend, Fr. Vacca quoted from the 2nd Reading--St. Peter's words "that with the Lord, one day is like a thousand yrs. & a thousand yrs. like one day to God." Father reminded us that God is patient with us, not wishing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. Perhaps Advent isn't about waiting for God to change our lives; maybe, Advent is about God waiting for us to come around & recognize that 'He is with us here and now!'

Noted historian C.S. Lewis, said: "If you read history, you find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were those who 'thought most of the next.' The Apostles who set forth to convert as well as many of the great thinkers of the Middle Ages (1500s) ---all left their mark on earth precisely because their minds were 'occupied with heaven'. Today, we find writers have largely ceased to think of God's world--they've become less effective. Aim at heaven and you'll get earth thrown in; aim at earth and you may get neither."

The question for each of us, then, is 'What are we waiting for at this point in our lives?' Whatever it is, no doubt there is love, joy, or peace at the heart of it. Chances are, we continue to shield a 'hunger for God' within us. Advent, with its promises, will help us discover the Truth, and if we live by it, we will cease to worry about fleeting things of this world. We will have a power from above to simply live, but do so with our eyes, minds, & hearts set on an eternity spent with Our Lord, the angels and saints. Let's try to fortify our new 'mindset' with acts of charity---make a holy hour, attend a weekday Mass, go to confession. How long has it been since you said the rosary alone? Do you still remember each mystery? All simple acts of charity, yet could be part of 'repentance' that St. John, the Baptism, warned about.

The following is a short prayer that I discovered while preparing for my catechism classes here at St. Joseph's 30 years ago: The author is unknown, but there is much food for thought in his words:

"Life is short and death is sure; the hour of death remains obscure,
A soul you have and only one; if that be lost, all hope is gone.
Waste not your time, while time shall last; for after death, it's ever past
The all-seeing God, your judge will be; Heaven or Hell, your destiny.
All earthly things will fleet away; Eternity, alone, will ever stay."

Allow extra prayer in the last days of Advent. The saints have told us if we remember the end, we will never sin. God is waiting for us to 'make the decision' to follow His path, where you will find what your heart is searching for.

-----Marcel Normand



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