

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

Sunday, Dec. 24th, 2023



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

Merry Christmas



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 8:30 AM -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. 23 – Dec. 31, 2023

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 <u>Christmas Eve</u>	12/24	4:00 PM (Arma) 8:00 PM (Girard)	†	Pro Populo Carly Carnes Twarog
Monday <u>Christmas Day</u>	12/25	8:00 AM (Arma) 10:00 AM (Girard)	†	Verl & Ursula Parsons Pauline (Pat) Davied
Tuesday	12/26	No Mass		
Wednesday	12/27	No Mass		
Thursday	12/28	No Mass		
Friday	12/29	No Mass		
Saturday	12/30	4:00 PM (Arma) 5:30 PM (Girard)	†	Jim Clark Verl Diskin
Sunday	12/31	8:00 AM (Arma) 10:00 AM (Girard)	†	Pro Populo Marjorie Geifer

Dates of Importance

Dec. 30: PSR Christmas Play
Jan. 2: Bible Study
Jan. 4: OCIA
Jan. 10: PSR resumes
Jan. 14: St. Joseph remove Decorations

Mass and Adoration

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

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.

Parish Office

The parish office will only be open on the 28th and 29th of next week.

Altar Ministers for Next Weekend

	<u>Saturday (12/30)</u>	<u>Saturday (12/30)</u>	<u>Sunday (12/31)</u>	<u>Sunday (12/31)</u>
	<u>4:00 PM</u>	<u>5:30 PM</u>	<u>8:00AM</u>	<u>10:00 AM</u>
<u>Altar Servers</u>	Volunteers	Carly Reif Volunteer	Cody & Tyler Burns Zen Davied	Elijah Walsh Isabella Walsh
<u>EME</u>	Volunteer	Linda DeGarmo	Cindy Ashmore	Eileen Bland
<u>Lector</u>	Teresa Bishop	Butch Reif	Joe Broyles	Michelle Puckett
<u>Gifts</u>	Margaret Setina Gay Kranker	Ryan & Savanna Ashmore family	Greg & Tracey Bogina	Jerry & Diane Hanson
<u>Ushers</u>	Volunteers	Dave Garrett (Lead Usher)	Mike Ashbacher Joe Polhlopek	Bob Davied (Lead Usher)

Holy Day (The Solemnity of Mary) (Not an Obligation this year)

The Solemnity of Mary lands on Monday, January 1st.
Since it lands on a Monday, It will not be an obligatory Holy Day,
therefore there will **NOT** be mass.
(It is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)



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:	\$2,118	\$92,948.46
Expenses:	\$ -	\$ -
Over/(Under)		\$92,948.46



St. Joseph Collections:

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>July 2023 to Date</u>
Contributions:	\$1,711	\$33,605.36
Expenses:	\$ -	\$ -
Over/(Under)		\$33,605.36

Christmas Call to Sharing 2023

"The priesthood is the love and the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of our Lord Jesus Christ."
Please consider a gift this year to Christmas Call to Sharing for the benefit of the education of seminarians and our retired priests.



Blessing of the Advent Wreath

Fourth Sunday of Advent

(Light the 3 previously lit candles then light the purple candle)

*Prayer: Pour forth your power, O Lord, and come:
Assist us by that mighty power, so that by thy grace and
merciful kindness we may swiftly receive the salvation
that our sins impede: Who lives and reigns with you in
the unity of the Holy Spirit, ever one God,
world without end.*

Amen

ST. Michael PSR Christmas Play

Our PSR Children will be putting on a
Christmas Play for the 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.

Daughters of Isabella

Daughters of Isabella, St. Luke Circle,
will not have a meeting in January.
*D of I is a National Catholic Women's Organization.
All ladies from St. Michael's and St Joseph Parish
are encouraged to join.

St. Joseph (Christmas Decorations)

The Christmas decorations in the church will be taken
down after the 8:00 AM Mass on Sunday, January 14.

Understanding the Mass (by Father Vacca)

#15 Hearing the Word of God is not always enough; many times we need it explained. Even the disciples of Jesus would ask him to explain the parable he had told earlier. The homily is meant to be that opportunity for explaining the Word of God just heard in the readings at Mass.

The preacher, however, is not limited to only the readings of the day; the saints, the season or the feast can also be the topic for explanation. Many times and in many places, the only regular teaching the Christian community received was the preaching at Sunday Mass. This was certainly the case before the invention of the printing press. And so the Fathers of the Church have passed down to us volumes of teachings in the form of sermons. Of course, preaching is not the same as teaching a class.

Since the Second Vatican Council, greater importance has been placed on Catholic preaching in seminary training. But unlike a Protestant service where the sermon is often the main thing, the homily is not the focal point of the Catholic Mass, but serves to enhance our worship with greater understanding of the Sacred Mysteries. Today, the Church requires a homily on Sundays and holy days, but it is not required on weekdays.



*May Christ our light shine ever brighter
in your hearts this Christmas season!*

Father Vacca



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The Birth of Christ: A Promise Fulfilled

Creation is the work of God, the Father. He placed Adam & Eve in the Garden to live, work, & be happy. They were to share in God's own life & He gave them Sanctifying Grace (made them His children), which was lost to all when they committed Original Sin. They had misused God's gifts. Tempted, they fell from His Grace. They could never make complete satisfaction for sin & regain Grace since Man is finite (having limits) & it would take 'infinite action' to repair that damage. As an example: a horse can kick you in the head & give you a concussion, but the horse can't repair the damage done.

Thousands of years elapsed since Adam & Eve's sin and the Coming of Christ. Men fell deeper into sin & slowly drifted from the idea of one true God. Yet, God did not abandon man. Instead, He promised a Redeemer. And so God began to pave the way for Jesus, who would draw men together and lead them back to God. 2000 years before Jesus came to this earth, God singled out Abraham & his descendants for the Promise.

"In the fullness of time", God sent the long awaited Redeemer, not merely a man able to teach and act in His name, but **HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON!** Heaven returned to earth in the form of a God made Man, Jesus Christ. Christ is no mere man; he is God become man that He might be the mediator between God and man. This was a 'union' of the human nature and the divine nature. Once God had assumed a 'human' form, it now belonged to the very nature of His being. He **HAD** to be **MAN** to suffer & He **HAD** to be **GOD** if the suffering was to mean anything!

In Nazareth, a town in northern Palestine, lived one of God's poor--a virgin named Mary, daughter of Joachim & Anne. God favored her and even though she was a virgin, chose her to be the mother of His Son. He preserved Mary from her birth, from every trace of sin. Adam's original sin never touched her soul. This privilege is known as the Immaculate Conception, as she was to become the Mother of God.

In due time, the Angel Gabriel came to her, saying: "Hail, full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women." She seemed upset as the Angel explained that God favored her to conceive & bring forth a son and He shall be called Jesus. Mary told the Angel that she had never 'known' man (term of the times meaning a lack of intimacy) and that she was already betrothed (promised) to Joseph of the House of David. After Gabriel explained the unique way she would conceive, Mary answered: "Let it be done to me according to thy word."
Luke 1:26-38

Jesus was born of a virgin because His Father willed it. He could have had a human father, but it had been planned that his mother be a virgin and his conception miraculous. Mary remained a virgin after the birth of Christ. This mystery of the Son of God taking on a human nature is called 'Incarnation', which literally means "the taking on of flesh". It originates from the statement of John 1:1 "The Word was God....and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." The incarnation gave to the world a 'human' nature capable of making complete satisfaction for all sin in the name of all human nature. Christ is the Mediator between God and Man. He redeemed us and made it possible for us to live eternally, but Death is still the price for sin. God had made man good, but man's nature was wounded by sin.

Jesus claimed that He was God & never deceived anyone when he said, "I am the way, the truth, & the life. No Man cometh unto the Father but by me." He proved His divinity by the many miracles He performed. In his brief span of 3 years: without military conquest or political power or writing a single line, or traveling more than a few hundred miles, He affected the course of human events that continues today! All of the teachings of the Catholic Church can be traced back to His teachings. He came to offer Himself on the Cross for our salvation. He died on the Cross for our sins & repaired the damage of Adam & Eve. The Promise was fulfilled in a manger in Bethlehem on that first Christmas night. Merry Christmas to all of you.
---Marcel Normand



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