

St. Michael Church
106 N. Western
Girard, Ks. 66743
620-724-8717
www.stmichaelgirard.com

Sunday, Jan. 21, 2024

St. Joseph Church
100 S. 8th – PO Box 948
Arma, Ks. 66712
620-347-4525
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 8:30 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
620-724-2051

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.

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.

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 Jan. 20 – Jan. 28, 2024

Saturday	1/20	4:00 PM (Arma) 5:30 PM (Girard)	†	Helen Normand Pro Populo
Sunday	1/21	8:00 AM (Arma) 10:00 AM (Girard)	†	Bill Harman & Linda Davied Marjorie Geifer
Monday	1/22	No Mass		No Mass
Tuesday	1/23	5:30 PM (Arma)	†	Rick Bland
Wednesday	1/24	6:30 PM (Girard)	†	Sheila Reif
Thursday	1/25	8:00 AM (Arma)	†	Sharon Cizerle
Friday	1/26	7:30 AM (Girard)	†	Bernadette Coomes
Saturday	1/27	4:00 PM (Arma) 5:30 PM (Girard)	†	Pro Populo Verdan Davied
Sunday	1/28	8:00 AM (Arma) 10:00 AM (Girard)	†	Geneva McGown Bill Duling

Bible Study

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

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

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

We hope to see you there!

Dates of Importance

Jan. 21: Right of Acceptance

A Prayer for the New Year

*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.*

*O divine master, grant that I may not so much
Seek to be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
- St. Francis of Assisi*

2023 Financial Contribution Statements

Statements were mailed out this week.
If you have any questions, please reach out to
Janel Scales.

Altar Ministers for Next Weekend

	<u>Saturday (1/27)</u>	<u>Saturday (1/27)</u>	<u>Sunday (1/28)</u>	<u>Sunday (1/28)</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	August Amershek Carly Reif	Cody & Tyler Burns	Marli Sisney Aydin Sisney
<u>EME</u>	Volunteer	Janel Scales	Cindy Ashmore	Eileen Bland
<u>Lector</u>	Barry Bedene	Butch Reif	Joe Broyles	Denny Heidrick
<u>Gifts</u>	Dave & Cindy Ashmore	Hank & Carrie Smith	Volunteers	Chris & Mary Leritz
<u>Ushers</u>	Mike Ashbacher Joe Polhlopek	Dave Garrett (Lead Usher)	Volunteers	Bob Davied (Lead Usher)



St. Michael Collections:

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>July 2023 to Date</u>
Contributions:	\$2,777.20	\$109,242.49
Expenses:	\$ -	\$133,076.89
Over/(Under)		(\$23,834.40)



St. Joseph Collections:

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>July 2023 to Date</u>
Contributions:	\$1,245.00	\$38,850.40
Expenses:	\$ -	\$59,742.32
Over/(Under)		(\$20,891.92)

Celebrating Right of Acceptance

This Sunday 4 individuals are being accepted as Candidates to join the Catholic Church:

From St Michael's - Girard:

Mindy Goble
Janice Nienhouse
Scott Wilson

From St Joseph's - Arma:

Edna Waldren



This Rite of Acceptance sets off the final weeks of their preparation which will be completed by Easter. Please pray for them as they approach receiving the Sacraments of the Catholic Church in March.

Virtus Training Opportunity

Monday, January 22, at 6PM
at Our Lady of Lourdes (Guadalupe Hall)
Pittsburg, Ks.

*All volunteers who have regular contact with children in the parish are required to complete a VIRTUS Training Session, if they have not done so previously.

****Preregistration is required****

Go to **www.virtusonline.org**

On the left hand side of the page, click the green box labeled "First-time Registrant". Choose "Wichita, Ks (Diocese)" for your organization. Then create user ID and password.

Winter weather cancellations:

In the event of inclement winter weather, If Girard or Arma Schools cancel classes, then our additional church activities will also be canceled.

(Bible study, RCIA, PSR, Adoration...).

This **does not** include weekend masses, which will still be offered.

*Cancellations will also be posted on our church Facebook pages.

Call to Sharing

A special **THANK YOU** for your generous donations to the "Call to Sharing", helping our retired priests and seminarians.
*We proudly sent \$6,852 from St. Michael parish
And \$1,706 from St. Joseph parish.

Thank you for your support in such an important cause.

First Reconciliation

Congratulations to the 7 young members of our parish on achieving their first reconciliation this week.

Nathaniel Ashmore
James Murphy
Braylin Weir
Davis Trites

Oliver Brown
Gavin Scales
Knox Smith



Keep them in your prayers as they anticipate and prepare for their upcoming First Communion.

Understanding the Mass (by Father Vacca)

#19 Preparation of the Altar involves prayers of thanksgiving to God for the bread and wine, both of which require human labor to produce. They do not occur naturally in nature. So the prayers acknowledge how we take what "earth has given" – grain and grapes – which become what "human hands have made" – bread and wine. This is what God intended: that we apply our work to what He has created, and thus offer it back to God in thanksgiving.

The wine has water added to it as the priest prays silently: "By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity." It's merely symbolic of the two natures of Christ – the water being humanity added to His divinity. When he is pierced on the cross, blood and water pour forth from his side.

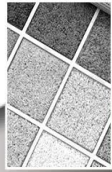
Now that the altar is prepared, incense may be used to make holy the sanctuary and to make holy ourselves if the priest and people are incensed as well. The priest washes his hands that will soon hold the Eucharist. He prays silently: "Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin."

All is then ready – bread, wine, altar, congregation and priest – for the next part of the Mass which is most sacred.

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Prayer Changes Things----and People!

The week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins January 18 through the 25th, focusing on prayer & what it does for Christians. It has been said that 'prayer changes things, but it also changes people, especially Christian prayer that folks over the world can relate to. Millions of Americans are expected to join people from other nations for this week of prayer aimed at improved unity among Christians. Such 'National Days of Prayer' are usually held annually since they were instituted in the early 1950s. Those who pray hard and long tell us that 'persistence' is one of the key virtues of successful prayer, simply through regular, steadfast communication with God! The goal is to reach Christ, for the Lord wants us to pray. Prayer is an act of obedience; however, God doesn't need us to assist Him. We pray because God has established prayer as part of His plan to accomplish His will in the world. He will more likely respond to us if we're constant in our efforts to reach Him. God will more likely reply to us if our prayer life is persistent and unchanging. God no doubt regards serious prayer with deeper spiritual value more than if we bombard Him endlessly with the unimportant requests. He doesn't care if K-State beats KU!!

We may wonder occasionally as to why our prayers go unanswered? Praying is not like ordering a cheeseburger. With the latter, you tell the waiter what you want, or don't want, & they bring you that ideal cheeseburger. With prayer, you must listen as well as talk. That is true when communicating with God. To answer the opening question of this paragraph----have you considered that 'No Reply' from God concerning your prayer request might just be His Response, saying "I heard you, but I won't do what you ask." Talking with Him means you have to listen as well as talk, for that's what true communication is. He often answers your prayers, but not in the way you seek. The way prayer is answered belongs to God, not to us.

We often hear someone say to us, "I'll pray for you." It's a simple promise and both the giver and the receiver hope that it will make a difference for the one being prayed for. We might say it is a statement of faith. You feel that the individual who told you that 'he will pray for you'---that he will. There's a feeling of trust between the two people. Yet, we know there's only so much we can do, so we should turn in confidence to Our Lord that this promise will be kept. Often, we turn to Him each night with the same request and here is where perseverance comes in. God is patient and hearing the same request nightly, for who knows how long, is characteristic of our prayers to Him. He knows that faithfulness over time shows sincere love. God is happily awaiting our prayers; after all, He is 'our Father' who is anxious to accommodate us & He will respond much more if we are persistent in praying to Him. There may be no good answers in human terms, but we need to trust Jesus' promise that if we ask God for help, He will respond in some way, if only to help us bear our suffering.

America's moral & spiritual crises prompted leaders from some 60 denominations to call for January prayer for Christian Unity so we can all unite in seeking the face of God through prayer. The good news is that if we humble ourselves & turn from wicked ways, as God told Solomon in II Chronicles 7:14, He will heal our land. Do some extra praying between January 18 thru the 25th for all nations, like the Ninevites of old, to cry out to God & seek His face for ourselves & for greater unity among Christians here & throughout the world.

As to the value of prayer, itself, French Cardinal Roger Etchegaray said this: "the human person may surround himself with all the most precious objects, achieve the greatest power, & enjoy all earthly pleasures, but in him, there will always be a void that only God can fill."

---Marcel Normand



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