

St. Michael Catholic Church

106 N. Western Ave. Girard, KS 66743
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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	\$ 4,499.20	\$ 71,027.21
Expenses	\$ -	\$ 53,492.17
Over/(Under)		\$ 17,535.04
Building Fund Contributions	\$ -	

Mass Schedule & Intentions for Dec 3-11			
12/03 Sat	4:00pm	Virginia Buche	Arma
	5:30pm	Pat Jr & Vera Diskin	Girard
12/04 Sun	8:00am	Schaub-Youvon Family	Arma
	10:00am	Pro Populo	Girard
12/05 Mon		NO MASS	
12/06 Tues	8:00am	Virginia Buche	Arma
12/07 Wed	5:30pm	Mary Ann Lepoglow	Arma
	7:00pm	Bernard O'Brien	Girard
12/08 Thurs	8:00am	Virginia Buche	Arma
	8:30am-12:30pm Eucharistic Adoration		Arma
	5:30pm	Donna Little	Girard
12/09 Fri	7:30am	Gerald Davied	Girard
	8:00am-5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration		Girard
12/10 Sat	4:00pm	Wally Rons	Arma
	5:30pm	Rosemary O'Toole	Girard
12/11 Sun	8:00am	Schaub-Youvon Family	Arma
	10:00am	Pro Populo	Girard

Altar Ministers for Next Weekend		
	Saturday (12/10) 5:30pm	Sunday (12/11) 10:00am
Altar Servers	Kaleb Scales & Nolan Leonard	Seth Wilson & Aiden Ashbacher
EME	Janel Scales	Eileen Bland
Lector	Mary Twarog	Ruth Duling
Gifts	Ryan & Savanna Ashmore Family	Dave & Mary Twarog

PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

Please pray for Audrey Casassa, Jerry Davenport, Mary Davied, Gary Dowling, Rosemary Gardner, Fred & Marjorie Giefer, Tom Kovach, Marita Lopeman, Mary Kay Mason, Richard Mason, Herman Masser, Bob Moore, Joseph Muia, John Oplotnik, Josie Oplotnik, Betty Purdon, Frank Purdon, Mary Sayre, Anna Snow, Dan Wendt, and Judy Widner 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!

POINSETTIAS

St. Michael's will have poinsettias on the altar closer to Christmas, if anyone would like to make a donation in memory of loved one(s). Envelopes will be in the back of the church before next weekend. You can list multiple loved ones on one poinsettia or request multiple poinsettias, with a suggested donation of \$10/poinsettia. As envelopes are turned in, name cards will be placed on the poinsettias. An announcement will be made sometime after Christmas, for anyone who would like to take their poinsettia(s) home.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

**The Red Cross will be having a blood drive on Tuesday, December 13th at St. Michael's and are looking for volunteers to help register people from 11:30-5:30. If you can help, please call Audra Underwood at 316-570-3952.

**Give a Gift. Get a Gift. Those who give blood between November 28-December 15 will get a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card via email, thanks to our partners at Amazon. Schedule your appointment today at 1-800-RED-CROSS or online at www.redcrossblood.org.

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA

Daughters of Isabella St. Luke's Circle will meet for a Christmas party on Tuesday, December 13th at 1:00pm at St. Ambrose Church Hall, in Erie. Finger food with gift exchange and Secret Pal will be revealed. Please bring two \$1 gifts for BINGO prizes.

MASS-ADORATION-EVENING PRAYER SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 4th
 **3pm Christmas Cantata at St. Joseph's
 **4pm Adoration & Evening Prayer with Confession at Sacred Heart in Frontenac

Wednesday, December 7th, Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary Vigil
 **5:30pm Mass at St. Joseph's
 **7pm Mass at St. Michael's

Thursday, December 8th, Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary
 **8am Mass and Adoration at St. Joseph's
 **5:30pm Mass at St. Michael's

Sunday, December 11th
 **4pm Adoration and Evening Prayer with Confession at St. Michael in Girard

Sunday, December 18th
 **4pm Adoration and Evening Prayer with Confession at Our Lady of Lourdes in Pittsburg

Friday, December 23rd
 **No 7:30am Mass or Adoration at St. Michael's

Saturday, December 24th, Christmas Eve
 **4pm Mass at St. Joseph's
 **5:30pm Mass at St. Michael's

Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day
 **8am Mass at St. Joseph's
 **10am Mass at St. Michael's

**There will be extra times for Confession before Christmas and those times will be announced.

BLESSING OF A CHRISTMAS TREE

Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer is gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts. May all who delight in this tree come to the knowledge and joy of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. - *Book of Blessings*

HAIL, FULL OF GRACE

The words of greeting attributed to the angel in St. Luke's narrative of the Annunciation are repeated millions—if not billions—of times every day. Unfortunately, their very familiarity dispenses us from pondering their meaning. What does it mean to say that the Virgin of Nazareth was graced by God? Surely it indicates that God looked with approval on this lowly handmaid, that Mary was accepted and appreciated by God. She was the object of God's favor. As with the whole work of creation, God saw what had been made and it was very good.

We might ask ourselves to what extent this designation may be regarded as a singular privilege, particular to the mother of Jesus. We need to remember that Jesus himself is described as "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14), and at his baptism the voice from heaven proclaims Jesus to be the beloved Son, in whom the Father delights (Mark 1:11). The mother of Jesus shares in the favor enjoyed by her son.

But there is more. Of old, God spoke through the prophet concerning Israel: "Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights" (Isa 42:1). God looks with favor on the faithful people, and especially the lowly. This is surely the main message of God's self-revelation. God's attitude toward humanity is one of supreme benevolence. We are, as a race, God's favorites. Each of us is "full of grace."

There is a lot of phony preaching around which tries to replace good news with facile and selective moralizing. It is easy enough to blast away at the many disorders that bedevil human society, but it is not easy to improve matters. Ask any who have tried. Those whose message is only to condemn are agents of discouragement and desperation. They may, if they are particularly eloquent, generate a frisson of dread in their listeners, but their words lack the kind of content that animates and motivates. They would do better to invest their energies in upgrading their own lives.

The good news that we must preach, in every season, is that God is not disappointed in humanity, that God continues to look upon us with favor and delight. This is not to lose sight of the abundant evidence of our willful weakness and blindness and malice; it is to insist that God's proactive benevolence has the power to negate the bane of sin and bring all things to a favorable conclusion. This is why we sing at Easter: "O happy fault!" We may be like Jonah and resist the call to proclaim a God who is kind and merciful, and who understands that humanity is not much more than humus. We may want those of whom we do not approve to be punished. But God's ways are not our ways.

As we begin to traverse the liturgical year, let us try to see in its changing emphases different aspects of God's unconditional love for humanity and for each one of us. God calls each one of us to a more abundant life. Let us take comfort and prepare the way, trying to accept the incredible truth that each of us, in our own ways, is "full of grace," the object of God's special delight.

—Michael Casey

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