

St. Michael Catholic Church

106 N. Western Ave. Girard, KS 66743
(620)724-8717
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	\$ 4,540.51	\$ 75,567.72
Expenses - November	\$ 5,725.67	\$ 59,217.84
Over/(Under)		\$ 16,349.88
Building Fund Contributions	\$ 250.00	

Mass Schedule & Intentions for Dec 10-18			
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
12/12 Mon		NO MASS	
12/13 Tues	8:00am	Virginia Buche	Arma
12/14 Wed	8:00am	Donna Little	Girard
12/15 Thurs	8:00am	Ursula Parsons	Arma
	8:30am-12:30pm Eucharistic Adoration		Arma
12/16 Fri	7:30am	Gerald Davied	Girard
	8:00am-5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration		Girard
12/17 Sat	4:00pm	Mike Gebhardt	Arma
	5:30pm	Donna Little	Girard
12/18 Sun	8:00am	Danny Black	Arma
	10:00am	Pro Populo	Girard

Altar Ministers for Next Weekend		
	Saturday (12/17) 5:30pm	Sunday (12/18) 10:00am
Altar Servers	Trevor & August Amershek	Aydin & Quin Sisney
EME	Linda DeGarmo	Jerry Hanson
Lector	Donna Martin	Denny Heidrick
Gifts	Rachel Ausemus Family	Henry & Jill Ashbacher Family

PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

Please pray for Liv Anderson, Audrey Casassa, Jerry Davenport, Tyler Edwards, Rosemary Gardner, Fred & Marjorie Giefer, Tom Kovach, Marita Lopeman, Mary Kay Mason, Richard Mason, Joseph Muia, John Oplotnik, Josie Oplotnik, Betty Purdon, Frank Purdon, Mary Sayre, Anna Snow, Dan Wendt, and Grant Wilks 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). Please use the envelopes marked for Poinsettias located on the religious articles glass case. 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.

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.

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 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

EXTRA CONFESSION TIMES

Thursday, December 15: 5:30-6:00pm at St. Michael
Tuesday, December 20: 5:30-6:00pm at St. Joseph
Wednesday, December 21: 5:30-6:00pm at St. Michael
Thursday, December 22: 5:30-6:00pm at St. Joseph
Friday, December 23: 12:-12:30pm at St. Michael
Saturday, December 24: NO 2pm Confession at St. Michael

HOLIDAY FARMERS MARKET

First Christian Church Cooks present their 2nd Holiday Farmers Market on Tuesday, December 13th from 4:00-6:00pm or until sold out, at 119 N. Summit, Girard. Items will include: Delicious main dishes, side dishes, casseroles, breads, cakes, cookies, candies, pies, other desserts, snacks and assorted goodies!

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.

REJOICE ALWAYS?

The Third Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete* Sunday, from the first word (in Latin) of the Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice . . ." (Phil 4:4). On this day we light the rose-colored candle in the Advent wreath, and the priest wears rose-colored vestments. There's something special about it all.

Yet the theme can seem disconnected from real life. The lingering effects of the pandemic, the violence that too frequently rocks our cities and world, the economic stress felt by many, and other forms of suffering and hardship—all these things can make it a challenge to be joyful, much less to hear the call to rejoice *always*. Really?

Paul's exhortation to rejoice is grounded in his conviction that joy is one of the manifestations of the "fruit" of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22). It is a good spiritual practice to remind ourselves that "the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (Rom 5:5). As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of the birth of Jesus who is Emmanuel, "God-with-us" (Matt 1:23), we can also contemplate the awesome mystery that God is within us through the Spirit, the indwelling gift of divine love—a true cause for rejoicing.

Advent is a time for waiting and longing for the Lord Jesus to return in glory, bringing to completion God's reign that his earthly life and ministry inaugurated. This is the kingdom in which "the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised . . ." (Matt 11:5). Our confidence in this hope of Jesus' coming in glory is bolstered by our attentiveness to the ways he comes to us this day and every day: in the Word, in the Eucharist, and in one another. In addition, God's fidelity to the promises fulfilled in Jesus' incarnation strengthens in us the joyful hope that God will also be faithful to the promises of "a new heaven and a new earth" (Rev 21:1).

Such a hopeful joy, however, can be difficult for many. Let's recall that Jesus, who entered the messiness of our world, is able to sympathize with our sufferings and weaknesses, because he himself experienced them. We can turn to him in confident hope (Heb 4:15-16). Moreover, we are members of the body of Christ, and "[i]f one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy" (1 Cor 12:26). In other words, we are not left to ourselves and our own devices; we belong to a community of faith that, at its best, encourages and supports—especially in times of difficulty and hardship.

Gaudete Sunday is an annual reminder that we, as Christians, have many grounds for joy, not least the presence of God's Spirit within us. This gift can create in us a joy that is more than an ephemeral feeling. It can create a joy that grows into a *disposition*, a way of being, when we allow it to take root at the core of our being. In the end, this gift is a call to bear witness to our joyful hope for a world in desperate need—and to do so always.

-Father Thomas Stegman, SJ, is professor of New Testament at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

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