

St. Michael Catholic Church

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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	\$ 1,094.75	\$ 82,243.67
Expenses	\$ -	\$ 59,217.84
Over/(Under)		\$ 23,025.83
Building Fund Contributions	\$ 20.00	

Mass Schedule & Intentions for Dec 31-Jan 8			
12/31 Sat	4:00pm	Mike Gebhardt	Arma
	5:30pm	Jim O'Toole	Girard
01/01 Sun	8:00am	Virginia Buche	Arma
	10:00am	Pro Populo	Girard
01/02 Mon		NO MASS	
01/03 Tues	8:00am	Donna Little	Arma
01/04 Wed	8:00am	Donna Little	Girard
01/05 Thurs	8:00am	Donna Little	Arma
	8:30am-12:30pm Eucharistic Adoration		Arma
01/06 Fri	7:30am	Gerald Davied	Girard
	8:00am-5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration		Girard
01/07 Sat	4:00pm	Virginia Buche	Arma
	5:30pm	Rosemary O'Toole	Girard
01/08 Sun	8:00am	Wally Rons	Arma
	10:00am	Pro Populo	Girard

Altar Ministers for Next Weekend		
	Saturday (01/07) 5:30pm	Sunday (01/08) 10:00am
Altar Servers	Kaleb Scales & Nolan Leonard	Isabella & Elijah Walsh
EME	Janel Scales	Marilyn McCracken
Lector	Linda Moore	Michelle Puckett
Gifts	Dean & Tonya Davied Family	Brian & Jill Davied 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, Kevin Mikrut, Joseph Muia, John Oplotnik, Josie Oplotnik, 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!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus will meet this Tuesday, January 3rd at 7:00pm in St. Michael's hall.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

Mary Had A Little Lamb

Nm 6:22-27 / Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 / Gal 4:4-7 / Lk 2:16-21

Mary was given a penultimate role in stewardship history. Yes, she was married to the "Terror of Demons", and yes, she was immaculately conceived, but nowhere in human history is there a manual for raising God's only begotten son, or any child for that matter! There is a good chance you, too, are in a role, like Mary, where there is no manual to reference and guide you. These situations are very challenging and call us to prayer.

Perhaps, you are trying to decide how much time or talent or treasure you should give to your parish. Most of us live busy lives. Perhaps, you are feeling that you should help, but it's hard to be motivated to start. Like Mary, there is no manual or reference guide to steer you on your stewardship journey. Pray first, asking "Abba, Father" what his wishes are for your stewardship role.

There is a good chance Mary humbly asked God for help that night in Bethlehem. Like Mary, we will be amazed at who or what God sends to help!

OF MOTHERHOOD AND MARY

Our culture tends to romanticize motherhood. This reaches its peak around holidays like Mother's Day and Christmas. We are surrounded by our own childhood memories and by the airbrushed perfection of images in the media. The expectations created by this romanticized image can be overwhelming, creating a sense of failure and inferiority as we strive to measure up.

The image of the Blessed Virgin Mary prevalent throughout much of the Church is often similarly romanticized, creating similar unrealistic expectations. The art of the ages typically depicts Mary as a beautifully and richly dressed woman, perfectly neat and tidy. She is usually portrayed reading, praying, tending lovingly to the child Jesus—or in anguish at this cross or as heaven's glorious queen.

But that image is not always the Mary we meet in Scripture or the woman we celebrate as the Mother of God. Mary was not a privileged and pampered woman of leisure. Matthew's Gospel tells us that she was a refugee from Herod's violence. Luke's Gospel tells us that she and Joseph were poor, able to offer only two birds as sacrifice when they presented Jesus at the Temple. Her son lived on the handouts of his followers, dying with no possessions to this name and buried in a borrowed tomb. Mary spent her days working hard, struggling to meet the needs of her family with the limited resources available. She likely spent her days cooking and cleaning, drawing water, baking bread, and caring for the livestock. Her clothing and her hands showed the dirt and damage that comes from a life of hard physical labor.

This less romantic image of Mary, the Mother of God, is both a comfort and a challenge to us today. She reminds us that God does not expect us to be unrealistic plaster saints. God calls us to follow him in all our messiness, uniting our imperfect efforts to the death and resurrection of his Son so as to become a perfect and holy offering. We come to God as we are and, by God's grace, are transformed into what he has called us to be.

But Mary challenges us as well. She is Jesus' first and most perfect disciple. She conformed her life perfectly to God's will, receiving God's Word and bringing it to birth. She followed Jesus in his ministry, even to the cross and tomb. After his resurrection, she joined his other disciples in prayer, waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

We are called to follow Mary's example in our lives as faithful disciples of her Son. We do this by taking the time to ponder God's Word, reflecting on it in our hearts and making it real in our lives. We reach out in welcome to those in need and those seeking Jesus, offering hospitality and helping them to encounter Jesus and grow in relationship with him. We do not shy away from the hard work of discipleship, knowing that following Jesus always leads to the cross. But our efforts, struggles, and suffering are not without meaning. They help us to draw closer to our suffering sisters and brothers and to the God who suffered for us.

May Mary, Jesus' mother and ours, show us the way to her Son.

-Mary Elizabeth Sperry

Mary Elizabeth Sperry holds a master's degree in liturgical studies from the Catholic University of America. She has worked for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops since 1994 and is the author of numerous Articles and books, including Scripture in the Parish. Visit her blog at maryelizabethsperry.com.



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