

St. Michael Catholic Church

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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	\$ 2,521.20	\$ 95,419.49
Expenses	\$ -	\$ 72,042.37
Over/(Under)		\$ 23,377.12
Building Fund Contributions	\$ -	

Mass Schedule & Intentions for Jan 21-29			
01/21 Sat	4:00pm	Verle & Ursula Parsons	Arma
	5:30pm	Melissa Grant	Girard
01/22 Sun	8:00am	Pro Populo	Arma
	10:00am	Rosemary O'Toole	Girard
01/23 Mon		NO MASS	
01/24 Tues	8:00am	Virginia Buche	Arma
01/25 Wed	8:00am	Donna Little	Girard
01/26 Thurs	8:00am	Donna Little	Arma
	8:30am-12:30pm Eucharistic Adoration		Arma
01/27 Fri	7:30am	Gerald Davied	Girard
	8:00am-5:00pm Eucharistic Adoration		Girard
01/28 Sat	4:00pm	Margaret Ann Dorio	Arma
	5:30pm	Bud Azember	Girard
01/29 Sun	8:00am	Wally & Betty Rons	Arma
	10:00am	Pro Populo	Girard

Altar Ministers for Next Weekend		
	Saturday (01/28) 5:30pm	Sunday (01/29) 10:00am
Altar Servers	Seth Wilson & Aiden Ashbacher	Marli & Quin Sisney
EME	Linda DeGarmo	Eileen Bland
Lector	Nancy Bauer	Doug Lopeman
Gifts	Jeanie Herod & Michele Meins	Rick & Barb Duling

PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISHIONERS

Please pray for Liv Anderson, Audrey Casassa, Jerry Davenport, Tyler Edwards, Rosemary Gardner, Fred & Marjorie Giefer, Ron Gray, Tom Kovach, Marita Lopeman, Mary Kay Mason, Richard Mason, Kevin Mikrut, Bob Moore, Joseph Muia, John Oplotnik, Josie Oplotnik, Mary Sayre, Anna Snow, Carly Twarog-Carnes, 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!

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

First Responders

Is 8:23-9:3 / Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 / 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17 / Mt 4:12-23
Are you waiting for Jesus to come along and ask you to join him? If he did, would you drop your nets and follow him? In today's Gospel, Jesus calls his first four Apostles: Andrew, Peter, James and John, his "first responders!" Perhaps they felt rescued from their careers as fishermen. What was it that convinced them so suddenly and confidently to drop everything and follow Jesus? Why did Jesus choose them? One could hypothesize that they saw the light through the darkness.

Not everyone can drop what they are doing and follow Jesus, we have children, we have spouses, we have jobs, we have pets, we have...Jesus! We belong to Jesus! Start with Jesus, and we, too, will be "first responders" to our children, to our spouses, to our jobs, and to all creation!

2022 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Your 2022 contribution statements will be mailed to your home this week. If you don't receive it within the next week or have questions, please reach out to Janel at jmscales414@gmail.com or 620-724-0032. Thank you for your 2022 financial support!

PSR SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

St. Michael's Church is in great need of substitute teachers for our Elementary School PSR program from 2-3:30pm on Wednesdays when USD 248 is in session. Lessons will be provided and no class is larger than 9 students. Substitute teachers are contacted as soon as we know a teacher isn't able to teach and they are able to say if they can help for that date or not. If you are interested please message St. Michael's Church on Facebook or call Kristen Graham at 620-875-6133.

PAUL'S CONVERSION AND COMMISSION

Some conversions can be dramatic and impactful. While some are gradual, others are instantaneous. St. Augustine's conversion was immediately prompted by a child's voice saying, "Take up and read" (*tolle lege* in Latin). St. Francis of Assisi heard Christ speaking from the cross saying, "Rebuild my church!" Francis took Christ's words literally at first and began to restore a ruined church.

But in the long history of the Church, no conversion has been more consequential than that of St. Paul. The effect of his conversion could not be overemphasized. The Church even designates January 25 as a feast day to commemorate the life-changing event of this great apostle and missionary.

The story of Paul's conversion is well known. On the road to Damascus to arrest the followers of the Way, Paul—who was initially called Saul—had an epiphany. Struck by a bright light, he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Paul replied, "Who are you, sir?" The voice responded, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:4-5).

Most details of this momentous event come from the Acts of the Apostles. Luke, who is also the author of this historical book, narrates Paul's encounter with the Risen Jesus Christ three times (Acts 9:1-19; 22:3-16; and 26:2-18). Each account is told and retold for a distinct context and to a different audience. New details are added each time to emphasize the significance of this event. Paul, however, only briefly refers to this event himself (Gal 1:11-16). Paul specifically speaks of having a "revelation" (*apokalypsis*) of Jesus Christ and being "called" by God to preach to the Gentiles.

Recent Pauline scholars have questioned the traditional interpretation and designation of Paul's revelation as a "conversion" in the modern sense of the word. If conversion is meant as a change from one religion to another, then it was unlikely, since Christianity was not yet considered a separate religion when Paul encountered Jesus Christ around AD 33. Thus, it is doubtful that Paul saw himself converting from Pharisaic Judaism to Christianity.

Nonetheless, Paul's encounter with the Risen Christ fundamentally changed his life from being a persecutor to becoming a chosen vessel to bear witness on Christ's behalf. The experience—both a conversion *and* a commission—reshaped and reoriented Paul's entire life and worldview. In light of the crucified and resurrected Christ, Paul now understands God and Torah in a completely new way. Salvation, for example, could not be earned by one's merit; it was a gift to all who desired to be in right relationship or covenant with God. For Paul, righteousness or justification is unmistakably an act of divine grace.

What does Paul's conversion and commission teach us? When God has chosen someone to be an instrument of God, with grace and conviction that person can change the world—no matter how unlikely or incredulous it might seem.

—Fr. vanThanh Nguyen

DAUGHTERS OF ISABELLA

The D of I, St. Luke's Circle, will not meet during the month of February. Our next meeting will be in March.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVE

The K of C are pleased to announce that they were able to present a check to the Crawford County Special Olympics in the amount of \$468.64 from the tootsie roll drive donations. Thank you to everyone who offered a donation!

PRINCIPAL OPENING

St. Mary's Colgan Catholic High School, Pittsburg, Kansas, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish is seeking a dynamic building principal for grades 7-12 for approximately 220 students. St. Mary's Colgan Catholic High School is Catholic school dedicated to providing a quality Christian education driven by faith, excellence, and tradition. Interested applicants should submit online application by accessing www.catholicdioceseofwichita.org/careers Deadline for applications is January 27, 2023

SEK SERRA CLUB

The SEK Serra Club (in-formation) will be hosting the Southeast Kansas 6th Grade Vocations Day on Thursday February 23rd from 9:30am to 2pm at St Francis Parish in St Paul Kansas. Activities for this day will include Mass with Bishop Carl A. Kemme, as well as presentations from priests of the Wichita Diocese and the sisters from the Immaculate Heart of Mary Sisters. We'll also have the musical talent of Dustin Treiber for Mass and as entertainment for the students. This is an event that helps the students be around priests and sisters in a fun setting. These priests and sisters will be able to answer tough religious questions and to tell the students their own discernment stories. All area 6th grade students are welcome to attend, but we **MUST** have an RSVP by February 11th at sekserraclub@gmail.com

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