

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5, 2012

MONDAY

1 Kgs 8:1-7,9-13 * Ps 132:6-10 * Mk 6:53-56

TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion-St. Joseph

1 Kgs 8:22-23,27-30 * Ps 84:3-5,10-11 * Mk 7:1-13

WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass-St. Anthony

1 Kgs 10:1-10 * Ps 37:5-6,30-31,39-40 * Mk 7:14-23

THURSDAY 8:00am Mass-St. Joseph

1 Kgs 11:4-13 * Ps 106:3-4,35-37,40 * Mk 7:24-30

FRIDAY

1 Kgs 11:29-32;12:19 * Ps 81:10-15 * Mk 7:31-37

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass-St. Anthony

1 Kgs 12:26-32;13:33-34 * Ps 106:6-7,19-22 * Mk 8:1-10

SUNDAY 8:30am Mass-St. Joseph

10:30am Mass- St. Joseph (Nursery and CLOW)

Lv 13:1-2,44-46 * Ps 32:1-2,5,11 * 1 Cor 10:31-11:1 * Mk 1:40-45

PARISH ACTIVITIES

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| Mon., Feb. 6 | 6:15pm Elem. Religious Ed.-St. Anthony |
| | 6:30pm Choir Practice-St. Joseph |
| Tues., Feb. 7 | 10:00am Morning Scripture Sharing-Parish C. |
| | 6:30pm Confirmation/First Eucharist
Session II-St. Anthony |
| | 6:30pm RCIA Weekly Session-Parish Center |
| Thurs., Feb. 9 | 6:30pm Parish Commission Meetings-St. A |
| | 7:30pm Parish Council Meeting-St. Anthony |

PARISH APPRECIATION DINNER

Saturday, February 11

DOORS WILL OPEN AT 5:40PM

for gathering and hors d'oeuvres.

Dinner will be served at 6:30pm

Sign-up sheets are posted on the
bulletin boards at both worship sites.

Sign-up is required for dinner count.

► **Food Pantry:** Thank you to all who donate to the Parish Food Pantry. Because of your generous contributions, the pantry is stocked for now. There will be NO collection in the month of February. Please contact the parish office at 662-6861 if you or someone you know needs help with food.

► **Women of Faith:** All women of the parish are invited to join our gathering on Wed., Feb. 15 at 6:30pm in the Lipinski Center. Topics of discussion are marriage, families, living faith, prayer life and much more. Snacks and wine are provided! Come join our group for great conversation and fellowship. Any questions, contact Michelle at mbutterfield@auburnac.org or 662-6861.

► **Just a Reminder:** The "Helping Hands" are available to help our parishioners with a hot meal, a kind word and a smile. If you know of anyone in the parish who could use their help, please call the parish office at 662-6861.

► **Parish Fall Raffle:** Even though the Parish Fall Raffle is still months away, it is time to begin collecting those generous donations for prizes. If you would like to donate a prize for the raffle, please contact Jami Doty at doty_25@hotmail.com, 989-266-3189 or Kristi Furtaw at kfurtaw@auburnac.org. The proceeds from this year's raffle will benefit the AACCS Technology Fund.

EDUCATION/FORMATION

ELEMENTARY

► **Come join the Fun!** Mon., Feb. 6, the Monday Night students will celebrate Mardi Gras. A Burning of the Palms Prayer Service will begin at 6:30pm in St. Anthony Church, with the Mardi Gras Celebration to follow in the gym. Games, snacks and fun provided!

► **Sacramental Reminder:** Session II for the Confirmation/First Eucharist families is this Tues., Feb. 7, 6:30pm at St. Anthony Church. Please remember your Inscription Crosses and Prayer cards.

YOUTH MINISTRY

► **Youth Ministry Sessions:** There will be no Youth Ministry sessions on Sun., Feb. 5 or 19.

► **A BIG Thank You** to all the youth who helped with the Souper Bowl of Caring collection and verbal announcements.

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

► **WHAT'S HAPPENING at AACCS:** The first grade class is working on a letter writing project in conjunction with the Post Office and Ben Franklin's Birthday. Each child is writing a letter to someone special in their life.

► **No Public School Bus Monday, Feb. 6.**

► **Scholastic Book Fair:** Thank You to everyone who participated in the Scholastic Book Fair. Profits from your purchases help us to acquire more books for our library and our classrooms. **BONUS!** If you were unable to attend last week's Book Fair you may go to this website and shop. <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/auburnareacathsch>

Our online Book Fair will be available until Feb. 10.

► **SCRIP:** Birthdays and Valentine's Day gifts and everyday shopping are just three good reasons to buy scrip cards. An AACCS representative will be selling scrip after 8:30 and 10:30 Mass next weekend. Scrip will not be sold after 4:30 Mass because of the Parish Dinner. Scrip is available for purchase in the school office when school is in session.

► **Kindergarten & New Student (K-5) Round-Up Meeting for 2012-2013 School Year:** Will your child be starting Kindergarten next school year? Are you thinking about transferring your child to a new elementary school? Would you like to learn more about Auburn Area Catholic School? Please join us to obtain information about AACCS and what we have to offer your child's educational, social and spiritual needs.

When: Thurs., Feb. 23

Time: 6pm

Where: St. Joseph Campus/AACCS & Social Hall

Prayer is a spiritual exercise. Are you in shape??

STEWARDSHIP

Target: \$11,826.92 * Offering: \$8,438.35

Budgeted YTD: \$358,750.00 * Actual YTD: \$364,591.01

Food Pantry: \$50.00

Salvation is what we receive,
not what we achieve.

FROM FATHER TOM'S DESK

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Patricia Sanchez, Celebration

Are you an optimist or a pessimist? Do you see the glass half-empty or half-full? In today's sacred texts, we will meet both kinds of people. Job, who is featured in the first reading, is bemoaning the very fact of his existence. He is a representative figure from whom many lessons may be learned, but at this point in his story, Job epitomizes the person whose contentment and well-being are intrinsically bound to his success as a patriarch of a large family, to his health and material wealth, and to his good name. All these were regarded as blessings from God, who was pleased with Job. His glass was not just half-full; it was full to the brim. But then the bottom fell out of Job's world, and his optimism, hope and joy seemed to evaporate.

In today's Gospel, we'll meet Peter's mother-in-law, who was sick with a fever. Her glass probably seemed half-empty because sickness was traditionally associated with sin. At the very least, her illness rendered her unclean and unable to participate with her family, friends and neighbors in public events. But the difference between Job and Peter's mother-in-law was that she had people who cared enough about her to get her the help she needed. They told Jesus about her. Job, on the other hand, had "friends" who exacerbated his situation by trying to find someone to blame for his troubles.

With these readings, we are invited to consider our own response to the inherent difficulties of life and to examine how we help others cope with their struggles. Are we pessimists with a complaint for every evil in the world, or are we "hope-givers"?

Job's trust in God eventually enabled him to find the hope and courage to endure all his sufferings. Paul (second reading) found such hope in God and in the Gospel that he could not help but preach. When he did, he made every effort to adapt himself to the needs and circumstances of his listeners so that they too could find their hope in the good news of salvation. During his ministry, Jesus acted as a giver of hope to those he taught, healed and forgave, and in the end, he died so that human hope might never be extinguished.

JOB'S STORY

Celebration

A dear friend was caring for an invalid husband with no pension or insurance and working three minimum-wage jobs to support her family of six. Well-meaning friends assured her that there is no burden God does not give us the strength to bear. Weary with such assurances, Marguerite quipped, "Well, I wonder if God has checked my load lately!"

In today's first reading, Job exhibits a similar weariness with well-meaning friends whose advice has done nothing to ease his struggle. Miserable, despondent, with no other recourse, Job cried out his lament to God, who, in the end, proved to be Job's sole support and strength.

Through the person and the story of Job, the ancient writer has taken on a perennial question: If God is good and just and caring, how could God allow someone as blameless as Job to suffer such loss? Traditionally, suffering was associated with sin, and Job's friends explored with him the possibility that he or someone in his family had sinned and brought on his troubles. Through the several conversations with his friends,

the sacred author shows Job coming to the profound realization that life, as we experience it, is a conundrum. Good people do indeed suffer. Children get cancer and die before they have a chance to enjoy a full life. Famines devastate entire populations. Calamities of nature cause immeasurable pain and loss. Have the sins of all these people brought on their sad, untimely demise? Obviously, human suffering is a far more complex mystery that defies facile explanations.

When viewed in light of today's Gospel, Job's complaint stands juxtaposed with the healing power over suffering and sin that God revealed in Jesus. By his own innocent suffering and death, Jesus infused this mystery with new meaning. Jesus, who was fully just, suffered for the sake of the unjust. Through his willing sacrifice, the suffering of Jesus became a redemptive force, one in which he called his followers to be full participants. Rather than be overcome with hopelessness by the human condition, believers in God and followers of Jesus are to trust as Job did and confess, "I know that my redeemer lives (Job 19:25).

TAKE A BREAK

Celebration

Jesus punctuated his preaching, teaching and healing with periods of prayer (v.35). Here as well as in Mark 6:46, 14:35 and 14:39, the evangelist portrayed Jesus taking time to pray, particularly in those stressful moments when the character of his messiahship was being misunderstood or challenged. These pauses for prayer kept Jesus centered and focused and enabled him to temper the enthusiasm of those who were so caught up in the wonders he worked that they did not see him for who he really was.

For 21st-century disciples, Jesus' typical day holds valuable lessons, including the need to balance work with prayer. If we are to be givers of hope to others, then our own hope must be fed at the well of the word. In prayer, the Spirit of God breathes in us and takes away our narrowness (Latin *angustia*, anxiety and narrowness). We receive new breath, new freedom, new life. Prayer is God, breathing in us.

"LORD, HELP ME TO MIRROR YOUR COMPASSION."

PARISH STUDY

As announced, a survey will be sent this week to each household. You have until February 19 to return it. The committee (core team) will work on summarizing the input received. Our intent is to have an open meeting at Noon on March 4th in St. Anthony Gym to give you a sense of the report we will submit to the Bishop.

THE PARISH IN THE COMMUNITY

► **Benefit:** A soup supper for Randy Lee who is suffering from brain and kidney cancer is being held at the K of C Hall on Mon., Feb. 6, 5-7pm. Adults \$5, under 12 \$3. Four soups to choose from. Any questions, call Tom Luptowski at 686-6085.

► **To All Women:** Got the winter blues? Grab a friend and spend Saturday morning Feb. 18 sharing the warmth and light of God's love at *Looking Through the Lens of Faith*, a retreat for women of all faith high school age and up. 8:00am – noon at St. Agnes Church, 2500 W River Rd, Sanford. Continental breakfast will be served. No cost! Pre-registration is requested but not required. Call MaryBeth at 687-5657 ex 4.