



84 W. Midland Rd., Auburn, MI 48611
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Kellie Deming Tim Hadd Dave Willsie
Connie Kaczynski Karen Willsie Pam Graul-Gwizdala

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Sisters of St. Clare ..... srsclare.com/prayer

BEFRIENDER

Mary Ellyn Gushow ..... (989) 662-6745

COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND

Pam Graul-Gwizdala ..... (989) 513-3027

MASSES

Saturday 4:30 PM Wednesday 8:00 AM (Not July)
Sunday 9:30 AM Thursday 8:00 AM (Not July)

WORD & COMMUNION SERVICE

Tuesday 8:00 AM (Labor Day through Memorial Day)

NEW PARISHIONERS

Contact Parish Office for appointment to register.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Celebrated the 2nd weekend each month. (Please check with parish office for current schedule) Must be active, registered member of parish family. Contact the Parish Office

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements should be made by contacting Parish Office at least six months in advance. Must be active, registered member of parish family.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Notify Parish Office of parishioners experiencing serious illness, injury, or hospitalization. Communal Anointing of the Sick is celebrated annually in the Fall.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Available 1st Saturday each month at 11:00 AM in the Sacristy at St. Gabriel Parish call Parish Office for appointment.

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL
114 W. Midland Rd., Auburn, MI 48611
Phone (989) 662-6431 Fax: (989) 662-3391
www.auburnacschool.org
Clark Switalski, Principal ..... cswitalski@auburnac.org
School Office ..... schooloffice@auburnac.org

SCHOOL ENDOWMENT

SPREADING THE SPIRIT FUND

Clark Switalski, School Principal ..... (989) 662-6431

WEATHER POLICY

If Bay City Public Schools or Auburn Area Catholic School close due to inclement weather, daytime (8:00 AM – 4:00 PM), parish activities are canceled. Cancellation of all (including the St Anthony site) evening activities will be announced by 3:00 PM. Closures will be posted on TV: NBC 25, ABC 12, CBS 5

## Week of January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

### MONDAY

212: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6 Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

### TUESDAY 8 am Word and Communion

213: 1 Jn 4:7-10 Ps 72:1-4, 7-8 Mk 6:34-44

### WEDNESDAY 8 am Mass

214: 1 Jn 4:11-18 Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13 Mk 6:45-52

### THURSDAY 8 am Mass

215: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4 Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17 Lk 4:14-22a

### FRIDAY

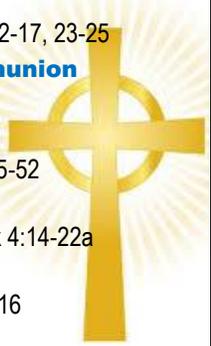
216: 1 Jn 5:5-13 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Lk 5:12-16

### SATURDAY 4:30 pm Mass

217: 1 Jn 5:14-21 Ps 149:1-6a, 9b Jn 3:22-30

### SUNDAY 9:30 am Mass

21: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Ps 29:1-4, 9-10 Acts 10:34-38 Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



## EDUCATION / FORMATION

**Family Talk Time** Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families: Sara McGinnis Lee

The Magi brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What gifts would you offer to the Christ child that express something about who you are and the talents you have?

### Reflecting on the Word:



The story of the Magi reminds us that the Christ child comes for all people. The Magi traveled from the ends of the earth led by the star to find Christ who is the Light of the world. They bring gifts that give us insight into

who this newborn child is; gold for a king, incense for a priest, and myrrh for one who is to suffer.

### Living the Word:

In the many parts of the world, this is a day for exchanging gifts. It is the twelfth day of Christmas, a day of celebration. Catholics traditionally make the doorposts with the symbols 20+C+M+B+22. Each + symbol represents one of the four seasons, together connecting the year 2022 and the initials for the names of the Magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. It is a reminder that we must welcome the traveler and all who enter through our doors and share what we have.

### Have you made a New Year's resolution?

Below is a list from a Nielsen survey from a few years ago of the top ten most common resolutions and what percentage of people make them.



- 1.) Stay fit and healthy, 37%.
- 2.) Lose weight, 32%.
- 3.) Enjoy life to the fullest, 28%.
- 4.) Spend less, save more, 25%.
- 5.) Spend more time with family and friends, 19%.
- 6.) Get organized, 18%.
- 7.) Will not make any resolutions, 16%.
- 8.) Learn something new/new hobby, 14%.
- 9.) Travel more, 14%.
- 10.) Read more, 12%.

Resolutions having to do with faith and prayer don't show up. Few among us would say our relationship with God is exactly where we want it to be. Most of us have enough struggles to know we could benefit from more time spent in prayer.

Consider grabbing one of these faith-based resolution to guide you through the new year.

- Go to church every Sunday • Join a prayer group • Pray with your kids • Find a prayer app or website
- End the day with the Examen • Centering prayer meditation

Taken from: [usatholic.org](http://usatholic.org), *At Home with our Faith*.

## PARISH ACTIVITIES

**Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> – School Resumes**

**RCIA 6 pm**

**Choir Practice 6:30 pm**

**Saturday/Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> – Coffee & Donuts, Scrip Sale**

**Food Pantry Weekend**

**“Happy New Year from the Staff of St. Gabriel”**

## STEWARDSHIP

**Weekly Target:** \$10,962 **Offering:** \$17,931

**Food Pantry:** \$25 **Religious Retirement:** \$425

**Children's G☺od Deeds**

...Helping Mom...Sharing toys with my brother...

...Helping out Mom and Dad...

## AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**Clark Switalski, Principal**



The New Year is here, and we get to celebrate the Epiphany of Jesus. The Christmas break is also coming to an end, and students will be back in the building on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. We

are looking forward to having one more week in the semester and are looking forward to starting the second half of our school year. This is one of the times where the students will take their NWEA testing from 1/11 through 2/10. This is the mid-year report where we can see how the students are progressing through the year. We will take one more test at the end of the year in May to see how much students grew in the 2021/2022 school year.

Thank you to everyone who purchased SCRIP cards this holiday season. As a reminder, we will continue to offer them on the same weekends as coffee and donuts through the end of the school year. All the purchases help the school offer different programs to the students, help the teachers set up their classrooms for the year, and help us celebrate our Catholic school during Catholic Schools week at the end of January. *Happy New Year!*

**...God Bless...**



### Knitting Club Update...

We will be meeting on the third Thursday of every month at the parish center. Our first get-together will be on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 am. New members are welcome! It is a great time to meet new people and make projects for our community, especially in the wintertime.



## FROM FR. TOM'S DESK

### Epiphany of the Lord: Patricia Sanchez, Celebration

In today's first reading, the prophet Isaiah is sharing a marvelous vision. Like a light piercing through a long darkness, he has glimpsed the end of the suffering and shame of his exiled contemporaries: Forgiven and freed by God's providence, they are returning home. But they are being accompanied by an international cavalcade. Gift-bearing representatives have joined their happy homecoming.

This same vision is given new life in today's Gospel, where the evangelist shares his conviction that the coming of Jesus in flesh and blood, in time and space, has precipitated the fulfillment of the ancient prophet's vision. In the figures of the gift-bearing magi from the East are all those non-Jews for whom the Christ has also come. These are in effect the cavalcade of nations who, like the Jews, have been invited to live in the light of God's peace and salvation.

But Isaiah's vision and Matthew's hope for universal unity in Christ have not yet fully been realized. It has been obvious throughout salvation history that the realization of this vision of unity poses a great challenge. Tribalism threatened the unification of the clans of Israel and Judah. Territorial disputes and disparate loyalties to their leaders made for great conflict. These difficulties were not ended by the appearance of Jesus—separations, distinctions and discrimination continued to thwart the vision. In today's second reading, the author of Ephesians references that vision and calls it a mystery being revealed by the Spirit: that all peoples are one in Christ Jesus. Whether it is a vision or a mystery, it remains clear that fulfillment eludes us. We as a community of believers have yet to come to grips with this vision we celebrate today.

When confronted by the animosity that continues to militate against the unity of all peoples, it is so easy, so tempting, to point a finger of blame at others. It is also tempting to do nothing to ameliorate the situation when the problems that separate us seem so insurmountable, so deeply rooted, with such a long and tortured history. But this feast of Epiphany and its vision are not asking us to singlehandedly solve the conflicts and disunity. This vision begs us to look within ourselves and to those with whom we come into contact on a regular basis. Can all our relationships be held up to the light of the vision of Epiphany? If so, the vision lives. If not, then the vision pushes us to move beyond pride and ego and, rather than blame the other, to make the first step toward unity.

### Beacon of Light (Isaiah 60): Celebration

Scholars have suggested that this hope-filled vision may have been the result of the prophet's early-morning meditation. Looking over his beloved Jerusalem, he was the darkness of the night yielding to the bright light of day. With the morning light came a steady stream of caravans from far-off places. Merchants and traders were making their way to the city to buy and sell. Farmers, fishermen, bakers, and butchers were plying their trade, and all were bathed in the radiance that came not only from the sun but from God's glory, present and powerful in the holy city.

At the time of his writing, the vision of the prophet we call Trito-Isaiah (or Third Isaiah) was only that—a vision, far from being realized. Ministering to his people near the end or immediately after their long exile in Babylonia (circa 538 B.C.E), the prophet shared with his contemporaries a series of visions, all of which were intended to encourage them to rebuild their homeland and their beloved Jerusalem. No longer darkened by sin and shame, Jerusalem was to become a source of light by which all the nations could see and find their way to God.

### Call to Unity (Ephesians 3): Celebration

This excerpted text states quite clearly that gentiles and Jews are coheirs, members of the same body and sharers or copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel. All three terms begin with the Greek prefix *syn*, which signifies oneness and/or sameness. This triple affirmation was intended to dismantle forever the barriers that had previously protected the Israel of the old dispensation from the rest of humankind. Because of the manifestation of God's love and saving mercies in Jesus, all the disparate people of the earth have become one.

Perhaps we might better appreciate the impact of this statement if we are more precise as to who is included under the generic term "gentiles." Are not Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, and Sikhs also coheirs? Are not Roman Catholic Christians sharers and copartners with Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, Pentecostals, and Episcopalians? Can we deny that the rich as well as the poor, the sick and the healthy, the weak and the strong, the documented and those without papers, Africans, Asians, and Americans are all members of the same body? If any of these inclusions makes us bristle or feel uncomfortable, then the "mystery" begging to be revealed has yet to be realized.

### All Are Welcome (Matthew 2): Celebration

Although astronomers have offered scientific explanations for the star—a supernova; Halley's Comet; a conjunction of Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars—the theological explanation is far more significant. Like the magi, whose hope and faith made it possible for them to be gathered unto God and to salvation, all of humankind is to be gathered in. In the interim between Jesus' advents, the community who believe in him must continue the process of gathering in all others, without exception and without prejudice. Let ours be a community that welcomes refugees, strangers, immigrants, and other such exiles, rather than a community that creates them.

### Today's Magi: Deacon Dick Folger, Celebration

All December long, we have been awash in Christmas-card images of bejeweled kings riding camels across the desert, following yonder star; or manger scenes with kneeling kings worshiping at the crib; or card in glittering foil, displaying the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We have stood before our own parish creche and tried to image that most wonderful night of the world.

Then suddenly, the images stop, (Christmas lasts on more week on the liturgical calendar, but we won't find any Christmas cards of Christ's baptism.) Maybe this year, as we leave Christmas behind and step out into the cold, dark winter, we are called to become modern-day magi, kings who step into those images and bring them to life in our own time and place. The magi made the extraordinary effort to travel a great distance, across unknown lands, following the Christmas star. That star of the Holy Spirit will surely guide us, too. We can then offer our humble lives to the real King.

### Male or Female: Deacon Dick Folger, Celebration

Matthew alone describes the visitors from the east who studied the stars and followed the Bethlehem star to the place where Jesus was born. Since Matthew mentions three gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we assume there were three travelers, too. Some have proposed that these visitors could have been women. This theory was quickly declared false because, as the joke goes, if they had been women instead of men, they would have asked for directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole and brought diapers as gifts.

*"Lord, may I walk in your light"*



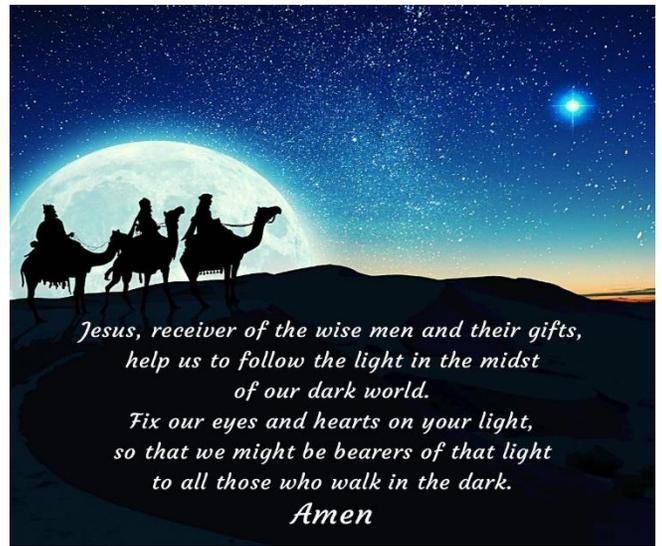


## Food Pantry Requests...

In 2021 we gave out **455 boxes** of food, that does not include the **47 Thanksgiving meals** supplied. That is why we have the need to ask every month for your help keeping our pantry stocked.

**This is what we need and Thank-you in advance!**

**Vegetable/Chicken Noodle Soup Tuna Boxed Pasta**  
**Canned Pasta Tuna/Hamburger Helper Mac & Cheese**  
**Baked Beans Peanut Butter/Jelly Pancake Mix/Syrup**  
**Spaghetti Sauce Spaghetti Pasta Sides Cereal**  
**Toothpaste/Toothbrushes Shampoo Deodorant**  
**Tissues Paper Towels Toilet Paper Dish Soap**



*Jesus, receiver of the wise men and their gifts,  
 help us to follow the light in the midst  
 of our dark world.*

*Fix our eyes and hearts on your light,  
 so that we might be bearers of that light  
 to all those who walk in the dark.*

*Amen*

**Michael Kaczynski**  
 Painting/Carpentry  
 989-662-7747  
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### St. Anthony Cemetery 4485 S. Eleven Mile Auburn, MI 48611

COLUMBARIUM	Parishioner	Non-Parishioner
Single (1 Urn)	\$1,000	\$1,500
Double (2 Urns)	\$1,400	\$1,750
Inurnment	\$ 250 per niche	\$ 300 per niche
CEMETERY	Parishioner	Non-Parishioner
Plot	\$ 500	\$1,200
Burial	\$ 650	\$ 850
Burial of Cremains	\$ 150	\$ 175
Saturday Burial	\$ 200 additional	\$ 200 additional
Foundation	\$ 0.40 per sq. inch	\$ 0.40 per sq. inch

Contact St. Gabriel Parish Office at 989-662-6861

Prices Effective July 1, 2019