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Kellie Deming	Tim Hadd	Dave Willsie
Connie Kaczynski	Karen Willsie	Pam Graul-Gwizdala

PRAYER LINE

Mary Jane.....(989) 513-5137 vicmaryj@hotmail.com
 Sisters of St. Clare srsclare.com/prayer

BEFRIENDER

Mary Ellyn Gushow662-6745

COMMUNION FOR HOMEBOUND

Pam Graul-Gwizdala513-3027

**SCHOOL ENDOWMENT
 SPREADING THE SPIRIT FUND**

Clark Switalski, School Principal662-6431

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**

Ph.: 662-6431 Fax: 662-3391 www.auburnacschool.org
 Clark Switalski, Principal cswitalski@auburnac.org
 School Office..... schooloffice@auburnac.org

WEATHER POLICY

If Bay City Public Schools 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 4, 2020

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, 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:ls 42:1-4, 6-7 Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 9-10 Act 10:34-38 Mk 1:7-11



EDUCATION / FORMATION

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

Today we are celebrating the Solemnity of the Lord. What gifts might we give to Jesus as this new year begins?

Reflecting on the Word:

Epiphany is the feast of manifestation, in which Jesus is revealed to be the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus did not come to earth just for the Jews; rather, he welcomed all and came to hear the entire world. The Magi treated Jesus as they would a king. The star that led the Magi to Jesus is another symbol that identifies Jesus as the Light of the Word.



Living the Word:

For centuries, many families have blessed the entrances and doors to their homes and churches with chalk. As a family, bless the entrance to your home. You can find a blessing at <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacraments-and-sacramentals/sacramentals-blessings/objects/blessing-of-the-home-and-household-on-epiphany> Process to your front entrance, carrying lights and singing "We Three Kings." Using chalk, write 20+C+M+B_21 on top of the door frame. The 20 and 21 symbolize the year, the + represents the cross, and the letters mark the three Magi-Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. This blessing is an outward sign and reminder that Christ may dwell in the home throughout the year.

Baptism Preparations Sessions



Baptism Preparation

We offer 2 preparation sessions: Prep I session is for first time parents & Prep II is for those parents who have already attended a Prep I session. We are currently offering these sessions in-person and virtually. Contact

Sandy, 662-4335 or sdesjardins@auburnac.org to register for a preparation session and set your celebration date.

PARISH ACTIVITIES

It's a New Year! Remember to pick-up your parish calendars Saturday, January 9th - 11 am Baptism

STEWARDSHIP

Weekly Target: \$10,962 **Offering:** \$16,388.54

Food Pantry: \$210 **Diocesan Collections:** \$513

Thank you for your continued financial support. It is appreciated!

Children G^oo^d Deed

...I had a talk with my sister when she was upset to calm her down...

...I helped my sister get up when she fell over...

AUBURN AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Clark Switalski, Principal

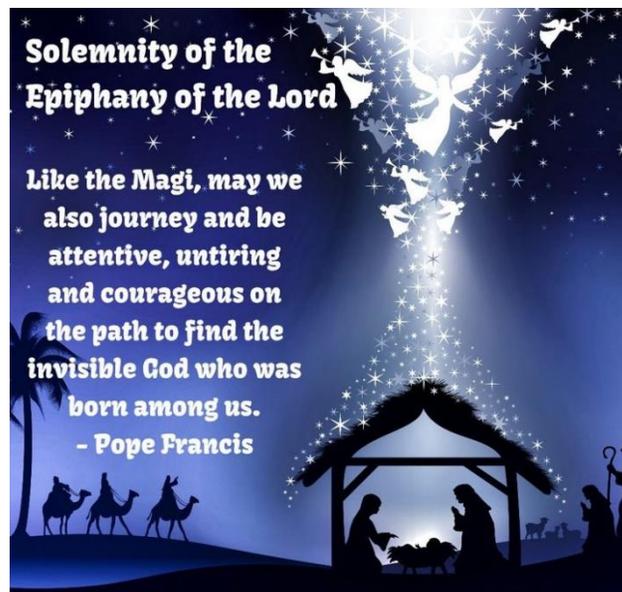
Happy New Year! Welcome to 2021! I would say I hope this year is better than the last, but we had a great start of the school year. Our students were in person, following the protocols put into place, the staff did a wonderful job filling in the cracks, and we didn't even have to shut a single classroom down. The goal is to continue that success, but we must remain diligent in our practice. Just because there is light at the end of the tunnel, does not necessarily mean we are out of the tunnel. The goal has been and will be to provide a Catholic education where we teach the entire child. The more days we can do this in person, the better our students will be in the end.



This week, the Magi travel to pay homage to Jesus. This is significant, because Jesus is being honored by outsiders, or people not of Jewish descent. These outsiders bring him gifts often reserved for royals. Acting

with humility and bringing ourselves before God can be hard just like asking for forgiveness is hard. However, our Lord is forgiving, and we should not fear condemnation from him. He knows all, and when we are truly sorry for something we should humble ourselves before the Lord and ask for forgiveness.

✝ **God Bless**



Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Like the Magi, may we also journey and be attentive, untiring and courageous on the path to find the invisible God who was born among us.
- Pope Francis



**FROM
FR. TOM'S
DESK**

Feast of the Epiphany

Patricia Sanchez, *Celebration*

Although today's Gospel narrative of the magi who were drawn by the natural light of a star to Jesus, the Matthean evangelist affirms the fact that there are many ways of coming to God. At times, these varying ways may challenge the preconceptions and poke holes into the parochialism of those who claim to have found the only true path to God. Nevertheless, there are as many routes to God as there are pilgrims, and God respects the point of departure and the itinerary of each of us. God also lights the way of every human traveler so that all may eventually arrive at their intended destination with God.

In today's first reading, Isaiah describes that universal journey toward God as a cavalcade of nations. God has put nothing in the way of these diverse travelers. In fact, God intended that the people to whom God was first revealed would be the light for others. Through them, all the people of the earth were intended to venture forth from the darkness and clouds of human sin, as to come to God and to grace.

Israel's vocation of being the light by which others may find their way has been extended to include all those to whom Jesus has revealed the light of God. As Jesus' disciples, we carry this light in the fragile vessels of our own humanity. When these vessels become the means by which the light of God is shared, then God's plan is furthered, and we are ennobled by our service. When the light of God in our care is extinguished, then the darkness bears bold testimony to our selfishness. As in all things, the choice is ours—to be darkness, or to be light. Which do you choose?

City 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 saw the darkness of 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 and 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, however, the vision of the prophet we call Trito-Isaiah (or Third-Isaiah) was only that—a vision, and one 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 (Chs. 60-62), 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. 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 disparate people of the earth have become one.

Perhaps we might better appreciate the impact of the statement if we are more precise as to who is included under the generic term "gentiles." Are not Buddhist, 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.

Star of Wonder: (Matthew 2)

Celebration

Although astronomers have offered scientific explanations for the star—a supernova; Hailey'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 believes 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.

Let Your Light Shine:

quoted by Patricia Sanchez, *Celebration*

In the cold mountainous regions of northern India, travelers warm themselves by placing burning coals in small vessels. With the vessel wrapped in a cloth, travelers can carry their own personal "fire" with them on their way.

Three men travelling equipped with such vessels on their way to the holy place, Amarnath. One traveler saw several pilgrims suffering with the cold and he took the fire out of his vessel and lit a fire so that all could warm themselves. Everyone survived the cold that night and lived to journey another day.

That evening, as it grew cold and dark, the second man took out the fire in his vessel and lit a torch so that everyone could walk along in safety. At this, the third man scoffed. "You are all fools, he shouted. "You have wasted your fire for the sake of others."

In response, the travelers said to him, "Show us your fire!" When he broke open his vessel, there was no fire, no light, no warmth—only ashes and dead coals. One person had given warmth with his fire; another had given light. But the one who kept the fire only for himself was, in the end, left in the cold and dark of his own making

Gifts Given:

Rev. Peter Tynan, Collegeville MN

Through the eyes of faith, we see how the three magi themselves, are twinkling points of the star. Their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh can hold as much meaning for us as they did for those early Christians who first heard the Gospel of Matthew proclaimed. Gold is not simple money, but it is something valuable and worthy of a king. Think of how we all hand over freely what is valuable to us—our time, our attention, our money—for those people and things that are most precious to us. The question for us Christians is whether we, like the magi, can hand over our gold to Christ.

Likewise, frankincense is not simple a pleasant-smelling substance we place upon burning coals. It symbolizes our prayerfulness. Frankincense was also associated with the priests and Levites of old, who were entrusted with its use during worship. The magi, in placing frankincense before the child Jesus, acknowledge him as a priest, as a person who can intercede for them with God. Through the incarnation, we know that Christ is the perfect interceder for humanity. In his person, divinity and humanity meet in perfect union. Do we place our trust in Christ when we stand in need of prayer?

Finally, there is the unusual gift of myrrh. Myrrh was an ointment used for burial. It points to why Christ came into the world, to die so that we may have eternal life through him. As members of his mystical body are called to die to out selfish pride, vanity, envy, and anger. We, like the magi, can come to Jesus seeking a new purpose. We can be reborn as people free from the things that hold us captive



"Lord, may I follow your way"



Food Pantry Needs: To start out the New Year we are looking to replenish our food pantry. We were able to help 50 families during the month of December! We are especially in need of toiletries. You can bring your donations to the parish office during the week or drop them off at church after mass next weekend. **Thank-you in advance!**

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------|------------------|
| Deodorant | Dish Soap | Sloppy Joe Mix |
| Shampoo | Bar Soap | Taco Kits |
| Toothbrushes | Mouth Wash | Boxed Cereal |
| Laundry Detergent | Tissues | Liquid Hand Soap |

Blood Drive

Our last blood drive of 2020, held on December 17th, was a great success! We had 29 donations. Those 29 units will go to save the lives of 87 people. We had a total of 125 units donated in 2020, a truly successful year! THANK-YOU to everyone who donated this year, you are life-saving angels! The team at Versiti would also like to express their gratitude for the overwhelming support the parish has shown them during this difficult year. Watch for our schedule of blood drives in 2021!



Michael Kaczynski
Painting/Carpentry

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Cell: 303-242-2650
mckaczynski@sbcglobal.net

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St. Anthony Cemetery
4485 S. Eleven Mile Rd.
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